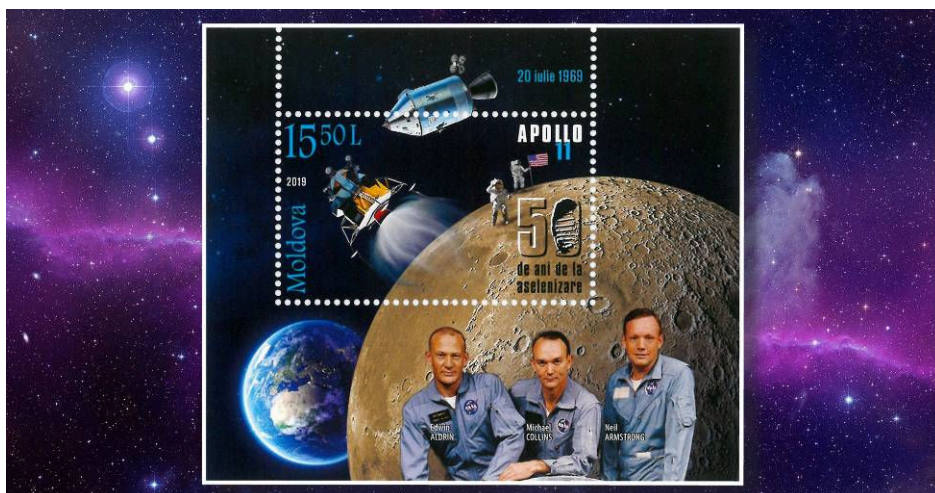


# Apollo 11: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

## IMPS Newsletter



ABOVE: Souvenir sheet № Block 83 (1112)

*On July 20, like many national postal operators, Posta Moldovei issued a very special set of material to commemorate the 50th anniversary the historic Apollo 11 mission. This much anticipated issue did not disappoint us.*

The single postage stamp (face value 15.50L) was printed on a beautiful souvenir sheet and was designed by the well-known Moldovan artist, Vitaliu Pogolșa, in a quantity of 50,000 pieces. The sheet features a group portrait of the three Apollo 11 astronauts on a background of the Moon, Earth and components of the

Apollo 11 spacecraft.

The official FDC was printed in a small quantity of just 300 pieces and was sold by Posta Moldova at a price of 40.00 MDL. The cachet features an image of the Saturn V rocket on it's launch pad

in Florida, on a lunar background with commemorative text.

The first day cancellation postmark features the number 50, where the zero has been replaced by the iconic image of the "footprint on the moon".



Full technical details for this issue are available at:

[https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue\\_stamps\\_issue.asp?issueID=4012](https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=4012)

### Inside this month's issue...

**New stamp issue:**  
*Months of the Year by Their Traditional Folk Names (III)*



**Romfilatelia - A warning!** How to kill national philately, fast!



**Mystery philatelic exhibitions in the Balkans...**





## New Stamps: Months of the Year by Their Traditional Folk Names (III)



[https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue\\_stamps\\_issue.asp?issueID=4011](https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=4011)

*Issued on July 10, this is the third part in the series “Months of the year by their traditional folk names”. Series I (January, February and March) was issued on January 15, 2017. Series II (April, May and June) was issued on April 13, 2018. This new issue continues the series with the months of July, August and September.*

As per the previous two series, this issue was designed by Lilian Iațco and presented in the form of a se-tenant block of three stamps and a label. A quantity of 50,000 blocks were printed (№ Block 82 (1109-1111)).

“July”, № 1109 (5.75L), according to Romanian tradition, is known as “Cuptor” and the stamp features a scene of wheat harvesting.

“August”, № 1110 (5.75L), according to Romanian tradition, is known as “Gustar” and the stamp features a harvest of fruit and vegetables.

