

“Happy New Year!” Issues Released



Extract from the “Happy New Year!” minisheet № 1127-1128 Kb. Photo: Alexandru Panis

December 10 saw the long-awaited release of the 2019 stamps issue “Happy New Year!”. We were not disappointed by the final results.

For these festive issues, each year the philatelic editorial department of Poșta Moldovei, “Timbrofil”, likes to make a special effort to produce some really nice and visu-

ally appealing material.

In 2018, Timbrofil produced a really remarkable set of material with die-cut margins, shaped to resemble a Christmas tree and coloured metal effects.

The 2019 stamps were printed using silver foil and in a minisheet of four horizontal se-tenant pairs.

Scans of the material could not reproduce the

metallic visual effects of the silver foil since the material needs to be viewed at an angle. I M P S member, and professional photographer,

Alexandru Panis, jumped to our rescue here.

For the 2019 issue, Timbrofil used the artistic talents of a new designer, Valeriu Herța, well known in Moldova as a specialist in calligraphy. This is the first time that Herța has designed philatelic material and his calligraphic skills are used to excellent effect.



2018 “Happy New Year!” minisheets. Photo: Alexandru Panis



Artist, Valeriu Herța
Photo: LinkedIn

See the full technical details and scans inside.

Inside this month's issue...

New Envelope issue in December:



A New Chief for Poșta Moldovei:



Poll: Best Moldova Stamps of 2019:



New Stamps & Cancellation Issues: Happy New Year!

December 2019 saw the release of two issues with the theme "Happy New Year!", a pair of postage stamps and a special commemorate cancellation (postmark).

The postage stamps were designed by Valeriu Herța, well known in Moldova as a specialist in calligraphy and were printed in Chisinau by Nova Imprim. The Stamps are perforated 13 with syncopation and the sizes are 34mm x 34mm.

Postage stamp № 1127 shows a stylized winter forest scene and the calligraphic text "La Mulți Ani!" (Happy New Year!).

Postage stamp № 1128 shows a stylized winter scene and a snowman, together with the calligraphic text "2020 - La Mulți Ani!".

The postage stamps were each released in 75,000 copies and each with a face value of 5.75L, corresponding to the tariff for 20g letters, for domestic delivery with registration. Elements of the text and artwork on the stamps are embellished with silver foil.

The postage stamps were issued in a single minisheet № 1127-1128 Kb in four rows of horizontal se-tenant pairs (№ 1127-1128 Zd) and with decorated margins. A total of 18,750 minisheets were issued, including 75,000 se-tenant pairs.

The official First Day Cover (№ 1127-1128 FDC) also designed by Valeriu Herța, was issued in only a very small quantity of 300 pieces. The cachet features a stylized winter scene and calligraphic text. It is interesting to note the affixed stamps are separated and not a se-tenant pair. The FDC uses a standard size envelope, 162mm x 114mm.

The official First Day cancellation (№ CF419), also designed by Valeriu Herța, is dated December 10, 2019 and issued at the main post office branch MD-2012 in Chisinau.

On December 16, a second issue "Happy New Year! (II)" was released. This comprises a special commemorate cancellation (postmark) (№ CS2019/22). Designed by Vitaliu Pogolșa, it was issued at the main post office branch MD-2012 in Chisinau and was valid from December 16-31.



№ 1127



№ 1128



Minisheet № 1127-1128 Kb



Official First Day Cancellation № CF419



Special Cancellation № CS2019/22



Official FDC: № 1127-1128 FDC

New Envelope Issue: Court of Accounts of the Republic of Moldova - 25th Anniversary



Issued on December 6, this handsome prepaid envelope was designed by Vitaliu Pogolșa and printed in 10,000 copies.

The Court of Accounts is the supreme

public authority that monitors public finances in the Republic of Moldova. It was founded in 1994 and in 2019, celebrates its 25th anniversary.

The envelope (№ U413) 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 design representing the “scales of justice”.

The cachet on the envelope features the emblem of the institution on a background of the court’s premises in Chisinau.

