

Historic «King Mihai» Stamp

On the first anniversary of the death of King Mihai of Romania on December 5 2017, the Post of Moldova issued a postage stamp "in memoriam".

Only 27 years ago, the country we know today as the Republic of Moldova, was a member of the Soviet Union. It is remarkable to see a postage stamp being issued to commemorate the death of the former King of Romania.

King Mihai was a distant cousin of Queen Elizabeth of England and was the last surviving head of state from the Second World War.

In August 1944, the King engineered the overthrow of the fascist dictator Ion Antonescu in a royal coup d'état that allowed Romania to defect from the Nazi Axis just as advancing Soviet troops were about to cross the border.

This issue was not origi-

nally planned for 2018 but was appended to the plan in November.

The material was designed by Vitaliu Pogolșa. It is very interesting because it portrays the King in three stages of his life. On the postage stamps we see the King in his middle years. On the label and on the cachet of the FDC, we see a young King. On the maximum card, we see the King in his later years.

The stamp was issued in a quantity of 50,000 with a face value of 9.50L, corresponding to the tariff for international surface mail.

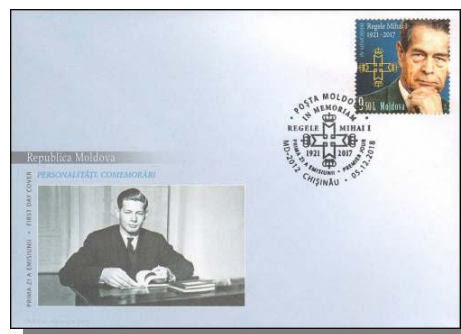
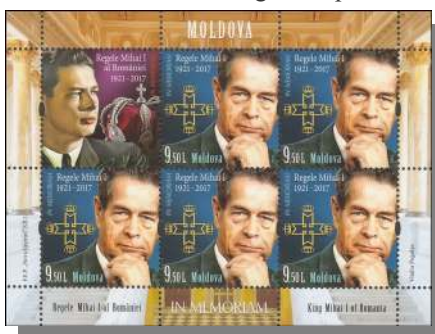
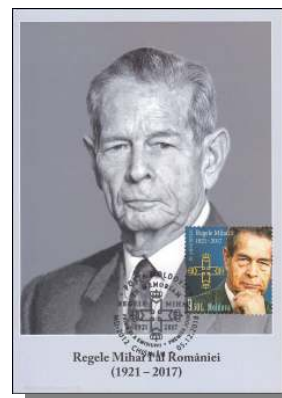
10,000 minisheets were printed. On each sheet, there is a label, portraying the King as a young man.

The FDC was issued in 300 pieces with a selling price from



Posta Moldovei of 27 Lei.

Rarer still is the official maximum card, printed in only 250 copies and is bound to become a future



Inside this month's issue...

New Stamp Issues in December...



Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part VI



Special Postmarks Second Half 2018...



Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part VI

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

This month we look at the fascinating varieties that exist for the 1993 issue "Birds II", which introduce us to the world of "gutter pairs".

This series of stamps was originally issued on July 25, 1993. According to the official philatelic catalogue, they were printed in Spain by "Graficas Jorcar" in Barcelona. However, this is possibly incorrect since the previous stamps issue, "Endangered Snake Species - World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)", issued only 22 days earlier, was actually printed in Spain by "Servicios Graficos Jamsa SA" in Barcelona. It is unlikely that two different printing houses, both in the same city, were used.

The six lower value stamps, with face values 2 rubles to 50 rubles, were issued in sheets of 50 values (10x5). However,

they were all originally printed on a single, very large sheet, separated by gutters and then, cut into six separate sheets of 50 values.

But, some of the large print sheets escaped the cutting process and, in some cases, they escaped the perforating process too. We have only observed one complete, uncut, perforated sheet but we have never observed a complete, uncut, imperforate sheet. Sheets that escaped the cutting/perforating process were cut up into fragments, to produce every possible combination of mixed gutter pair. All stamps in the series are known to exist imperforate.

