

II. From Citizen to Inmate.

B. The Caught:

10c. Political Prisoners – Bolshevik Agitators.



The Russian Social-Democratic Workers Party was formed in 1898, and within five years split in two: Bolsheviks and Mensheviks. The former called for the violent overthrow of tsarism and the establishment of a socialist state, and it was this faction that eventually won out.

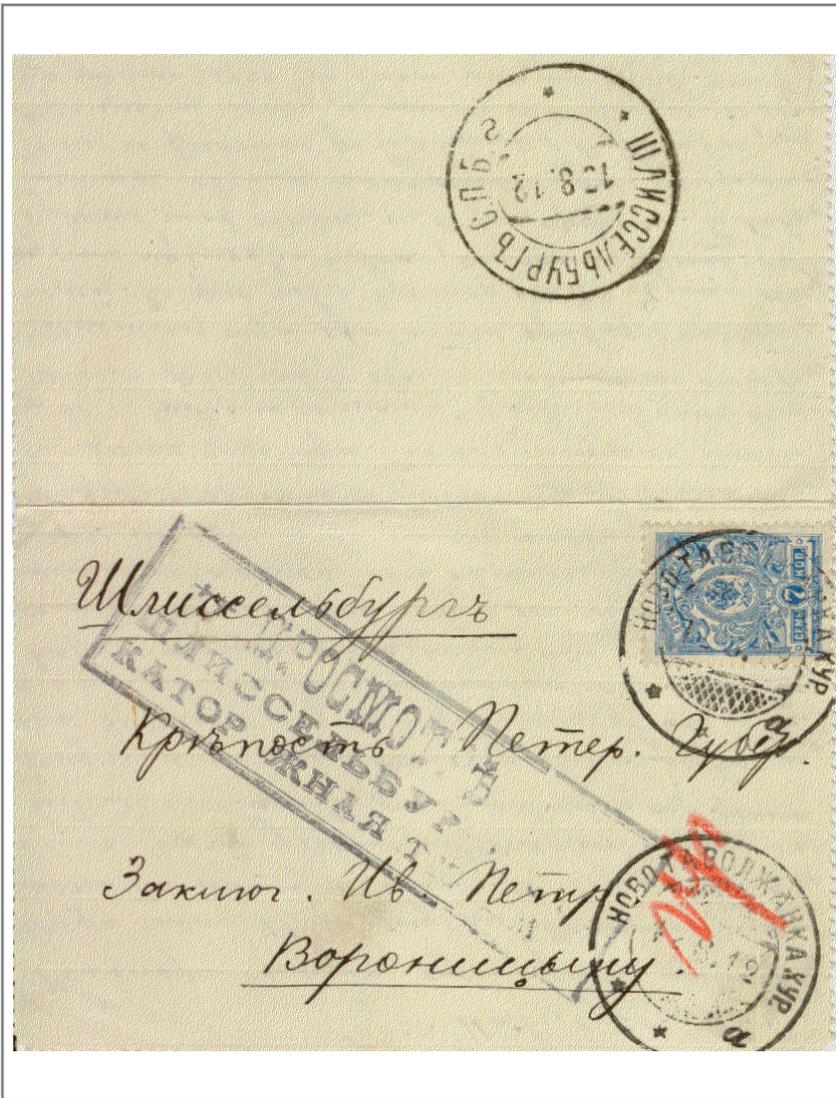
N.L. Kontorovich (1877–1921).

(Picture from Leonidova, “*Na katorzhnom ostrove,*” 1966, p. 204.)



May First greetings on a picture postcard from an emigré in Switzerland to the Bolshevik Social Democrat Nikolay Lazarevich Kontorovich, serving a life-at-hard-labor sentence in Shlissel’burg for his part in the naval mutiny at Sevastopol’ in 1905. Posted from Zurich on 5 May/22 April 1907, it received a two-line “Examined. / Dep. Warden of Shliss. H-L. Prison” censor mark on 27 April 1907 (O.S.).

