

2.0 Censorship of International Correspondence



Irkutsk oblast, Russian republic, 8.12.1941 to Brazil, censored in Irkutsk, 1st period.

This is the only recorded censor cancel sent abroad from Irkutsk in the first period. Censorship on international mail from Irkutsk is only possible until 7th June 1943. Very few postal shipments with censorship are known to South America.

There was a **decree from 6th July 1941** that order the start of the official censorship, and international mail is among the earliest samples of the censorship.

International mail is occurring from around the USSR, but not often and only until the summer of 1943.

According to the announcement of the "**Regulations for Department 'V' of the NKGB USSR**" from the date 7th June 1943 all international mail should only be censored in the following cities:

Moscow, Baku, Yerevan, Vladivostok, Ashkhabad, Tashkent, Alma-Ata, Chita, Ulan-Ude, Aleksandrovsk, Okhana-Sakhalin, Petropavlovsk-na-Kamchatke, Murmansk and Archangelsk.

No other military censorship points may monitor international correspondence.

No new civilian and military censorship branches (or sections) may be opened without approval from the NKGB USSR.

As studies show other cities has been added to the list of foreign censorship locations, these are the following:

Tallinn, Riga, Vilnius, Leningrad, Odessa, Minsk, Kiev, Lwow, Kishinev, and Tbilisi.



Registered Lwow, Ukrainian republic, 28.9.1945 to Palestine, censored in Lwow, 3rd period.
 Usage is June 1945 to September 1945, with 3 censor numbers in the range 2 to 12. Lwow is a very rare censor site.
 Postage is 130 kopek (letter international 50 kop. + registered fee international 80 kop.).



Registered Riga, Latvia republic 29.10.1945 to South Africa, censored in Riga 3rd period.
 Usage is November to December 1945, with the 4 censor numbers in the range 1 to 6.
 Postage is 130 kopek (letter international 50 kop. + registered fee international 80 kop.).
 South Africa is a rare destination.

2.1 International Correspondence

Vilnius and Minsk



Registered Kaunas, Lithuanian republic, 20.8.1945 to USA, censored in Vilnius, 3rd period.
Usage is August to December 1945, with 3 censor numbers in the range 3 to 21.
Postage is 110 kopek (postcard international 30 kop. + registered fee international 80 kop.).



Registered Voroshilovgradskoy oblast, Ukrainian 12.8.1945 to Canada, censored in Minsk, 3rd period.
Usage is August to October 1945, with 4 censor numbers in the range 3 to 21.
Postage is 140 kopek; correct postage is 1 rubel and 10 kopek (postcard 30 kop. + 80 kop. registered).
Minsk used the letters Мк, while Murmansk used the letter М-к (difference is the "-").
This is a very rare censor cancel.



Registered Leningrad, Russian republic, 26.10.1941 to Sweden, censored in Leningrad, 1st period.
 Correct postage is 130 kop. (50 kop. international letter + 80 kop. registered), stamp have fallen off or been removed.
 Unregular censor cancel is used in August and October 1941, regular censor cancel is used October 1941 to February 1942.
 French censorship from the Levant. German passed censorship from Berlin on the front used during the whole war.
 The Blockade of Leningrad started 8th September 1941, so the letter was sent above the Ladoga lake (either by boat or plane) to Moscow before going to the Levant.



Registered Leningrad, Russian republic 17.7.1945 to USA, censored in Leningrad, 3rd period.
 The cancel usage is December 1944 to December 1945, with 16 censor numbers in the range 1 to 26.
 The usage of the censor stripe is December 1944 to September 1945.
 The censor stripe in Leningrad comes in two colors, red or black text.



Registered Kishinev, Moldavian republic, 27.9.1945 to Palestine, censored in Kishinev, 3rd period. Correct postage is 110 kop. (30 kop. international postcard + 80 kop. registered), stamps have fallen off or been removed. Usage is observed in September 1945, with 2 numbers in the range 3 to 7. Kishinev is a very rare censor site.