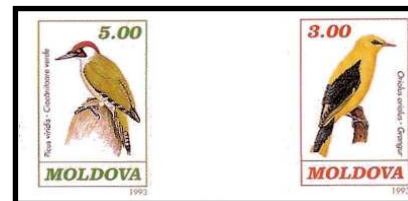
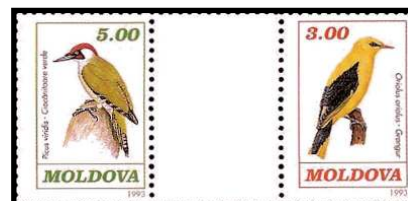
The material illustrated in this article almost certainly originates from the personal collection of Michael Mittelstrass, the official philatelic agent/broker for the Moldovan postal authorities, at that time, and whose name has been mentioned in previous articles.

Mixed Gutter Pairs (Horizontal):

If you look closely at the large print sheet, it is possible to see that there are three horizontal mixed gutter pairs, four vertical mixed gutter pairs and two mixed gutter blocks. All gutter varieties



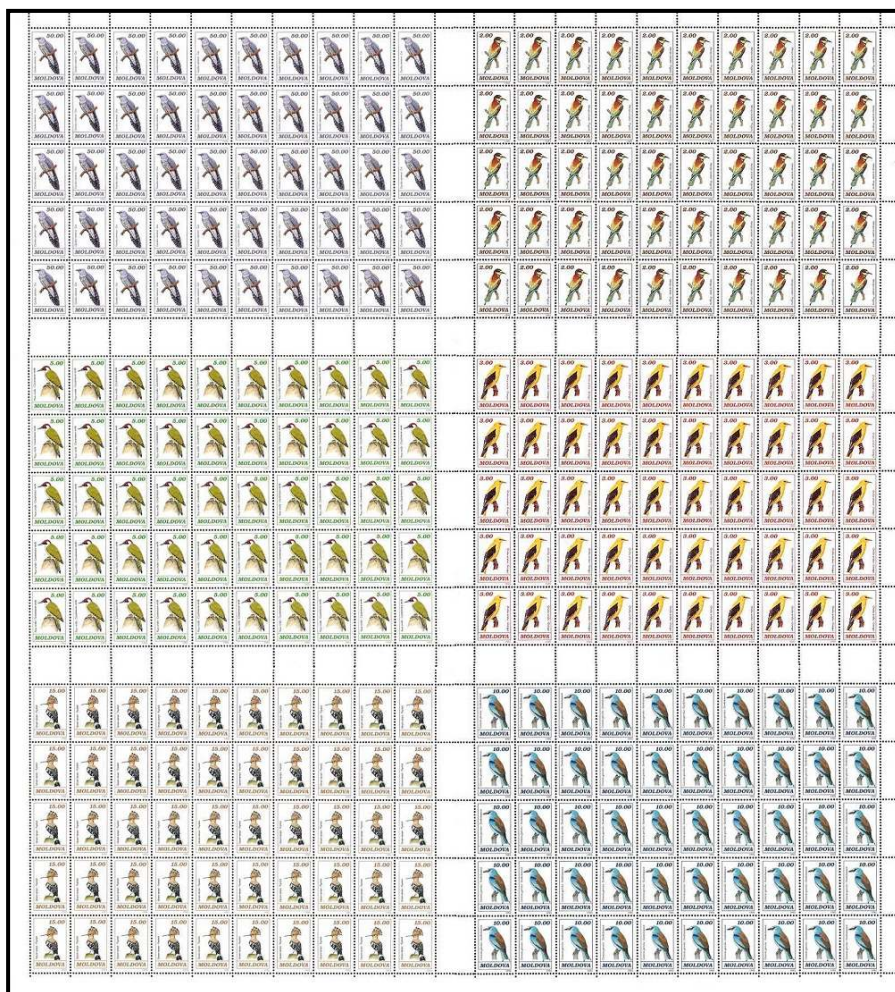
№ 56-61 MGP and № 56B-61B MGP. Horizontal mixed gutter pairs.



№ 57-58 MGP and № 57B-58B MGP. Horizontal mixed gutter pairs.



№ 59-60 MGP and № 59B-60B MGP. Horizontal mixed gutter pairs.