II. From Citizen to Inmate.
B. The Caught:
10d. Political Prisoners – Bolshevik Agitators.



I.P. Voronitsyn (1885-1938).
(Picture from Leonidova, "Na katorzhnom ostrove," 1966, p. 88.)

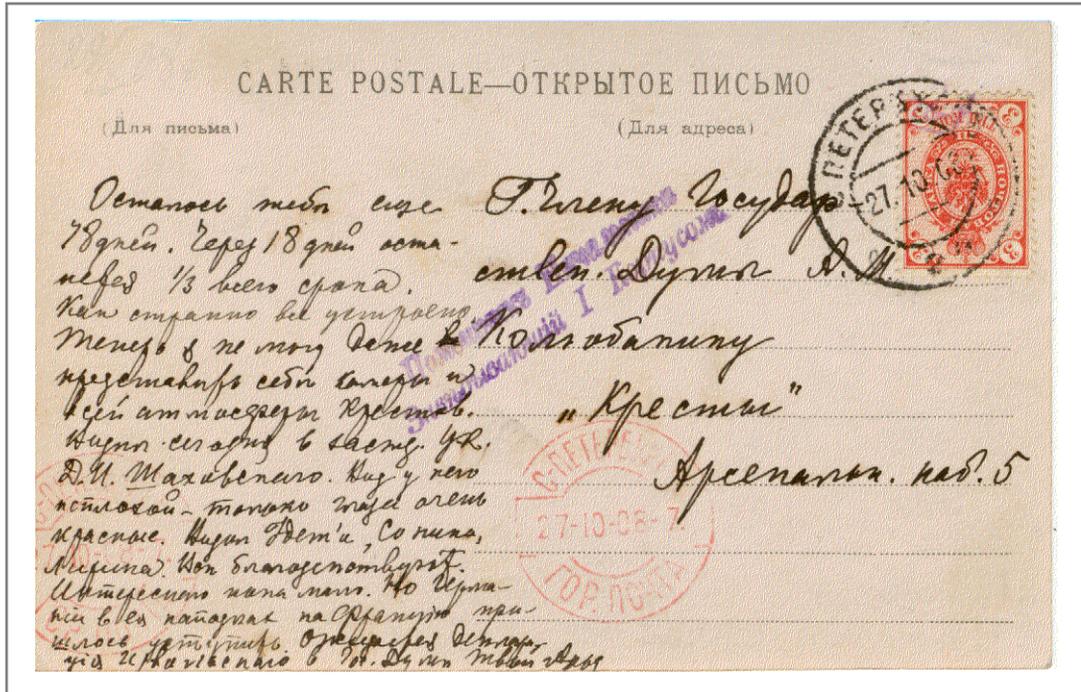
This lettercard of 13 August 1912 is addressed to Ivan Petrovich Voronitsyn at Shlissel'burg. Voronitsyn joined the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party in 1902, got arrested in 1903, escaped abroad from internal exile in 1904, took part in the Black Sea Fleet uprising in 1905, and for that was sentenced to life at hard labor. Rectangular "Examined / Shlissel'burg / Hard-Labor Prison" censor mark, red-pencil "pr" (examined).

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B. The Caught:

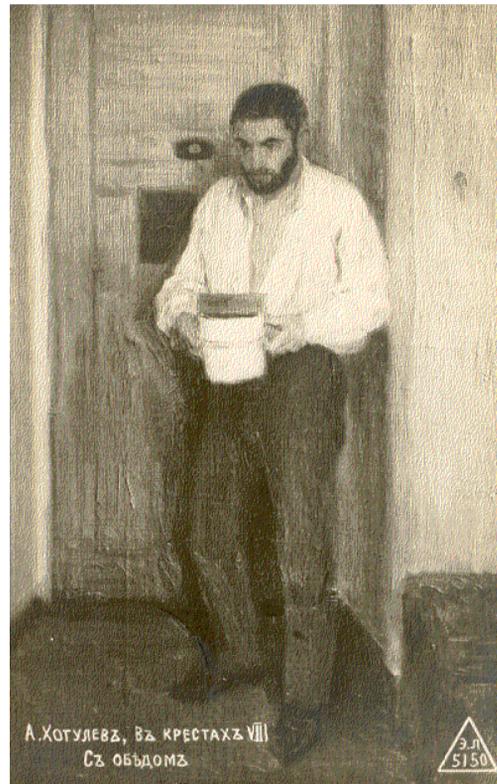
10e. Political Prisoners – Bolshevik Politicians.