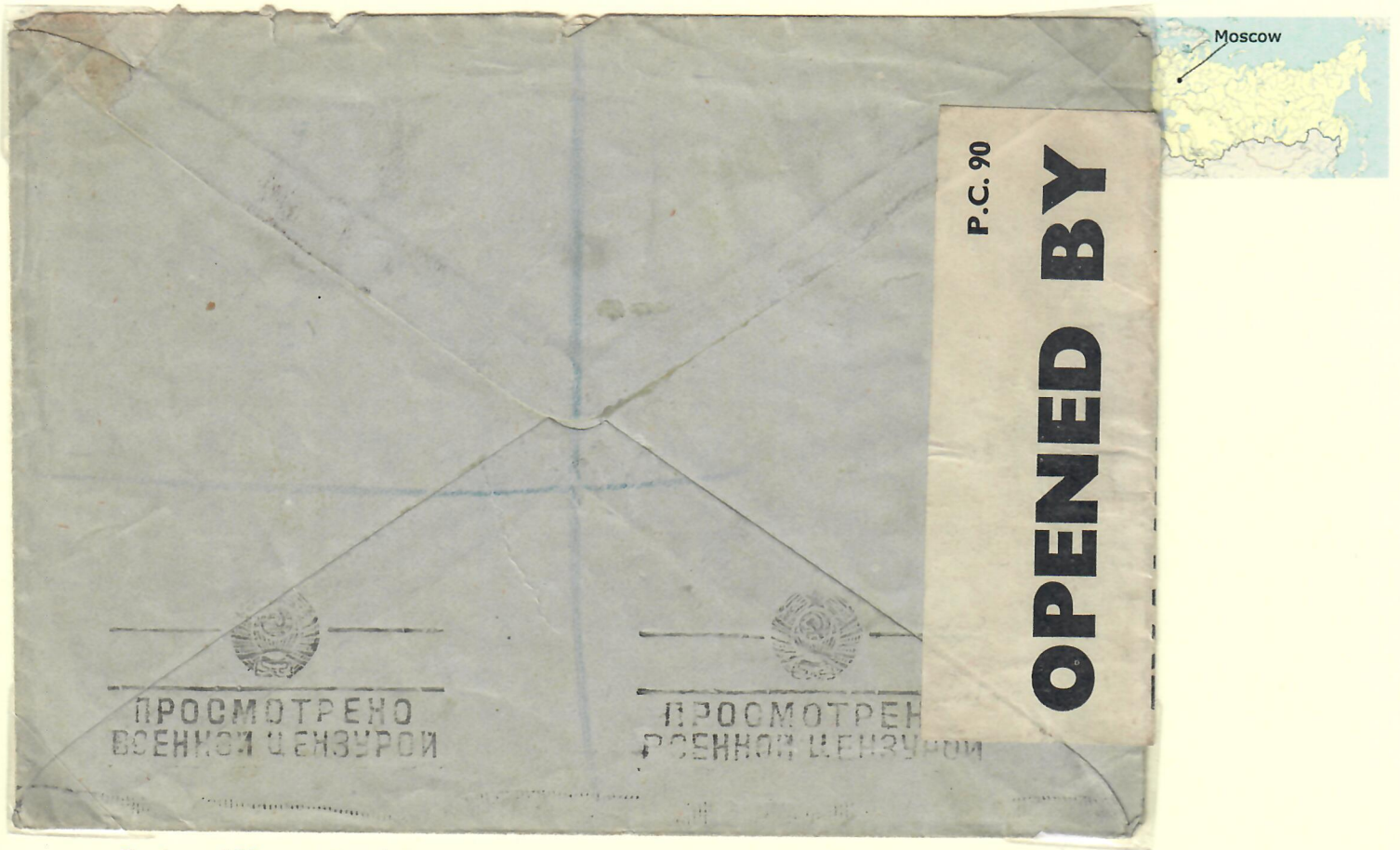
Registered letter Kiev, Ukrainian republic 11.5.1945 to USA, censored in Kiev, 3rd period. The cancel usage is December 1944 to October 1945, with 15 censor numbers in the range 10 to 34. The usage of the censor stripe is March to July 1945. It was 4 different censor stripes in usage, but this is the only recorded of this type.



Registered Chernovtsy, Ukrainian republic 4.8.1945, to Switzerland, censored in Odessa, 3rd period. Postage is 130 kop. (50 kop. international letter + 80 kop. registered fee in the period 1st May 1936 – 9th June 1950). Usage is observed in September to December 1945, with 7 numbers in the range 6 to 17. Odessa is a rare censor site. The censor stripe is used in the period August to November 1945.



