



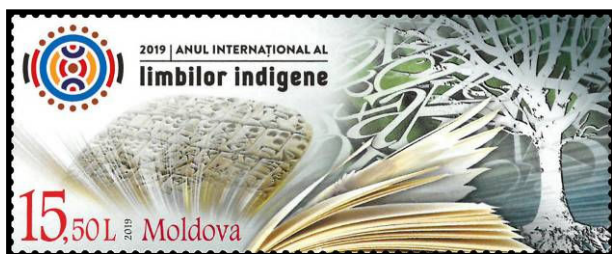
2019: The International Year of...

May 23 2019 saw the release of two remarkably impressive stamps, one planned and the other not.

According to two UNESCO / UNO declarations, 2019 is the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT) and the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL). Whilst the IYPT stamp was included in the Philatelic Plan for 2019, the IYIL stamp was not, and so this splendid new stamp came as a welcome surprise.

The stamps were designed by Vitaliu Pogolșa and each was printed in a quantity of 50,000 pieces. The minisheets contain 8 values (2 x 4).

The stamps use the new, large-size format of 69.00 mm x 27.50 mm first seen on the issue "Moldovan Postage Stamp Day" issue of 2018 and are proving to be very popular.



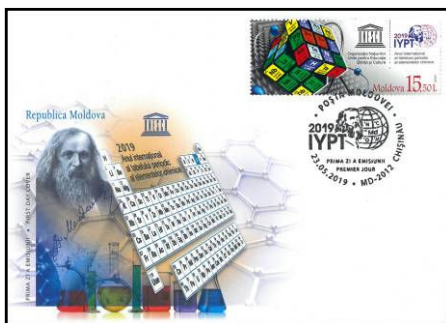
TOP: № 1101 International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT). BOTTOM: № 1102 International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL).

There were two FDCs, each printed in a small quantity of 300 pieces and each with its own cachet and first day cancellation.

IYPT aims to recognize the importance of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements as one of the most important and influential achievements in modern science reflecting the essence not only of

chemistry, but also of physics, biology and other basic sciences disciplines.

IYIL that aims to raise awareness of the consequences of the endangerment of indigenous languages across the world, with an aim to establish a link between language, development, peace, and reconciliation.



LEFT: № 1101 FDC: IYPT. RIGHT: № 1102 FDC: IYIL.

https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=4008

Inside this month's issue...

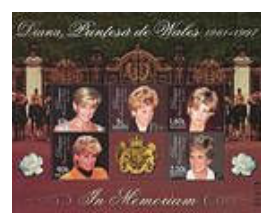
New philatelic materials in May...



Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part XI...



The "Diana" sheet: An interesting experiment...



Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part XI

The 11th part of a series of articles about the rare and valuable stamps of Moldova

This month, in our 11th and final article about the “Treasures of Moldovan Philately”, we look at the 1994 issue “Winter Olympic Games: Lillehammer”.

This series, consisting of two stamps, was originally issued on April 9 1994 but may have been printed in the previous year. 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 1993, 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.

According to the official catalogue, the graphic designer was A. Agelet, but nothing is known about this person.



Both № 96 (0.03 Lei) and № 97 (1.50 Lei) show paintings of the skiing discipline “Biathlon”. № 96 was printed in a quantity of 200,000 pieces and № 97 in a quantity of 100,000 pieces.

As in previous issues, manufactured by the Barcelona printing works, the stamps appear to have been printed in large sheets, separated by blank gutters and then subsequently cut up into individual sheets of 20 values (5 x 5). However, no complete examples, or indeed, fragments of these large print sheets have been observed and we can only speculate as to their composition. All that remains are rare examples of vertical gutter pairs.

Gutter Pairs:

Although extremely rare, gutter pairs have been observed for this series. Unlike previous stamps manufactured by the printing works in Barcelona, only



ABOVE: The sheets of 20v, as issued, for № 96 and № 97. No examples of the large print sheets, from which these were cut, have yet been observed.

perforated, vertical pairs have been observed. No imperforate stamps or horizontal gutter pairs have ever been witnessed.



