

Major New Exhibit For Artist Vladimir Melnic



THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

IMPS Newsletter

This month we are delighted to announce the completion of a major new exhibit dedicated to the philatelic works of the great Moldovan artist, Vladimir Melnic, who has designed many superb philatelic pieces for Moldova and for Kyrgyzstan.

Born on August 30, 1957 in Chisinau, Vladimir Melnic graduated from the Ivan Fedorov Printing Institute (now the Ukrainian Academy of Printing) in Lviv. Since 1989, he has been a member of the Union of Artists of the Republic of Moldova and has participated at many national, regional and international exhibitions in Austria, France, Ukraine and Russia.

In 2003, Vladimir Melnic made his debut as a stamp designer with his outstanding series "From The



Gheorghe Plugaru

Red Book of the Republic of Moldova: Birds".

The new and highly substantial, 8 frame exhibit titled, "Philatelic Artwork of Vladimir Melnic, Artist and Stamp Designer", comprises 8 display frames and consists of no fewer than 64 A3-sized sheets (equivalent to 128 A4 sheets). It includes every piece of philatelic material designed by the artist for the postal operators of Moldova (Posta Moldovei) and of Kyrgyzstan (Kyrgyz Express Post) since his debut in 2003, until 2019.

This labour of love is the result of more than one years work by IMPS member and devout philatelist, Gheorghe Plugaru, a Moldovan national now living in the United States.

The exhibit includes: stamps, minisheets, FDCs, Maximum Cards and even some privately realized personal material.

One of the most exceptional aspects of this exhibit is that many of the pieces have been personally signed by Vladimir Melnic. This is a truly outstanding collection of materials and it is only very rarely that an exhibit would be dedicated to an artist.



Vladimir Melnic

Having seen the photos of the exhibit, even Melnic himself expressed surprise at the extent of the work he had completed to date.

The exhibit will have its world debut at the important national stamp exhibition "ROPEX" in up-state New York, starting on May 15, 2020.

In the United States, the attitudes of philatelic juries to modern material (issued after 1980) is enthusiastic and can be quite different to those of juries in other countries, where modern material is often considered "mass produced" and therefore unworthy of serious study. It's not surprising that so few exhibits of modern material were entered into the forthcoming World exhibition "LONDON 2020"

Continued...

Inside this month's issue...

New Exhibits & Awards System:



New Issues in February 2020:



New 2019 Philatelic Catalogue:



Major New Exhibit For Artist Vladimir Melnic

(Continued)

Indeed, in a recent newsletter issued by the Organizing Committee of "LONDON 2020", the point about the lack of modern philately exhibits was made. Unfortunately, it seems that many/most judges have little regard for modern philately. This was well proven by our experiences in 2019 in Brazil and the Netherlands where mediocre awards were given almost as "consolation prizes". It seems that, regardless of the quality of the material and regardless of the work involved in the preparation of the exhibit, modern philately is relegated to the lower rungs of the philatelic ladder, and collectors are not encouraged to exhibit such material.

Since the Republic of Moldova was only founded in 1990, all material issued is "modern" in philatelic terms. IMPS is therefore faced with the extremely difficult task of promoting this material at the highest international levels but needing to challenge the stuffy attitudes that still pervade the hobby.

One of the ways we challenge the existing attitudes is to present superior quality material for judging. In the case of the Vladimir Melnic exhibit, we have total confidence in this regard. Having personally met Melnic in Chisinau in 2018, we were indeed privileged to have been able to look at some of the artist's original works, up close.



IMPS members Niall Murphy (left) and Maxim Ghiumusliu (centre) meeting Vladimir Melnic in Chisinau in October 2018.

Not that we are art experts but it was abundantly clear to us that we were looking at some exceptionally fine work with filigree detail. Vladimir Melnic is an artist of outstanding talent and technical ability.

And not only that. He is also a true expert in the field of typography and print processing. In his process of developing a philatelic design project, he does not



Vladimir Melnic checks every minute detail of the printing of his philatelic works at "Nova Imprim".

simply stop at the artwork stage, he continues to personally supervise the printing process at the printing house, carefully examining the most minute details and ensuring that perfect results are achieved.