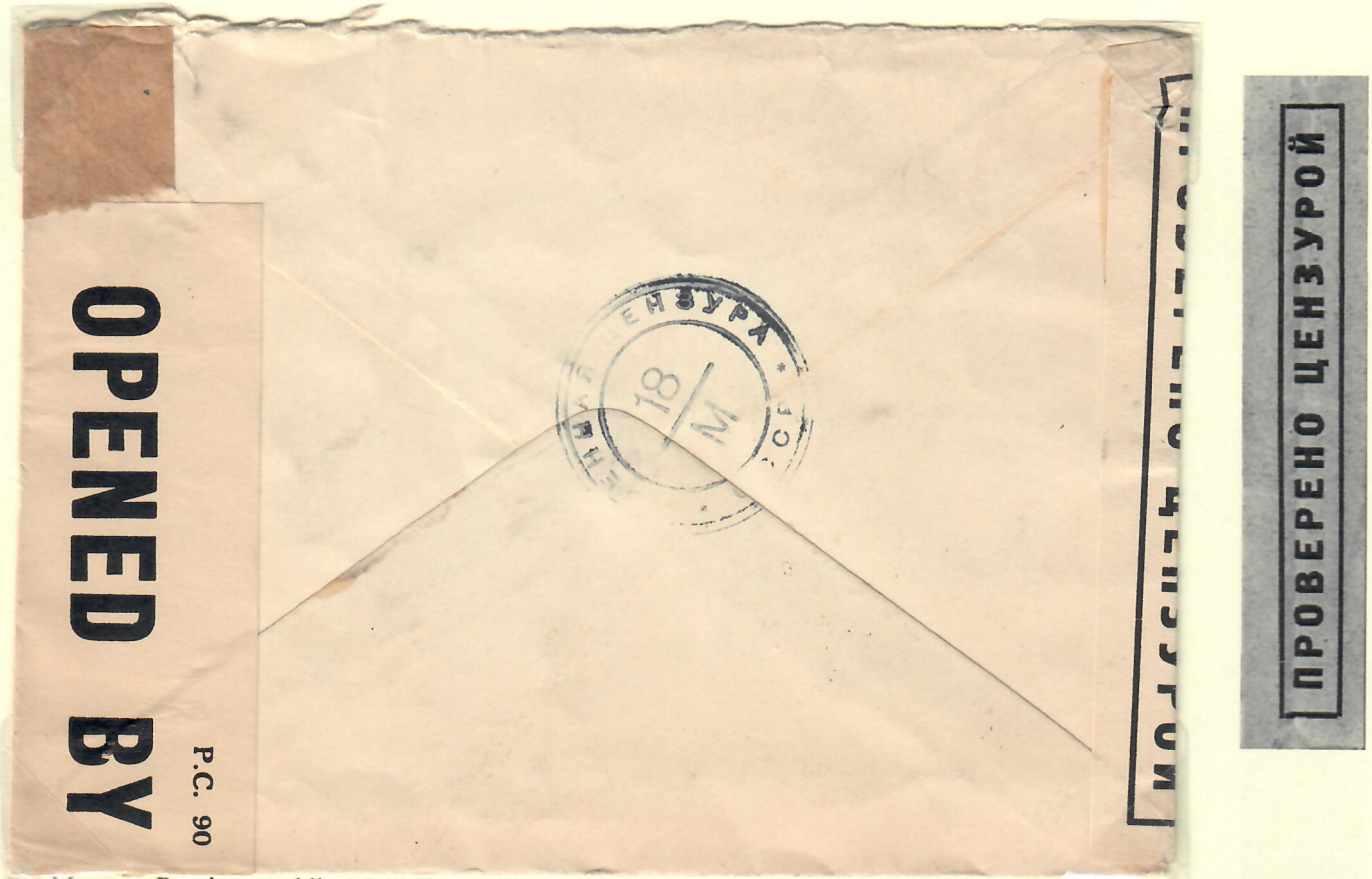
Murmansk, Russian republic 3.3.1944 to USA, censored in Murmansk, 3rd period, and New York (censor #6401). Usage is December 1943 to April 1945, with 5 numbers in the range 1 to 5. Usage of the censor stripe is observed February to December 1944, but most likely used longer, these stripes are very rare. Postage is 1 rubel; correct postage is 50 kopek. Sender was onboard SS Philip F Thomas, which arrived Murmansk 28.2.1944 with convoy JW57 and left 7.4.1944 with convoy RA58. The letter was most likely with the same convoy back to the USA.