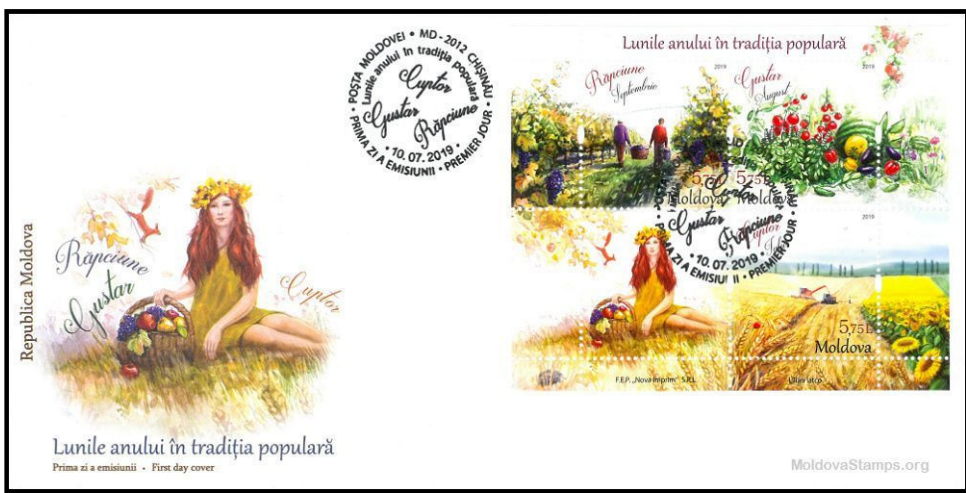
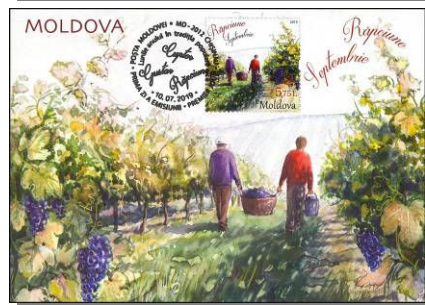
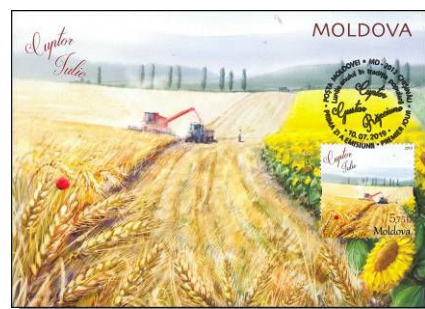
“September”, № 1111 (5.75L), according to Romanian tradition, is known as “Răpciune” and the stamp features a scene of grape harvesting.

A single, large-format (220mm x 100mm) FDC was issued (№ Block 82 (1109-1111 FDC) but was

printed in only a small quantity of 300 pieces. The cachet features the same “girl in a meadow” design as the label from the stamp block. The selling price from Posta Moldovei, on the day of issue, was 38.00 MDL.

In conjunction with this issue, Posta Moldovei also released three unstamped postcards, one for each stamp in the series. The postcards were also designed by Lilian Iațco and each was printed in a limited quantity of 600 pieces.

Local philatelists in Chisinau realized sets of private maximum cards using this material.



ABOVE: № Block 82 (1109-1111) FDC was printed in a quantity of only 300 pieces.



# New Postmark/Cancellation: Second Wave of Mass, Forced Deportations from Bessarabia: 70th Anniversary

*The Soviet deportations from Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina took place between late 1940 and 1951 and were part of Joseph Stalin's policy of political repression of the potential opposition to the Soviet power. According to a secret Soviet ministry of interior report dated December 1965, 46,000 people were deported from Moldavia for the period 1940-1953.*

## First Wave of Soviet Deportations: 1941

On June 12-13, 1941, 29,839 members of families of "counter-revolutionaries and nationalists" from the Moldavian SSR, and from the Chernivtsi (of Northern Bukovina) and Izmail oblasts of the Ukrainian SSR were deported to Kazakhstan, the Komi ASSR, the Krasnoyarsk Krai, and the Omsk and Novosibirsk oblasts.

On June 12, 2011, Posta Moldovei issued a postage stamp (№ 755, above) to commemorate the 70th anniversary of this event.

## Second Wave of Soviet Deportations: 1949

On April 6, 1949, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee issued a decision which called for 11,280 families from Moldavian SSR to be deported as kulaks or collaborators with the "German fascists occupier" during World War II. Ultimately, 11,239 families, comprising 35,050 persons were detained and deported on July 6, 1949, with the rest either escaping or being exempt due to their contribution to the Soviet war effort or their support for collectivisation.

On July 5, 2014, to mark the 65th anniversary of this event, Posta Moldovei issued a postage stamp (№ 855, top-center) to mark the 65th anniversary of this event.



Then, on July 5, to mark the 70th anniversary of the event, Posta Moldovei issued a special postmark (№ CS2019/12, below), together with a special unstamped envelope, from which, local philatelists in Chisinau realized a special commemorative cover (bottom).



