

# THE ST.-PETERSBURG POSTMARKS IN FRENCH (1765-1800)

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*Postal coat of arms of the Russian Empire*

The first postmarks of Russia appeared at the St. Petersburg post office in the middle of the 18th century. The St. Petersburg postmark in French without a frame was used for more than 40 years and had a number of varieties in length, the outline of individual letters and font size. This exhibition examines the types of stamps and their temporary use in the period 1765-1800. The numbering of the stamps is given according to the catalog of M. Dobin (Postal stamps of the Russian Empire, 2009 edition).

The author's own research and findings are designated – (ES).

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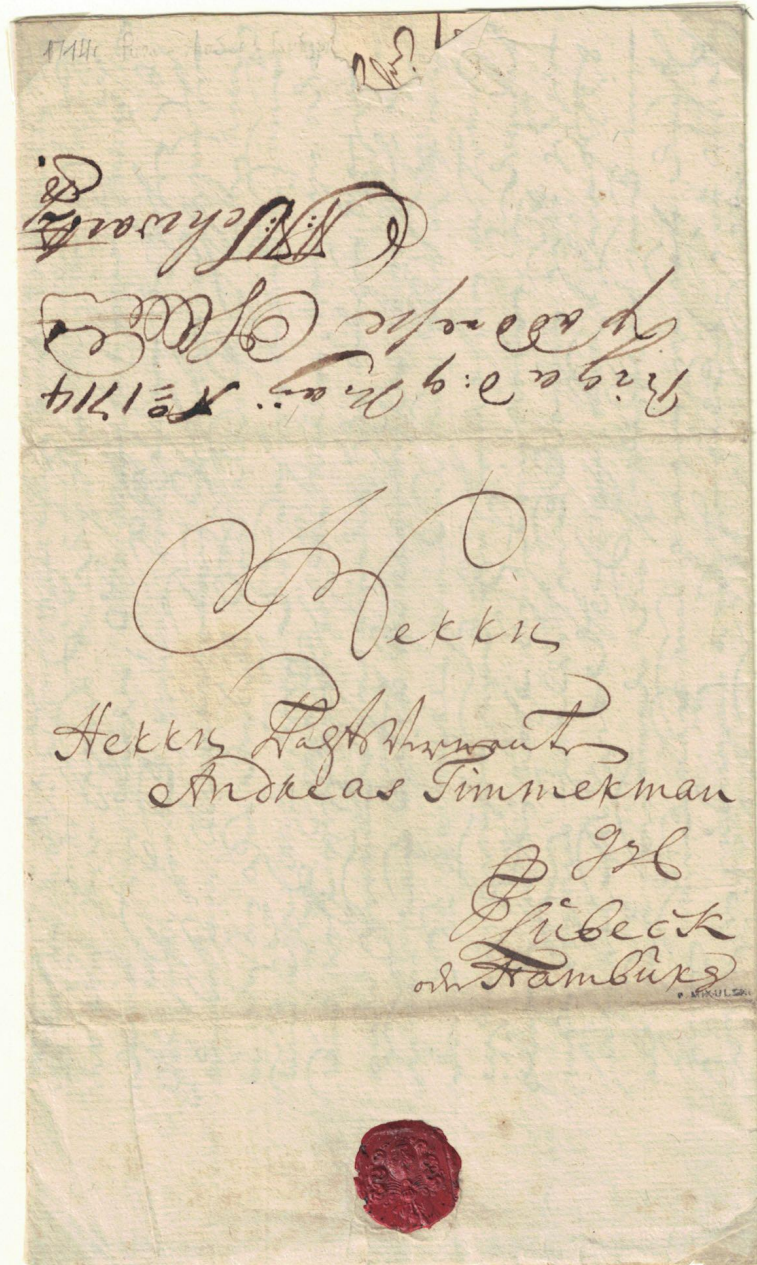
### The literature:

- M.A. Dobin. Postmarks. The Russian Empire. Pre-Adhesive Period. St. Petersburg, 2009.  
1903 N. I. Sokolov. St. Petersburg post office under Peter the Great (research)  
From the history of St. Petersburg post 1703-1914. M. Dobin, L. Ratner.

## 1. Opening of the St. Petersburg Post Office

In 1714 the Post house (Post yard) was built in St.-Petersburg with postal (postmaster) office and the "german" mail between St.-Petersburg and Riga was established.

