



Original 1993 Flora Artwork Discovered

Our esteemed colleague, Andy van Tilburg in the Netherlands, reveals an amazing new addition to his collection: Original artwork for the 1993 issue "Flora—Flowers".

The "Flora-Flowers" issue was released on Christmas Day, 1993. The artist was the famous Hungarian graphic designer and painter, Pál Varga, who designed many of the early stamps for Moldova.

The original artwork is a hand-painted drawing, on white card, 300 x 230 mm. Overlaid on the drawing, is a plastic transparency, with black text and the numeral "50.00".

This is a very rare and fascinating insight into the design process of postage stamps in the pre-digital era.

Clearly, this issue went



The original artwork for Block 4 differs substantially from the version that was finally released.

through many revisions before the final release. Indeed, the revision from a face value of "50.00" to "250.00" is an indication of the time taken to finalise the design.

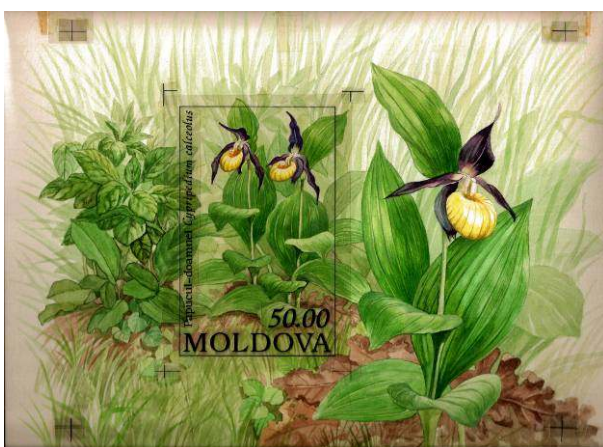
On the back of the artwork the artist has written notes. One of which is "FLORA PROTEJATE ÎN



MOLDOVA". Clearly, he had been asked to add this text, which was later removed and appears now only on some very rare examples of unreleased material.

The final block (№ 4) differs substantially from the original artwork. Much of the background and surrounding vegetation was removed.

This month, we continue our study of this fascinating issue as Part XIII in our series "Treasures of Moldovan Philately" (next page..).



The transparency laid on top of the artwork indicates that the original face value was intended to be 50.00 (0.50 Lei).

Inside this month's issue...

New Stamp Issues in February...



Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part VIII



Moissey Kogan Remembered:



Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part VIII

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

This month we look at the many fascinating varieties that exist for the 1993 issue “Flora—Flowers”.

This series of stamps was originally issued on December 25, 1993. According to the official philatelic catalogue, they were printed in Spain by “Graficas Jorcar” in Barcelona. However, this may be incorrect since the earlier stamps issue, “Endangered Snake Species - World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)”, issued in July, 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 series consisted of 6 stamps and one block (souvenir sheet). The artist was Pál Varga, the well-know Hungarian graphic designer and painter who



№ Block 4 (87) (250.00).

designed many of the early stamps for Moldova.

The six individual stamps were issued in sheets of 32 values (8x4). However, they were originally printed on two, very large sheets, separated by gutters and then, cut into separate sheets of 32 values.

But, some of the large print sheets escaped the cutting process and, in some cases, they escaped the perforating process too. We have not observed any examples of complete print sheets and it seems that none survived.

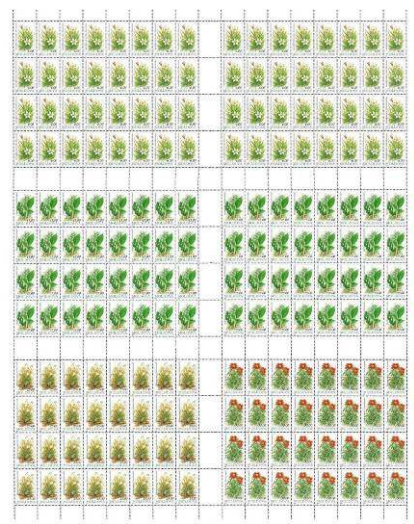
6.00 (x32)	Gutter	6.00 (x32)
Gutter	Gutter	Gutter
15.00 (x32)	Gutter	15.00 (x32)
Gutter	Gutter	Gutter
25.00 (x32)	Gutter	30.00 (x32)

Print sheet 1, containing values 6.00 to 30.00.