ABOVE: Vertical Gutter Pairs № 96GP and № 97GP. Both examples represent extreme rarities.

Imperforate Proofs:

These were only very recently discovered and are now housed in the collection of Andy van Tilburg in the Netherlands. The proofs are printed on card and without gum.



New Stamps Issue: Definitive Set “Water Lilies”

May 7 2019:

https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=4007

Prior to the release of this series, we were not aware that it would be an issue of definitive stamps which typically, are rather more humble things. But we were very pleasantly surprised when we saw the final results.

Designed by Lilian Iațco, we are given three really splendid stamps.



№ 1098 (25 bani), the yellow water lily (*Nuphar lutea*). Printed in a total quantity of 750,000 and on sheets of 20 values (5 x 4). The face value does not correspond to any current postage tariff but instead is used to supplement the face values of other stamps on a cover.



№ 1099 (1 Leu), the pink water lily (*Nymphaea Rose Arey*). Printed in a total quantity of 600,000 and on sheets of 20 values (5 x 4). Again, the face value is supplemental.



ABOVE: FDC № 1098-1100 FDC was printed in only 250 pieces.

№ 1100 (5.75 Lei), the European white water lily (*Nymphaea alba*). Printed in a total quantity of 150,000 and on sheets of 20 values (5 x 4). The face value corresponds to the tariff for 20g domestic letters with registration.

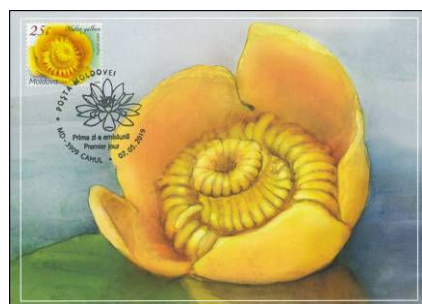
The First Day Cover is equally pretty. It was printed in a small quantity of only 250 pieces and is bound to become a future rarity.

In the past, it has been fairly rare for Posta Moldovei to issue official maximum cards, but we notice an increase in this activity in recent times. More typically, PM will make matching postcards for a new issue and then permit local philatelists to realize private maximum cards from them, using the stamps and official postmarks.

And even more unusually, in this case of definitive stamps, PM have decided to issue a set of three official maximum cards. Clearly, the philatelic bureau of

Posta Moldovei (“Timbrofil”) were very proud of their work... and rightly so!

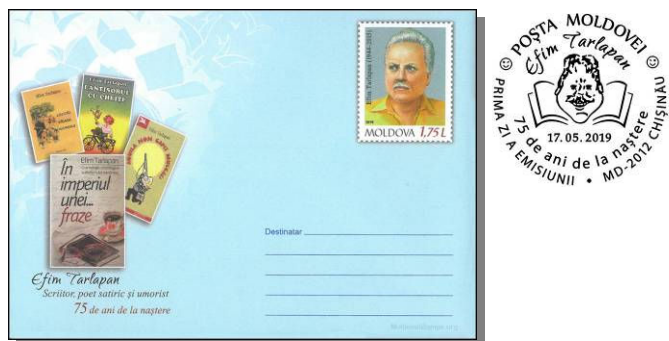
The maximum cards, also designed by Lilian Iațco, were each issued in a moderate quantity of 300 pieces and cancelled using the official first day postmark.



New Envelope: Efim Tarlapan 75th Anniversary

May 17 2019:

https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_envelopes_issue.asp?issueID=4022



Efim Tarlapan (1944-2015) was a writer, poet, humorist and satirist. He worked as a literary editor at the newspaper "Life of the Village", at the Republican radio station in Moldova, at the "Lumina" publishing house and the weekly gazette "Literature and Art". His editorial debut was made in 1974 with the satirical and satirical verse "Excuse for trouble".