1714



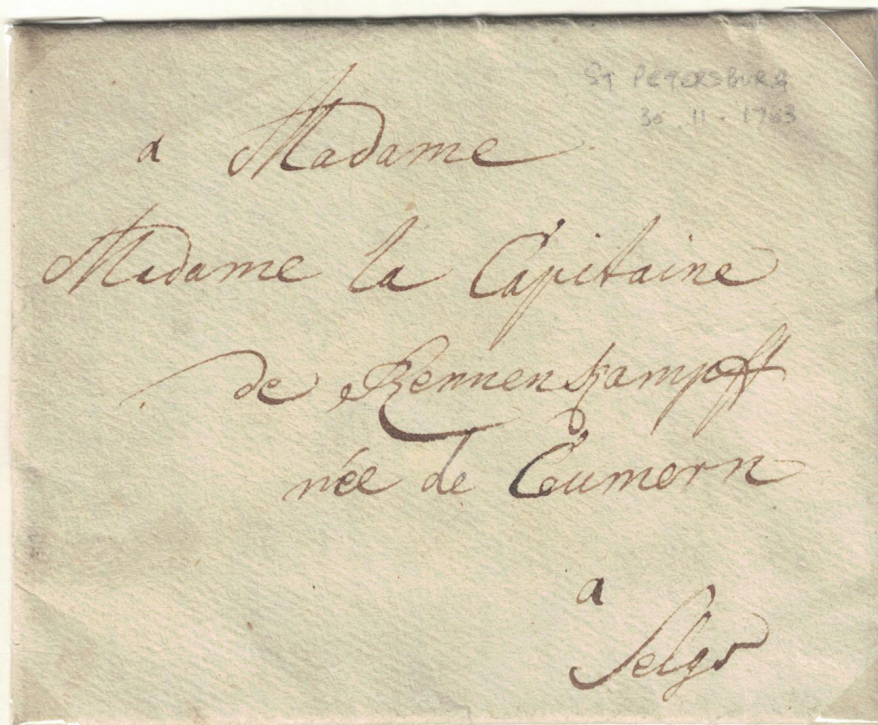
International private letter sent on May 5, 1714 by "German" mail from St. Petersburg to Lubeck via Riga (handwritten mark) and Hamburg (handwritten mark). Postage rate St. Petersburg - Riga - 15 kopecks, Riga - Memel - 12 kopecks, and from Memel to Lubeck - 3 kopecks (paid to Prussia). Total - 30 kopecks. **One of the earliest letters sent via the St. Petersburg post office and one of two known from this year.**

Ex - Z. Mikulsky, P. Byanchi, S. Brayman

## 2. Postal reform of 1763 in Russia

In 1763, Empress Catherine II commissioned Count Z. Chernyshev to improve the postal service throughout Russia.

1763



Private letter sent 30.11.1763 from St.-Petersburg to Selgo.  
Rate 12 kopecks. Ex - P. Ashford

1763



Private letter sent 30.12.1763 from St.-Petersburg to Pallali via Narva and Loop.  
Rate 16 kopecks. Ex - P. Ashford

### 3. The St.-Petersburg postmark in French Dobin №01.0/0.01

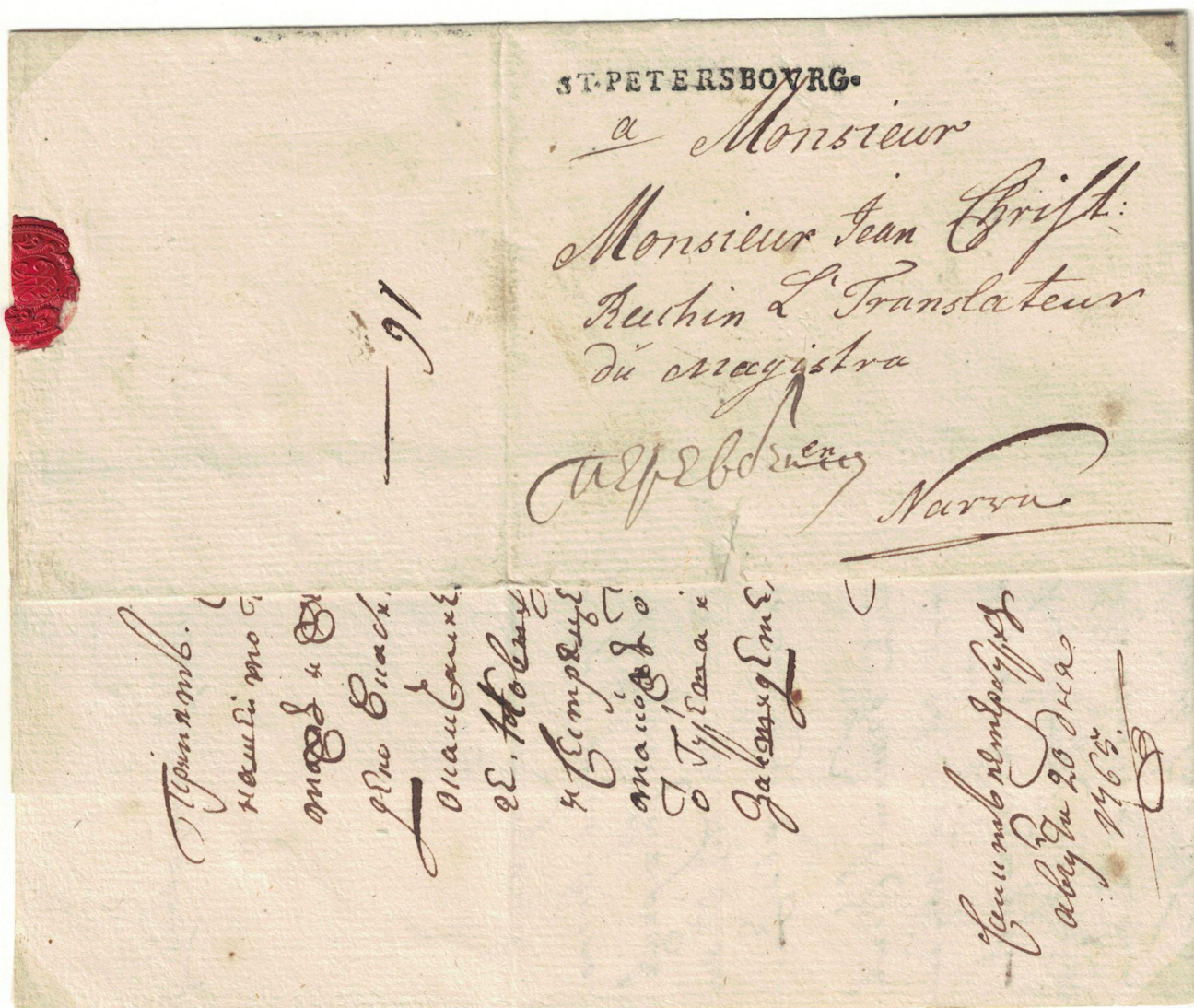
The first postal item with postmark "ST.-PETERSBURG" on French, dated 2th of July 1765. The correspondence sent abroad and to the Baltic governments of Russia were marked by postmarks with name of the town in French.