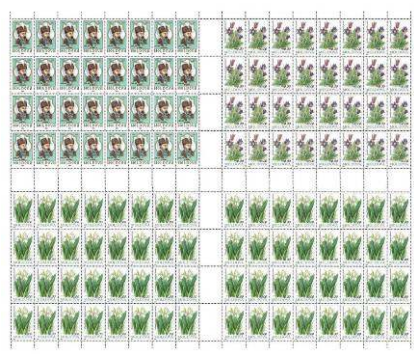
Prince No. 93 (x32)	Gutter	90.00 (x32)
Gutter	Gutter	Gutter
50.00 (x32)	Gutter	50.00 (x32)

Print sheet 2, containing values No. 93 from the subsequent issue “Princes” and values 90.00 and 50.00.

The images displayed below are a mock-up (accurate). Sheets that escaped the cutting/perforating process were cut up into fragments, to produce every possible combination of gutter pair. All stamps in the series are known to exist in both perforated and imperforate form.



Mock-up of Print sheet 1, containing values 6.00, 15.00, 25.00 & 30.00.



Mock-up of Print sheet 2, containing No. 93 (from the subsequent issue “Princes” and values 50.00 & 90.00.

Se-tenant Combinations:

When you examine the large print sheets, it is possible to see the following se-tenant combinations:

Gutter Pairs-Horizontal: 3

Mixed Gutter Pairs-Horizontal: 2

Mixed Gutter Pairs-Vertical: 5

Mixed Gutter Blocks: 3

Since no examples of the possible Mixed Gutter Blocks have been physically observed, these are not included in the study. All stamps and gutter varieties are known to exist in both perforate and imperforate forms. Imperforate examples are printed on the same paper and with gum. Imperforate examples of gutter pairs and mixed gutter pairs represent extreme rarities.

Continued...

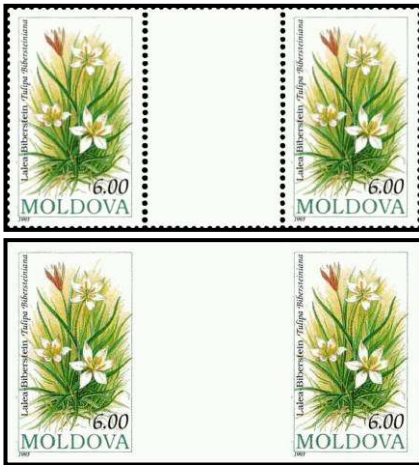


№ 81 (6.00). № 82 (15.00). № 83 (25.00).
№ 84 (30.00). № 85 (50.00). № 86 (90.00).

Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part VIII

Continued...

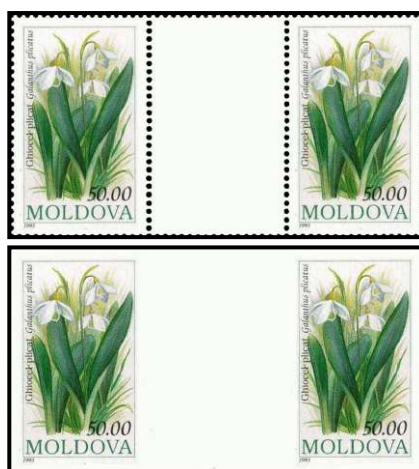
Gutter Pairs (Horizontal):



№ 81GP and № 81BGP. Horizontal gutter pairs.



№ 82GP and № 82BGP. Horizontal gutter pairs.

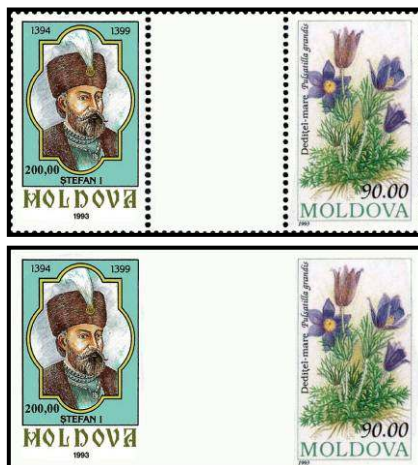


№ 85GP and № 85BGP. Horizontal gutter pairs.

