



Medal for Moldova in New Zealand

Just as most of the world went into lockdown and all of the philatelic exhibitions were postponed or cancelled, the exhibition "NZ 2020" in Auckland, New Zealand was in progress.

Originally planned as an international exhibition, NZ 2020 had to be downgraded to national level due to travel restrictions imposed by the New Zealand government shortly before the show commenced. Since it was impossible for national commissioners to attend, exhibit material could not be transported to the exhibition centre.

This was particularly unfortunate since NZ 2020 was the first international exhibition held in New Zealand in 30 years. As a consequence of the downgrade, all international exhibits were excluded and only national exhibits were judged.

Since IMPS President, Niall Murphy, was a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, his entry was included as a national entry and was judged in the Class "Literature (Electronic Media).

Indeed, the show, scheduled to be held between



March 19 and 22, ended prematurely on Saturday, March 21 because the New Zealand government had just issued rules governing the maximum number of people who could be present at a gathering. Nevertheless, the jury work had been done and the Palmares document was released a few days later.

The downgrade to national level meant that the jury was also a national one and it seems that all accepted entries were judged according to their own national criteria. We see interesting comments from the jury regarding the IMPS website, "This website undoubtedly provides a useful service to the society's membership. We found the site easy to use, with a good title page. The short time period covered impacted on the depth of coverage possible."

We are not quite sure what the jury means by "the

society's membership". Which society are they referring to and why? As a national exhibition, the relevance of the work should be judged in terms of the national community of stamp collectors and not in terms of one particular society. Additionally the comment "the short time period covered.." is confusing. The website covers the entire time period since the existence of the Republic of Moldova. It seems that modern philately is not especially interesting to the jury.

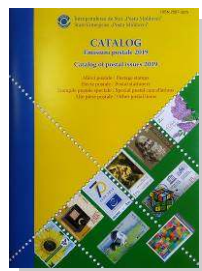
IMPS was awarded a respectable 77 points and a vermeil medal, the highest award given by the jury for three of the four websites in this competition. But we believe that an international jury would have evaluated differently.

Inside this month's issue...

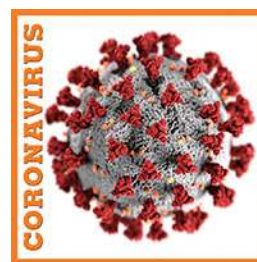
New Issues in March 2020:



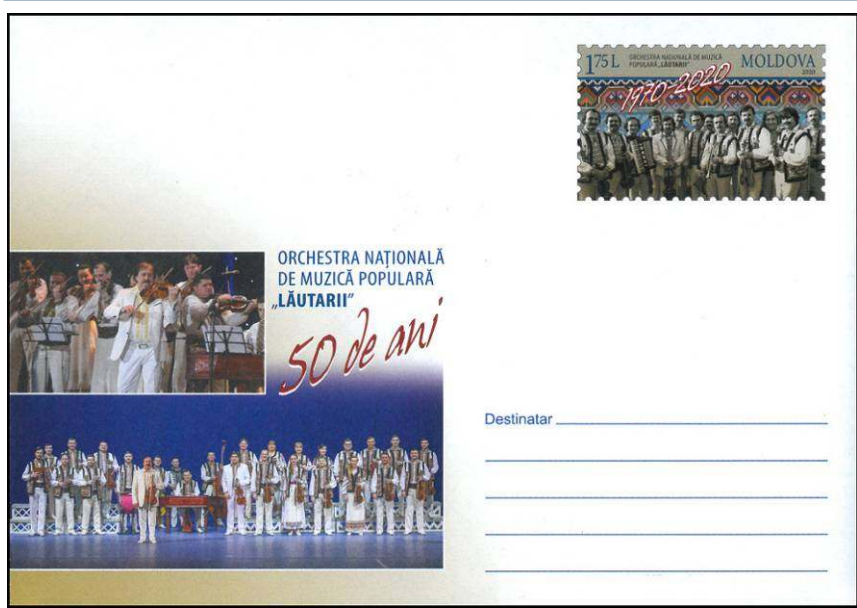
New 2019 Official Catalogue:



CoronaVirus/Covid-19 Impacts:



New Envelope Issue: National Folk Music Orchestra «Lăutarii» - 50th Anniversary



Issued on March 5, this prepaid postal stationery envelope was designed by Vitaliu Pogolșa and printed in 10,000 copies.