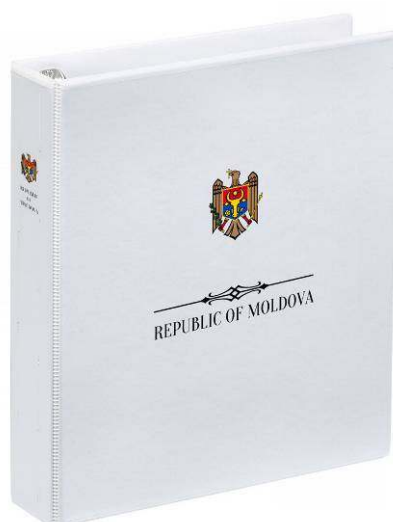
Whilst Poșta Moldovei does not issue official FDCs for postal stationery, they do issue official first day cancellations, with which, local philatelists can realize private FDCs. Cancellation (№ CFU413) was dated December 6, 2019 and issued at the main post office, MD-2012 in Chisinau.



Member Services Update: 2019 Stamp Album Pages Now Available

Now that Poșta Moldovei has released its last stamps for 2019, we were able to update the files for the IMPS free stamp album pages.

As part of our membership services, all registered members of IMPS can login at www.moldovastamps.org and download free, pre-formatted stamp



album pages, in PDF format, for use in creating their album of Moldovan stamps.

The 2019 pages have been designed and are now available for download. Just go to www.moldovastamps.org and login at

the top of the page. Then click the link for “My Membership Page” and the then the link “Download Stamp Album Pages”. If members discover any mistakes, please inform us right away and we will fix, without delay.

For a useful guide to creating your own stamp album using the free IMPS album pages, follow this link:

https://www.moldovastamps.org/pdf/Making_your_stamp_album.pdf

Special Editorial Article:

Poșta Moldovei Gets a New Chief

Last month, the fledgling government of Prime Minister, Maia Sandu, was ousted in a parliamentary no confidence vote. Ms Sandu had only been in office since June 8 of this year. Her successor, Ion Chicu has announced that his new government will be technocratic or in other words, run by people who are highly qualified technically, to perform their jobs.

Whilst I am personally apolitical and have no interest in the manoeuvrings of politicians in Moldova, I am interested in the impact such political instability might have on the philately of the country.



TOP: Ousted Prime Minister, Maia Sandu
BOTTOM: New Prime Minister, Ion Chicu

One of Ms Sandu's first actions after coming to office, was to challenge the quality of the top management of several state-owned organizations. In the case of Poșta Moldovei, she criticized the leadership for its handling of newspaper distribution contracts and other controversial matters, and called for their resignations. On July 12, the Director-General of Poșta Moldovei, Serghei Nastas, resigned his position and shortly thereafter, he was followed by many of his former colleagues within the organization. The Deputy Director-General, Ruslan Chitoroagă, was named as interim chief until such time as a permanent replacement could be appointed.

On September 25, the government announced a public contest for appointment of the new Director-General of Poșta Moldovei but on October 24, the contest was cancelled.

Following the ousting of Ms. Sandu's government and the installation of Mr Chicu as Prime Minister, on December 10, it was announced that a new "interim" Director-General of Poșta Moldovei had been appointed: Mr Vitalie Zaharia. I don't know exactly what "interim" means here, but I suppose that a short-term contract is involved.

I cannot find good sources of biographical information about Mr Zaharia. There are multiple references to him in various Moldovan news media websites, but they all contain the same, minimal content. Mr Zaharia is not present on Facebook and generally, seems to have kept a low profile, at least in recent months. It is known that Mr Zaharia was formerly the chief of a state agency responsible for the promotion of exports and foreign investment.

Since the departure of Serghei Nastas in July, Poșta Moldovei has been essentially a headless organization. Indeed, if you look at the jobs page on their official website, you will find a long list of vacant, senior positions. It remains to be seen how the new Director-General will solve this critical problem. I personally wonder, in the current unstable political environment in Moldova, what serious and technically qualified professional people (the technocrats) would be interested in careers built on such shifting political sands?