Bolsheviks often found themselves locked up by the tsarist authorities, usually for agitation and strikes. Even their deputies in the State Duma were tossed into jail in 1908 and again in 1915 for their inflammatory speeches.



A picture postcard addressed to a State Duma member serving a 180-day sentence at the St. Petersburg Solitary Confinement Prison (“Kresty”), posted on 27 October 1908. Censored by the “Deputy Warden / In Charge of Building I” (violet two-line marking).

The painting reproduced on the reverse of this card, by the artist A. Khotulev, shows a prisoner getting his meager dinner through the cell door slot at “Kresty.”



II. From Citizen to Inmate.

B. The Caught:

10f. Political Prisoners – Maximalists.

After the failure of the 1905 Revolution to bring down tsarism, a group of radicals concluded that terrorism and assassination followed by an uprising were the only hope for victory (reverting to the outlook of “People’s Will,”) and they called themselves Maximalists. They were separate from the Bolsheviks, to a great extent because they refused to follow Lenin. They were closest to the Left Socialist-Revolutionaries in their prescription for a better society. Their biggest coup was the assassination of Minister of Internal Affairs Stolypin.



V.O. Likhtenshtadt (1882-1919).
 (Picture from Leonidova, “Na katorzhnom ostrove,” p.85.)

A picture postcard sent locally from St. Petersburg’s 54th Branch Office to “Tverskaya 15, via the Gendarme Administration to the Peter-and-Paul Fortress, for Vladimir Osipovich Likhtenshtadt.” Likhtenshtadt was a Maximalist who was later converted to bolshevism while in prison. He died in 1919, fighting against Yudenich’s forces. Oval “Examined / by the Deputy / Prosecutor” censor mark and iodine reagent “X.”

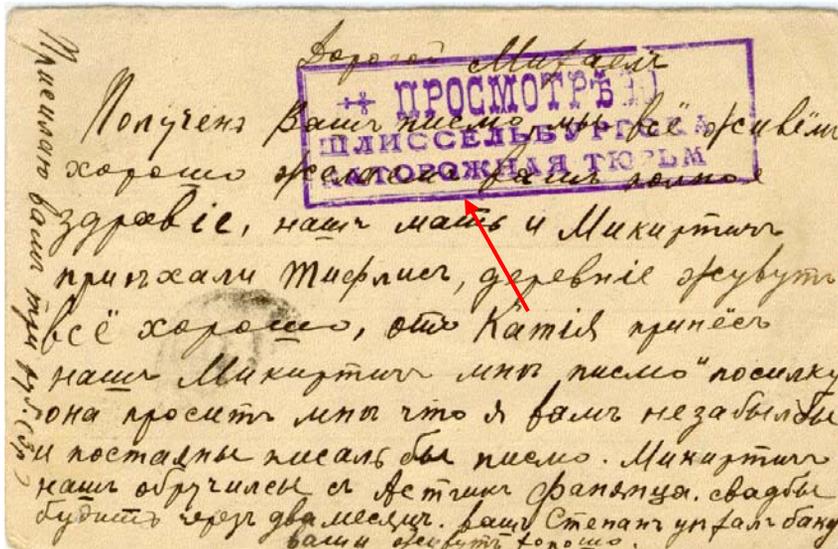
II. From Citizen to Inmate.

B. The Caught:

10h. Political Prisoners - Armenian Nationalists.



Nationalist fervor and political upheaval in the Caucasus resulted in numerous arrests by the tsarist police. Many Armenians, Georgians, and Azeris ended up in Russia's prisons, to include Shlissel'burg. This is a reply-paid postcard sent from Tiflis on 3 November 1911 to an Armenian inmate, Mikhail Adamovich Ter-Markosyants, in cell 8 of Building 1, Shlissel'burg Fortress. The reverse bears the rare *katorozhnaya* censor mark error (red arrow).