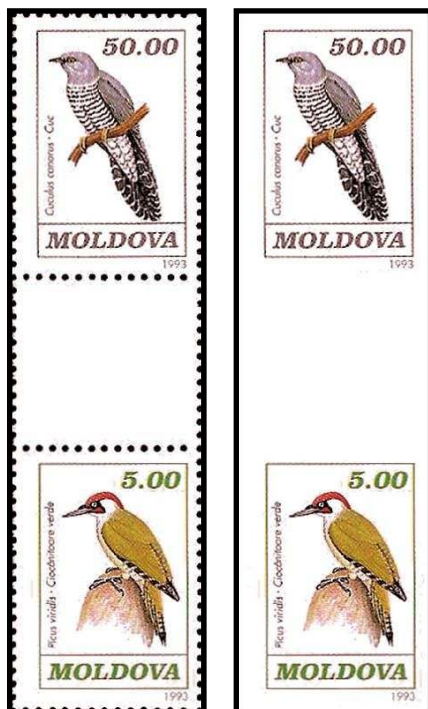


The stamps were printed on a single, large sheet, then cut up into smaller sheets of 50 (10x5).

Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part VI

Continued...

Mixed Gutter Pairs (Vertical):

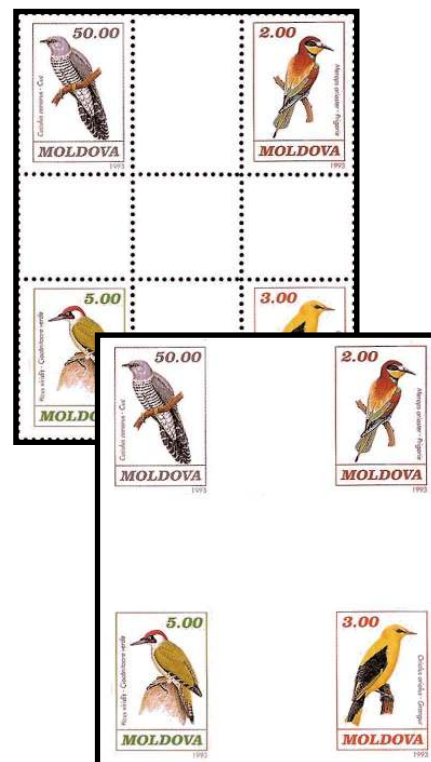


№ 58-61 MGP and № 58B-61B MGP. Vertical mixed gutter pairs.



№ 56-57 MGP and № 56B-57B MGP. Vertical mixed gutter pairs.

Mixed Gutter Blocks:



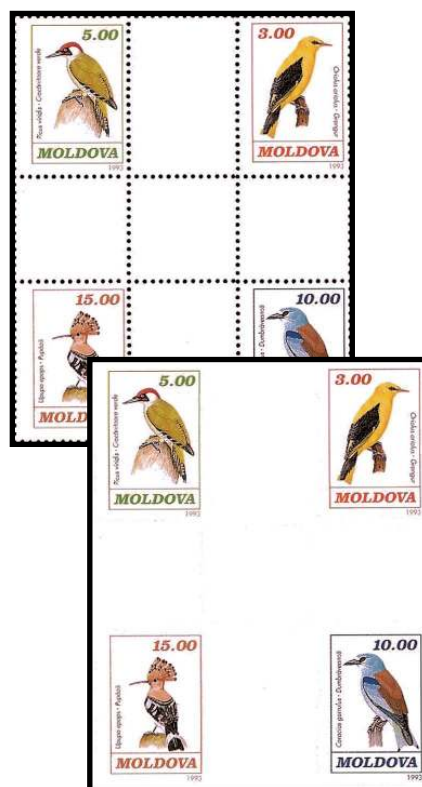
№ 56-61 MGB and № 56B-61B MGB. Mixed gutter blocks.



№ 58-60 MGP and № 58B-60B MGP. Vertical mixed gutter pairs.



№ 57-59 MGP and № 57B-59B MGP. Vertical mixed gutter pairs.



№ 57-60 MGB and № 57B-60B MGB. Mixed gutter blocks.

Recent Issues: “Centenary of the Union of Bessarabia with Romania”

November 27 2018:

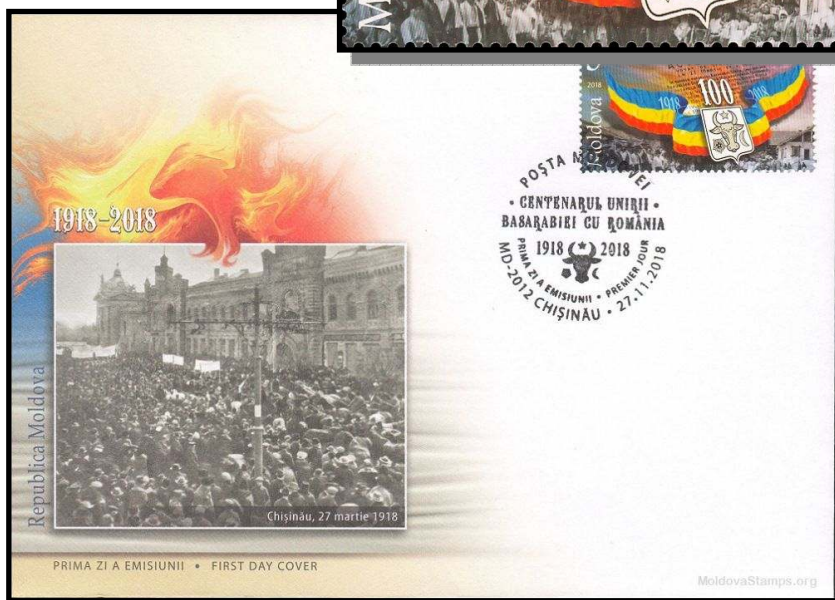
http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=4025

On November 27, 2018, the Post of Moldova put into circulation a stamp to commemorate the centenary of the Union of Bessarabia with the Kingdom Romania, which was proclaimed on April 9 1918, by the Sfatul Țării (National Council) of Bessarabia.

№ 1069 (5.75L) was not included in the original plan of issues for 2018, but was appended to it in October of that year. It is not known who proposed this additional issue to the Philatelic Council.



The stamp features the coat of arms of Bessarabia, on a banner with the colours of the Romanian flag. In the background, we can see the text of the Act of Union, proclaimed by the Sfatul Țării.



Recent Issues: “Happy New Year!”

December 4 2018:

http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=3016

On December 4, 2018, the Post of Moldova put into circulation a series of two stamps to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. № 1070 (1.75L) features a stylized Christmas tree. № 1071 (5.75L) features a stylized snowflake.

There are two very interesting features of this issue. Firstly, this is the first time the Moldova issued minisheets of stamps with edges, cut to shape. This was a new technology, recently introduced by the printing house, Nova Imprim.

in Chisinau.

The second feature was the use of special, iridescent, metal inks. Although this is impossible to see in the scanned stamps, when viewed at an angle, the stamps appear to change colours. № 1070 (1.75L) appears in shades of green. № 1071 (5.75L) appears in shades of silver. Again, this technology was recently introduced by the printing house.



Recent Issues: “Personalities II(b): Alexandru Moșanu. In Memoriam

December 7 2018:

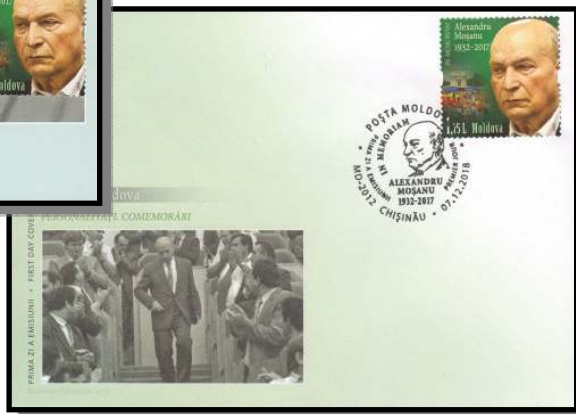
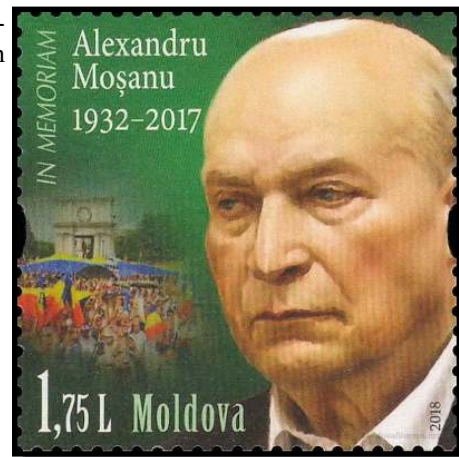
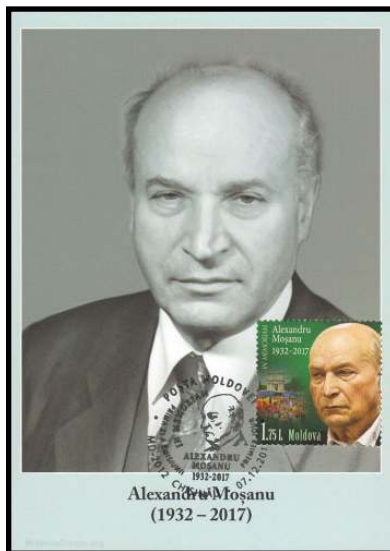
http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=4028

On December 7, 2018, the Post of Moldova put into circulation a stamp to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of the politician, historian and professor Alexandru Moșanu, who died on December 7, 2017 in Bucharest.