Mixed Gutter Pairs (Horizontal):



№ 83-84MGP and № 83B-84BMGP. Mixed Horizontal gutter pairs.



№ 86-93MGP and № 86B-93BMGP. Mixed Horizontal gutter pairs.

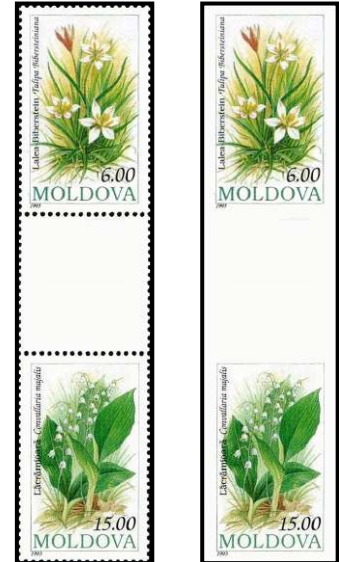
Colour Errors:

Left: № 82x with partial green omitted (by varying degrees). Right: № 82x-82 Zd. Se-tenant pair.

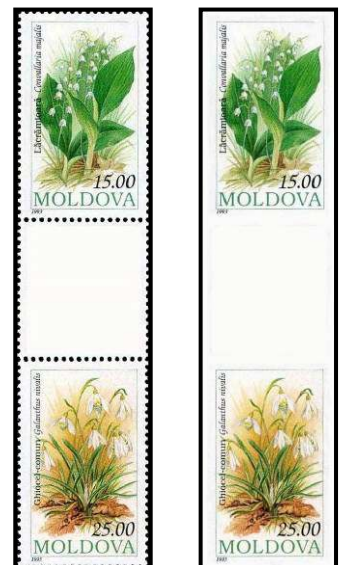
These pieces have never been seen in imperfo-



Mixed Gutter Pairs (Vertical):



№ 81-82MGP and № 81B-82BMGP. Mixed Vertical gutter pairs.



№ 82-83MGP and № 82B-83BMGP. Mixed Vertical gutter pairs.

Continued...

Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part VIII

Continued...

Mixed Gutter Pairs (Vertical): Continued..



№ 82-84 MGP and № 82B-84B MGP. Vertical mixed gutter pairs.



№ 85-86 MGP and № 85B-86B MGP. Vertical mixed gutter pairs.

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.



№ 85-93 MGP and № 85B-93B MGP. Vertical mixed gutter pairs.

Block (Souvenir Sheet) Varieties:

There are 6 known varieties of the block № 4...



№ Block 4 (87). Standard issue. Perforated. Without added text.



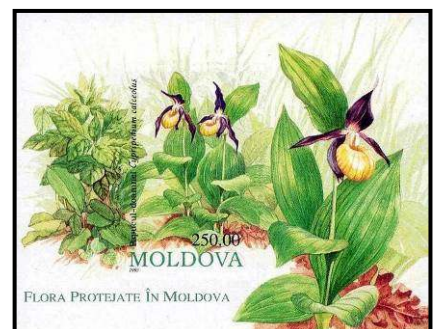
№ Block 4E (87). Perforated. Additional text "Flora Protejate In Moldova"



№ Block 4x (87x). Colour displacement error. Perforated. No additional text.



№ Block 4B (87B). Imperforate. No additional text.



№ Block 4BE (87B). Imperforate. Additional text "Flora Protejate In Moldova"



№ Block 4P (87P). Imperforate. Printed on card. No gum. Additional text "Flora Protejate In Moldova"

New Stamp Issue: “Ethnicities of Moldova (III): Ukrainians”

February 1 2019:

http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=4002

On February 1, 2019, the Post of Moldova put into circulation its third stamp in the annual series “Ethnicities of Moldova”. This year, the chosen ethnic group was the Ukrainians.