The National Folk Music Orchestra

"Lăutarii" (Orchestra Națională de muzică populară "Lăutarii") was founded in Chișinău in 1970 by the famous singer, Nicolae Sulac, and in 2020, celebrates it's 50th anniversary.

The envelope (№ U414) has a retail price of 3.00L. The fixed stamp has a face value of 1.75L, corresponding to the tariff for 20g letters with domestic destinations. The stamp features a photo representing an early line-up of the orchestra members. The cachet on the envelope features recent photos of the current line-up.

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 (№ CFU414) was dated March 5, 2020 and issued at the main post office, MD2012 in Chișinău.

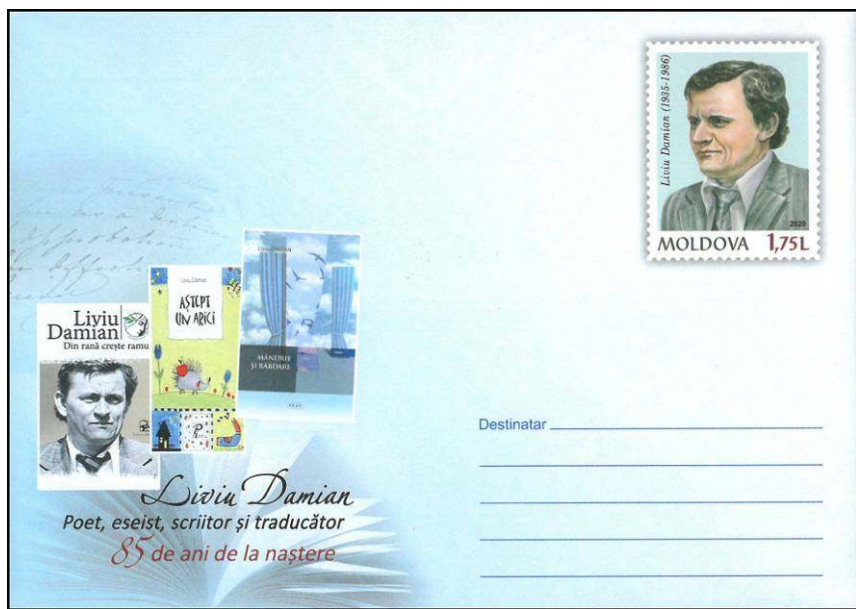


New Envelope Issue: Liviu Damian - 85th Birth Anniversary

Issued on March 13, this prepaid postal stationery envelope was designed by Oleg Cojocari and printed in 10,000 copies.

Liviu Damian (1935-1986), was an author, essayist, journalist, poet, cultural figure, Romanian writer and translator from the Republic of Moldova. He was a representative of the generation of the 1960s

The envelope (№ U415) has a retail price of 3.00L. The fixed stamp has a face value of 1.75L, corresponding to the tariff for 20g letters with domestic



destinations. The stamp features a portrait of the writer. The cachet on the envelope features photos of some of the writer's published works..

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they do issue official first day cancellations, with which, local philatelists can realize private FDCs. Cancellation (№ CFU415) was dated March 13, 2020 and issued at the main post office, MD2012 in Chisinau.



New Special Commemorative Cancellation: Bicentenary of the Birth of Alexandru Ioan Cuza

This special cancellation (№ CS2020/3), designed by Vitaliu Pogolșa, was officially released on March 20 at the main post office in Chisinau, MD-2012, 200 years to the day since the birth of Moldavia's last prince, Alexandru Ioan Cuza. It is already a rarity.

Four days earlier, on March 16, Posta

Moldovei announced a temporary discontinuance of postal services to all international destinations due to the lack of flights caused by the Coronavirus emergency. Consequently, this cancellation seems to have been quite overlooked and examples of covers bearing it are not to be found for sale on the internet. Indeed, this was the very last philatelic issue by Moldova prior to the country's Coronavirus lock-down.