IMPS has been an admirer of this man's work ever since our first encounter in 2003. The author of the exhibit, Gheorghe Plugaru, has been planning this exhibit for several years and is now finally delighted with the results. Surely this exhibit is a great tribute to one of the finest artists in Moldova today. We can confidently say that the jury at the "ROPEX" exhibition in New York will

instantly recognize the quality of this material and we can only hope that juries at other exhibitions, outside the United States, will be able to suspend their preconceptions of modern philatelic materials and appreciate this exhibit for what it is. In a word, exceptional!

In February, IMPS completed the development of a new online, Exhibit Gallery and the Vladimir Melnic exhibit takes pride of place. You can view the entire exhibit, in high-quality detail, by going to the gallery at:

<https://www.moldovastamps.org/info-exhibits-list.asp>

"Philatelic Artwork of Vladimir Melnic, Artist and Stamp Designer"

Author	Gheorghe Plugaru (Moldova/USA)
Frames	8
Class	Modern Philately
Type	Physical
Status	Completed

EXHIBITION DETAILS TO

GALLERY OF EXHIBIT SHEETS (CLICK ANY IMAGE TO ENLARGE)

FRAME 1

Exhibit Plan

Frame 1 Sheet 2

Frame 1 Sheet 3

Frame 1 Sheet 4

Frame 1 Sheet 5

Frame 1 Sheet 6

Frame 1 Sheet 7

Frame 1 Sheet 8

Frame 1 Sheet 9

Frame 1 Sheet 10

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Frame 1 Sheet 98

Frame 1 Sheet 99

Frame 1 Sheet 100

IMPS Website Upgrade: Online Exhibitions & Awards Database

In the previous article in this month's newsletter, we talked about the new exhibit dedicated to the works of artist, Vladimir Melnic and that a new online exhibits gallery had been launched on the IMPS website. In fact, in tandem with this, we have also been busy developing an integrated online Exhibitions and Awards system.

There are three elements to the new system, all are integrated with one another:

Philatelic Exhibitions List:

moldovastamps.org/info-exhibitions-list.asp

A chronological list of all exhibitions at which IMPS and it's associates have or will participate.

The listings include links to the official Palmares documents (when released), to the online gallery of the participating exhibits and to information about any awards received.

Philatelic Awards List:

moldovastamps.org/info-exhibitions-awards-list.asp

A chronological list (most recent first) of all official awards received by IMPS members and associates for exhibits participating in competition at exhibitions.

The list gives information about the award received, the name, date and place of the exhibition, the name of the exhibit, links to the official Palmares document and to the online gallery of the exhibit.

Philatelic Exhibits List & Galleries:

moldovastamps.org/info-exhibits-list.asp

The list provides information about current, past and present exhibits authored by IMPS associates.

The list provides information about: the title of the exhibit, a brief description, the name of the author, the number of frames (for physical exhibits), the exhibit's type, class and status and details of any awards received.

Most importantly, the list provides links to the exhibits online gallery, where preview images are arranged according to their frame allocation and where each are clickable for enlarged viewing in full detail.

The purpose of these database listings is to not only to maintain a permanent

record of the exhibiting activities of IMPS, it's members and associates but also to provide a valuable guide to those who might be interested in getting involved in exhibiting. By providing these web pages and their associated images,

we maintain a permanently viewable record of the exhibit work which is visible to the whole world and not only to those who have attended the various exhibitions in person.