#### 3.1. Postmark - Dobin №01.0/01 a

ST-PETERSBOVRG. (1765-1769)

Size 42 ½ x 2 ½, after "ST" the dot is raised. After "G" there is a dot.

August 28, 1765



Private letter sent 20.08.1765 from St.-Petersburg to Narva. The single-line postmark "ST.-PETERSBURG" (Dobin №01.0/01a). Rate 6 kopecks. **The second recorded date of the first Russian postmark use (for internal correspondence).** Ex – M. Dobin, A. Strebulaev, A. Mramornov. Certification by M.Dobin.

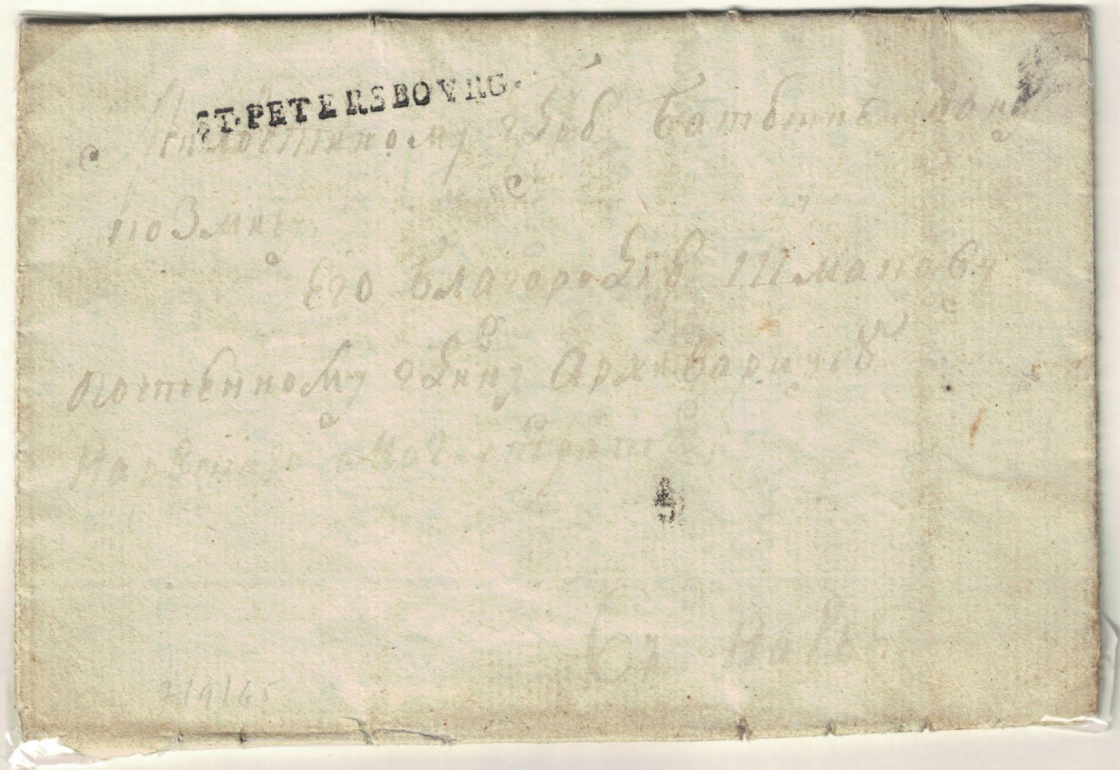
3.1. Postmark - Dobin №01.0/01 a

The earliest known envelope with the first postmark and the address in Russian

ST·PET ERSBOVRG· (1765-1769)

Size 42 ½ x 2 ½, after "ST" the dot is raised. After "G" there is a dot.