ABOVE: The special postmark № CS2019/12 was valid from June 5 to June 6

## Third Wave of Soviet Deportations: 1951

On March 24, the Council of Ministers of the Moldavian SSR issued the decree on the confiscation and selling of the property of deportees. Operation North started at 4:00 am on April 1, 1951, and the round-ups continued until April 2. The deportees were classified as "special settlers". In total, from the Moldavian SSR, there were 723 families (2,617 persons) deported on the night of March 31 to April 1, 1951, all members of neoprottestant sects, mostly Jehovah's Witnesses, and qualified as religious elements considered a potential danger for the Communist regime.

On March 31, 2016, Posta Moldovei issued a postage stamp (№ 947, above) to commemorate the 65th anniversary of this event.



Information source: Wikipedia



ABOVE: Local philatelists in Chisinau realized this special cover using the postmark № CS2019/12 and the 2014 postage stamp № 855

# Romfilatelia - A Warning! How to Kill National Philately, Fast!

*Usually IMPS only concerns itself with philatelic matters from the Republic of Moldova but this month, there has been controversy on the social media about the activities of the Romanian state philatelic enterprise, Romfilatelia, and we thought it would be a good idea to talk about it here - not least, as a warning to philatelists and especially to the Moldovan postal authorities about what would happen if a similar body was ever empowered in RM.*

The background is that in 2004, postage stamp production and marketing in Romania was given over to a state owned enterprise called Romfilatelia. Since that time, Romfilatelia has been issuing material of every kind of exotic variety, including deliberately manufactured rarities, and some with hugely inflated face values, making the philatelic material totally unaffordable for local philatelists.

The motives are obviously to maximize profit and the vast majority of the material is produced for the export market, consisting of expatriates and wealthy foreign collectors. Local collectors are not considered in the marketing plans of Romfilatelia and the inevitable consequence is that national philately in Romania has been utterly decimated. This would certainly explain Romania's absence from the World philatelic exhibition in China last June. Is there anybody left to exhibit?

Since most of the Romfilatelia material is exported and will never be redeemed for postal services, the postal administration has no costs, except for minimal production costs, but much of the material is sold for huge prices, thus earning Romfilatelia close to 100% margins. In essence, Romfilatelia is now simply printing money for themselves and not

stamps for postal use.

This is especially tragic since Romania has a long and glorious tradition of philately. The actions of this stage agency essentially abandon this tradition and abdicate their social and cultural obligations to the nation.



**ABOVE: 2018 issue. Identical stamps with a mirror image. Why sell one stamp when you can sell two?**

An extreme example of the profiteering in which Romfilatelia is so obviously engaged is the 2019 EUROPA issue which basically consists of just two stamps. However, there are so many exotic formats and varieties, a collector, keen to own all of them, will not see any change from 125 euro (plus shipping).

Compare this to the 2019 EUROPA issue from Moldova, where you could buy all of the related material for 18.70 euro.

The respected Romanian philatelist, editor of the definitive Romanian philatelic magazine <http://philatelica.ro> and IMPS member, László Kállai, wrote an excellent article about Romfilatelia for the daily newspaper, Ziua, in 2006. The article is as relevant today as it was then. The original article was written in the Romanian language and we republish it here, translated into English.



## The Stamp Rack

*The outsourcing of activities within national companies is in fashion. Although the reason given by the management of the respective units is the profitability or the efficiency of the activity, in reality it is the creation of small firms. By setting up these companies, the company's leadership and, as a rule, a stakeholder group in the world of politics puts a hand on a*

*source of money that can be exploited until the parent company goes bankrupt. Dummy companies produce money by collecting money from the parent company without performing the work. The whole activity of the company is practically carried out on paper, with a small number of employees, usually within the parent company, the latter ensuring also the expenses with the director, the space for the registered office, etc.*

A tiny company that produces between two to three billion lei a month was created by the pseudo-outsourcing of postage stamps publishing activity within the National Company "Posta Romana". Thus, in 2004, SC "Romfilatelia" SA was founded, on the basis of governmental regulations, as a subsidiary of Posta Romana.

The new company was created from the parent company's money, it is based in a Posta Romana building and the start-up capital of the business was provided by Posta Romana. The Romfilatelia activity is restricted to the handling of activity papers that are rewarded monthly by the parent company with billions of lei.