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	EXHIBIT TITLE	GALLERY	AWARD
	Athens, Greece November 2015 FEPA: Regional	VIEW GALLERY	
	Personalized Stamps of Moldova - Tiny Windows to the World BRONZE	VIEW GALLERY	
	Chicago, Illinois, USA November 2017 APS: National	VIEW GALLERY	
	Columbus, Ohio, USA August 2018 APS: National	VIEW GALLERY	

Go to List of Exhibitions
Go to List of Exhibits

Large Gold	EXHIBITION	PLACE & DATE	COUNTRY	PALMARES
	CHICAGOPEX 2019 APS: National	Chicago, Illinois, USA November 2019		VIEW PALMARES
	EXHIBIT	AUTHOR		GALLERY
	IMPS Website - MoldovaStamps.org	Niall Murphy (Ireland/Brazil)		-
	POSTEX 2019 FEPA: National	Apeldoorn, Netherlands November 2019		PENDING
	EXHIBIT	AUTHOR		GALLERY
	Transport in Philately of the Republic of Moldova	Andy van Tilburg (Netherlands)		-
	BELPHILA 2019 FEPA: National	Brest, Belarus September 2019		VIEW PALMARES
	EXHIBIT	AUTHOR		GALLERY
	IMPS Website - MoldovaStamps.org	Niall Murphy (Ireland/Brazil)		-
	Vermeil			

Go to List of Awards
Go to List of Exhibitions

Philatelic Artwork of Vladimir Melnic, Artist and Stamp Designer

The main purpose of the Exhibit is to better reflect the philatelic artwork of the artist Vladimir Melnic as a stamp designer, cachet maker and postcard designer. The second purpose is to show a philatelic art on circulated mail. It is also known as mail art or postal/correspondence art. The Exhibit includes also official philatelic material Stamps, FDCs and Maximum Cards designed by the artist for two Postal Authorities, Posta Moldovei and Kyrgyz Express Post, and covers the period from 2003 to 2019.

	EXHIBITION NAME	AWARD
Author	Gheorghe Plugaru (Moldova/USA)	
Frames	DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED	
Type	Physical	
Class	Modern Philately	
Status	Completed	

[VIEW GALLERY](#)

IMPS Newsletters

First published in May 2018 and issued monthly thereafter, the IMPS Newsletter is a valuable source of news, opinions and new releases information for Moldovan philately and philatelic events in general. The IMPS Newsletter is produced in PDF format and distributed freely.

	EXHIBITION NAME	AWARD
Author	Niall Murphy (Ireland/Brazil)	
Frames	0	
Type	Digital	
Class	Literature (Periodicals)	
Status	Ready	

[VIEW GALLERY](#)

IMPS Special Exhibition Covers 2015-2020

For each any every exhibition at which IMPS's members, friends and associates participates, we produce a limited set of special exhibition covers as souvenirs and as gifts for participants and supporters. This exhibit chronicles our world-wide experiences and displays a unique set of philatelic materials in the process.

	EXHIBITION NAME	AWARD
Author	Niall Murphy (Ireland/Brazil)	
Frames	1	
	DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED	

[VIEW GALLERY](#)

New Postcard Issue: Ștefan Petrache - In Memoriam



Ștefan Petrache
1949-2020

This postal stationery (prepaid) picture postcard (№ P210) was issued on February 28. The postcard, fixed stamp and cancellation were designed by Vitaliu Pogolșa and printed in a relatively small quantity of only 1,500 copies.

Ștefan Petrache (8 May 1949 to 13 January 2020) was a Moldovan singer who was a member of the bands Noroc, Contemporanul, Plai and others. Petrache was born in Vinători, Nisporeni. He worked at Teleradio-Moldova and spent thirty-two years on the music scene. In 2014 he received the Order of the Republic for his contribution to music. He died in Chișinău, aged 70.

The postcard has a retail price of 5.00L. The fixed stamp has a face value of 1.30L, corresponding to the tariff for postcards with domestic destinations.

Whilst Poșta Moldovei does not issue official FDCs for postal stationery, they do issue official first day cancellations, with which, local philatelists can realize private FDCs. Cancellation (№ CFP210) was dated February 28, 2020 and issued at the main post office, MD-2012 in Chișinău.



International Year of Plant Health



This special commemorative cancellation (№ CS2020/2) (the second issued in 2020) was designed by Maria Maximenco and issued on 20.02.2020. It's date of validity extends through the entire year until 31.12.2020. It was issued at the central post office in Chisinau, MD-2012.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). The year is intended to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment, and boost economic development.