IMPS had been running a prize draw for 10 special covers bearing this cancellation and all 10 winners had been contacted by email earlier in the month. Unfortunately all recipients were in foreign countries. We prepared all the covers, addressed them and put them into the mail system, Posta Moldovei has put all



international mail in storage until normal mail services resume. Winners must wait until the end of the current crisis until they receive their covers.

List of Winners:

Mario Paiva	Portugal
Ron Hogg	United Kingdom
Keld Nielsen	United States
Laszlo Kallai	Romania
Apostol Nikolov	Bulgaria
Joseph Hershkovitz	Israel
Mauricio Prado	Brazil
Joseph G. V. Maciora	United States
Amir Afsai	Israel
Kenneth Sequeira	UAE



The special "Cuza" covers are in storage until international mail services resume.

UPU World-Wide Numbering System (WNS) Update

Even in these virus-ridden days, some aspects of the worlds well-established postal systems are still functioning. This includes the UPU's World-Wide Numbering System (WNS) catalogue for postage stamps.

The WNS is the UPU's attempt to reduce the proliferation of fake postage stamps by listing only genuine postage stamps from each participating country in a world-wide catalogue with public access. Each participating country's postal administration submits the stamps and technical data directly to the UPU for inclusion in the catalogue. The concept is, if the stamp is not in the catalogue, then it's a fake,

But in practice, the project is largely a failure. Many countries do not participate (for example, Germany) and those that do participate often wait several years before they submit their stamps and lists to the WNS administrators.

And the service is not free. There is a hefty price of 60 Swiss Francs for each and every stamp submitted. For any country with a large annual number of

stamp issues, this represents a substantial cost and without excellent value for money. The quality of the scans has deteriorated in recent years and often there are many data input errors.

Neither is this WNS a household name. In our experience, few stamp collectors are even aware of it's existence and only a very few stamp catalogues make any reference to the WNS, whatever about actually cross-referencing the numbers to the stamps in their catalogues.

The Republic of Moldova has been participating in WNS since 2006 and the IMPS catalogue, MoldovaStamps, has been cross-referencing the WNS numbers ever since.

The screenshot shows the UPU website interface. The main content area displays 'All registered stamps issued by Moldova in 2019'. Below this, there are several stamp entries with their WNS numbers and descriptions:

- MD001.19**: Moldova, January 03, 2019, The Single National Emergency Calls Service - 112
- MD002.19**: Moldova, January 15, 2019, Eminent Personalities, Anniversaries, Commemorations - Domnica Danienco (1919-2010)
- MD003.19**: Moldova, January 15, 2019, Eminent Personalities, Anniversaries, Commemorations - Alexei Stăcea (1919-1974)
- MD004.19**: Moldova, January 15, 2019, Eminent Personalities, Anniversaries, Commemorations - Gheorghe Asachi (1788-1869)
- MD005.19**: Moldova, January 15, 2019, Eminent Personalities, Anniversaries, Commemorations - Constantin Stamati (1786-1869)
- MD006.19**: Moldova, January 15, 2019, Eminent Personalities, Anniversaries, Commemorations - Gheorghe Sainciuc (1919-2012)

The WNS catalogue has just been updated to include all the issues for Moldova for the year 2019.

During the month of April, we will update the MoldovaStamps catalogue to include all the new WNS cross-reference numbers.

You can access the WNS system at <https://www.wnsstamps.post/en/>

New Catalogue Review: PM Issues New Printed Philatelic Catalogue for 2019

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Posta Moldovei has released its new philatelic catalogue for 2019 in printed form. This latest edition follows previous releases for each year from 2011 to 2018. This month we received a copy and we provide our review comments.

This catalogue was authored entirely in-house by the philatelic editorial team at Posta Moldovei, "Timbrofil", Elena Șarcanean and Ala Nicoreanu and coordinated by the department chief, Victoria Tanaș. English language translations were done by Ludmila Druc.

In general, this is an excellent piece of professional work. Full-colour reproductions of all philatelic materials are provided (without overlay images). The official PM catalogue numbers are given for all items together with the most important technical details.