№ 1073 (1.75L) was not included in the original plan of issues for 2018, but was appended to it in October of that year. It is not known who proposed this additional issue to the Philatelic Council.

Alexandru Moșanu (1932-2017) was the first speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova between 1990

and 1993. He was also one of the co-authors of Moldova's 1991 Declaration of Independence.



Recent Issues: “Personalities II(c): Vladimir Curbet. In Memoriam

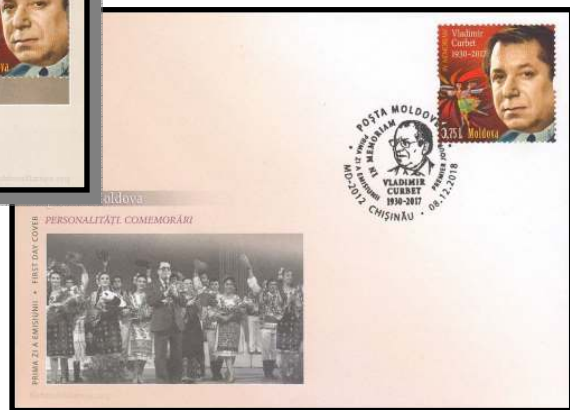
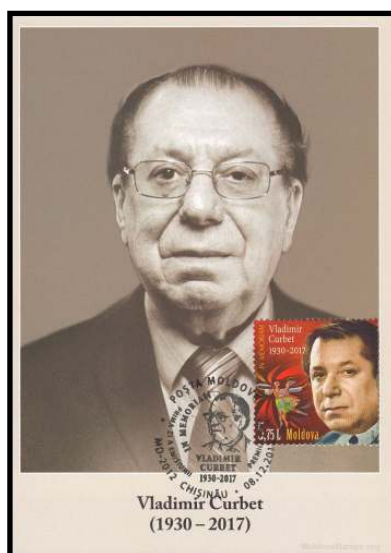
December 8 2018:

http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=4029

On December 8, 2018, the Post of Moldova put into circulation a stamp to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of choreographer Vladimir Curbet, who died on December 8, 2017.

№ 1074 (5.75L) was not included in the original plan of issues for 2018, but was appended to it in October of that year. It is not known who proposed this additional issue to the Philatelic Council.

From 1957 until his death in late 2017, Vladimir Curbet was the 13th director of the Moldovan national folk dance ensemble “JOC”.



Recent Issues: “Church Bells” - Joint Issue with Ukraine

December 26 2018:

http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=4030

On December 26, 2018, the Post of Moldova put into circulation a block (souvenir sheet) of two stamps with the theme “Church Bells”. This was a joint issue between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. It was the first joint issue from Moldova since the “Folk Crafts: Wood Carving” issue with Belarus on September 8, 2016.

According to the original philatelic plan for 2018, it was intended to release a three-country joint issue between Moldova, Ukraine and Romania, with the theme “The Cucuteni–Trypillia Culture” in September. However, this plan was abandoned. It is believed that the state philatelic organization of Romania, “Romfilatelia” pulled out of the agreement. On August 1, Posta Moldovei announced the change of plan and their intention to release this “Church Bells” issue as a replacement.

The block (№ 81) contains two stamps, each with a face value of 9.50L, perforated 13, diagonally (syncopated) and 34mm x 34mm in size.