1765



Private letter sent 07.09.1765 from St. Petersburg to Narva. The single-line postmark "ST.-PETERSBURG" (Dobin № 01/0.01 a.). Rate 6 kopecks. *Ex P. Bianchi.*  
The only known letter with an address in Russian from 1765.

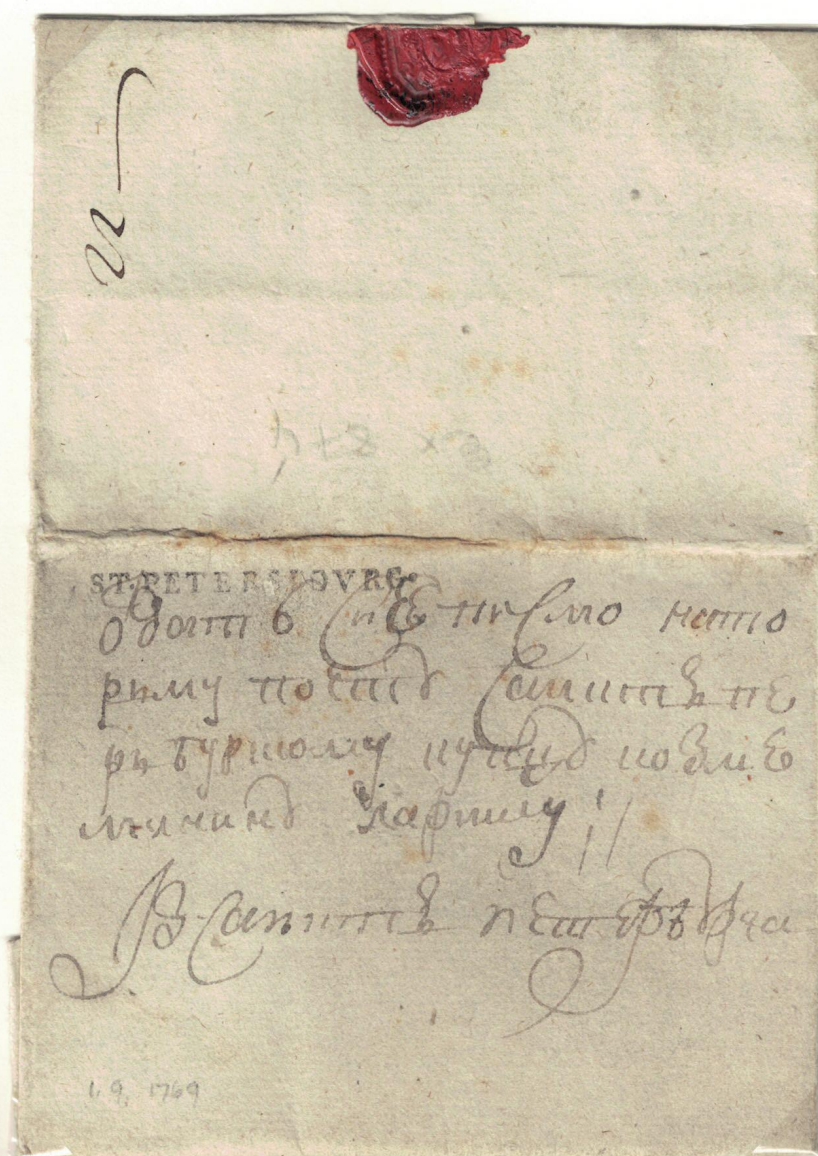
3.1. Postmark - Dobin №01.0/01 a

Latest date of application of the first postmark

ST·PETERSBOVRG· (1765-1769)

Size 42 ½ x 2 ½, after "ST" the dot is raised. After "G" there is a dot.