February Stamp Issues Postponed

The carefully considered Philatelic Plan of Issues for 2020, which had Ministerial approval at the end of 2019, appears to have been suspended in February. The reasons... a complete mystery!



Two issues of postage stamps were scheduled for release in February namely, "Traditional Cuisine: Desserts" and "Monasteries of Moldova (Part I). We waited patiently for news of their respective release dates but none were published. The team in the Philatelic Editorial Section of Posta Moldovei could give us no information.

We waited until the very last possible date to issue this rather thin newsletter (apologies), in the hope that some information was forthcoming until finally, we received a notice stating that postage stamps, scheduled for February are transferred for another period and their release dates be announced another time.

In our many years studying Moldovan philately, we have seen rare occasions when certain stamp issues were postponed or even abandoned, but we have never seen an entire month's schedule simply written off in this way. We know that there are no production problems at the printing works.

To say we are gravely concerned about this situation is an understatement. In particular, we worry about the poor level of communication being displayed by the new "technocrat" leadership of PM, which has been in office only for only a few weeks. We are watching for news on this topic, daily.

Exhibition News:

Looking Forward to NZ 2020 (19-22 March)



Despite some fears that the Coronavirus might disrupt this major philatelic exhibition, everything seems to be proceeding as planned and IMPS is definitely looking forward to our first ever participation in the FIPA Oceania region.

Our 2020 exhibitions program will kick-off in Auckland on March 19 and, as always, when IMPS participates at an exhibition, we prepare a very limited number of special exhibition covers.

This cover, as well as all other covers IMPS has and will prepare, will form part of a one-frame exhibit "Special Exhibition Covers of IMPS", currently in preparation for the NOTOS 2021 exhibition in Athens.



Prima expoziție digitală a filateliei moldovenești în Noua Zeelandă
Expoziție internațională de timbre «NZ2020»
Auckland, 19-22 martie 2020

Exhibition News:

London 2020 & the Penny Black 180th Anniversary



Did you know that the World stamp exhibition LONDON 2020 will occur during the 180th anniversary of the issues of the first adhesive postage stamps, the famous "Penny Black" on May 6, 2020?

IMPS could not miss this exceptional opportunity, especially since we will participate at this huge exhibition, in the Penny Black's country of origin. So, in addition to our usual special exhibition cover, we will make a secondary commemorative cover.



Prima expoziție digitală a filateliei moldovenești în Regatul Unit
Expoziție mondială de timbre «LONDON 2020»
2-9 mai 2020



New Special Commemorative Cancellation: Maria Cebotari - 110th Birth Anniversary



This special commemorative cancellation (№ CS2020/1) (the first issued in 2020) was designed by Eugen Verebecanu and issued on 10.02.2020, exactly 110 years after the birth of Maria Cebotari. It was issued at the central post office in Chisinau, MD-2012.

Maria Cebotari was a celebrated Bessarabian-born Romanian and Austrian soprano and actress, one of Germany's greatest opera and singing stars in the 1930s and 1940s.

In tandem with this cancellation, Posta

Moldovei also released three standard (unstamped) picture postcards (print quantity 1,000 each), from which local philatelists were able to realize private maximum cards, mostly using the 2010 7L postage stamp № 687 bearing Maria Cebotari's image, from the series "Prominent Persons".

