



# Free Stamp Album Pages Released

Finally, after months of work, we are happy to announce that the promised free stamp album pages are now available. Only slightly later than promised.

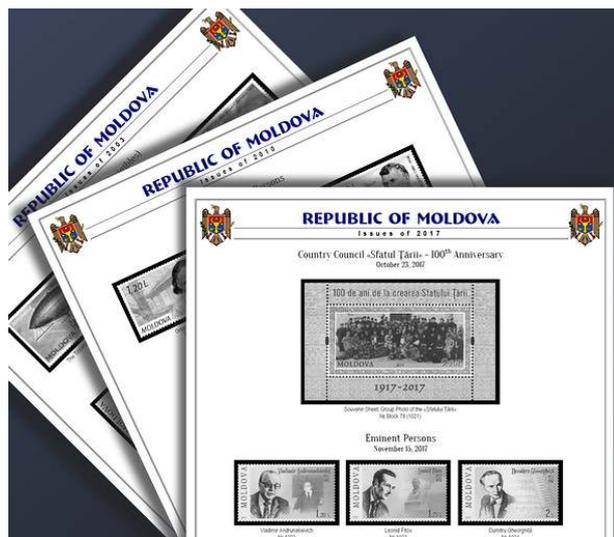
We are very satisfied with the results of our efforts and we proudly present our beautiful new stamp album pages - FREE to all registered members of IMPS. Now there is no need to spend a fortune buying the commercially available album pages, when you can download and print them for free.

The IMPS album pages are beautifully presented and display high-quality images for all items. The images are actual sizes and are presented in black frames to match the sizes of your mounts. Or, if you are not using mounts, then the black frames emulate a similar elegant effect.

Pages are in standard Adobe Acrobat PDF format.



Pages are beautifully laid-out in attractive symmetry.



IMPS designed and produced the stamp album pages from its own resources and is making them available for free, to registered members.

mat. Usually, Adobe Acrobat Reader is already installed on your computer. If not, you can download, for free from the internet.

Pages are formatted for standard A4 paper size. For USA members, American Letter size pages are currently being developed.

Pages are currently only available in English, but Romanian and Russian versions are in development too.

Pages are available for all years from 1991 to 2017. Pages for 2018 will be available by the end of January 2019.

Pages include all stamps

and blocks (souvenir sheets) but do not include minisheets, errors or other non-standard varieties. Blank pages are also provided, if you want to display minisheets, FDCs, maximum cards etc. in your album.

Pages are non-commercial, not for resale and provided, free of charge, to registered members of IMPS. You can print as many copies as you need for your personal use, as long as you do not give the pages or the PDF files to non-members.

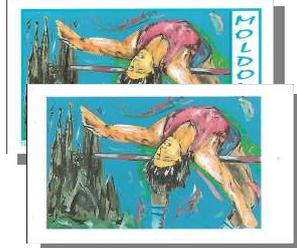
Pages are only available to registered members of IMPS. Join for FREE or login now and enjoy!

## Inside this issue...

**Moldovan Postage Stamp Day...**



**Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part II**



**Warning! "Council of Europe" Covers...**



# Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part II

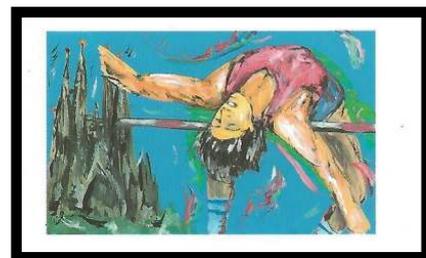
The second part of a series of articles about the rare and valuable stamps of Moldova

Last month, we talked about “a huge number of varieties, for all issues between 1992 “Barcelona Olympics” to 1994 “Winter Olympics, Lillehammer”. So, this month we will start at the beginning—“Barcelona” and examine some of this fascinating material.

I first discovered this material, several years ago, I was sent a large series of extraordinary photos from a collector in Ukraine. Much later, I was fortunate enough to acquire a copy of the collective souvenir sheet, Block 1 (at great cost) and so, I was able to examine it’s properties directly.

The sheet is printed on heavy card, without perforations and without gum. For certain, this is an example of a printing “proof”. But It is not clear why there is such a striking colour variance between the issued sheet and the proof sheet.