He wrote parodies, fables, epigrams, rondels and aphorisms, which he published in many volumes. He was a member of the Writers' Unions of Moldova and Romania. He was awarded in over 50 satirical and humorous poetry and festivals in Moldova and Romania. In 1996, Efim Tarlapan was awarded the honorary title "Master of Literature", and in 2010 the Order of Honor.

New Postcard: The Eastern Partnership (EaP)

May 7 2019:

https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_postcards_issue.asp?issueID=4047



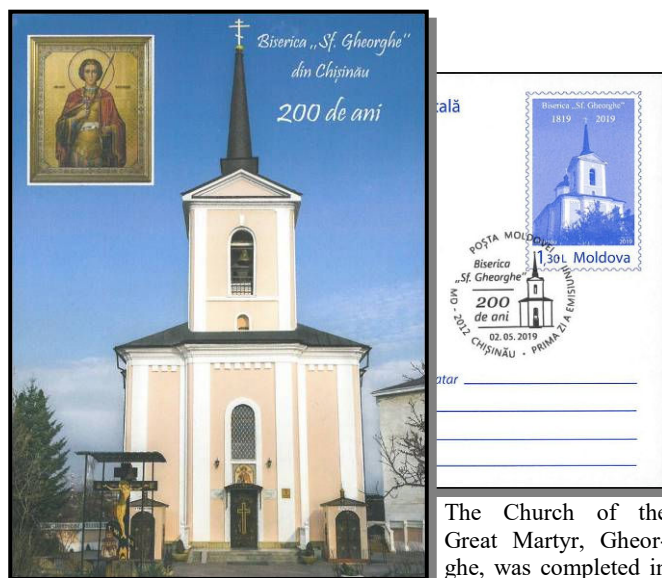
The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a joint initiative of the European External Action Service of the European Union (EU) together with the EU, its Member States, and six Eastern European partners governing its relationship with the post-Soviet states of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

The EaP is intended to provide an avenue for discussions on trade, economic strategy, travel agreements, and other issues between the EU and its Eastern European neighbours. It also aims at building a common area of shared democracy, prosperity, stability, and increased cooperation. The project was initiated by Poland and a subsequent proposal was prepared in co-operation with Sweden. The Eastern Partnership was inaugurated by the European Union in Prague, the Czech Republic on 7 May 2009.

New Postcard: Church of the Martyr Gheorghe

May 2 2019:

https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_postcards_issue.asp?issueID=4018



The Church of the Great Martyr, Gheorghe, was completed in 1819 and was built for the Bulgarian community in Chisinau, in whose quarter it was located. The structure, architecture and character of the church's details have led some scholars to believe that the building is much older than it actually is.

New Postmark: Council of Europe - 70 Years

May 3 2019:

https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_cancellations_issue.asp?issueID=4046



The Council of Europe is an international organisation whose stated aim is to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. Founded in 1949, it has 47 member states, covers approximately 820 million people and operates with an annual budget of approximately 500 million euros.

The organisation is distinct from the 28-nation European Union (EU), although it is sometimes confused with it, partly because the EU has adopted the original European Flag which was created by the Council of Europe in 1955, as well as the European Anthem. No country has ever joined the EU without first belonging to the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe is an official United Nations Observer.

Editorial Article: The “Diana” Sheet - An Interesting Experiment

Collectors of Moldovan stamps often ask me why the Post of Moldova released stamps in 1998 in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, and what was her connection to Moldova.

In truth, there was no connection between her and Moldova. The stamps were released simply because there was a world-wide feeling of grief following her tragic death in 1997 and the postal authorities believed it was appropriate to release some stamps in her memory. Indeed, the Post of Romania also released a memorial sheet of stamps in 1999 and another, overprinted variety, in 2017.

However, the details of the production and printing of the sheet and the material associated with it we never made clear.

I published an article about this topic in December 2017, but it is buried in Facebook under the “Notes” section and not very visible. In any case, the details need some revision and so the article has been represented here.