I hope that Mr Zaharia's background in the promotion of exports will be an asset to Moldovan philately. I do not expect him to be a keen philatelist but I sincerely hope that he will remove the obstructions the previous leadership put on Poșta Moldovei and IMPS marketing cooperation activities and agree that our work is beneficial to all parties. If so, he would find a great partner in IMPS.

In the recent years, I have received two



LEFT: Former DG, Serghei Nastas
RIGHT: New Interim DG, Vitalie Zaharia

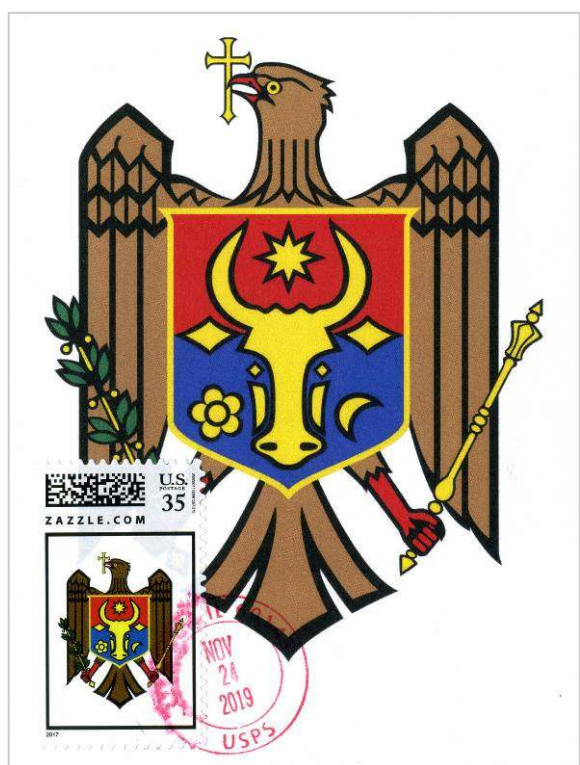
invitations for cooperation discussions, from the last two chiefs of the marketing division of Poșta Moldovei (that position is currently vacant). Having spent a lot of personal time developing proposals, in both instances, my proposals were dismissed, out of hand, by unnamed people in the leadership of Poșta Moldovei. Additionally, all further discussions were abruptly ended and without any reasons being given. I can only characterize such behaviour as outright obstruction on the part of the leadership. Motives are unknown?

Whilst these days I enjoy the best possible technical support from the truly professional team at the Philatelic Editorial Section at Poșta Moldovei, IMPS is still left with a very serious gap in terms of marketing. There are severe limits to our (voluntary) resources and we cannot possibly hope to achieve great international awareness of Moldovan philately without proper marketing cooperation from Poșta Moldovei. Fortunately, this month, and for the very first time, there have been some positive developments on this front, and IMPS agreed with Poșta Moldovei to share publicity for a public poll: "Best Moldova Stamps 2019". We hope this is an indication of a good relationship blossoming.

The volunteers at IMPS spend many hours of their free time promoting Moldovan postage stamps and indeed the world does pay attention, but the loop is not closed and we receive so many messages asking the same question "where do I buy?". Since the leadership of Poșta Moldovei has continuously refused to create any kind of online selling platform, we are forced to refer our visitors to take their chances with the various and unregulated sellers on Delcampe, eBay etc.. In fact, a zero-cost solution already exists in the form the website WOPA Plus, a highly reputable international platform used by many of the world's top postal administrations and where stamps are sold at face value. Whilst I have absolutely no financial interest in this website, I do believe it is an excellent marketing concept and benefits world philately in general.