Later, other varieties were discovered, in form of small sheets or sheet fragments, in blocks of 4 stamps. On these small sheets, we can observe other col-



**Known varieties of No. 26**  
Top: No. 26, as issued. Middle: No. 26P from the souvenir sheet. Bottom: No. 26Pi, from the sheet fragment (block of 4)



**Known varieties of No. 30**  
Top: No. 30, as issued. Middle: No. 30P from the souvenir sheet. Bottom: No. 30Pi, from the sheet fragment (block of 4)

our variations and even missing text.

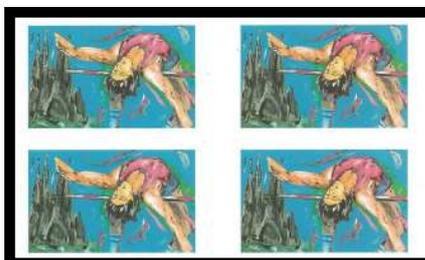
The origin of this material and the circumstances behind it’s appearance on the philatelic market are not absolutely clear. As we mentioned in last month’s article, it is known that, during that era, Posta Moldovei used an agent (broker), who was their liaison with the various print houses. The broker was the well-known German philatelist, Michael Mittelstrass and it seems that he amassed a remarkable collection of original artwork, essays, proofs, uncut sheets and imperforates. We can surmise that this material originates from the personal collection of Mr Mittelstrass. In recent years, much of his collection has been put up for sale with various auction houses in Germany.

In terms of rarity, we estimate that at most, 5 copies exist of each sheet exist. Expect to pay about 100 euro per stamp and at least 400-500 euro for each sheet.

Many thanks to our dear friend and esteemed colleague, Andy van Tilburg, in



**Known varieties of souvenir sheet Block 1.**  
Top: Block 1, as issued. Bottom: Block 1P, containing imperforate proof examples of



**Sheet (fragments), in blocks of 4 stamps, for Nos. 26Pi and 30Pi.**

the Netherlands, for proving us with scans and information from his world-class collection.

Full technical details for this issue can be found on the official IMPS website at [www.moldovastamps.org](http://www.moldovastamps.org)

# Warning! “Council of Europe” Souvenir Covers

**We recently discovered a most unfortunate case philatelic defacement on the internet.**

While IMPS encourages philatelists to make private first day covers and while we have no special objections to the manufacture of purely souvenir material, such as presentations booklets and folders, we strongly object to the deliberate manufacture of rarities and to the defacement of officially-issued material from Moldova.

The material illustrated below was recently discovered for sale on the website Delcampe.net. These are official “EUROPA” FDCs, issued by Posta Moldovei between 1993 and 2001. They have been overprinted with a variety of unofficial “postmarks” and other texts, contrived by the manufacturer, as if to make a connection between the “Council of Europe” in Strasbourg and the “EUROPA” organization, PostEurop in Brussels. The two organizations are not connected.

Even worse, the FDCs have been given artificial “limited edition” serial numbers. This gives an absolutely false impression to collectors that these items are in some way, special official issues, with limited availability.

Worst of all, the items are addressed, to France. This gives a false impression to collectors that the covers were actually sent, in the mail, from Moldova, to France, which they were not.

This material is fabricated, unofficial and misleading. Such activity represents a gross defacement of official FDCs. Collectors are strongly advised not to spend any of their money on such material and to discourage the practice.



## 10 Years Ago...

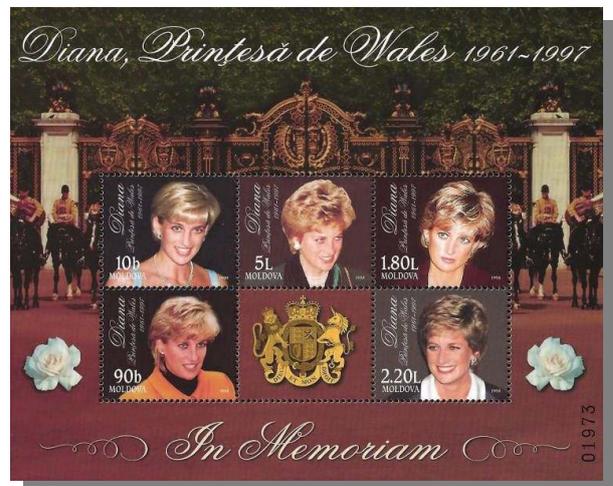
**On August 19, 2008, we saw the release of the beautiful series “Endangered Plant Species in Moldova” which included an impressive souvenir sheet...**