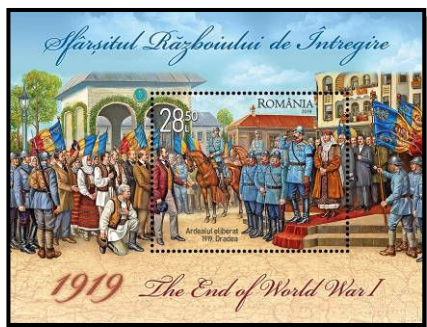
The money circuit is extremely simple. Posta Romana needs a number of postage stamps for postal items. For publishing the respective postal effects, Romfilatelia has been created with the purpose of editing postal stamps. Posta Romana orders monthly the stamps and the necessary effects at Romfilatelia, the latter sends the order (a simple paper) to the stamp factory, which is still within the Romanian Post, the printing office executes the order, and the people from Posta Romana pick up the stamps from its own premises.

This paper trip costs Posta Romana monthly between three and four billion lei. Thus, Posta Romana loses, without any explanation, a consistent amount for each order, although the stamps required at post offices and counters are made in its own shop.

## UPU rules trampled...

The adventure with Romfilatelia started with the issuance of the Government Decision 42/2004, which regulated the establishment of the company.

*Continued...*



**ABOVE: Recent issue "End of World War I" has a face value of 28.50 Lei or approx. 6 euro. This corresponds to the tariff for kilogram packages and not to letter postage.**



*Continued...*

## Romfilatelia - A Warning! How to Kill National Philately, Fast!

The only shareholder in Romfilatelia is Posta Romana, the headquarters of the new company is right in the Posta Romana premises, and furthermore, for the start of the business, Posta Romana has paid several billions of lei into their account. With the establishment of Romfilatelia, a new way to get money without doing any work was created. The company that has the purpose of editing the postage stamps, postal items and other necessary postal items, flagrantly violating the international conventions to which Romania adheres.

According to the text of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) agreements to which our country is a founding member: "only the postal administrations issue postal stamps certifying the payment of the postage", and Romfilatelia does not have the prerogatives of a national postal administration but is a simple commercial company. Despite the UPU regulations, the Romanian state monopoly has been transferred from the post administration to a commercial company by issuing GG 42 published in the Official Gazette on January 30, 2004. This act stipulates that "the purpose of the company is to issue postage stamps, to put them into and to withdraw them from circulation, to distribute postage and fiscal stamps, postal effects, philatelic goods and philatelic accessories."

Thus, Romania becomes the first country in the history of the UPU for 150 years that flagrantly violates the Union legislation and transfers the monopoly of the state to a private company.

### ***Theft using "Cost Calculation"...***

After the creation of Romfilatelia, the postal administration began to negotiate the costs that will be paid for the pseudo-activity of the new company. In this sense, a "cost calculation related to publishing, layout, printing and distribution of stamps and postal effects" was drafted. It is curious that without any negotiation, the first price option was accepted by the Posta Romana management and registered in a contract signed in the middle of April (registration number at CNPR 101/1629 of 19 April 2004). The costs calculated for editing the required postage stamps were, at the very least, unrealistic.

This document provides for the issuance of 120 different postal stamps during the

year, and "in order to obtain various documentary materials and pictures", Posta Romana's management had provided for the spending of 1.2 billion lei.

But for translating these images onto compact discs and printing them to convey to the designers, the amount spent is almost one quarter of a billion lei. For the analysis of the models made after a contest, they are analyzed by the Philatelic Commission, for which there are 15 members. The cost they gave was 18,000 euros. Designers are also well paid, according to the document that states the collaboration of the post with the head office, they receive 60,000 euros for the realization of the 120 postage stamps. In reality, a designer rarely gets a hundred euros.

Romfilatelia also receives 1.3 billion lei from Posta Romana for tracking the printing process or determining the material as "good to print" by the Technical Quality Control service. The truth is that these workers do not belong to Romfilatelia but are employees of the post office through the stamp factory.

In the "advertising" chapter, thousands of flyers and posters for the promotion of products are mentioned, but they are rarely seen by philatelists at the Romfilatelia commercial units.

At the end of the document, Posta Romana's management has determined that "from the activity carried out," Romfilatelia "must achieve a minimum profit of 7%". That would be 34.44 billion lei a year. In fact, this amount is higher considering the inflated costs in the "Cost Calculation".