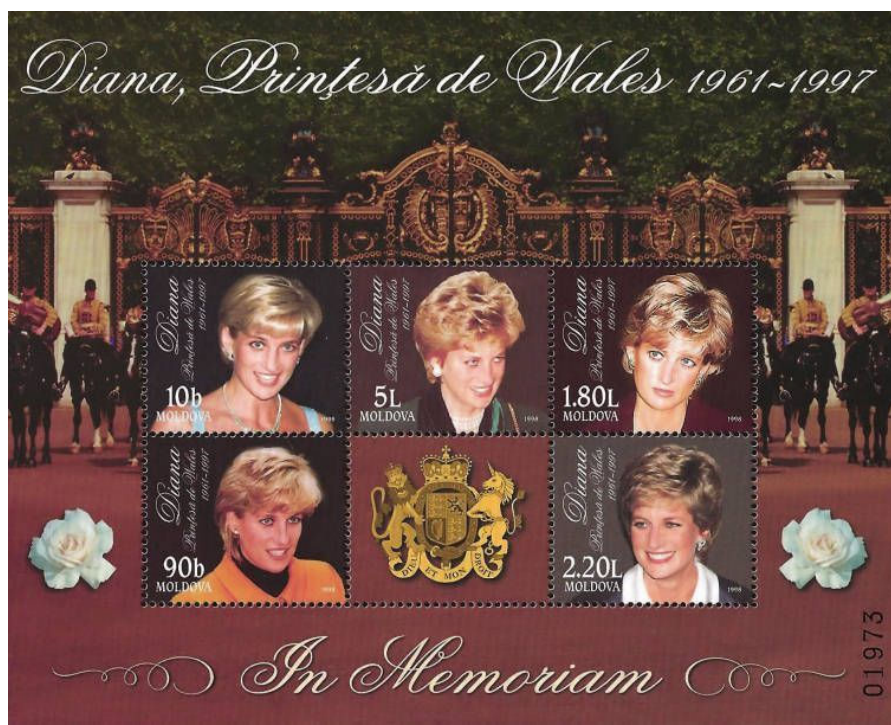
When looking at the list of stamps issued in that year, this series looks strangely out of place and it very atypical of the usual design style.

The official philatelic catalogue says that the stamps were printed by “Bundesdruckerei” in Germany, as were all Moldovan stamps during that period. However, this is not correct.

I was aware of a well-known stamp production agency in New York, the Inter-governmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC) which is a large enterprise that produces stamps for many countries in the world. I had heard rumors that IGPC was somehow involved in this “Diana” issue. However, based on the information provided in the official philatelic catalogue, I assumed that IGPC was only involved in the production of the FDC and not in the production of the stamps themselves.

I first contacted IGPC in 2014 regarding their involvement in this material and I received a polite reply that they would check their records. However, it was not until we published the Facebook article in 2017 (above), that I received some useful information from them.

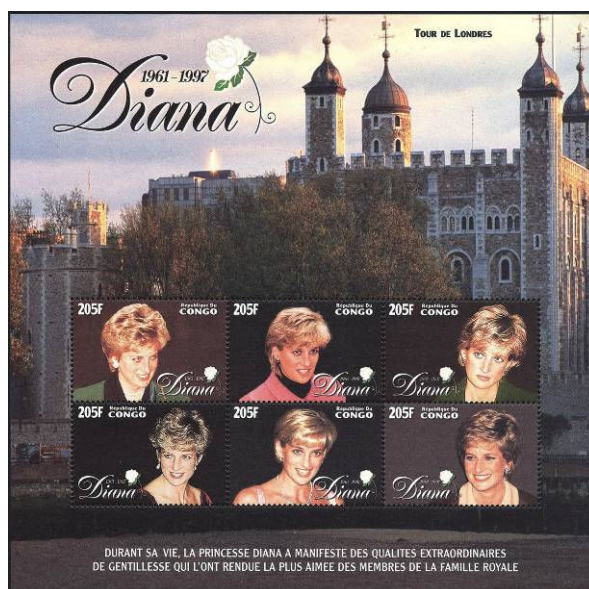
IGPC confirmed that they were responsible for the design of the material, using licenced stock photographs, and that



The “Diana” Souvenir Sheet № Block 17 (282-286) used stock photos and was printed by the company “House of Questa” in the UK.

stamps and the FDC were printed by the well-known company “House of Questa” in the UK.