1769



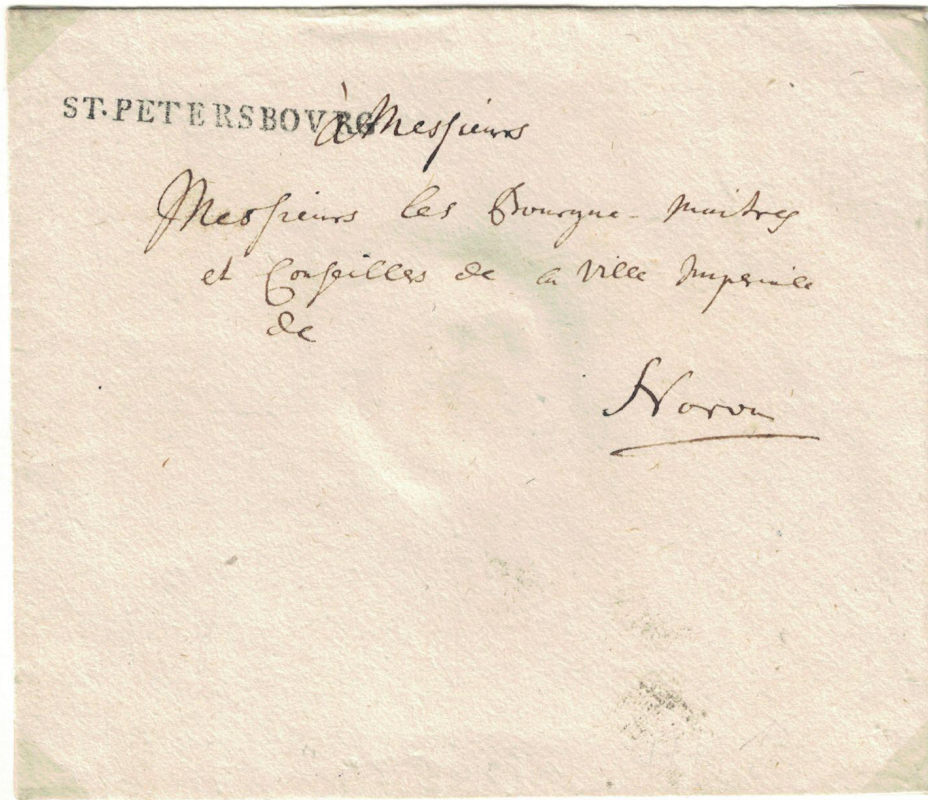
Private letter sent 01.09.1769 from St. Petersburg. The single-line postmark "ST.-PETERSBURG" (Dobin № 01/0.01 a.). Rate 22 kopecks. Ex - P. Ashford.

**The only known letter with this postmark is from 1769.**

3.2. Postmark - Dobin №01.0/01 6

ST-PETERSBOVRG (1767-1769)

Size 40 ½ x 2 ½ , after "ST" the dot is raised. After "G" there is no dot.



Private letter sent from St. Petersburg to Narva. The single-line postmark  
"ST.-PETERSBURG" (Dobin № 01/0.01 6). Rate 6 kopecks.

**The letters are known in single copies.**

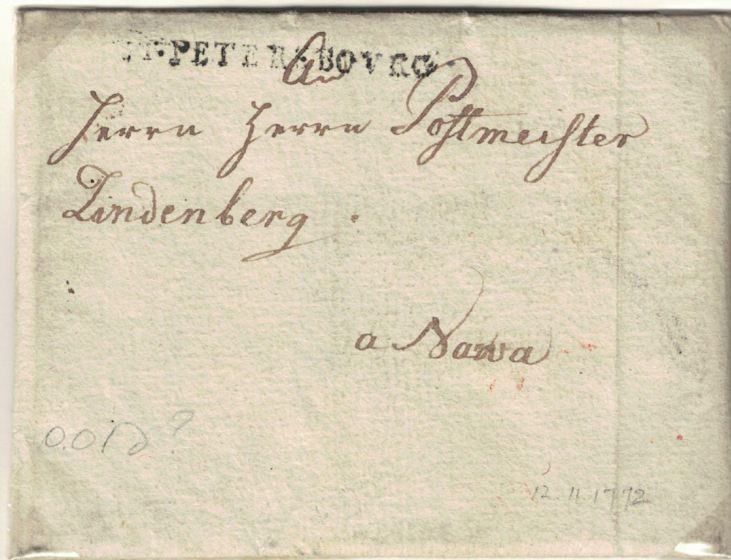
*Ex P. Bianchi*

3.3. Postmark - Dobin №01.0/01 B

ST. PETERSBOVRG. (1771-1774)

Size 41 ½ x 2 ½, after "ST" the dot is raised. After "G" there is a dot.

1772



Private letter sent 12.11.1772 from St. Petersburg to Narva. The single-line postmark "ST.-PETERSBURG" (Dobin № 01/0.01 B). Rate 6 kopecks. Ex - P. Ashford

The address is written in Russian

1772



Private letter sent 2.10.1772 from St. Petersburg to Narva. The single-line postmark "ST.-PETERSBURG" (Dobin № 01/0.01 B). Rate 6 kopecks. Ex - P. Ashford

3.4. Postmark - Dobin №01.0/01 r

ST. PETERSBOVRG. (1775-1809)

Size 42 ½ x 3, after "ST" the dot is not raised. After "G" there is a dot.

Despite the long period 1775-1809 of this type of letter postmark,  
only a few copies are known. (ES).