In order to obtain the money in the contract between Posta Romana and Romfilatelia, it was established that there would be a commission of 2.23% of the nominal value of the postal items needed for mailings. Apparently this percentage is small, but if we consider the huge amount of correspondence of all types, the nominal value of the postage stamps, postcards, of the postal sales sold, the amount received by Romfilatelia is huge, far exceeding the actual expenses plus the percentage of advantage.

Another trick was to increase the issuance of postage stamps with an excessively high nominal value. Last year, the nominal value of the philatelic issues

exceeded 600 euros. In the rest of the UPU member countries it rarely reaches 150-200 euros per year. Through this increase in prices, Romfilatelia gets a bigger profit but puts this on the philatelic trade. Fewer and fewer Romanian and foreign philatelists buy the Romanian philatelic programs chronologically because of the exaggerated prices.

### ***Audit by General Dumitrescu...***

The Romfilatelia business was started when the Minister of Communications, Technology and Information was Dan Nica, a member of the PSD Government headed by Adrian Nastase, and the general manager of Posta Romana was Gabriel Mateescu, who, in the meantime, became the Director of the Council of Administration of the Universal Postal Union.



**Dan Nica**  
**PSD Secretary of Communications**

At the end of his ministerial mandate, Dan Nica ordered an audit at Romfilatelia. The results of the audit were recorded only a few days before (December 22, 2004) Nica left the chair of the minister, following the election results by the Audit and Control Department of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology through the committee composed of the Reserve Brigadier General, Ionel Dumitrescu, Gheorghe Mitroi and Nicolae Tibichi. From this document, it appears that nothing worked as it should have, and guilty for all the missing facts and tricks made, is the General Manager of Romfilatelia, Cristina Popescu and Finance Director, Felicia Pana.

According to the findings of Dan Nica's audit group, in the case of contracts for the modernization of the Romfilatelia headquarters, a tender had to be organized for the execution of the respective works, according to the legal provisions, given that the estimated value of these works exceeded 20 billion lei", and this was not done, but it was split to avoid applying tendering procedures.

***Continued...***

Continued...

## Romfilatelia - A Warning! How to Kill National Philately, Fast!

"The acquisition was divided into seven work contracts whose total value amounted to 21.7 billion lei." By dividing the investment, instead of organizing the tendering, bid selections were organized, each of the seven selections being held the same three companies, and the winner was declared the same company for all seven bid selections", the General Dumitrescu report states. In addition, the winning company did not present all the documents provided by the law, and in some cases the execution deadlines were exceeded without any additional acts necessary in such cases.

The audit group of former minister, Dan Nica, had found a number of irregularities, ranging from price changes to the purchase of software to pay in addition to the services of a law firm. Although there have been a number of deviations from the letter of the law, no action has been taken against those who have broken the law.

### Unions protest in vain...

The Romfilatelia affair has even attracted the attention of the trade union. The leaders of the Posta Romana union have drawn up a memorandum that was submitted to the Tariceanu Government on March 7, 2005. In their petition, the unions talk about "the thieves and abuses of the PSD mafia, in which the mafia's head had and still has former Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Dan Nica." From the data presented by the trade unionists, Posta Romana transferred to Romfilatelia a three thousand square meters building and the corresponding land in Fabrica de Chibrituri street no. 28, "rated at the price of a four-room apartment". Romfilatelia also took over 24.5 billion lei transferred from Posta Romana and the stamp stock worth over 800 billion lei.

The unions are harshly attacking Dan Nica and the directors of Romfilatelia. The signatories of the Memorandum

claim that the head of Romfilatelia, Cristina Popescu, is a close friend of the former minister. Popescu worked before the Revolution at the famous Securitate company "Dunarea" and was arrested during the events of December '89. At the beginning of the 1990s, she was employed by one of the conservative leader Dan Voiculescu's companies, later transferred to the diplomatic mission of Romania in Geneva and the ministry headed by Nica as diplomatic counselor, according to the document submitted by the trade unionists in the post, Prime Minister Tariceanu.

László Kállai

### IMPS Editor's notice:

This article first appeared on the website of the newspaper, ZIUA, dated April 12, 2006.

All monetary values predate the Romanian Leu revaluation of July 1, 2005.

<http://www.ziua.ro/display.php?data=2006-04-12&id=197665>

## Mystery Philatelic Exhibitions in the Balkans

There are currently three exhibitions scheduled in the Balkan region about which little or no information is available.