In 2017, while searching through the internet, I discovered an almost identical set of stamps, issued in the name of the Republic of the Congo. I was quickly able to determine that IGPC also produced this material, since this sheet is listed on their website.



The “Diana” Souvenir Sheet attributed to “Republic of Congo” uses the stamp stock photographs as Block 17 (282-286) of Moldova.

Clearly, the licence fees for stock photos of Diana, especially in 1998, would have been very substantial and IGPC needed to maximize their investment by reusing these expensive photographs in as much material as possible. However, I am quite sure that it was not the intention of Posta Moldovei to create this pseudo “joint issue” with the Republic of Congo, a country with whom Moldova has no relationship.

The IGPC operation is similar to that of Stamperija in Lithuania. They both act as official philatelic agents for many third-world countries. The stamps are printed, in large quantities, in foreign countries, but in the case of Stamperija at least, are not sent to or sold in the countries from which they purport to originate.

But at least in the case of the Moldovan “Diana” sheet of Moldova, the stamps were sold at the main post office and are valid for postal services there.

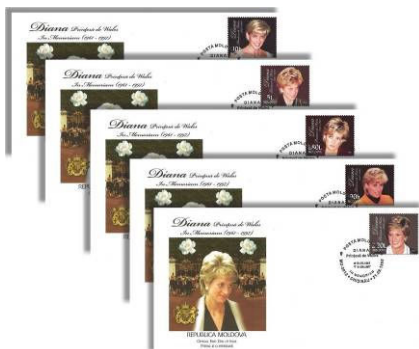
Continued...

Editorial Article: The “Diana” Sheet - An Interesting Experiment Continued...

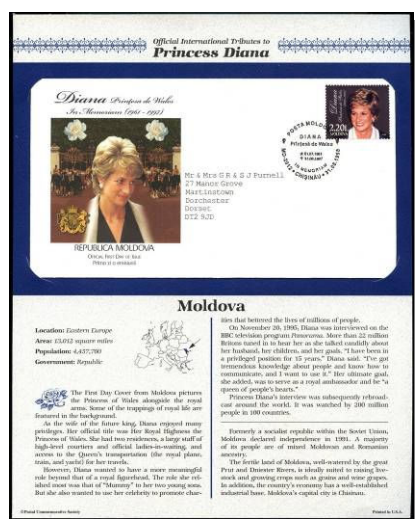
That being said, I do not remember ever having seen a genuine, postally-used cover bearing the “Diana” stamps. Today, I checked on Delcampe and eBay and I cannot find any examples. However, I know that the sheet was available for sale at the official philatelic store in Chisinau.

Regarding the FDCs: according to the official philatelic catalogue, the only official FDC was the version with all five stamps, attached individually.

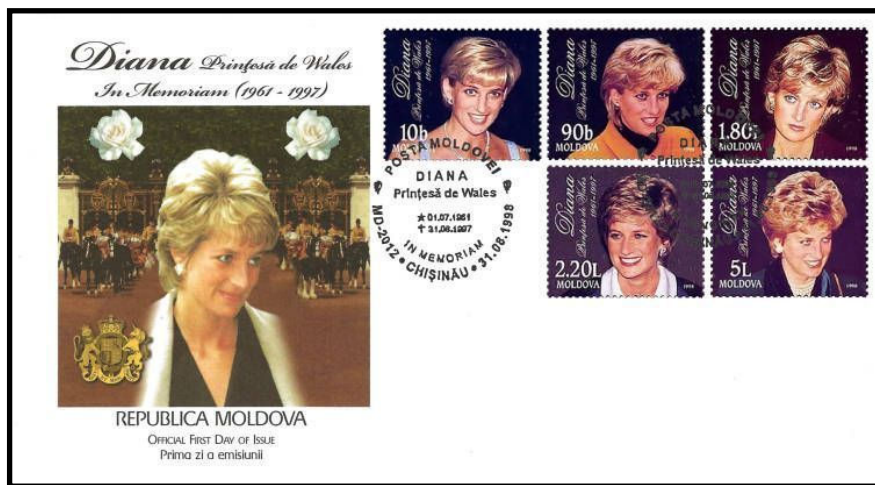
However, a whole range of other FDCs exist. There are examples of FDCs with every single stamp from the sheet, plus examples with the complete sheet and with se-tenants cut from the sheet.