Reverse.

II. From Citizen to Inmate.

B. The Caught:

10i. Political Prisoners - Azeris and Georgians.

Besides the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks in the eastern Caucasus, there were also the large nationalist movements like the Musawatists and Dashnakists, which wanted to be separate from Russia. Many of them ended up in prison.



Above: A cover from Agdam, Yelisavetpol' Province, mailed on 25 October 1914 to Tagi-Mashadi Huseyn oghly, imprisoned in Bldg. 4, Sect. 2, Cell 13 at Shlissel'burg Fortress.



At left: "Comrade Stalin in Baku Prison, (1910)" by the Georgian artist Makashvili. Stalin exhorts a prisoner party to attack its convoy. ("Gruzhudozhnik" sponsored a GOZNAK run of 50,000 of these PPCs for the KOGIZ Main Philatelic Office in 1941.)

II. From Citizen to Inmate.
B. The Caught:
10j. Political Prisoners – The Jewish Left.



Jewish Bundists, communists, and socialist-revolutionaries of all persuasions were at the forefront of the opposition forces, and as a result they were well represented in the prison population. These two items were sent to Simcha Bukrinskiy at Shlissel'burg Hard-Labor Prison by his children in Yekaterinoslav between 1912 and 1915.



II. From Citizen to Inmate.

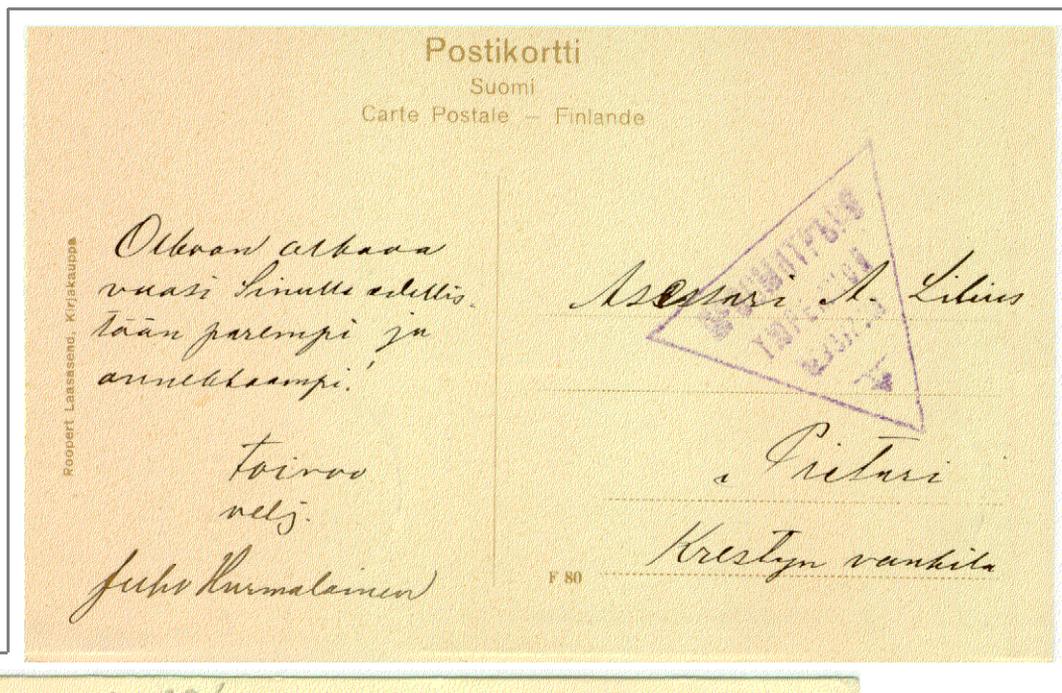
B. The Caught:

10k. Political Prisoners – Finnish Nationalists.