Niall Murphy, Editor

Exhibition News: Unique USA “Republic of Moldova” Maximum Cards



FULLY FIP CONCORDANT, UNITED STATES MAXIMUM CARDS

ABOVE: PC: Flag of Moldova. STAMP: USA Flag of Moldova Personalized Stamp. POST-MARK: USPS CDS Itasca, Illinois, 24.11.2019

LEFT: PC: Arms of Moldova. STAMP: USA Arms of Moldova Personalized Stamp. POST-MARK: USPS CDS Itasca, Illinois, 24.11.2019

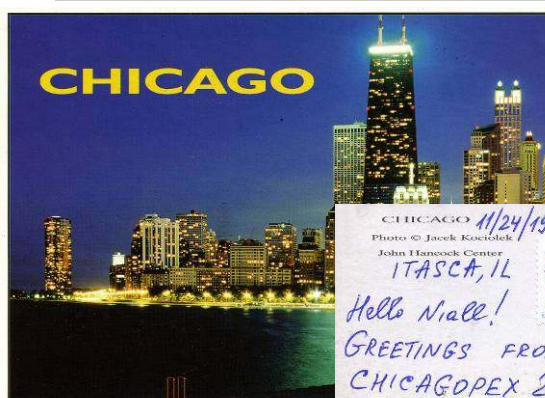
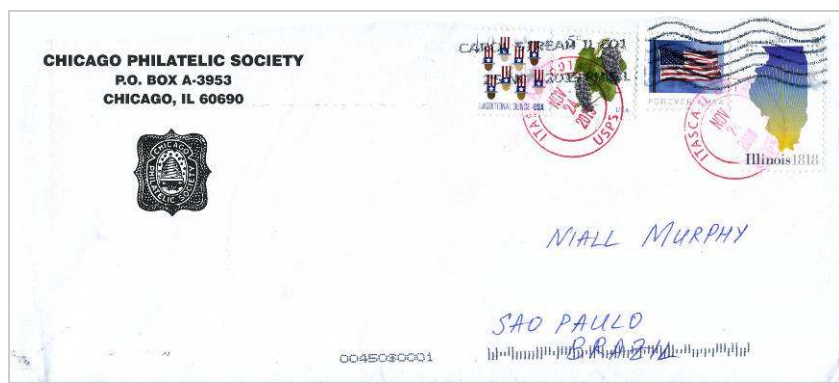
BELOW: Cover sent from “Chicagopex 2019” using the official envelope of the Chicago Philatelic Society.

As previously reported, last month, at the prestigious exhibition “Chicagopex 2019” in Itasca, Illinois, IMPS won a Large Gold medal for Moldova. This being such an important event, our colleague, Gheorghe Plugaru, travelled half way across the USA to be there.

To celebrate this achievement, Gheorghe realized the two remarkable and truly unique maximum cards above, with complete FIP concordance (compliance). The MCs above were realized at the exhibition and on the last day, when the awards were announced. The postage stamps are genuine “Zazzle” personalized stamps, completely valid for use in the USPS. Our sincere thanks to Gheorghe for this extraordinary and most thoughtful gift.

Gheorghe also sent two other wonderful covers. The official envelope of the Chicago Philatelic Society is normally restricted for use only by CPS officials, but Gheorghe received special permission. He also sent a beautiful postcard with a special message of congratulation.

Both the envelope and the postcard have specially selected stamps with grapes, the USA flag, the “Uncle Sam” motif and the 2018 issue celebrating the centenary of Illinois’ statehood. Wonderful!



POSTCARD FROM “CHICAGOPEX 2019”

LEFT: Night view of Chicago with the Willis Tower

BELOW: Special message of congratulations.



IMPS Website: Philatelic Catalogue Upgrades

In one way, IMPS is a victim of its own success. We have certainly been very successful in promoting Moldovan philately all over the world but we are now being bombarded with requests from people trying to buy material from us.

IMPS is a non-profit organization and we do not buy or sell anything. We try to make this as clear as possible on the website and that our catalogue is an information and research resource, in the same way as printed catalogues, such as Michel and Scott. For those who wish to buy, we do provide a detailed list of sellers in the "Dealer Directory" page of the website, which additionally gives members the ability to rate (evaluate) each dealer. But too often, this list is just not seen by visitors.

In December, we decided to integrate our catalogue listings with the two most popular online selling platforms for stamps, Delcampe and eBay.