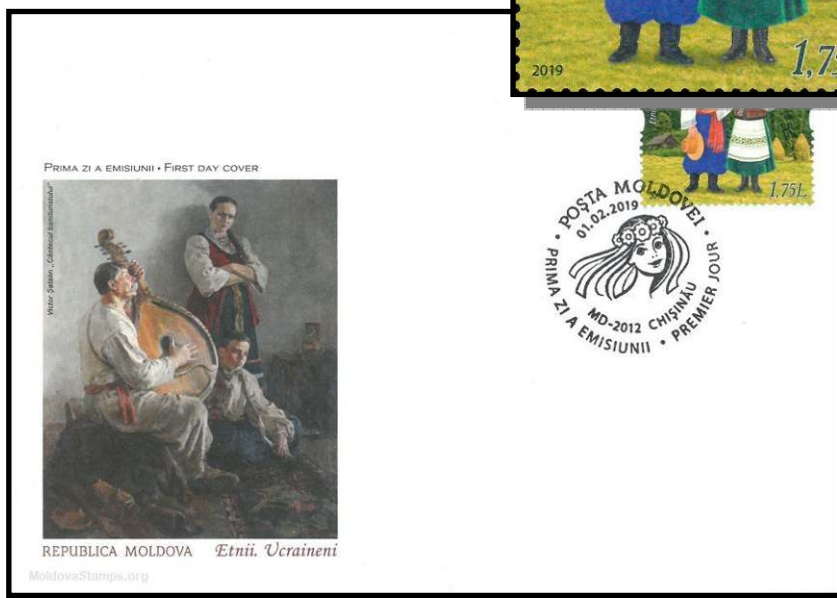
№ 1084 (1.75L) features a couple wearing traditional Ukrainian costumes.



The stamp, FDC and pretty first day cancellation were designed by Oleg Cojocari. The stamp was issued in a quantity of 100,000 and the FDC was

printed in a very low quantity of only 200 pieces. The stamp was printed on minisheets of 8v (2x4). No maximum cards are known to exist.

In 2017, the ethnic group was the Gaguz. In 2018, the Romani people were featured.



New Cancellation Issue: Alexei Stârcea 100th Birth Anniversary

February 16 2019:

https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_cancellations_issue.asp?issueID=4038

Following the postage stamp that was already issued on January 15, as part of the series “Eminent Personalities”, the Post of Moldova also released, on February 16, a special commemorative cancellation for the centenary of the birth of Alexei Stârcea.

Additionally, on this occasion, the Post of Moldova prepared a special postcard, from which, local philatelists

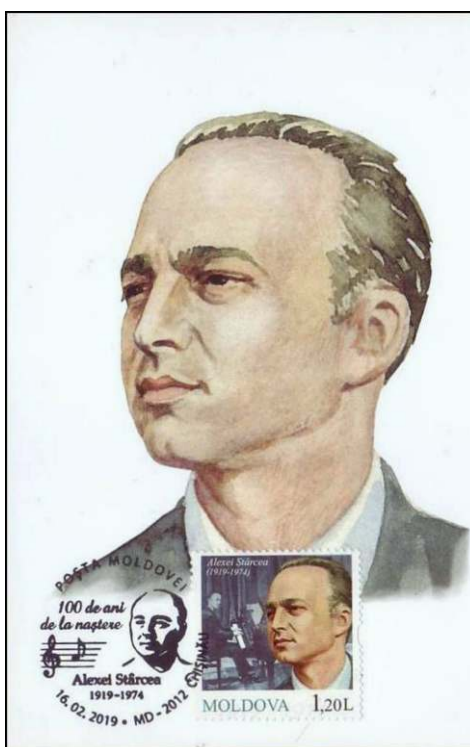
in Chisinau realized a maximum card. Unfortunately, since the postcard was released after the postage stamps, the



№ 1078 was issued on January 15.

maximum card is not compliant with FIP maximaphily rules. Nevertheless, it's still a very nice piece for maximum card collectors.

The envelope was designed by Elena Karacenteva and printed in a quantity of 500 pieces.



New Stamps & Cancellation Issue: "World Radio Day"

February 13 2019:

https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=4003

February 13 was World Radio Day, which has been an observance day held annually on 13 February to celebrate radio as a medium, since it was first proclaimed on 3 November 2011 by UNESCO's 36th General Conference.

On this day, the Post of Moldova took the unusual step of putting into circulation, not only a series of two postage stamps, but also a special commemorative cancellation.

All the philatelic materials were designed by well-known Moldovan photographer and graphic designer, Alexandr Kornienko.