1791



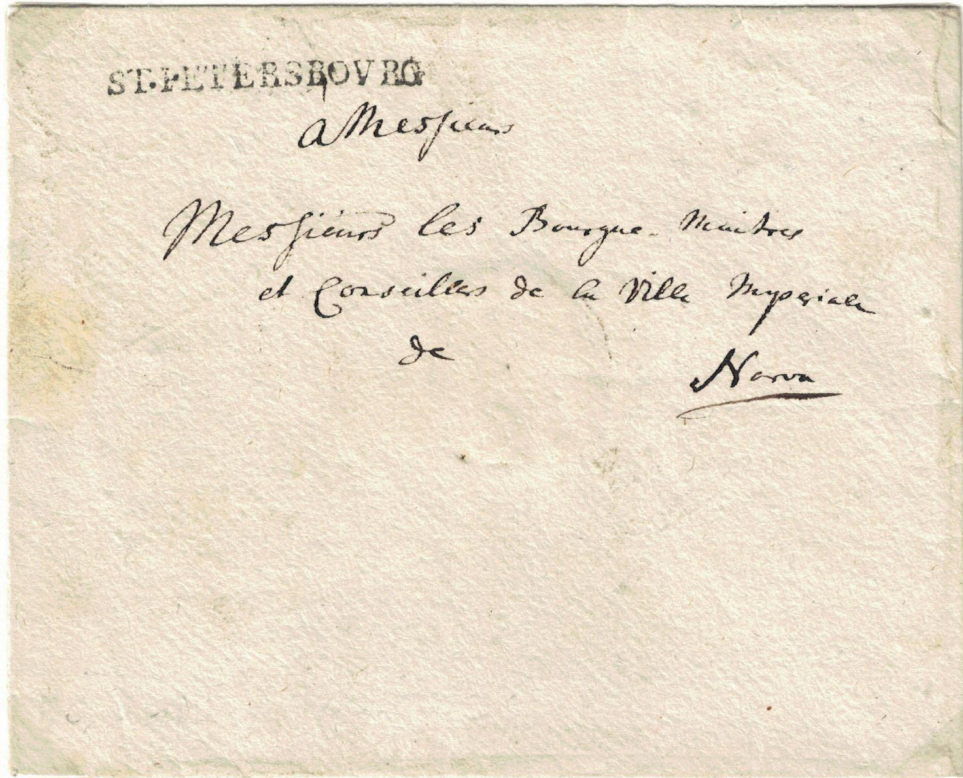
Private letter sent 21.05.1791 from St.-Petersburg to Europe. The single-line postmark  
"ST.-PETERSBURG" (Dobin № 01/0.01 r). Rate 44 kopecks.  
(Tariff of November 14, 1783).  
Ex - A. Faberge.

3.5. Postmark - Dobin №01.0/01 д

ST.-PETERSBOVBG (1778-1842)

Size 41 x 3, after "ST" the dot is raised. After "G" there is no dot.

1778



Private letter sent 1778 from St. Petersburg to Narva. The single-line postmark "ST.-PETERSBURG" (Dobin № 01/0.01 д). Rate 6 kopecks. Ex – A. Faberge

1781



Private letter sent 13.10.1781 from St. Petersburg to Gensell via Narva. The single-line postmark "ST.-PETERSBURG" (Dobin № 01/0.01 д). Rate 21 kopecks. Ex – M. Dobin

3.6. Postmark - Dobin №01.0/01 ж

ST.PETERSBOVRG (1796)

Size 41 x 3, after "ST" after "ST" the dot is omitted. After "G" there is no dot.

1796



Private letter sent 26.08.1796 from St.-Petersburg to Pernau. The single-line postmark "ST.-PETERSBURG" (Dobin № 01/0.01 ж). Rate 10 kopecks (Tariff of November 14, 1783). *One of three known. Ex – M. Dobin*

3.7. Postmark - Dobin №01.0/01 e

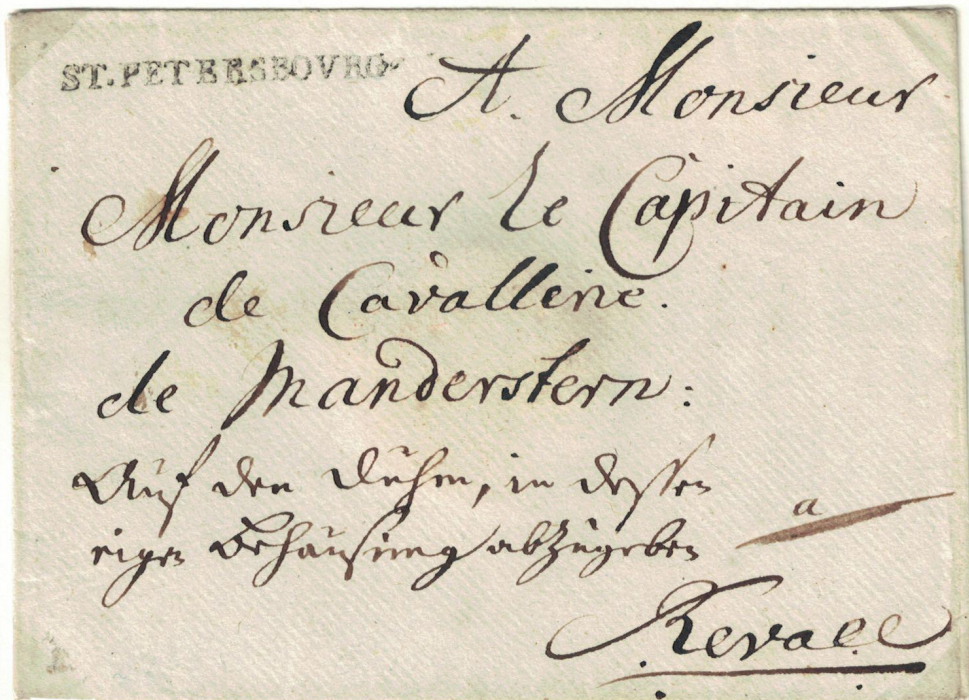
**ST. PETERSBOVBG** · (1781-1796)