Registered Moscow, Russian republic 28.7.1941 to London, censored in Moscow, 1st period. Usage is July to September 1941. Also censored in the UK with a PC.90 censor stripe.

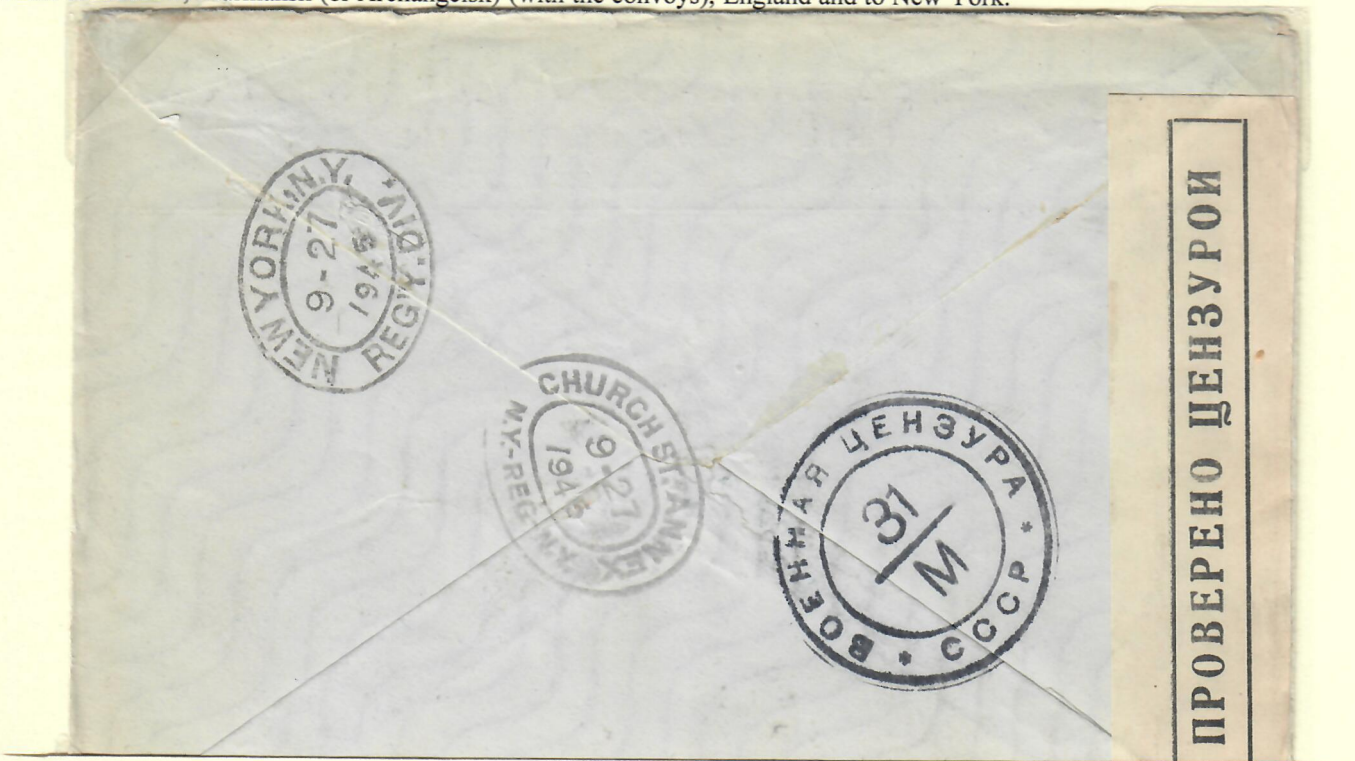


Moscow, Russian republic 3.10.1941 to USA, censored in Moscow, 1st period and in San Francisco. Usage is September 1941 to July 1942, with only 3 different numbers for international mail: 125, 297, 301. Postal route is Moscow, Vladivostok, and to San Francisco. This postal route was for a very short period and was closed when the USA entered the war 7th of December 1941. Therefore, it is very rare with San Francisco censorship on USSR letters.