Now, when you are looking at catalogue listings, each issue is given a link to "Find on Delcampe / eBay". This is a

quite sophisticated and dynamic link that uses the text of the issue title to look-up matching entries in the Delcampe or eBay databases. It's not 100% perfect because it depends on the text that each seller has used to describe the material, but in 99% of cases, you can easily find all the current sellers of the particular item, simply by clicking the link.

Additionally, we receive a large number of requests from collectors wishing to exchange (swap) stamps. Again, we cannot facilitate this because we do not keep supplies of materials.

It seems not everyone knows about the exchange platform that was developed by Colnect (www.colnect.com). They maintain a huge database of all world stamps (including Moldova), where visitors can register and flag each item as being for sale, wanted or available for swap. The IMPS catalogue now in-



cludes direct links from each stamp listing to the Colnect database, allowing our visitors to find possible exchange partners for the selected stamp.



Wooden Bridge at Pohorniceni, Orhei

Pohorniceni is a village in Orhei District, Moldova. [Read more...](#)
This article uses material from the Wikipedia article "Pohorniceni", which is released under the CC BY-SA license.

Variety: Standard Series

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| MI | Michel Catalogue No. |
| YU | Yvert & Tellier Catalogue No. |
| MS | MoldovaStamps Catalogue No. |
| PM | Posta Moldovei Catalogue No. |
| UPU | UPU WNS Number |
| ST | Stamp Type |
| CS | Philatelic Status |
| PT | Paper Type |
| UV | UV Luminescence |
| G | Gum |
| C | Colour |
| PF | Perforation Type |
| PS | Perforation Size |
| PP | Print Process |
| S | Size (mm) |
| FV | Face Value |
| APR | Applicable Postal Rate |



Extraordinary Joint Issue Souvenir FDCs

Almost exactly one year ago, on December 26 2018, the Post of Moldova and the Post of Ukraine released a joint issue "Church Bells". Each postal operator issued their own FDCs with official first day cancellations. So, how could the material, illustrated below, come into existence?

In the Netherlands, exists a man by the name of Jaap Sarelse. He is well known as an enthusiastic philatelist, specialising in joint issues. Mr Sarelse leads a small but equally enthusiastic international group of collectors who share his passion. Knowing his special field, Mr Sarelse contacted IMPS member, Andy van Tilburg, and asked if it would be

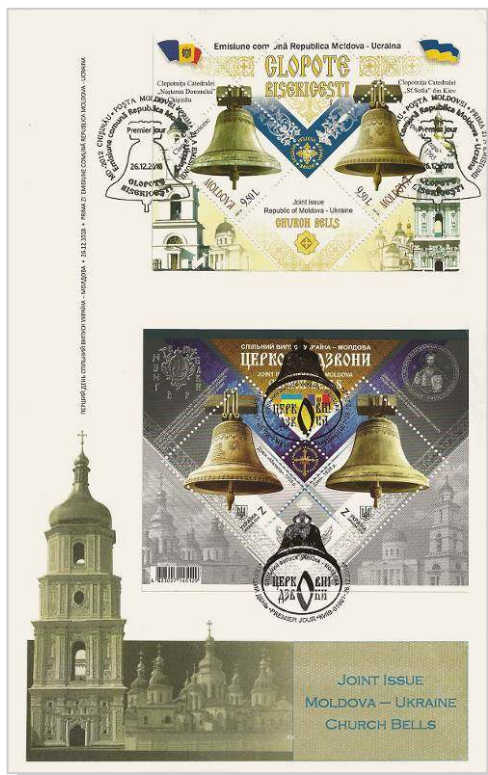
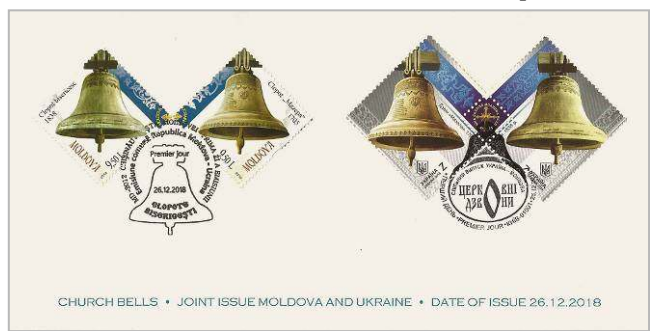
possible to arrange the realization of some special souvenir "FDCs" for this Moldova/Ukraine joint issue, but with the stamps and official first day cancellations for both countries.