№ 1085 (1.75L) features a German Telefunken radio set from 1934. The stamp was printed in a quantity of 135,000 pieces and on a minisheet of 8v (2x4).



№ 1086 (5.75L) features a Dutch Philips radio set from 1943. The stamp was printed in a quantity of 100,000 pieces and on a minisheet of 8v (2x4).



The official FDC features an antique loudspeaker. It was printed in a very small quantity of only 200 pieces.



In addition to the first day cancellation, the Post of Moldova issued a special commemorative cancellation, with the same theme. Local philatelists also realized another two maximum cards, using this second cancellation.



Additionally, the Post of Moldova prepared two special postcards, from which, local philatelists in Chisinau realized maximum cards. A quantity of 300 of each postcard was printed.



Article: Judaica in Philately of Moldova

A very interesting article appears this month in the website of the Russian Academy of Philately, entitled "Judaica in Philately of Moldova". We are reproducing the article here, freely translated into English.

The team of foreign members of the Academy was supplemented by the representative of the State of Israel, Vladimir Bernshtam, who provided an interesting overview of post-Soviet Judaism, which we present to your attention.

After the collapse of the USSR, the new independent states began to issue their own stamps, stamped cards and envelopes, reflecting their national identity and the policies of their governments. Among the issues of the postal service of the Republic of Moldova there are several that no doubt expanded the collections of philatelists collecting Judaica.

This article describes several items of philately that can be attributed to "Judaica in the narrow sense", i.e. with emphatic Jewish themes. Stamps dedicated to people of Jewish nationality who have manifested themselves in areas not related to Jewry or Israel are not included in our consideration. The article material is presented in chronological order.



Fig. 1

At the beginning of the twentieth century, a wave of Jewish pogroms swept across Russia, the most famous of which was the Kishinev pogrom of 1903. On the afternoon of April 6, 1903, on the first day of Orthodox Easter, and on the penultimate day of the Jewish holiday of Pesach, the bells in Chisinau rang and the pogrom immediately began. In the pogrom, which, with the connivance of the authorities, lasted 2 days, about 50 people died and about 500 were injured. The memory of the victims of the terrible events of 1903 is still alive. By the century, the Post of the Republic of Moldova issued with a circulation of 5000 copies a single-sided postcard with original stamp (Fig. 2). On the day of issue (April 7, 2003), the card was extinguished in Chisinau with a special postmark. The stamp depicts the Menorah, and on a postcard and a postmark - the Monument to the victims of the pogrom of 1903 in Chisinau, the work of the architect Semen Shoikhet. Postcard Designer - Efim Goldschmidt.



Fig. 2

The postmark issued by the Post of Israel is also dedicated to the memory of the victims of the pogrom. This stamp (Fig. 3) was used in Jerusalem on April 6, 2003.



Fig. 3

The lessons of the Kishinev pogrom were learned by many Jews of the Russian Empire. Detachments of Jewish self-defense appeared in some cities with a significant Jewish population, and emigration and Zionist sentiments increased. When

at the end of the summer of 1903 in Gomel, pogroms of pogroms occurred for the first time, organized armed resistance was rendered, which made it possible to minimize the number of victims among the Jewish population. For the first time, the pogromists suffered such serious losses that, as a result, in Gomel until 1917 no pogrom riots were noted.

The envelope with the original stamp depicted in Figure 4 is dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the Joint organization. Joint (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) American Joint