Size 43 x 3, after "ST" after "ST" the dot is omitted. After "G" there is a dot.

1786



Private letter sent 5.01.1786 from St.-Petersburg to Pernaü. The single-line postmark "ST.-PETERSBURG" (Dobin № 01/0.01 e). Rate 10 kopecks (Tariff of November 14, 1783).



Private letter sent from St.-Petersburg to Reval. The single-line postmark "ST.-PETERSBURG" (Dobin № 01/0.01 e). Rate 7 kopecks (Tariff of November 14, 1783).

#### 4. The St.-Petersburg postmark in French Dobin №01.0/0.02

**ST. PETERSBOVRG.** (1767-1772)

Size 45 x 4 ½

**The earliest using of this type of postmark (ES)**

1767



Private letter sent 27.11.1767 from St.-Petersburg to Amsterdam. The single-line postmark "ST.-PETERSBURG" (Dobin № 01/0.02), endorsed "fr Emmerk" for fees paid until Dutch boundaries, charged "5" stuyvers on delivery. Reverse with manuscript "44" kopeks paid for Prussian transit. *Ex – Z. Mikulsky, P. Byanchi, S. Brayman.*

4. The St.-Petersburg postmark in French Dobin №01.0/0.02

**ST. PETERSBOVRG.** (1767-1772)

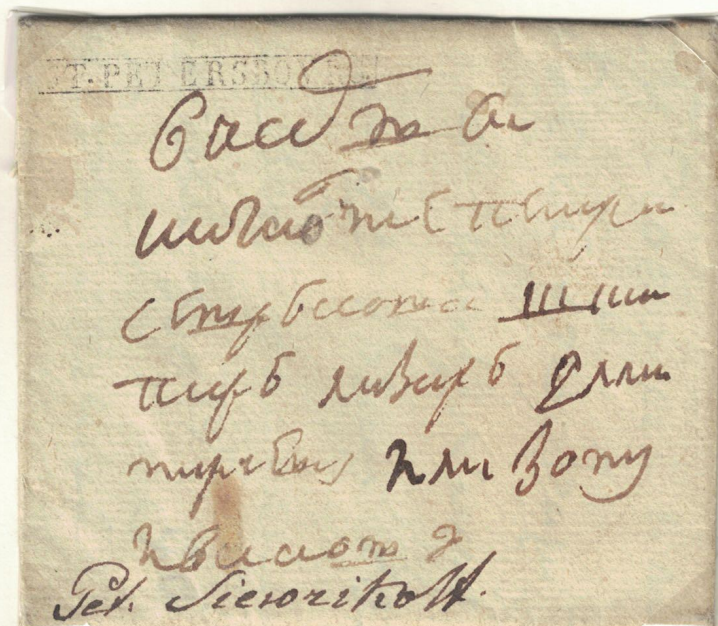
Size 45 x 4 ½

1768



Private letter sent 12.03.1768 from St.-Petersburg to Pernau. The single-line postmark “ST.-PETERSBURG” (Dobin № 01/0.02). Rate 10 kopecks. Ex – M. Dobin  
Certification by M. Dobin.

1768



Private letter sent 14.05.1768 from St.-Petersburg to Narva. The single-line postmark “ST.-PETERSBURG” (Dobin № 01/0.02). Rate 6 kopecks.  
Ex - P. Ashford