Such souvenirs are occasionally seen. For example, for the joint issue between Moldova and Azerbaijan in 2015 and between Moldova and Romania in 2011. On the basis that this material would be souvenirs only and would not be commercialized, IMPS was happy to help.

With the grateful assistance and cooperation of Ala Nicoreanu from Poșta Moldovei and Natalia Mukhina from Ukrposhta, the covers shown here were realized.

The cover with the stamps was realized in a quantity of 11 pieces and the cover with the blocks (souvenir sheets) was realized in a quantity of 14 pieces.

If you are a member of Jaap Sarelse's group then, Happy Christmas!

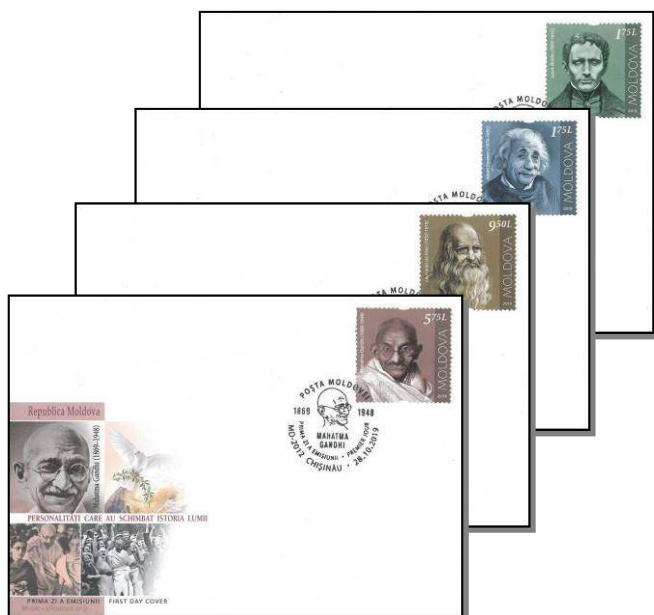


“Personalities” Issue Proves Extremely Popular

The stamps issue “Personalities Who Changed World History” was released October 28. The issue has proven to be extremely popular and one of the bestsellers of 2019.

The series featured Mahatma Gandhi, the only stamp from Moldova to do so, and there was enormous demand from collectors, not only from India, but from all over the world. Indeed, IMPS received multiple requests for purchase.

FDCs are not nearly so popular these days as the once were and Poșta Moldovei typically only issues 300 copies of each, as was the case here. However, all FDCs sold out so rapidly that a decision was made by Poșta Moldovei to reprint an addition 300 copies of each. The reprinted FDCs are identical to the originals.



10 Years Ago...

December 1, 2009 saw the release of the colourful series “Winter Holidays”.



Full technical details at
https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=228

Special Art Gallery Covers with Personalised Stamps

On November 26, Poșta Moldovei released a series of materials related to the 80th anniversary of the National Museum of Fine Arts of Moldova..

As previously reported, this issue included a series of postage stamps and two special cancellations, one for the museum itself and one for its first director, Auguste Baillayre. Additionally, Poșta Moldovei released a commemorative, unstamped envelope for the museum’s anniversary.

IMPS member and Poșta Moldovei employee, Ala Nicoreanu, herself a keen philatelist, also made two personalised postage stamps and realized the two covers below, using the special cancellations and the unstamped envelope. These are two extremely rare and exceptional philatelic pieces.



20 Years Ago...

December 11, 1999 saw the release of the series “Heritage of the National History Museum of Moldova”.



Full technical details at
https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=103

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

(Part I 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.