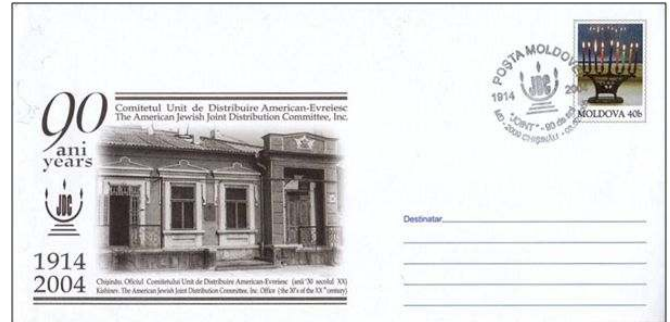


Fig. 4

Jewish Committee for the Distribution of Funds (until 1931 - Committee for the Distribution of Funds for Assistance to Jews Affected by the War) is a Jewish charitable organization. The Joint was founded on November 27, 1914 on the initiative of F. M. Warburg, J. G. Schiff and L. Marshall on the basis of three organizations: the American Jewish Aid Committee (founded by influential Jewish leaders, mainly of German origin), the Central Aid Committee (created leaders of American orthodoxy) and the People's Assistance Committee (founded by Jewish workers' organizations). The Joint stood at the cradle of the Union of Jewish Cooperatives (SEC) of Bessarabia, one of the largest and most influential Jewish organizations in the province. The envelope depicts the offices of the American-Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Chisinau (1930). The designer of the envelope, as well as the postcard described above, is Yefim Goldschmidt. A special stamp was prepared for the anniversary.



Fig. 5

By the centenary of the writer Itzik Shribman, who wrote in Yiddish, an envelope with original stamp was released (Fig. 5). Shribman was born on March 12, 1913, in the town of Rashkov, Bessarabian province. Ichil studied at the heder and at the state school in Rash-

kov. From 1930, he was a student at the Chernivtsi teacher's seminary where Hebrew teachers were trained, participated in the underground "Shkarul roshu" ("Red student") pro-communist movement. In 1938, the first collection of short stories by Shreibman "Meine Eftn" ("My Notebooks") was published in Bucharest. After Bessarabia joined the Soviet Union, Shreibman joined the Union of Soviet Writers. He was a member of the editorial board of the journals Sovetish Heimland (Sovetskaya Rodina, Moscow, 1961-1991), Di Idishe Gus (Jewish Street, Moscow, 1991-1993), Afm Schwel New York, 1992-2005). Shreibman died on December 9, 2005 in Chisinau. Like the previously described postal stationery, the design of this envelope was developed by Efim Goldschmidt.

Article: Judaica in Philately of Moldova

Continued...



Fig. 6

In 2017, the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Moldova and the State of Israel was celebrated. This event was dedicated to the special cancellation (Fig. 6), dated June 22, 2017.

As early as the beginning of 2017, the Moldova Post issued an unmarked envelope (Fig. 7), dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Moldova and a number of states. These envelopes were subsequently used during special speeches for the anniversaries of establishing diplomatic relations. The photo above shows an envelope with a special letter marked with



Fig. 7

a personalized postage stamp, which is issued in abundance by the Post of the Republic of Moldova.

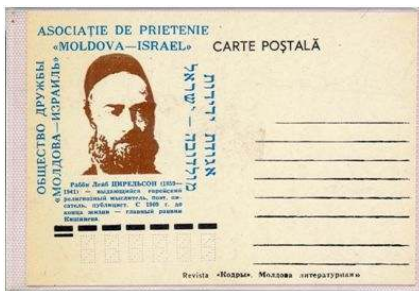


Fig. 8

During the preparation of this note, the author found a private postcard (Fig. 8), published in Chisinau and related to Judaica.

The postcard with the menorah, published by Ilya Marias on the Jewish news portal Moldova in 2003, shed

light on the origin of this postcard.

In his article, Maryash wrote: "in the early 90s collector and philatelist writer Y.F. Grekov issued a post card dedicated to Rabbi Tsirelson. On it his portrait is framed with inscriptions in Hebrew, Russian and Moldavian. ... Leib Tsirelson (Cyrilson) - an outstanding Jewish religious thinker, writer, publicist, chief rabbi of Chisinau from 1909 to the last days of his life (1859-1941). Rabbi Tsirelson was one of the senators of pre-war Romania. He died under the bombs in the early days (of the war). ... In the encyclopedia of Y.Grekov "Motherland" (publishing house "Prut International", 2001) the same postcard is reproduced in miniature. The publication of this postcard, as Yuri Fedorovich told me, was a kind of gift to a colleague - poet and translator Alik Brodsky, who had just been actively involved in the Jewish public life of Chisinau. ... As for Grekov, who in those troubled days already composed his philatelic encyclopedia of famous and not so famous Jews, he, as usual, "grossly abused his official position". Being the chief editor of the magazine "Codri. Moldova Literary", he then sent to the printing house along the way and stamped a postcard there."