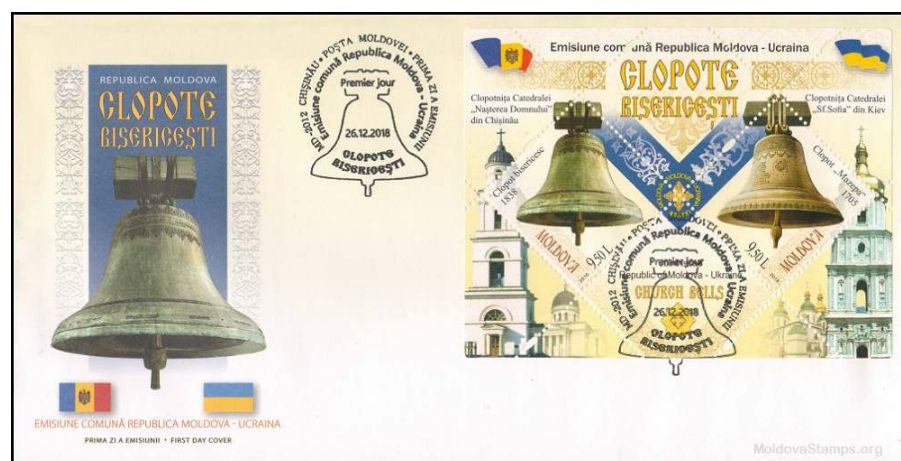
The left stamp, № 1075, shows the bell from the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Nativity (Nașterea Domnului) in Chisinau (1838).

The right stamp, № 1076, shows the bell from the Cathedral of St. Sofia in Kiev.

The background of the block shows the bell towers of both cathedrals, together with flags and commemorative text. Despite initial impressions, the block does not have any true se-tenant labels. All elements, other than the stamps, are in fact, selvage or sheet margins.



The Ukrainian version of the joint issue shows the stamps in reverse order.



The block and FDC was designed by Alexandr Kornienko, a well-known photographer and graphic designer from Chisinau.

An interesting feature of the block is the rounded corners. The printing house, Nova Imprim in Chisinau, recently deployed this technology and used it to great effect on the minisheets for “Happy New Year” issue, released on December 4.

The cachet for the FDC (220mm x 110mm, 300 pieces), shows the bell from the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Nativity in Chisinau, and the flags of Moldova and Ukraine.

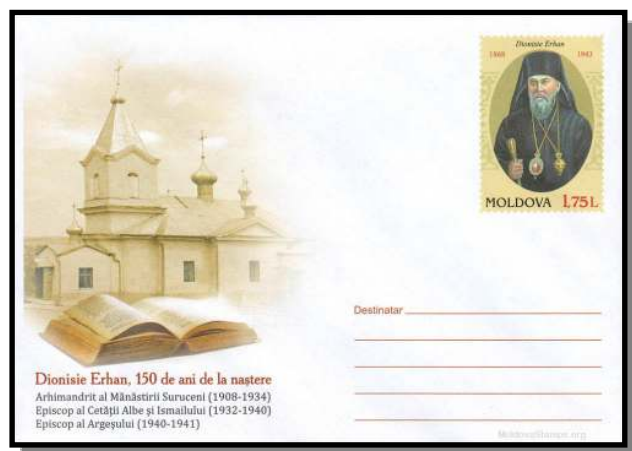
The block was printed in a quantity of 30,000 pieces and is 80mm x 105mm in size.



Recent Issues: Postal Stationery—Envelopes

November 2, 2018

Dionisie Erhan (1868-1943). Bishop of Ismail - 150th Birth Anniversary.



Full technical details at
http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=3025

On October 25, 2018, during his working session, the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church elevated to the rank of Saint, the bishop Dionisie Erhan (1868-1943), an ecclesiastical personality who marked the history of Bessarabia and Moldova in the 1st half of the 20th century. Dionisie Erhan was in particular Archimandrite of the monastery of Suruceni for 26 years (from 1908 to 1934) before being named bishop of Cetatea Albă and Izmail (two sites located today in the Ukrainian region of Budjak, between the south of Moldova and the Black Sea) in 1932 and bishop of Argeș (city located in Romania today) in 1940.

(Author: Eric Contesse)

10 Years Ago...

December 10, 2008 saw the release of 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Full technical details at
http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=212

October 5, 2018

In Memoriam. Stela Popescu (1935-2017). Theatre and Cinema Actress.



Full technical details at
http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=3026

Stela Popescu (1935–2017) was a Romanian actress and TV personality. With Ștefan Bănică and Alexandru Arșinel she was successively half of two famous romantic partnerships. Stela Popescu was born into a family of teachers in the village of Slobozia-Hodorogea, Orhei. Her first memory was the invasion of Bessarabia by the Soviet army. In 1940, her father was deported to Siberia and her mother fled with her daughter to Brasov in Romania. In 1953, she entered the college entrance examination and was assigned to the "Maxim Gorki" Russian Language School. She abandoned the course after a year and a half when she joined the Theater of the Ministry of the Interior.

