**Исследование почтовых марок в Великобритании и Российской Империи**

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**A study of postage stamps of Great Britain and the Russian Empire**

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**Аннотация.** В настоящее время марки становятся все более привлекательным объектом для коллекционеров, покупки в музеи, также марки можно использовать для изучения истории. Одним их популярных видов, в последнее время, стало отправление открыток с маркой из страны, в которой отдыхают или посещают ради экскурсии.

**Abstract.** Nowadays, stamps are becoming an increasingly attractive object for collectors, buying for museums, also stamps can be used to study history. One of their popular types, in recent times, has become sending postcards with a stamp from the country in which one is holidaying or visiting for the sake of an excursion.

**Ключевые слова:** Почтовые марки Великобритании; Почтовые марки Российской Империи; история; почта; Марки.

**Keywords:** Postage stamps of Great Britain; Postage stamps of the Russian Empire; history; post; Stamps.

**Text of the article**

The 12th century, King Henry I established a service of post riders (post riders, or messengers) to deliver government letters. It is estimated that between 1100 and 1135, 4,500 letters were transported by messengers. In those days, private individuals had to take care of mail transport themselves.

The English postal service received a new development by the end of XIII century, when Henry III introduced a special uniform for messengers, and Edward I established post stations (post houses), where messengers changed horses.

The rudiments of regular mail in England are found further around the middle of the fourteenth century, when, during the reign of Edward II, the first postal markings appeared - handwritten inscriptions ‘Haste, post haste’ and the sign of the gallows.

In 1516, Henry VIII created the Royal Mail, making Brian Tuke Chief Postmaster, or Master of the Posts. In 1567, Elizabeth I appointed Thomas Randolph as Chief Postmaster. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, horse messengers continued to be used. James I established a special postal service for his foreign correspondence.

Charles I made the forwarding of letters both abroad and at home a state monopoly and established postal expeditions in England and Scotland; he paid £7,000 for the maintenance of the post office. Under Thomas Witherings, chief postmaster in the reign of Charles I, the Royal Mail became available to private individuals (1635), with an established system of postal routes, buildings and staff. From that time until the postal reforms of 1839-1840, it was customary for postage to be paid by the recipient, although it was possible to pay it in advance when sending a letter.

**Interesting facts:**

* UK postage stamps do not bear the name of the country. The UK is the only country in the world that is exempt from having its name printed on stamps. This is because England was the first country to issue postage stamps.
* The world's first Black Penny stamp was issued in England in 1840. It is considered one of the first official postage stamps to have an adhesive back. The stamp depicts Queen Victoria of England.
* **‘British Guiana.’ In 1856, the postmaster of British Guiana (now Guyana), unable to wait for a late shipment of stamps from the metropolis, instructed his employees to print a batch of 1-cent and 4-cent stamps. To protect the stamps from counterfeiting, he instructed postal employees to leave their signatures on them. The octagonal one-cent Guiana, despite its rather shabby appearance, is now a unicorn and the most expensive stamp in history: in 2014, it was sold at a Sotheby's auction for $9.5 million.**
* A ban on sticking postage stamps with the monarch's head upside down on the envelope. This is considered treason in the UK.
* Experiments with stamp colours. In 1883-1884 the masters experimented with colours. Trial samples turned out lilac and green, but unstable colours were washed out. Single lilac specimens have survived to this day - they are of special interest to collectors.

The first postage stamp in the Russian Empire appeared on 22 December 1857, when the circular ‘On the introduction of postage stamps for universal use’ was issued. The official universal use of stamps throughout Russia, except for the Caucasus, Transcaucasia and Siberia, began on 1 January 1858. The drawing of the first Russian stamp was created by F. M. Kepler, a senior engraver of the State Paper Procurement Expedition. The miniature is executed in two colours – brown and blue, it bears the coat of arms of the Post Office and the mantle. On 22 December (10 old style) 1857 the Postal Department of the Russian Empire issued a circular on the introduction from 1 January 1858 of ‘special postage stamps, which in the form of clouds with a picture according to the approved form glued on ordinary simple coverts of any size and even without coverts directly on the folded letter’. At first the stamp was to be pasted only on letters in the European part of Russia, but from 1 March of the same year the stamps were extended to Siberia, Caucasus and Transcaucasian region. Thus, 1 January became the official date of birth of the Russian postage stamp.

## **Types of postage stamps in the Russian Empire**

* Standard stamps. In January 1884 new standard stamps of Russia were issued, which had the same colouring for each type of mail. Three basic colours were adopted: blue - simple closed letter, red – open letter, green – parcel post.
* New Drawings Stamps. In December 1908, stamps of new, more finely executed designs were issued to prevent counterfeiting and reuse of stamps.
* Commemorative stamps. The first series of commemorative stamps in Russia appeared on 2 January 1913 to mark the 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty. The 17 stamps featured portraits of various tsars, as well as views of the Kremlin, the Winter Palace and the Romanov Castle.
* The first postage stamp of 1858 was rectangular, with a double-headed eagle in the center on a blue field and two crossed horns at the bottom - the coat of arms of the Postal Department. Also in the center was a frame with the inscriptions ‘postage stamp’ and ‘10 kop. per lot’. The number 10 was depicted in each corner, and the center picture was completed by the imperial mantle.
* **2 kopecks. The main colour is light green (1909-1912).**
* **kopecks. Colour – dark pink, red (1909).**
* **kopecks. The main colour – dark pink carmine (1910).**
* **kopecks. The main colour – brownish-purple (1917).**
* **kopecks. Pale blue colour (1908).**
* **10 kopecks. The colour is dark blue (1911).**
* **15 kopecks. The main colour is purple (four shades are known), the colour of the oval with an eagle and symbols of the postal service (horns and crossed lightning bolts) is blue (1912).**
* **20 kopecks. The main colour is light blue, the oval with the autocratic eagle of carmine colour (1912).**

# **Conclusion**

Having studied the materials on this topic, we came to the conclusion that pupils of 8-11 grades have an idea of what a postage stamp is, in what country of the world the post office originated, in what century postage stamps appeared in England and the Russian Empire, that nowadays almost no one collects stamps in families, but the guys know the name of the one who collects them. Moreover, today's generation of high school students almost never write letters on paper and they believe that postage stamps have practically no future.

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