**EFIRO 2019: Romania...**  
The annual national exhibition for 2019, "EFIRO" in Bucharest is scheduled for September 2019 and the deadline for applications was May 31. However, the website (<http://efiro.ro>) is still under construction, even today. It almost seems that this exhibition has been abandoned entirely. If not, then this website is a very poor effort indeed.

According to Article 2.2 of the exhibition rules (IREX): "EFIRO 2019 is a national exhibition with international participation and its main purpose is to preselect the exhibits for the BALKANFILA 2020 exhibition.". But it is not clear exactly what the word "preselect" means and in any case, what exactly is "BALKANFILA 2020"? There is no information available about it.

**BALKANFILA 2020: Romania...**  
If you visit the website of the "BALKANFILA 2020" exhibition at <http://www.balkanfila.ro/> you will see that none of the links work. Apparently, the exhibition will take place in September 2020 in Bucharest and has FEPA recogni-

tion. Otherwise, this exhibition and the requirements to participate in it, are a total mystery.

Visiting the website of the BALKANFILA organization at <http://www.balkanfila.org/> you will see that the information has not been updated since 2014. It is not clear exactly what the BALKANFILA organization has been doing for the past five years or indeed, if it still exists.

**PLOVDIV 2019: Bulgaria...**  
This was announced on the FEPA website and takes place in October 2019. It has been granted FEPA recognition but participation is by invitation only, by the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists. There is no mention of this event on the Union's website at <http://www.philatellyunion.bg>. So it seems that even to visit this exhibition will require an invitation.

It is difficult to see what benefit such closed, invitation-only events can possibly bring to philately. This one seems more like "dinner and a show" for the friends of the Union President, Spas Panchev, and not like a philatelic exhibition at all. What exactly is FEPA recognizing here? There is little point in making public announcements about private events.

## No Websites at IBRA 2021



We were very disappointed to read on the exhibition regulation (IREX) of "IBRA 2021" that no digital literature (including websites) has been included in participation. Like in Thailand and China, it's unfortunate that yet another World stamp exhibition excludes the World Wide Web! The FIP dinosaur ambles on!



# From the Blog Site of Eric Contesse: Tribute to Creangă and Eminescu in Moldova

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>



This article was originally published on July 12, 2014

*As part of its 2014 series dedicated to famous personalities, the Post of Moldova has also put into circulation, on June 14, 2014, an interesting souvenir sheet about the 125th anniversary of the death of two sacred monsters of Romanian literature, Ion Creangă (1837-1889) and Mihai Eminescu (1850-1889).*

Designed by Vitaliu Pogolșa, this souvenir sheet (one L 5.75 stamp) appears on the official FDC below with a cancellation from Chișinău. Thank you very much Nicolae :-)

Ion Creangă is today one of the classics of Romanian literature, particularly through his autobiographical book "Amintiri din copilărie" ("Childhood Memories") published in 1892.

The romantic poet Mihai Eminescu (1850-1889) is considered today as the greatest and most representative Romanian poet, national poet in Romania but also in

Moldova and for the Romanian minority in Ukraine.

The stamp of this sheet reproduces a work by the Moldovan painter Mihai Grecu (1916-1998), dating from 1976, referring to a meeting between Creangă and Eminescu, kept in the National Museum of Romanian Literature "Mihail Kogălniceanu" in Chișinău.

Works by Grecu have already been reproduced on Moldovan stamps in the past (in 2002) and a postal stationery was issued in 2006 in his honor.

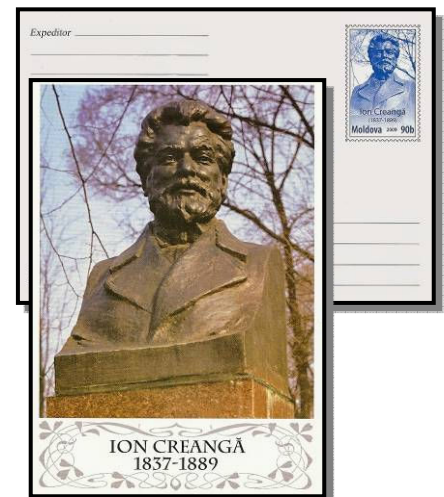
Portraits of Creangă and Eminescu are included in the top corners of this sheet, which also includes books and Ion Creangă Memorial Museum located in his birthplace in Humulești.