20 Years Ago...

December 10, 1998 saw the release of 80th Anniversary of the Union of Bessarabia with Romania.

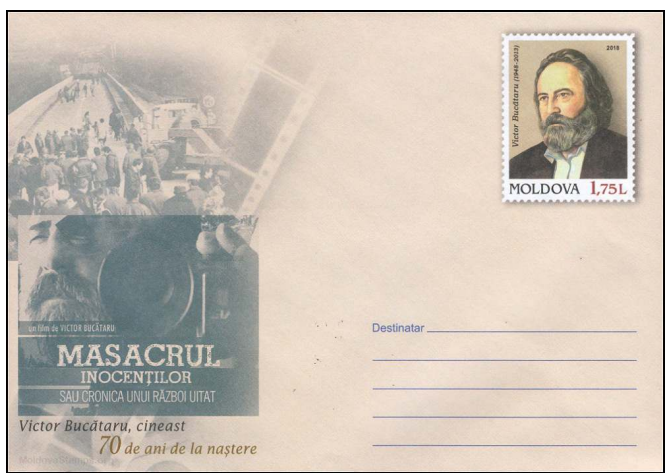


Full technical details at
http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=88

Recent Issues: Postal Stationery—Envelopes

December 21, 2018

Victor Bucataru (1948 - 2013). Director. 70th Birth Anniversary



Full technical details at

http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=3027

Victor Bucataru was born on 25 December 1948 in Drochia district. He graduated from the Gavril Musicescu Arts Institute in 1971 and was nominated as director of the Youth Theatre in Balti. In 1975 he graduated from Moscow's Higher Courses and became Director of the Telefilm-Chişinău Studio (1978-1991).

He founded the Independent Film Studio SINM in 1991 and he was elected president of the Union of Cinematographers of Moldova in 1991.

Bucataru made video reports during the 1992 armed conflict in Transnistria, which were widely broadcast. During 2000-2001, he was the director of the ORT TV channel in Moldova. From 2003 until 2005 he was director of the Etnos Project, partly financed by the Council of Europe.

Source moldovenii.md

Cancellations/Postmarks: Summary of Issues July/December 2018...



No. 2018/16: Cultural and Natural Reserve Old Orhei - 50th Anniversary



No. 2018/17: Soroca Fortress - 475th Anniversary



No. 2018/18: Curchi Monastery - 245th Anniversary



No. 2018/19: World Tourism Day



No. 2018/20: National Wine Day



No. 2018/21: World Post Day



No. 2018/22: Alexandru Plămădeală - 130th Birth Anniversary



No. 2018/23: Happy New Year!



No. 2018/24: National Day of Actors



No. 2018/25: First EUROPA Stamps of Moldova—25th Anniversary



THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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EUROPA Stamps 25th Anniversary Lottery



*A random draw was held on
December 27, to select the 10
winners of the IMPS “Europa
25th Anniversary Lottery”.
The winners were...*

1. Bernard Brunner, Germany
2. Tolga Caglayanakaya, Netherlands
3. Laura Caron, France
4. Eugen Chiviriga, Moldova
5. Alexandra Costiuc, Moldova
6. Cristian Valeriu Enache, Romania
7. Apostol Nikolov, Bulgaria
8. Alicja Nowak, Poland
9. Alex Rekhelis, USA
10. Dimitrios Tsolakis, Greece

Congratulations to all our winners.
Each of you has been contacted by
email and your very special com-
memorative envelopes will be posted
on the day of the anniversary, Decem-
ber 29, 2018.



Next Month...

New Stamp Issue:

Emergency Services “112”

New Stamp Issue:

Eminent Personalities - Anniversaries &
Commemorations—6 stamps!

-Domnica Darienco (1919-2010)

-Glebus Sainciuc (1919-2012)

-Alecu Russo (1819-1859)

-Gheorghe Asachi (1788-1869)

-Constantin Stamati (1786-1869)

-Alexei Stârcea (1919-1974)

And lots more...

Newsletters Archive...



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

www.moldovastamps.org/info-newsletters.asp