<http://timbredujura.blogspot.com>



Part I: 70 years of mass deportations in Bessarabia

(Originally published 21.06.2011)

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

This deportation took place only 10 days before Romania entered the war alongside Nazi Germany in order to free these territories.

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of this terrible event, the Post of Moldova has issued, on June 12, 2011, a special stamp (L1.20), designed by Vitaliu Pogolșa (printing run : 100,000).

I was lucky to receive the official FDC above (Figure 1) (300 copies only!) concerning this stamp. Thank you very much Sergio :-)

During that night of June 12, 1941 nearly 30,000 people were deported, taken from their homes in this first wave, embarked on trains to Siberia and Central Asia.

At the border with Ukraine, the cars were sorted in order to separate men from women, children and elderly. Men were sent to forced labour (clearing, construction of roads and bridges...) and women and children were forced to work in agriculture.

1,655 cars were used for the deportation of these people, how many came back alive?

Sergio has used two identical stamps on the other side of his FDC (Figure 2) above. This stamp is part of a first set of four airmail stamps, issued on July 20, 1992, about one year after the 1st

stamp issues of the independent Republic of Moldova.

Is it a Tupolev Tu-144 or a Concorde that is featured on this stamp?? It's worth noting that this stamp is de-

nominated in Moldovan coupon, the transition currency that replaced the Soviet ruble just before the adoption of the Leu in 1993.

Part II next month.