Full details are also provided for non-philatelic materials such as unstamped postcards, envelopes and greeting cards

that were issued by PM during 2019. In this sense, the PM catalogue exceeds even our own IMPS catalogue which does not include unstamped non-philatelic material, with the exception of postmarks/cancellations. But we agree that the inclusion of such information is very useful for philatelists who engage in the realization of private maximum cards and FDCs.

CRITISISMS: Not many! The selling price of 100 MDL (about 5 euro) is rather high for local philatelists and the publication is only available from the post offices and the philatelic stores in Moldova. Unfortunately, PM has yet to



open an online store and this is a long overdue development that we all eagerly await.

In 2019, for the first time, a new numbering system was adopted for first day cancellations for postal stationery envelopes and postcards. We note however, that these numbers have not been printed in the PM catalogue and we believe this is an omission. These catalogue numbers are given in the IMPS catalogue.

Coronavirus / COVID-19 Impacts on Philately

The Coronavirus has reached its claws into every aspect of human activity and philately is no exception. In April, we have seen nearly every philatelic exhibition in the world either cancelled or postponed and most countries will not be issuing new material for the foreseeable future.

In terms of Moldovan philately, we have seen the suspension of all international mail services by Posta Moldovei. The Philatelic Plan for 2020, already suffering from a moratorium imposed by the leadership of PM since the end of January, seems now to be completely paused, although there is some talk about some new material being released in April but details are still unknown.

IMPS' plans for exhibiting in 2020 are now in tatters. Although we just barely managed to squeeze in the NZ 2020 exhibition in New Zealand, all others are either cancelled or postponed, including: LONDON 2020, OSTROPA 2020 (Berlin) and LUBRAPEX (Portugal),

Additionally, all the APS national exhibitions in North America are cancelled

as well as all club-level exhibitions in Europe. This has caused great upset for our members who spent months preparing material for exhibition.

The biggest American national show is the "Great American Stamp Show" which is scheduled for August and has not been postponed, but that could change at any time.

IMPS has prepared a range of special exhibition covers and personalized stamps in accordance with our original 2020 exhibition plan. These will now all need to be abandoned and re-designed.

All three FIP World exhibitions for 2020 are impacted: LONDON 2020 has been postponed until 2022. INDONESIA 2020 has been postponed until November and BULGARIA 2020 has been completely cancelled.

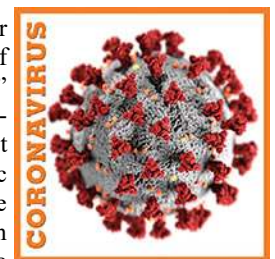
One interesting piece of news just received from the Organizing Committee of LONDON 2020 is that they have a plan to separate the literature class from the other classes and to hold a separate "exhibition" for literature before the end of 2020. It's certainly an interesting idea

but we wonder what kind of "exhibition" could be organized just for philatelic literature. The original plan

was to have a special reading room for literature, complete with internet access for digital exhibits and websites. In the very near future, these kinds of virtual exhibitions will become more important than ever.

We also notice that Moldovan dealers on Delcampe are still adding lots to their listings, even though it's not clear how they intend to ship the materials to international buyers since Posta Moldovei has suspended international mail services.

Focus now moves to 2021 and most especially the NOTOS 2021 exhibition in Athens (November 2021). As the NOTOS organizers just announced, they open a "window of optimism" and from April 1, they started taking participation applications using online forms.



The Most Beautiful Stamps of Moldova Series: Part I: Cave Monasteries and Wooden Churches 2000

While the Coronavirus may have messed up the schedule of new stamp issues for 2020, we can still have a look back over past issues. We decided to create a new series of articles showcasing some of the most beautiful stamps released by Moldova over the past three decades.

We start the series this month with the beautiful series “Cave Monasteries and Wooden Churches”, released on August 12, 2000.

This series was designed by the well-know artist, Vitaliu Pogolșa, who has been responsible for many philatelic issues over the years. In our opinion, this issue is one of his finest works,

The stamps were printed at the Federal printing works, Bundesdruckerei, in Germany.