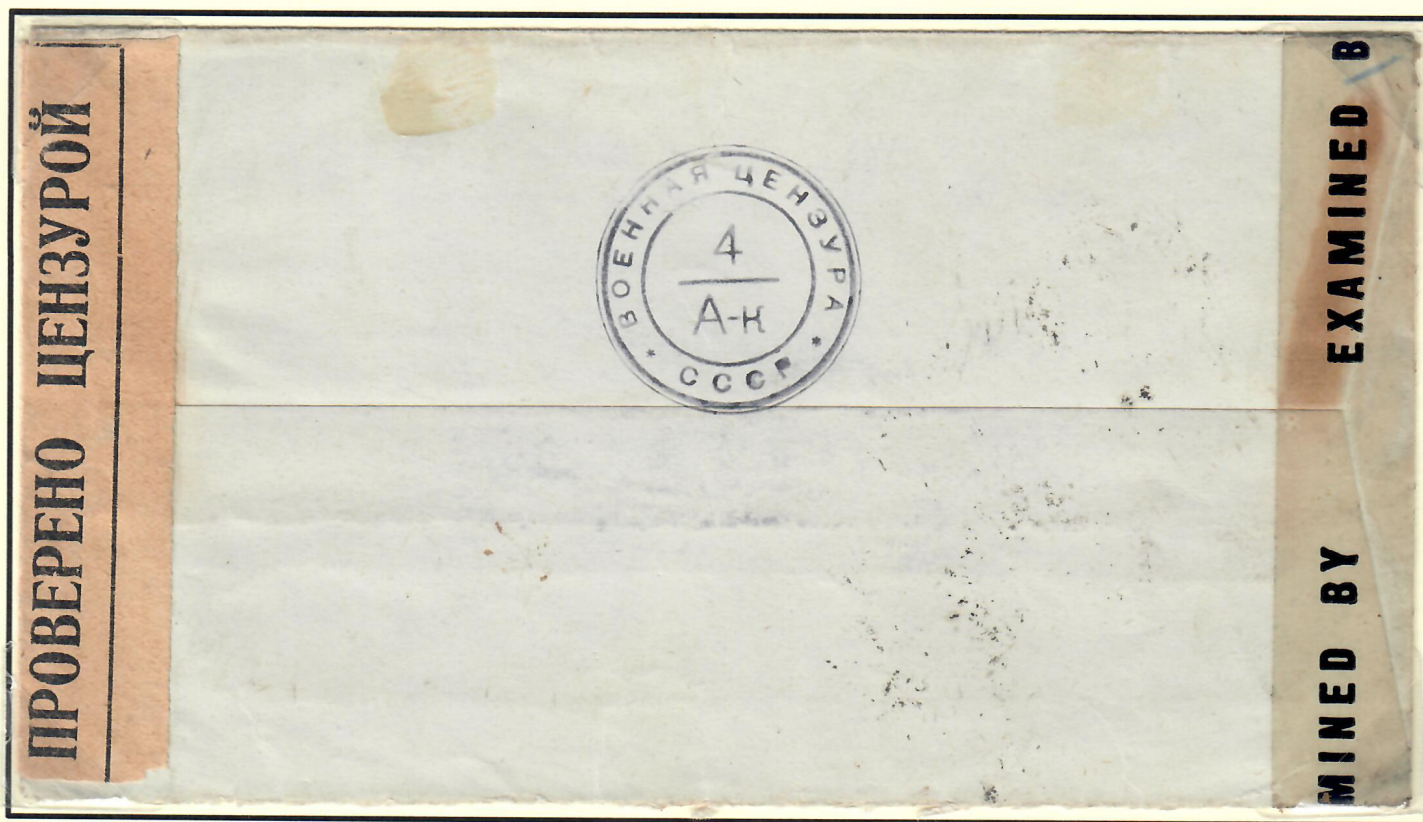
Copy of whole censor stripe.

Moscow, Russian republic 1.8.1942 to USA, censored in Moscow, 3rd period and English censorship with a PC.90 stripe. It is 6 different censor stripes; the usage of this censor stripe is July to August 1942. It is 3 different cancel types, usage is April 1942 to December 1945, with 75 numbers in the range 3 to 120. This censor stripe is also used at other censor sites for international mail, but after August 1942. Postal route is Moscow, Murmansk (or Archangelsk) (with the convoys), England and to New York.