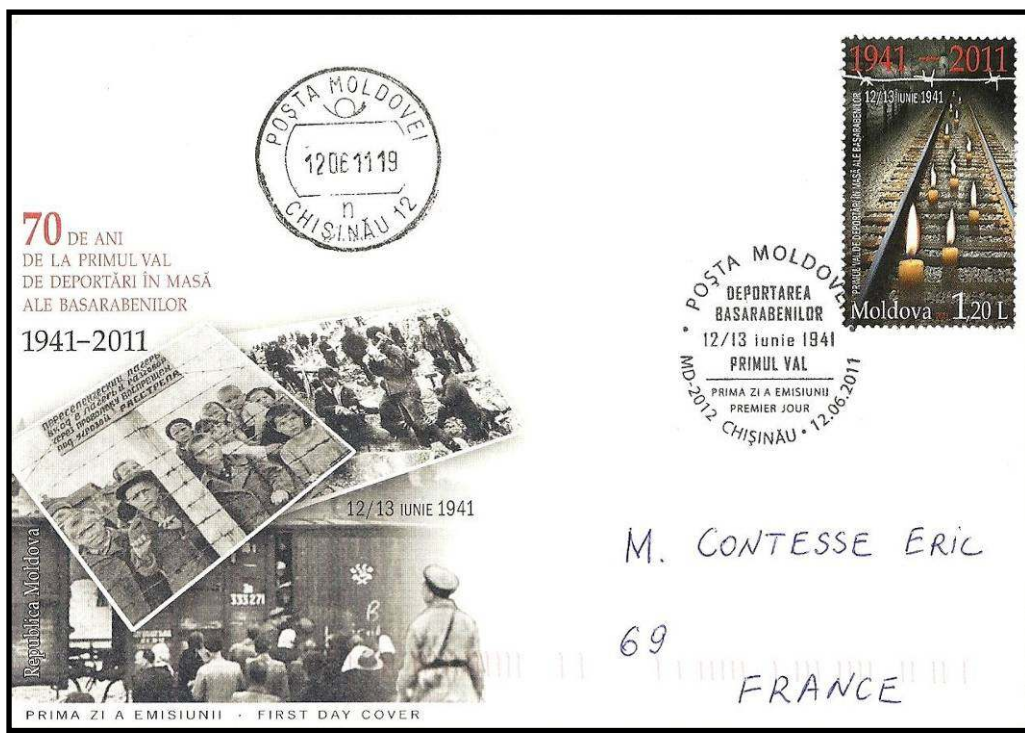


Figure 1

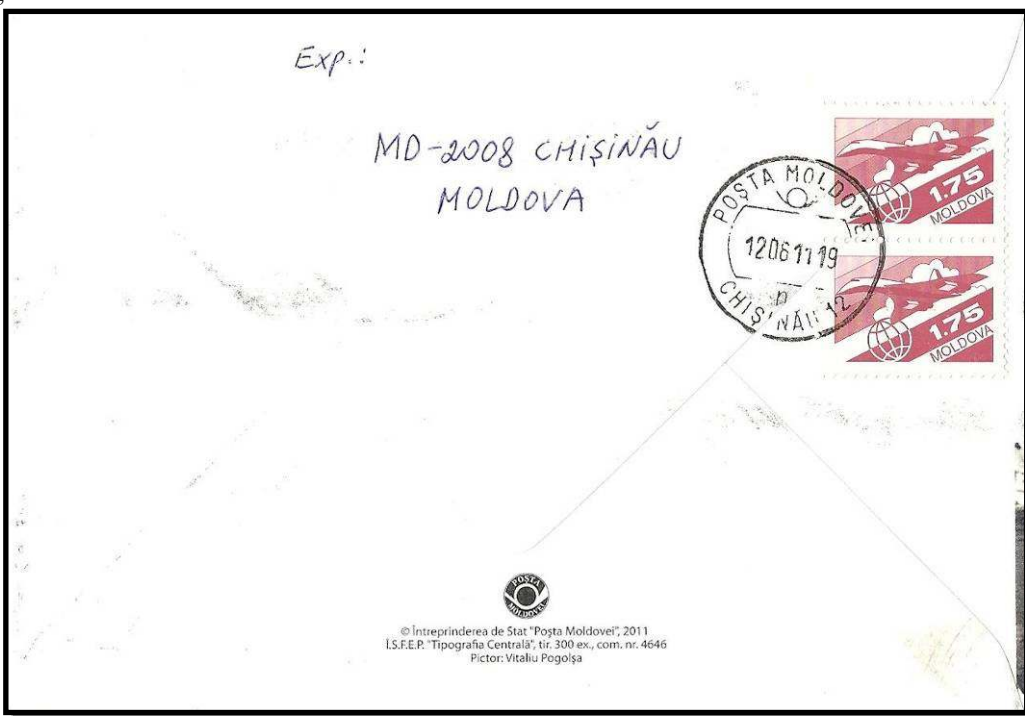


Figure 2



THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

CHIȘINĂU
LYON
SÃO PAULO

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email address above.

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

Poll: Best Moldova Stamps 2019

VOTE FOR
BEST MOLDOVA STAMPS



Î.S. „Poșta Moldovei” &
The International Moldovan Philatelic Society

IMPS is delighted to announce our first ever joint promotional project with Poșta Moldovei - a public poll of the “Best Moldova Stamps of 2019”.

IMPS ran a similar poll at the end of 2018 but it was restricted to members of the IMPS Facebook Discussion Group. With fewer than 200 members, this poll generated an excellent response rate but was too limited by its audience reach.

For 2019, we developed a custom-made poll system of our own and published this on our website. In an effort to maximise audience reach, we suggested to Poșta Moldovei that we jointly promote this poll and get feedback from citizens of Moldova as well as the opinions of all people interested in Moldovan philately, internationally,

The poll is available in English, Romanian and Russian. Go to the link below and select your preferred language from the flag icons at the top of the page.

The poll requires no registration or membership. Everyone is invited to vote and absolutely no personal information is stored. And most important... you are not restricted from selecting just one stamp issue. You can select as many as you like.

The poll ends on December 31 and the results will be announced on January 1, 2020. We strongly encourage all readers of this newsletter to participate.

You can vote in the poll, until December 31, here:

<https://www.moldovastamps.org/info-stamp-poll.asp>

Next Month...

New Stamps Issue:

International Holocaust Remembrance
Day

New Postcard Issue:

Mihai Eminescu - 170th Birth Anniversary

IMPS Membership Incentive:

Alexandru Ioan Cuza Bicentenary Cover

Philatelic Exhibitions Plan 2020

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