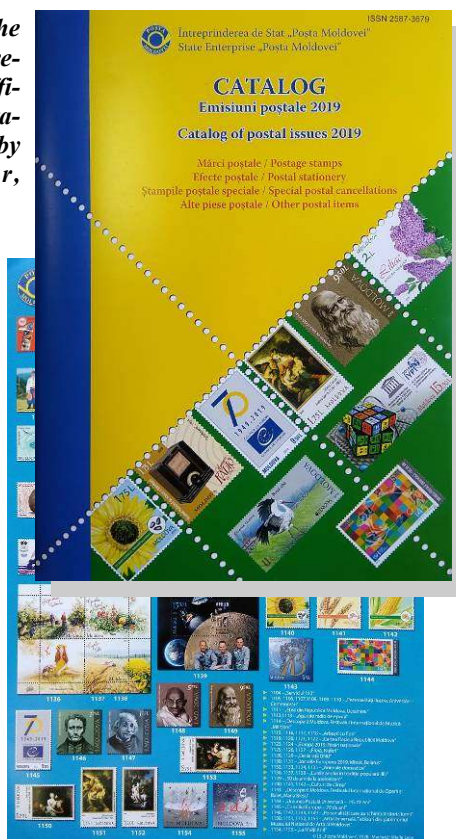


New 2019 Catalogue from PM

February saw the unusually early release of a new official philatelic catalogue for 2019 by postal operator, Posta Moldovei.

We have yet to receive a copy of this although it is currently winging it's way to us. We expect to receive it in time the March issue of this newsletter and a detailed review will be written.

The catalogue is currently available from the Philatelic Store in the Posta Moldovei headquarters in Chisinau, at a retail price of 100 MDL.



From the Fringes: BALKANFILA 2020

Finally, we tracked down a copy of the participation regulations (IREX) for the international exhibition for Balkan countries, "BALKANFILA 2020" which, unbelievably, is not available from the Balkanfila organization's woeful website at Balkanfila.org, nor any other information beyond 2016 for that matter!



But this IREX is based on the state of philately as it was in the 1970s. It's long list of exclusions do not consider that in 2020 people are no longer lining up to participate at these events. Distributing the document only among member societies, with their dwindling numbers, and certainly in the case of Moldova, their total unwillingness to disseminate information outside their own closed circles, does not transmit any sense of welcome to new or young philatelists.

Although the document does mention that anyone with a Balkan themed exhibit can be accepted, we get a strong feeling that those who operate on the fringes of formal, organized philately, are really not welcome. And exhibits using electronic media/websites... absolutely not!

Compare these attitudes to those of the organizers of NOTOS 2021, who really are making a huge effort to bring together all philatelists who have an interest in the region, by removing restrictions, making substantial publicity and welcoming new technology exhibits. By comparison, BALKANFILA looks like a dinosaur, soon to become extinct.

From the Blog Site of Eric Contesse: Mass Deportations from Bessarabia

(Part III of a Series of 3 Articles Originally published 2011, 2014 & 2016)

Eric Contesse (Lyon, France) has written over 300 blog articles about philatelic material from Moldova since 2011. Each month, we will present one (or more) of his articles.

<https://timbredujura.blogspot.com>



Part III: 65 years of the 3rd wave of mass deportations in Bessarabia (Originally published 17.04.2016)

Only one year after the annexation of Bessarabia (a region that included the current Republic of Moldova) and northern Bukovina by the Soviet troops, to the detriment of Romania, a first wave of mass deportation of Romanian and Moldovan began in the night of June 12 to 13, 1941.

This annexation was the result of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact signed in 1939 between Hitler's Germany and the USSR which then divided Europe into "spheres of influence".

The Post of Moldova had already issued a stamp in 2011 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of this first wave of deportations (30,000 people) and then in 2014 to commemorate the 65th anniversary of a second wave of mass deportation (over 40,000 people deported on 5 and 6 July 1949).

A third wave of mass deportation took place on 31 March and 1 April 1951, what this new stamp (L 1.75) issued on March 31, 2016 on the occasion of this sad 65th anniversary, is reminding us.

A big thank you Nicolae for this first day cover (Figure 1) (print run : 400) regarding that stamp (design: Lilian Iațco, print run: 200,000) whose preview sale was

held in Chișinău (MD-2012), the capital.

During this third wave, 723 families (over 2,600 people, Jehovah's Witnesses for the most part) were forcibly deported because considered dangerous for the communist regime.

Between 1940 and 1951, Bessarabia thus suffers a terrible hecatomb, losing a third of its population, nearly one million people!