In 1913, 26 Finnish judges refused to obey Russian orders, and were sentenced en masse to solitary confinement at *Kresty*. Below are postcards to two of those judges, Lilius and Vikberg, both bearing *Kresty's* triangular "Examined / by Prison / Censorship" handstamp. The card to Lilius is undated, but the one at bottom to Vikberg was posted in Vyborg on 14 September 1913. Among the numerous black-pencil notations is the censor entry at bottom right – "D. 3585 / cell 264, term pr." – showing that Vikberg was serving a relatively short, specific term, most probably one year or less.



A. Lilius



E.G. Vikberg

II. From Citizen to Inmate: B. The Caught: 11. Soldiers.

As military reverses, poor supply and revolutionary agitation ate away at the Russian Army's morale during WWI, soldiers began to mutiny, desert, or commit crimes in ever-increasing numbers. Many of them ended up in civilian prisons.



“Novgorod, Novgorod Provincial Prison, Cell 4, to the arrested soldier Zalman Gel’fer.” Reply-paid postcard sent from Dvinsk on 9 May 1916, censored at the prison on or after 12 May – blue-pencil censor’s initials.

At left: A PPC in the “Russian Soldier Types” series, issued by the J. Themal firm in Posen at the authorization of the German General Staff.

II. From Citizen to Inmate.
B. The Caught:
12. Administrative Exiles.

One tool at the disposal of the authorities was administrative exile, whereby an individual deemed politically unreliable could be sent by force to some region or locality without a trial. On their way, the exiles would be kept in transit prisons.



Posted from St. Petersburg on 22 November 1871 to the Tsarskoye Selo Town Hall, this reference concerns the police record of petty bourgeois A.P. Savkov. Savkov had earlier been arrested for burglary and sentenced by the SPB Circuit Court to 18 months in a work house, followed by four years of community supervision. After his release, he was rounded up repeatedly for vagrancy, and eventually moved to Tsarskoye Selo. The SPB provincial governor had contacted the Third Section to have Savkov administratively exiled, but as of the date of this letter, nothing about Savkov's fate was known for certain.

II. From Citizen to Inmate.

B. The Caught: 13. Exile Settlers.

Whether a peasant was forcibly settled in Siberia or had always lived there, his ability to move from place to place was closely regulated and controlled by the authorities, just as it was for hard-labor and administrative exiles.

Цена 20 К. — 1862.

1862 г. № 897
По книгъ Экспедиціи

БИЛЕТЪ.

ПРИМЪТЪ:

Лѣта 28.
Ростъ 4 ар. 7 1/2 вер.
Волосы {Светлыя русые}
Брови {Светлыя русые}
Глаза Синіе
Носъ прямой
Ротъ прямой
Подбородокъ прямой
Лице худое

Объявитель сего, *Тобольской губерніи*
Таринскаго округа, Таринскаго
волости *Таринскаго* деревни, состоящій *въ*
поселеніи
Тара *Эмукхвара*.

уволенъ
для работъ по Тобольской губерніи, срокомъ отъ
нижеписаннаго дня по *Девятисе майи 1870*
воисповѣднѣ Сидеятъ Таринскаго *Всѣ*
года съ тѣмъ, чтобы по прошествіи срока нигдѣ
поселеннаго *Тара* *Эмукхвара* безъ осо-
бенныхъ законныхъ причинъ не проживать и ни-
кому у себя *Его* не держать, подлѣ опасеніемъ
строжайшаго, какъ съ пристанодержателей, взыска-
нія, и обязанъ *онъ* *явиться* въ свое жительство.
Билетъ сей выданъ *майи 9* дня 1870
года отъ *Таринскаго* Волостнаго
Правленія

Но книгъ *Таринскаго*
Волостнаго Правленія
№ 48.

Поступилъ въ Сибирь въ
1868 году, въ партин.

This is a 15-kopec revenue form up-rated in 1862 to 20 kopecks, issued to a settler named Tvaga Emukhvara, who had been sent to Siberia in 1868. Listing his physical characteristics for police identification purposes, it grants him a release from his settlement in Tara District and permission to work elsewhere in Tobol'sk Province from 9 May 1870 to 9 May 1871. Upon expiration of his authorization, he is forbidden to settle elsewhere without special legal reasons.