№ 366 (25b) The Cave Monastery, Țipova: 46.00mm x 27.32mm, Perforated 14. Printed 200,000.

№ 367 (1.50L) Wooden Church of St. Nicolae, Heciul Vechi, Țipova: 27.32mm x 46.00mm, Perforated 14. Printed 200,000.

№ 368 (1.80L) Wooden Church of Our Lady, Palanca, Hirjauca: 46.00mm x 27.32mm, Perforated 14. Printed 200,000.

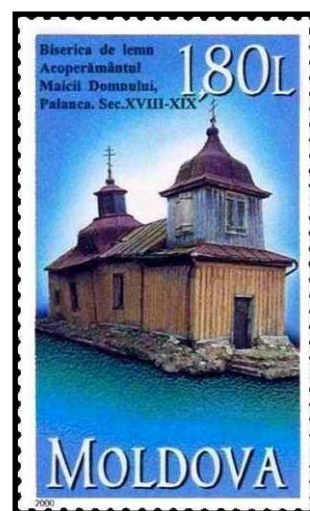
№ 369 (3.00L) Cave Monastery, Butuceni: 46.00mm x 27.32mm, Perforated 14. Printed 100,000.

All stamps were printed on minisheets of 10v. The FDC was printed in a quantity of 1,000 pieces.

In association with this series, Posta Moldovei also released a series of postcards from which, local philatelists realized sets of maximum cards.



№ 366



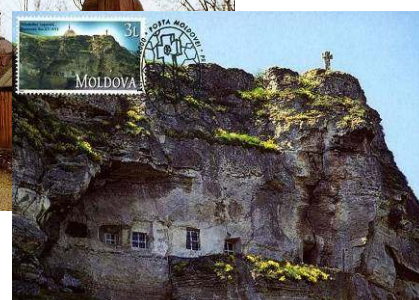
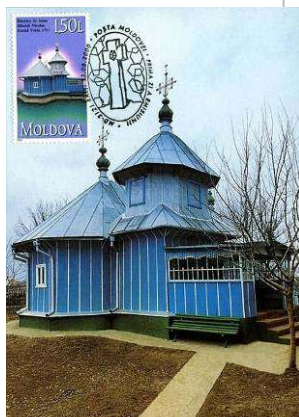
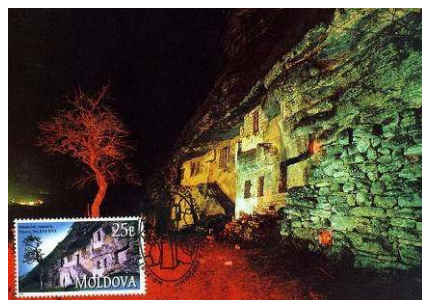
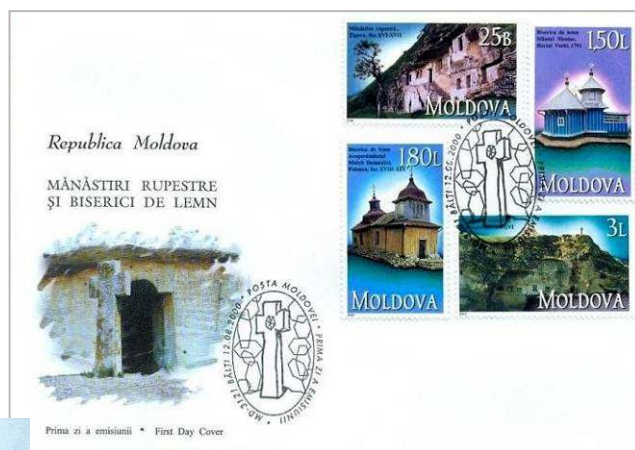
№ 368



№ 367



№ 369



From the Blog Site of Eric Contesse: A Romania/Moldova Joint Stamp Issue

Originally published 10.12.2011

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>



On August 27, 1991, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted a declaration of independence. Two days later, Romania established diplomatic relations with its neighbour, sharing many cultural and historical aspects.