Registered Moscow, Russian republic 19.7.1945 to USA, censored in Moscow, 3rd period. The usage of this censor stripe is June – July 1945. Postage is 190 kopek; correct postage is 130 kopek (50 kopek letter abroad + 80 kopek registered fee abroad)

Censor stripes are only used on international mail (except for some very few locations in the 1st period). Text length and letters may vary for the different censor stripes.



Archangelsk oblast, Russian republic 26.2.1945 to USA, censored in Archangelsk, 3rd period.
 Censored in Archangelsk with cancel and censor stripe, and censored again in New York with censor tape (censor id #8231).
 Usage is May 1943 to March 1945, with 3 numbers in the range 2 to 5. The censor stripe is very rare, so no period of usage is possible to establish.



Registered Yerevan, Armenian republic, 10.7.1945 to USA, censored in Yerevan, 3rd period.
 The usage of the cancel is September 1942 to April 1945, with 4 censor numbers in the range 1 to 11.
 Postage is 120 kopek; correct rate is 110 kopek (30 kop. postcard international + 80 kop. registered).



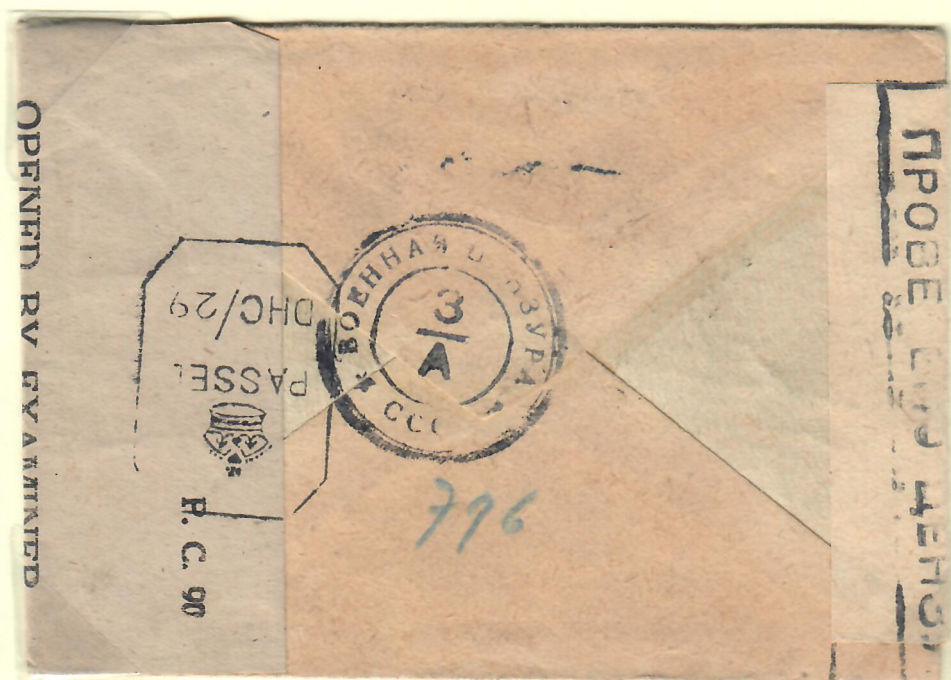
Tbilisi, Georgian republic dated 1.6.1945 to Iran, censored in Tbilisi, 3rd period, and Anglo-Soviet-Iranian censorship. Usage is June to July 1945, with 2 numbers in the range 1 to 5. Postage is 60 kopek; correct postage is 30 kopek.



Arsk, Russian republic, 24.4.1943 to USA, censored in Kazan 2nd period, Moscow 3rd period and New York. Double censorship in USSR is rare, this is the only registered international mail from Kazan. Usage of the Kazan cancel is from February 1942 to June 1943. Postage is 50 kopek; correct rate is 30 kopek.



Baku, Azerbaijan republic, 11.9.1944 to Iran, censored in Baku, 3rd period, and also Anglo-Soviet-Iranian censorship from Iran. The usage of the cancel is from July 1942 to August 1944, with 3 censor numbers in the range 1 to 3. "Avio" is handwritten on the envelope (all Soviet airmail was automatic registered at this time). The airmail rate from 1.9.1940 to 20.9.1948 was 1 rubel for letters. Postage is for registered letter 130 kopek (50 kop. letter abroad + 80 kop. registered abroad).