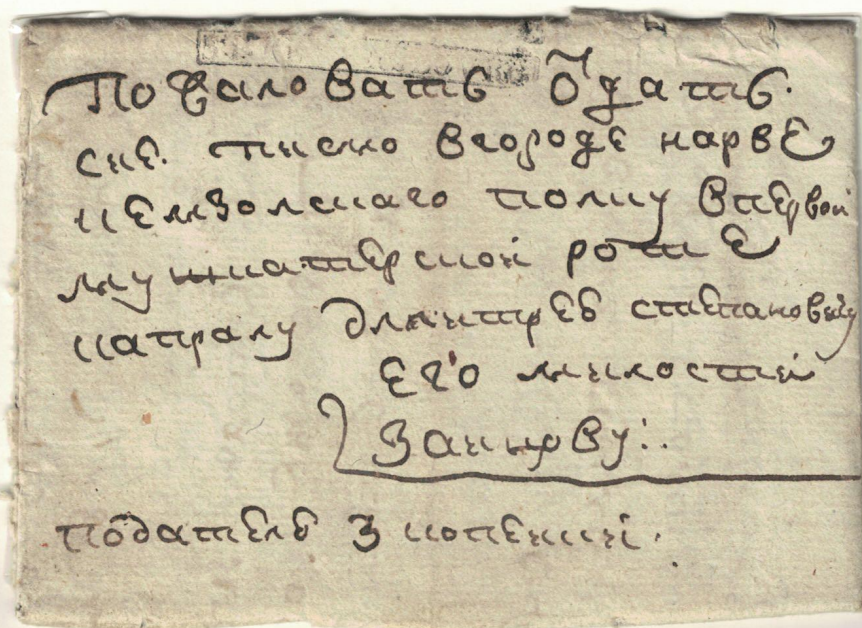
4. The St.-Petersburg postmark in French Dobin №01.0/0.02

**ST. PETERSBOVRG.** (1767-1772)

Size 45 x 4 ½

The address and the letter itself were written in Russian  
(a great rarity for that time).

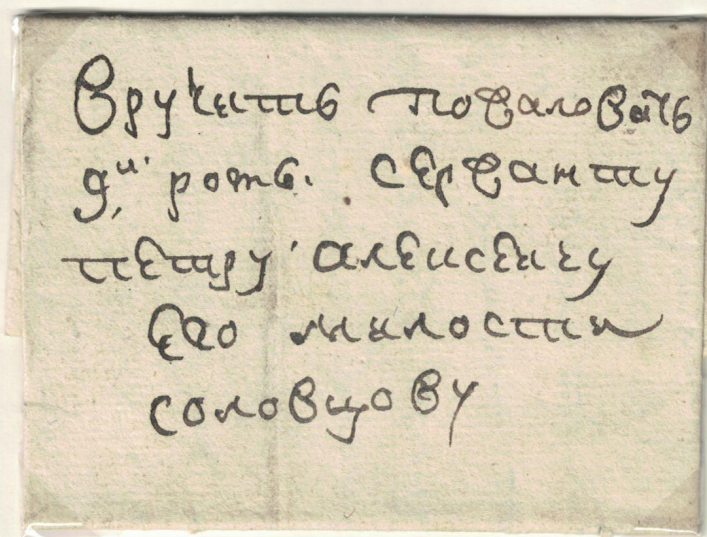
1768



3 kopecks  
to the giver



Private letter sent 6.04.1768 from St.-Petersburg to Narva and further to the Kemzholsky Regiment (located near Narva). The single-line postmark "ST.-PETERSBURG" (Dobin № 01/0.02). Rate 12 kopecks (Weight two lots). Three kopecks to the bearer of the letter. *Ex - P. Ashford*  
**UNIQUE.**



There is another small letter enclosed with the letter. Hand it over to the sergeant of the 9th company.

5. Letters from St. Petersburg not cancelled with postmarks

There are letters without St. Petersburg postmarks.

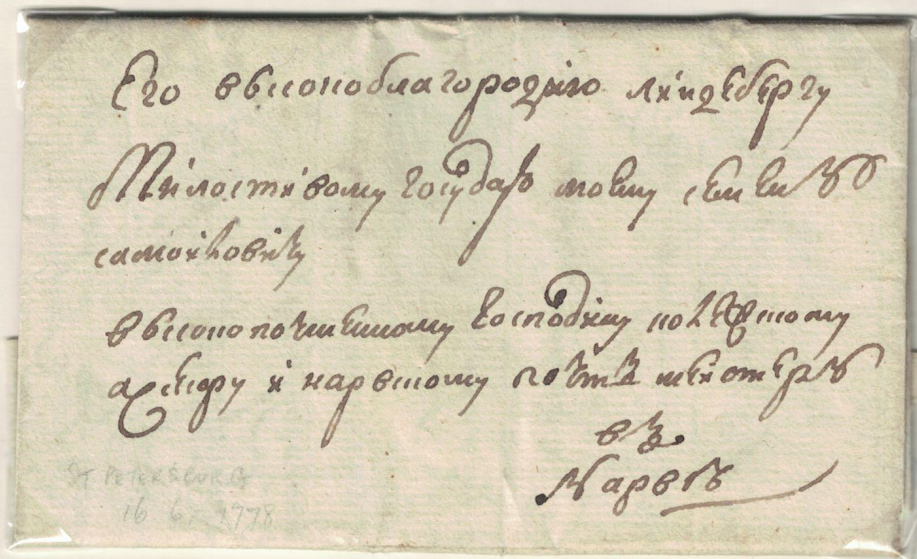
The letters are known in single copies (ES).

1775



The letter was sent on 10.10.1775 from St. Petersburg to the Farapell post station.  
Rate 8 kopecks. Ex - P. Ashford

1778



The letter was sent on 16.06.1778 from St. Petersburg to Narva.  
Rate 6 kopecks. Ex - P. Ashford