The postal administrations of Moldova and Romania have issued on October 11, 2011, a series of two joint stamps to commemorate the 20th anniversary of these diplomatic relations.

These two stamps featuring two emblematic monument of the two capitals : the Arch of Triumph in Bucharest and the Holy Gates in Chisinau.

The Post of Moldova has issued these two stamps, designed by Vitaliu Pogolşa, in a souvenir sheet (print run : 25,000) and in a sheet of 8 stamps + 1 central vignette (print run : 25,000).

Two stamps from this sheet, with the central vignette (depicting the arms of the two countries), appear on the nice official FDC (Figure 1) with cancellation of Chisinau.

The stamp to the left (L 1.20) features the "Holy Gates" ("Porțile Sfinte"), called Arch of Triumph in the past during its construction in 1840-1841 (architect : Luca Zaushevici), located in the center of Chisinau, near the Cathe-

dral, the National Assembly and headquarters of the Moldovan government. This 13 meters high building was initially built to celebrate the victories of the Russian army against the Ottoman troops (a bell weighing over 6 tons was installed here, melted from Turkish cannons).

I was lucky to also receive the Romanian version of this series through the impressive souvenir sheet included on the cover (Figure 2) mailed on November 3, 2011 from the city of Coșești.

The Romanian Post has also issued these two stamps in different forms : 11,800 miniature sheets, 4,700 sheets of 8 stamps + 1 vignette, 3,000 sheets of 28 stamps.

The central margin of this miniature sheet, as well as the stamp to the left (L 3.10), depicts the Arch of Triumph in Bucharest, built in 1922 to pay tribute to the Romanian soldiers who died during the first world war. This monument (27

meters high) is also celebrating the Great Union of Romania of December 1, 1918.

The "Arc de Triomphe" of Paris has inspired this monument, including the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Figure 1

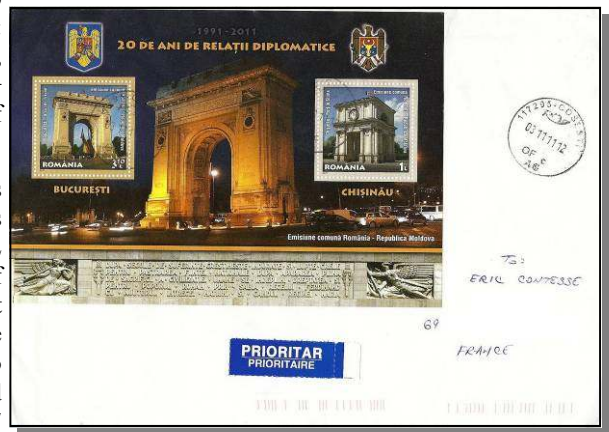


Figure 2

10 Years Ago...

March 1, 2010 saw the release of one of our very favourite Moldovan stamps "Bicentenary of the Birth of Fryderyk Chopin".



20 Years Ago...

Unfortunately, March 2000 was completely devoid if any philatelic issues. No stamps, envelopes or post-cards.



Full technical details at https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=232



THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Equality and Passion.**

Chisinau Municipal Library Online Philately



A wonderful philatelic resource has come to our attention on social media this month. The Chisinau Information and Documentation Center of the Municipal Library "BP Hasdeu" has an excellent blog site about their philatelic collection that includes stamps, envelopes and postcards with a Chisinau theme, issued by the Moldovan Post since 1992.

We think that this website has been in operation for some time but we were not aware of it until now. The blog is in the Romanian language but easily translated. For the many, many topics covered, there is extremely detailed technical and bibliographic information. This blog site is definitely worth a visit.

<https://orasulmeuchisinau.wordpress.com/colectia-chisinau/chisinaul-in-filatelic>

Next Month...

***Special Report: More Impacts of
Coronavirus / COVID-19 on Philately.***

***The Most Beautiful Moldovan
Stamps - Part II***

***New Stamps / Envelopes / Post-
cards: If Any?***

New Special Cancellations: If Any?

Articles from the Blog Archives

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- IMPS Newsletter
- IMPS Newsletter
- IMPS Newsletter

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

www.moldovastamps.org/info-newsletters.asp