In conclusion, the author is grateful to Niall Murphy for his help in selecting the material and useful information.

Information sources:

1. Ilya MARYASH, Postcards with Menorah, Jewish News Portal of Moldova DORLE-DOR.INFO, www.dorledor.md
2. Catalog of the Postage Stamps of the Republic of Moldova by Niall Murphy, www.moldovastamps.org
3. Kopansky Ya. M., Joint in Bessarabia. Pages of history. Chisinau, Liga, 1994. 124 p.
4. Blog Timbré de ma philatélie by Eric Contesse, <http://timbredujura.blogspot.com>

Author: Vladimir Bernshtam (Israel) - www.berncollect.com

Original article published in the Russian language at www.rusacademfilately.ru/philately_announcement/

10 Years Ago...

February 24, 2009 saw the release of the issue "Ancient Weapons from the Moldovan Territories".



Full technical details at https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=214

20 Years Ago...

1999 got off to a very slow start for the philatelic department of Posta Moldovei. The first stamp issue was not until April 9. But in February, we had the set of two aerogrammes. The first and last time such items were released in Moldova.



Full technical details at https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_envelopes_issue.asp?issueID=579



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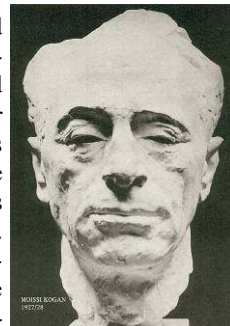
Moissey Kogan Remembered

In coincidence with this month's special article, "Judaica in Philately of Moldova", we decided to take this opportunity to remember the great Moldovan-born artist, Moissey Kogan, whose 140th birth anniversary will be on March 12 this year.

Moissey Kogan, born Orhei, Bessarabia on 12 March 1879, was a Jewish medalist, sculptor and graphic artist who spent much of his time in Paris and travelled throughout Europe. He specialised in creating sculptures and graphic art based on the female form. The Moissey Kogan Archive of the European Cultural Foundation, in Bonn, collects and captures the entire work of the artist.

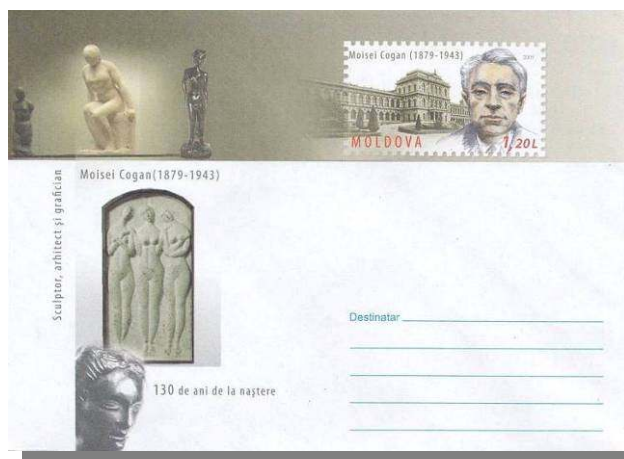
Kogan began his career working with gems, producing medals, plaques, vases,

embroidery and drawings. He subsequently turned to sculpture after his time in Paris and acquaintance with the sculptors Maillol and Rodin. He became interested in the female form and the concept of grace. The majority of his work consists of small sculptures and reliefs in the neoclassical style. At first he worked with terracotta, later moving to gypsum. In the 1920s, Kogan produced numerous wood and lino-cuts as well as etchings. In his drawings, he worked with chalk, coal, and pencils.



Kogan's works are in many museums, including the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Lehmbruck Museum in Duisburg, the Kunsthalle Bremen and in the art collection of the Essen Folkwang Museum.

On February 22, 1943, Kogan was deported from Paris and died some time later in the concentration camp Auschwitz.



2009 prepaid envelope issued by Posta Moldovei

Information sources: Wikipedia

Next Month...

New Stamp Issue:

International Music Festival "Mărțișor"

New Stamp Issue:

Flowering Shrubs

New Envelope Issue:

NATO: Partnership of Peace, 25 Years

New Envelope Issue:

Gheorghe Vrabie, 80th Birth Anniversary

And lots more...

Newsletters Archive...



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

www.moldovastamps.org/info-newsletters.asp