Front 50 % reduced



Ashkhabad, Turkmen republic, 8.4.1944 to South Africa, censored in Ashabad, 3rd period, and also British censorship in Calcutta. The usage of the cancel is from April 1944 to May 1945, with 2 censor numbers in the range 1 to 3. This is the only recorded of a censor stripe from Ashabad. Postage is for registered letter 130 kopek (50 kop. letter abroad + 80 kop. registered abroad).



Registered Tashkent, Uzbekistan republic 14.5.1942 to Canada, censored in Tashkent, 1st period and 2nd period. A unique item, showing the transition between the 1st and 2nd period. This letter also documents the location (Tashkent) for the irregular cancel from period 1. The usage period for the irregular cancel is January to May 1942. The regular cancel has three different types, usage is from March 1942 to June 1943. Postage is 130 kopek (50 kop. international letter + 80 kop. international registered).



Bukharskoy oblast, Uzbekistan republic 27.11.1943 to Palestine, censored in Tashkent, 3rd period. It is two different cancel types, usage is July 1942 to July 1945 with 11 numbers in the range 2 to 19. The difference between Tashkent and Tbilisi cancel, is the letter T, and the placement of the text in the double circle.



Registered Semipalatinsk, Kazan republic unclear date.5.1942 to USA, censored in Alma-Ata (2nd period) and New York. It is three different cancel types, usage is May 1942 to July 1943, and only censor number 4 and 9 is registered for international correspondence.



Registered Alma-Ata, Kazan republic 29.12.1942 to USA, censored in Alma-Ata, Kazan republic 3rd period. It is two different cancel types, usage is August 1942 to December 1945, with 10 censor numbers in the range 1 to 13. Censor tape is used June 1943 to November 1945, censor tapes are very rare.

2.1 International Correspondence

Chardzhou
Petrovavlovsk



Front 50 % reduced

Registered Chardzhou, Turkmenistan republic 2.1.1943 to USA, censored in Chardzhou, Turkmenistan republic 2nd period and New York (censor #5472).

Usage is August 1942 to August 1943, with 4 numbers in the range 7 to 12. This is the only recorded usage of this censor cancel on international mail. Chardzhou did not control international mail in the 3rd period.

Postage is for registered letter 130 kopek (50 kop. letter abroad + 80 kop. registered abroad (1st May 1936 – 9th June 1950)).



Smirnov, North-Kazakhstan oblast, Kazan republic 30.9.1942 to Palestine, censored in Petrovavlovsk, Kazan republic 1st period, and British censorship in Palestine.

This is the only recorded usage of this censor cancel. Petrovavlovsk did not control international mail in the 3rd period.

Postage for postcard abroad was 30 kop. (1st May 1936 – 9th June 1950), so it is 20 kop. too much (letter in this period was 50 kop.).



Postage for postcard abroad was 30 kop. (1st May 1936 – 9th June 1950), so it is 20 kop. too much. The postage route is via Vladivostok and by boat to San Francisco, this mail route to the USA was only for a short period before the USA entered the war. US censorship from San Francisco on USSR mail is rare.

Semipalatinsk oblast, Kazan republic 25.11.1941 to USA, censored in Semipalatinsk, 1st period and San Francisco. Usage is November to December 1941, and only two censor numbers are registered. It is very few recorded letters/postcards for international correspondence with Semipalatinsk censorship.



Registered from Vladivostok, Russian republic, 25.1.1944 to Haifa, Palestine. Censored in Vladivostok, 3rd period, and New York, USA (censor #7778). Thereafter censored by the British in Haifa, Palestine. Correct postage. Usage for the Vladivostok cancel is February 1944 to October 1945, with the numbers 2, 3. The censor stripe has been observed in the period January to April 1944, and is of the same type as used in Moscow in the period July – August 1942. Postal route is Vladivostok, Moscow, Murmansk (or Archangelsk) (with the convoys), and to New York, then it has gone back to England/Palestine. A unique item displaying the postal hardship with three different censor places (nations).