These are all regularly to be found on the philatelic market. So, what was the purpose of such material and where did it end up? The answer is that it was specially produced as content for the pre-packaged “coffee table” collections marketed and sold by the “Postal Commemorative Society” (PCS), a company in the USA that specializes in these kinds of products.



A page from the collection “Official International Tributes to Princess Diana”.



FDC № 282-286 FDC. This is the only FDC that is officially recognized in the official philatelic catalogue of Posta Moldovei.

In 1998, the PCS made a pre-packaged collection entitled “Official International Tributes to Princess Diana”, which contained FDCs from many different countries. This collection contained the FDCs not listed in the official philatelic catalogue. Many of these collections are bought by stamp dealers and broken up into individual components, for sale on the Internet.

And the official status of these covers? This is a legal question. Contracts were signed between Posta Moldovei and IGPC and permissions were given. On this basis, yes, these items are “official”. However, in philatelic terms, none of this material was circulated in the Moldovan postal system, therefore we must consider the material purely as “philatelic souvenirs”.

But there is one element of this issue that gives cause for concern. The printing company, House of Questa, a long established operation in the UK, responsible for printing many stamps for British Commonwealth countries, has been

accused of the deliberate manufacture of rarities, specifically stamps with errors.

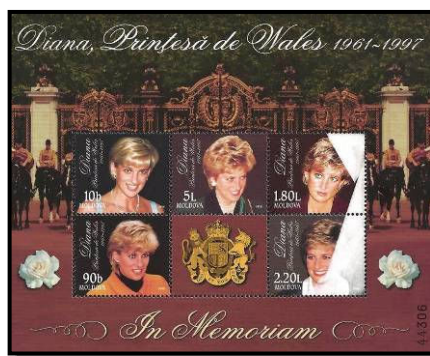
There is a very interesting and in-depth website about this company at <https://www.moldovastamps.org/questa.asp>

The article is highly critical of the activities of this company. Does this explain the existence of the error № Block 17i with its strange appearance? The answer to that, we will never know but the existence of such material on the philatelic market is, in general, a good incentive not to subcontract postage stamp production.

In conclusion:

This article has been written with the benefit of hindsight. It is easy for us to look back now and make judgments about decisions made in the past, now that we know the final outcome and consequences. I do not have access to the details of the contract agreed between Posta Moldovei and IGPC, but I guess that the deal looked really good. I imagine that it involved an offer of either free stamps or very low cost stamps. Who knows, maybe if I had been a decision maker in PM in 1998, I might have jumped at the opportunity. So, it is important to note that, in this article, I do not make any judgments or accuse anyone of impropriety, in any way. This was a very useful learning experience for PM and a very interesting experiment in philatelic production, but I personally am very pleased that the experiment has not been repeated.

Niall Murphy
Editor



№ Block 17i (282-286). A deliberate printing error to manufacture rarities?

IMPS Partners with Yvert & Tellier



We are pleased to announce that we received special permission from the famous French stamp catalogue publisher, Yvert & Tellier, to include their catalogue numbers in our philatelic catalogue. IMPS supplies Yvert & Tellier with all high quality images for their philatelic catalogue for Moldova.

Correction:



In last month's issue of the IMPS Newsletter, we published an article about the special commemorative postmark issued for the 65th anniversary of folk musician, Ion Aldea Teodorovici.