III. Types of Incarceration Facilities:

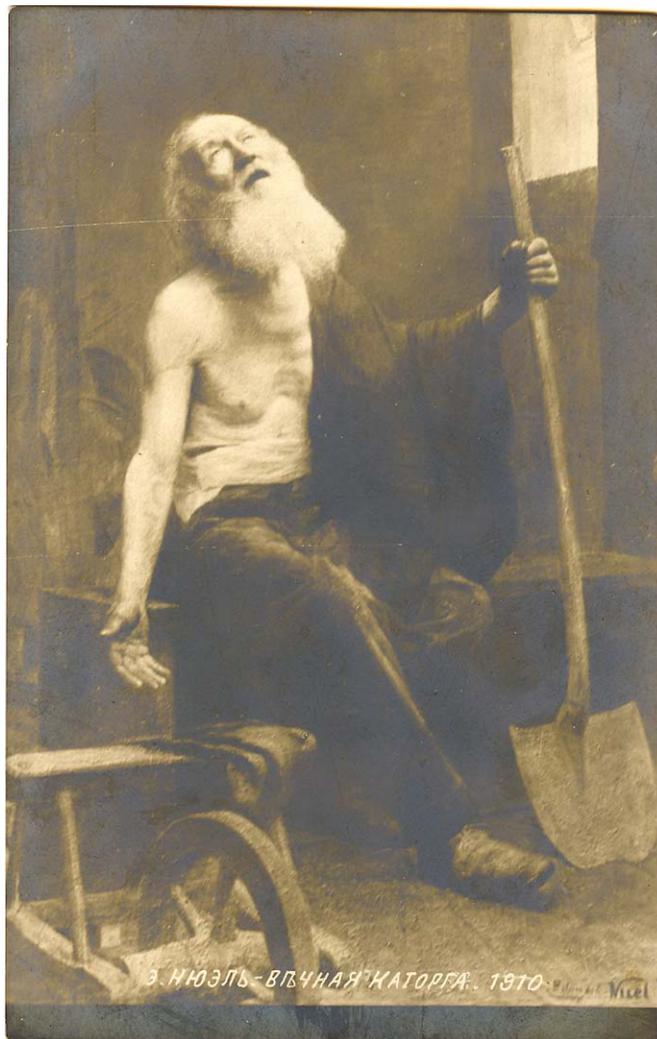
A. Hard Labor and Its Prisons:

Hard labor as a form of punishment did not arise in Russia until the reign of Peter the Great, in the late 17th century. Peter used it to man his galleys, dig his mines and build his fortresses in European Russia. It was an early blueprint for Stalin's GULAG. The practice continued up to 1917, and was applied to both criminals and political.

Specially-designated hard-labor prisons (каторжные тюрьмы) arose in the 1870s, but by 1910 almost half of all hard-labor prisoners were kept in general incarceration facilities. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, hard-labor prisons were mostly found in Siberia or (up to 1905) on Sakhalin Island.

Despite the classification of these prisons, only criminals were forced to work. Political prisoners could work or not, as they chose.

At right: A picture postcard showing E. Nuel's "Eternal Hard Labor" painting, completed in 1910. Unknown publisher and unknown date of issue.