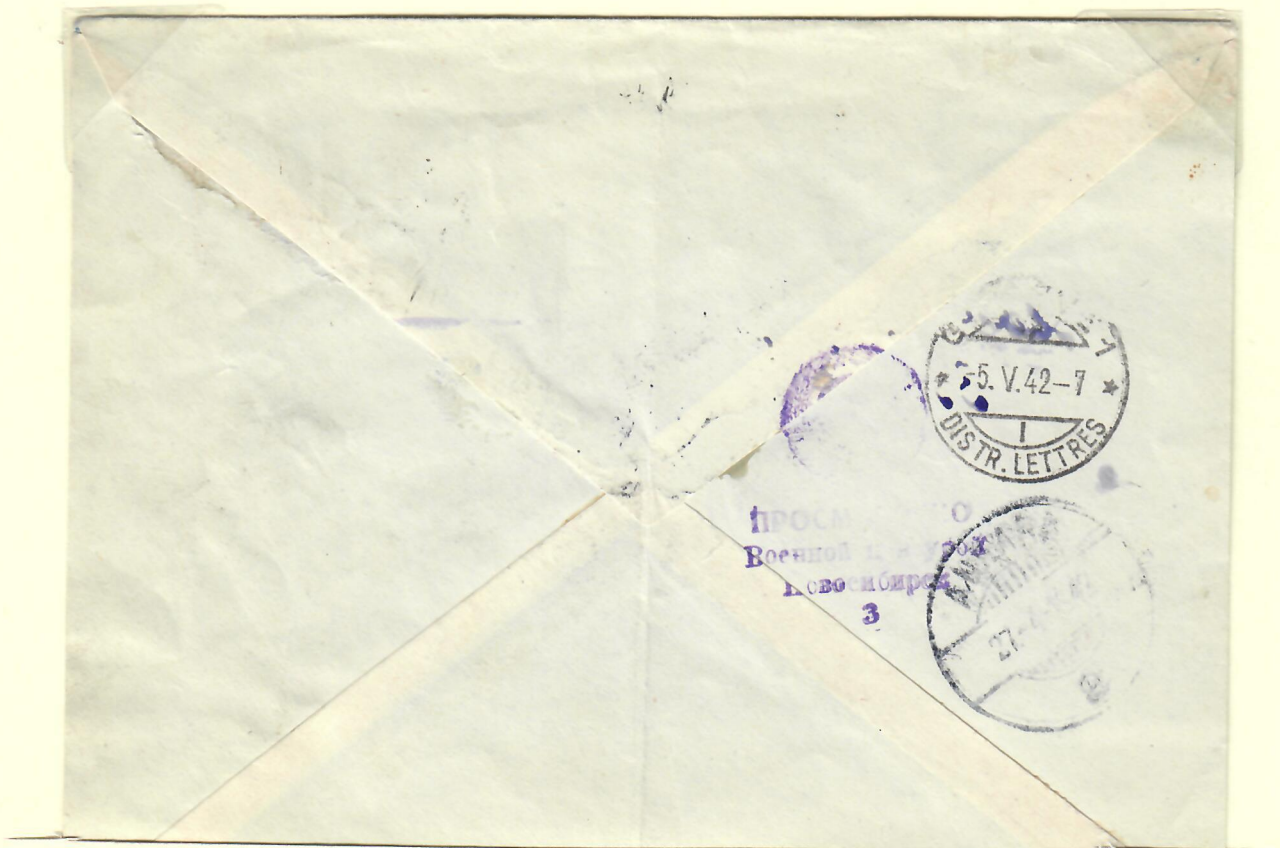
2.1 International Correspondence

Novosibirsk



Registered Tcherny Klutch, Novosibirsk oblast, Russian republic, 24.2.1942 to Switzerland, censored in Novosibirsk, 1st period.

This is the only recorded usage of this censor cancel. Novosibirsk did not control international mail in the 3rd period. The letter has gone through Istanbul and further to Switzerland.



Registered Troisk, Altaisky krai, Russian republic, 26.3.1942 to Switzerland, censored in Novosibirsk, 2nd period.

It is two different cancel types, usage is April 1942 to October 1943, with 34 numbers in the range 3 to 337. But only the numbers 3 and 26 are used on international letters. Novosibirsk did not control international mail in the 3rd period. The letter has gone through Ankara and further to Switzerland.