The envelope's illustration on the left shows the busts of the two writers located in the famous "Alley of Classics" (28 busts devoted to Moldovan political leaders or literary figures), a sculptural complex located in the Stephen the Great Park in central Chișinău.

Nicolae was kind enough to also send me the two postal stationeries (right), respectively devoted to Mihai Eminescu (150th anniversary of his birth), issued on January 15, 2000, and to Ion Creangă (120 years of his death), issued on March 17, 2009.



The pre-printed stamps feature the busts of the two authors located in this "Alley of Classics". The postal stationery devoted to Ion Creangă is a double sided card, with another view of his bust on the other side below.



## 10 Years Ago...

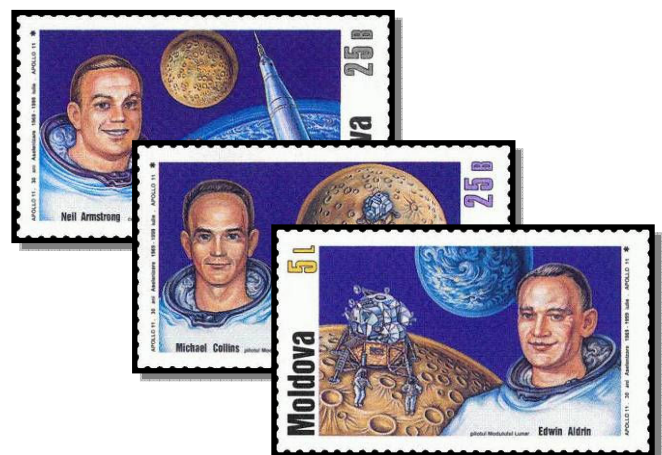
**July 24, 2009 saw the release of the beautiful stamps "From The Red Book of the Republic of Moldova: Insects".**



Full technical details at [https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue\\_stamps\\_issue.asp?issueID=221](https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=221)

## 20 Years Ago...

**Not surprisingly, the 30th anniversary of Apollo 11 was celebrated 20 years ago with the release of three stamps on July 20, 1999.**



Full technical details at [https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue\\_stamps\\_issue.asp?issueID=94](https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=94)



**THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN  
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

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All articles and news should be sent to the Editor at the  
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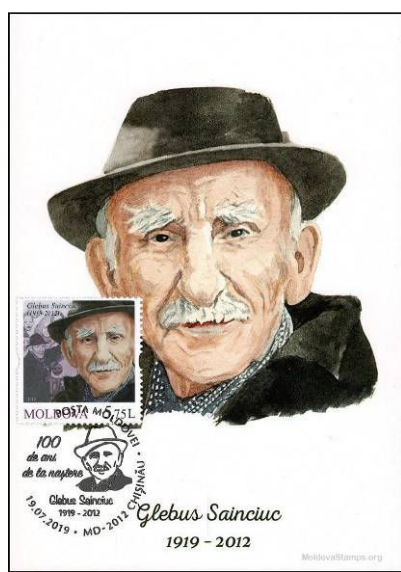
***IMPS is founded on Friendship,  
Equality and Passion.***

## New Special Cancellation: **Glebus Sainciuc**

### **Glebus Sainciuc**

To mark the 100th anniversary of this birth of the well-known Moldovan artist, on July 19 Posta Moldovei issued a special postmark (№ CS2019/13).

Earlier in the year (on January 15), Posta Moldovei had already issued a postage stamp featuring Sainciuc (№ 1083) as part of the annual series "Eminent Personalities". They had also produced a series of postcards, one for each of the personalities in the series and released them on the same date.



ABOVE: Maximum card realized by local philatelists using the postmark № CS2019/13

Local philatelists in Chisinau kept the postcards, in the knowledge that Posta Moldovei would issue special postmarks commemorating each of their birth anniversaries, later in the year, and then use the material to realize maximum cards, compliant with FIP standards.



ABOVE: № 1083 was issued on January 15, 2019 as part of the "Personalities" series

## Next Month...

### ***New Stamp Issue:***

Field Crops

### ***New Envelope Issue:***

Constitution of the Republic - 25th Anniversary

### ***New Cancellation Issues***

### ***Special Exhibition Reports:***

"STAMPSHOW" - USA

"BRAPEX 2019" - Brazil

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