Abstract: Postage stamps during The Great Patriotic War, as World War Two was known in the Soviet Union, were tiny works of art conveying a host of the government’s philosophies relating to the front and home front. These little pieces of Soviet propaganda were a means to send socialist greetings to families and friends all while supporting the war effort. But what was the broader function of these works? How were they intended to function in Soviet society? How did the pictures represent and affect the war effort? Yet, not all of the postal illustrations from these years showed imagery relating to the war. A number of these special little spots of paper depicted representations similar to those of the prewar era.

All of these varied works of postal art intersected during the Great Patriotic War and understanding how they functioned as postal art and propaganda is key to comprehending Soviet postal history during this important epoch. This session attempts to answer these questions, and more, in order to gain a better understanding of Soviet history during WWII and how these postal gems intersected with broader Soviet society and worldwide postal history.