A column of deportees, which turns into barbed wire (also present on the cancellation and the stamp), is featured on this envelope.

Nicolae was kind enough to include in his letter the maxicard (Figure 2) about that same stamp.

This card issued in 2014 (design: Vitaliu Pogolșa, print run: 500) features a sculpture erected in Chișinău, unveiled in August 23, 2013, in memory of these victims of deportation during the Soviet era.

This monument entitled "Trenul durerii" ("The pain's train"), a monumental bronze statue (3 meters wide and 12 meters long) was performed for 5 years by the Moldovan artist Iurie Platon (b. 1963).

Considered as the largest statue of Moldova, it symbolizes, under a human appearance, these death trains used for these deportations.



Figure 1

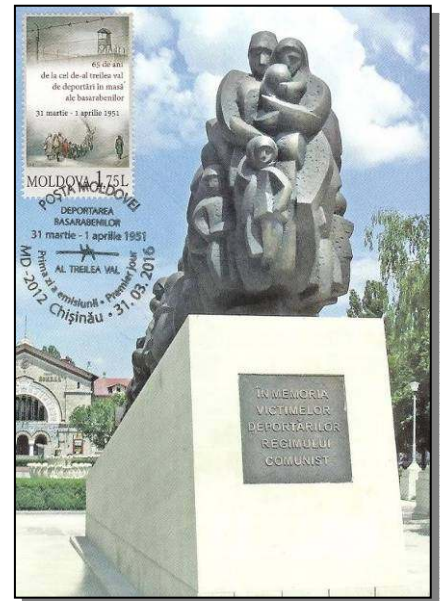


Figure 2

10 Years Ago...

February 12, 2010 saw the release of the handsome series "Winter Olympic Games, Vancouver 2010".



20 Years Ago...

February 26, 2000 saw the release of the interesting series "Men of Science".



Full technical details at https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=230

Full technical details at https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=106



THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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***IMPS is founded on Friendship,
Equality and Passion.***

Alexandru Ioan Cuza Draw: Reminder

A reminder to readers that IMPS is running a free draw to commemorate the bicentenary of the birth of the last Prince of Moldavia, Alexandru Ioan Cuza.

DETAILS OF THE PRIZE DRAW:

We will realize a very limited number of just 20 special commemorative covers with specially designed personalised stamps. 10 copies will be reserved for the prize draw under the rules below:

FOR EXISTING MEMBERS:

Every month, every member of IMPS is sent a copy of this newsletter by email via the Mailchimp service. We are able to see who reads it and who does not. Each member who reads the newsletters for January and February 2020 will be entered into the draw.

FOR NEW MEMBERS:

All new members who register between January 26 2020 and February 29 2020 will be entered into the draw. You can register for membership at this link (it's free): <https://www.moldovastamps.org/member.asp>

GENERAL RULES & CONDITIONS:

1. The prize draw will take place on March 1 2020.
2. The winner's names will be announced on Facebook.
3. The winners will each be contacted by email to get their mailing addresses.
4. Winners will have 10 days to respond.
5. Winners who fail to respond within 10 days will forfeit their prize.
6. Covers will be sent to the winners' addresses on March 18 2020 by airmail from Chisinau.
7. IMPS does not accept responsibility for covers lost or damaged in the mail.
8. IMPS is a non-profit group and the covers are NOT FOR RESALE. We do not expect to find any examples of these covers being sold on eBay, Delcampe etc.



Next Month...

Exhibition Report:

NZ 2020, Auckland, New Zealand

New Stamps Issues?

Traditional Cuisine: Desserts & Monasteries of Moldova (hopefully!)

New Stamp Issue:

Public Parks and Gardens

New Stamp Issue:

EUROPA 2020: Ancient Postal Routes

New Envelope Issue:

Liviu Damian - 85th Birth Anniversary

New Special Cancellations

Articles from the Blog Archives and lots more...

Newsletters Archive...

The archive of previous IMPS newsletters is now on the site.

www.moldovastamps.org/info-newsletters.asp