The article stated that both he and his wife, Doina, were killed in a road traffic accident in Coşereni, Moldova, on October 30 1992. Of course this is a mistake and we meant to say Coşereni, Romania. Our apologies for this typographical error.

10 Years Ago...

May 7, 2009 saw the release of the superb "EUROPA: Astronomy" stamps, one of the finest issues in Moldovan Philately, with unique imperforate varieties.



Full technical details at https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=218

Upgrade to PM Catalogue Numbers

In the 28 years since the issuance of the first philatelic material of the Republic of Moldova, all material has been carefully catalogued and numbered by the postal administration.



All official catalogue numbers have been published, either in the printed books authored by Posta Moldovei, or online at their official philatelic website www.filatelia.md.

Only the official catalogues for the "first day" postmarks for postal stationery (envelopes and postcards) remained unpublished. But we are pleased to announce that the official numbers for all these postmarks have now been incorporated into the IMPS online catalogues. Our grateful thanks to the staff at Posta Moldovei for their assistance in this matter.

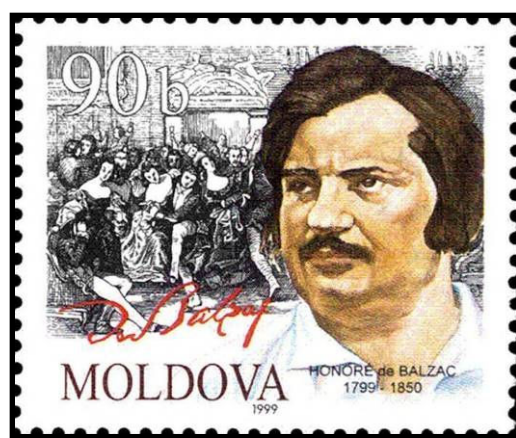
Europa Competition 2019



The annual EUROPA stamps Public Competition for 2019 is launched by PostEurop. You can view and vote for your favourite stamp here <https://www.posteurop.org/europa2019>

20 Years Ago...

Released on May 20, 1999, this stamp was issued to commemorate the 200th anniversary of birth of the great French novelist, Honoré de Balzac.



Full technical details at https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=91



THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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email address above.

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

International Exhibition News

BELPHILA-2019
БЕЛФИЛА-2019



This month, we are delighted to announce that IMPS will participate at the national philatelic exhibition of Belarus, "BELPHILA-2019", to be held in the City of Brest in September.

This year, the City of Brest will celebrate its 1000th anniversary and the local branch of the Union of Philatelists of Belarus has been given the responsibility for organizing the bi-annual national philatelic exhibition "BELPHILA".

For the first time in Belarus, the organizers will accept exhibits for philatelic literature in "electronic media" form and this includes digital literature and websites. IMPS has entered the competition with two exhibits, for the IMPS newsletters and for the IMPS website.

The organizers of «BELPHILA-2019» cordially invite applications from philatelists all over the world to participate in the exhibition. There is no entry fee and applications should be submitted by email, in English, to the exhibition commissioner: Mr. Valery Andreyuk: brest55@gmail.com. Closing date for applications is July 1, 2019.

Since IMPS is also associated with the Philatelic Webmasters Organization, we are also pleased to announce their support for and participation in this exhibition. The PWO has placed an announcement for the exhibition at <http://www.pwmo.org/Contest/Websites-Competitions.htm>



Ideas for the Philatelic Plan 2020: Submitted!

We thank all of the IMPS members who responded to the request for ideas for the Philatelic Plan of Emissions for 2020. We have compiled the list into an extensive 18-page document and submitted it to Posta Moldovei. The next meeting of the Philatelic Council is scheduled for July and we will inform readers if any of our proposals were accepted into the Plan.



Next Month...

New Stamp Issue:

European Games - Minsk, Belarus

New Special Postmarks

Special Article:

Fake overprints on Moldovan stamps

Special Article:

The 25 Ruble "Grapes" overprints of 1992

Special Article:

The UNO Stamp Cards of 1995

And lots more...

Newsletters Archive...



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

www.moldovastamps.org/info-newsletters.asp