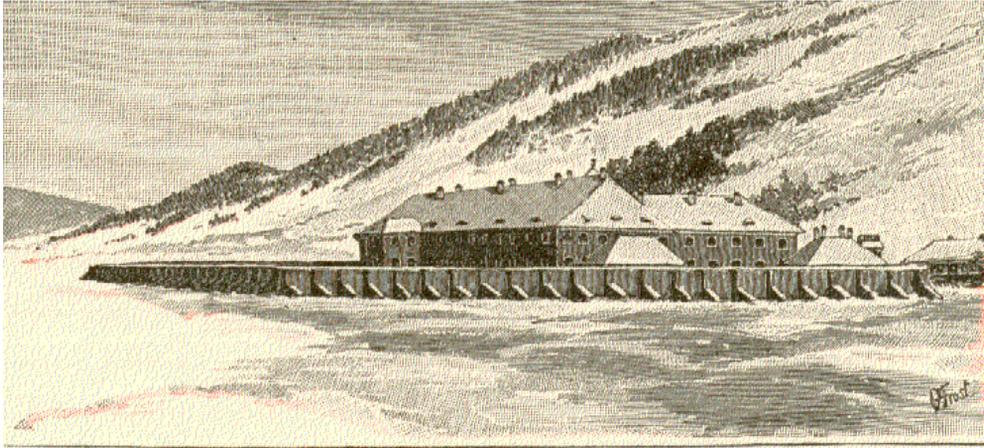


Sent by an inmate at Aleksandrovskaya Central Hard-Labor Prison in Irkutsk Province (Siberia) on 11 Mar. 1908. The violet, round censor mark - "Aleksandrovskaya Central" around the edge and "Prison" in the center - is one of two recorded.

III. Types of Incarceration Facilities.

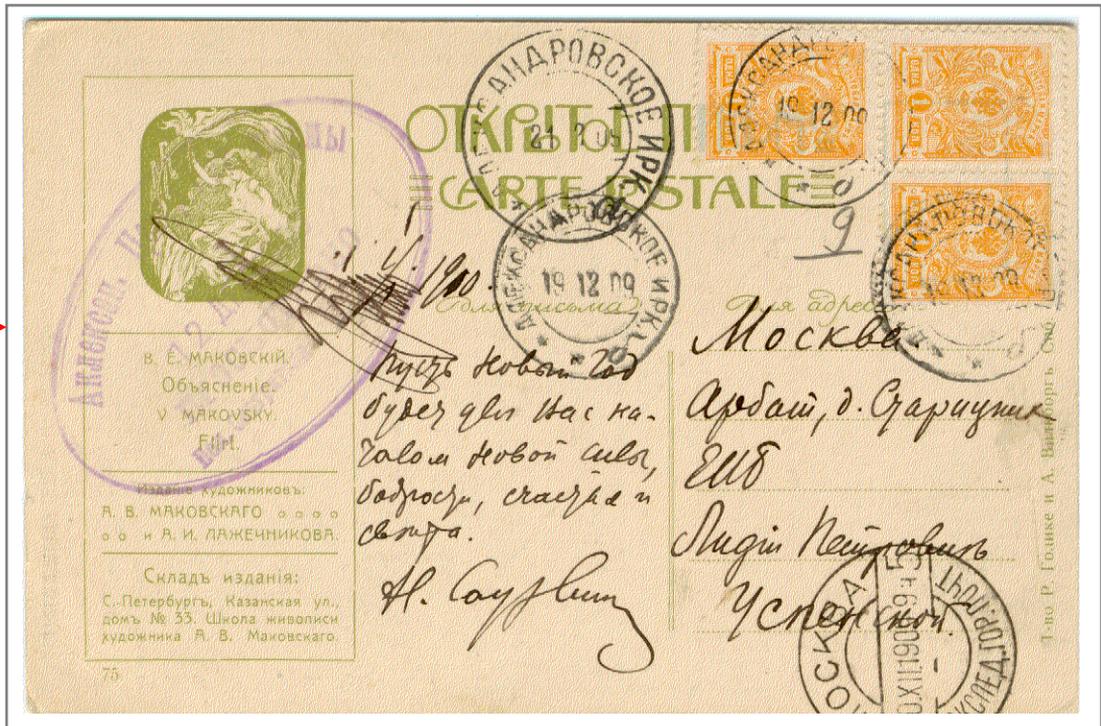
A. Hard-Labor Prisons:

1. Aleksandrovskaya Central.



The prison as it appeared in January 1886, when George Kennan toured it.
(Drawing by George Frost.)

This facility was located just outside the Siberian village of Aleksandrovskoye, on the right bank of the Angara River approximately 40 miles north of Irkutsk, Siberia. It was originally used as a distillery, then converted into a provincial prison in 1874.



A PPC posted on 19 December 1909 from the village to Moscow, arriving 11 days later. Violet oval censor mark with spelling error *A*leksandrovskaya Central Prison, 12 Dec. 1909, Examined, Deputy Warden (signature).