Full technical details at [http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue\\_stamps\\_issue.asp?issueID=203](http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=203)

## 20 Years Ago...

**August 31, 1998 saw the release of the somewhat controversial sheet for “Diana, Princess of Wales - In Memoriam”.**



Full technical details at [http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue\\_stamps\\_issue.asp?issueID=83](http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=83)

# Recent Issues: “Moldovan Postage Stamp Day”

July 22 2018:

[http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue\\_stamps\\_issue.asp?issueID=3009](http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=3009)

On July 22, 2018, the Post of Moldova put into circulation a most beautiful stamp devoted to the “Moldovan Postage Stamp Day”. This stamp was released to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the first postage stamp of the United Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia.



The stamp, designed by Vitaliu Pogolșa, features a background which represents the development of Moldovan history, from its early Cucuteni–Trypillia culture beginnings, to the modern Republic that exists today.

In the centre, is a reproduction of the famous “Cap de Bour” (Bull Head) stamp of 1858, issued by the United Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia.



The United Principalities was the origin of today’s Romania and so, the stamp is considered, in philately, to be the first issue of Romania, rather than of Moldova. However, the historic connection between the two modern states, as we know them today, is obvious.

The “Cap de Bour” stamp was originally released, in the city of Iași (Jassy) on July 15, 1858, the earliest known date of its use on a cover, was July 22.



The stamp is an unusually large size. At 69mm X 27.5mm, it is 1.5 times the normal width. It’s the first time that Posta Moldovei issued a stamp this size.

The minisheet of 8 stamps is also a real masterpiece by artist Vitaliu Pogolșa. The sheet margins feature a variety of bull’s heads carvings, a traditional Moldovan symbol.

The cachet for the FDC is also emblazoned with an allegorical representation of the printing of the “Cap de Bour” stamps in 1858.

IMPS offers our congratulations to the philatelic department of Posta Moldovei—the “Timbrofil” team— for a job well done!





**Interesting Link:  
The UPU World-  
Wide Number  
System (WNS)...**



**UNIVERSAL  
POSTAL  
UNION**

WNS was an initiative of the UPU, in an effort to reduce the level of fictitious stamps that have been flooding the market for the past years. The idea was that all member countries would submit lists and images of their genuine stamps, each year, and that this would form a definitive database of valid postage stamps, for the benefit of postal administrations and collectors alike.

Unfortunately, the initiative was not well supported and some countries, most notably Germany, did not participate. However, WNS is still a valuable philatelic database. Moldova is a participant and all issues, since 2006, are presented with excellent, high-quality scans. Definitely worth exploring! <http://www.wnsstamps.post/en/>

**THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN  
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

**CHIȘINĂU |  
CHICAGO | LYON |  
SÃO PAULO**

Email: [info@moldovastamps.org](mailto:info@moldovastamps.org)

Web: [www.moldovastamps.org](http://www.moldovastamps.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/impsmoldova](http://www.facebook.com/impsmoldova)

Editor: Niall Murphy

All articles and news should be sent to the Editor at the email address above.

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

## EUROPA Stamp Competition Reminder

We ask all of our readers and members, please do not forget to vote in the 2018 EUROPA Stamp Competition.

We remind you that Moldova took third place in 2017 with the excellent “Mimi Castle” stamp.

This year, we are looking for a win and, with the superb Pohor-niceni bridge stamp, plus the full backing of Posta Moldovei, we think we have a very realistic chance.

**DON'T FORGET TO  
VOTE FOR  
MOLDOVA!**

<http://posteurop.org/europa2018>

**THE EUROPA STAMP  
COMPETITION CONNECTS!**

9 MAY - 9 SEPTEMBER 2018  
#EUROPASTAMPS



**EUROPA**  
<http://posteurop.org/europa2018>

## Issues for August...

*Date unconfirmed:*

Series of postage stamps  
“Domestic Birds”.



*August 15:*

Envelope “Mihail Curagău,  
Theatre & Cinema Actor—  
75th Birth Anniversary”.



## Newsletters Archive...

The archive of previous IMPS news-  
letters is now on the site.

[www.moldovastamps.org/info-newsletters.asp](http://www.moldovastamps.org/info-newsletters.asp)