

Volume 1 Issue 7

November 2018



THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

IMPS Newsletter

Moldova Wins in Italy & USA!



The website of IMPS, Moldovastamps.org, has been awarded a Large Vermeil (gilded silver) medal at the "ITALIA 2018" exhibition in Verona, Italy.

"ITALIA 2018" was a very special exhibition, inviting digital works into competition. This is a rare event indeed. Traditionally, digital works (websites, software etc.) have not been considered worthy of competing at formal philatelic exhibitions.

However, we expect to see this attitude change over the coming years. Already the planned exhibitions "London 2020" and "NOTOS 2021" are indicating that digital works will be accepted.

As a society, heavily reliant on the Internet, IMPS is especially interested in digital works and we see this medium as the future of philately.

Work on Moldovastamps.org was first started in 2003 and now the site has more than 60,000 pages, in three

languages. The site includes a complete philatelic catalogue of all material, issued by Moldova, since it's founding.

This is the first time that we have entered a digital work into competition and we are gratified that our efforts were so highly regarded. We dedicate this award to the Republic of Moldova and to the excellent work of the philatelic team, "Timbrofil", at Posta Moldovei.

Also, this month, a Silver medal was awarded to our co-founder and dear friend, Gheorghe Plugaru, at the "CHICAGOPEX '18" exhibition in the USA.

Gheorghe was awarded the medal for his 5 frame exhibit "Republic of Moldova - Member of the United Nations".



The exhibition, organized by the Chicago Philatelic Society, was the 132nd of its kind and featured exhibits in nearly 300 frames. This philatelic exhibition is one of the largest and most prestigious in the United States.

The philatelic standards were extremely high, and being awarded a silver medal is a truly remarkable achievement, especially for an exhibit of modern philately, and from a foreign country.



Inside this month's issue...

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25th Anniversary
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Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part V



New Issues October & November...



EUROPA Stamps 25th Anniversary Lottery

On December 29 2018, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first EUROPA stamps of the Republic of Moldova. Posta Moldovei will be releasing a special postmark to commemorate the occasion and IMPS will use this to realize a special souvenir cover.

The first EUROPA stamps of the Republic of Moldova were issued on December 29, 1993. In that year, the common theme for EUROPA was "Modern Art".

The issue was printed by Graficas Jorcar in Barcelona. There were two stamps. The 0.03 Lei stamp featured the painting "History of one life" by Mihai Greu (1916-1998). The 1.50 Lei stamp featured the painting "Concerns of Spring" by Igor Vieru (1923-1988). The name of the graphic designer is not known.



The stamps were printed in minisheets of 12 values (3x4) as well as collective sheets consisting of two se-tenant blocks of four stamps. In all formats, the sheets were highly sought after by collectors and are now quite rare and valuable.

To commemorate this significant occasion, IMPS has decided to make a very special anniversary souvenir cover, limited to only 25 pieces, and to offer 10 of these covers as lottery prizes.

We have designed this cover ourselves. The cachet features reproductions of the original stamp paintings by Mihal Greu and Igor Vieru, as well as the official EUROPA logo, used with kind permission from PostEurop.

We will also use the minisheet from the original 1993 issue, kindly donated by our member, Andy van Tilburg.

The cover will be cancelled using the special commemorative postmark, to be issued on December 29, by Posta Moldovei.

This cover will not be available for sale. We are offering 10 of these covers in a special lottery. Here's how to enter:

For New Members:

1. Register for free membership of IMPS.
2. Upload a profile photo of yourself and type a little biographical information.
3. Allow your details to be visible to other IMPS members.

For Existing Members:

1. Edit your membership profile.
2. Upload a profile photo and type a little biographical information about yourself.
3. Allow your details to be visible to other IMPS members.

RULES:

1. Qualifying members will be entered into the lottery and 10 names will be drawn at random.
 2. The random draw will take place on December 27, 2018 at noon GMT. This is the end date/time for the lottery.
 3. The results will be published on the IMPS website and Facebook pages shortly thereafter.
 4. We will contact the winners by email.
 5. Winners who give us their mailing address on or before December 28, can choose to have their covers sent by real mail, with their address written on the front. In all other cases, the cover will be sent, without address, inside another envelope.
 6. Winners have until January 31, 2019 to provide us with their address. After this date, the prize will be forfeit.
 7. Only 1 cover per member.
 8. Members are not permitted to sell this material on the internet or elsewhere.
- You can register to become a new member of IMPS, or update your existing membership profile here:

<http://www.moldovastamps.org/member.asp>

Membership of IMPS is 100% free.

Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part V

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

Possibly more than any other single issue of postage stamps from Moldova, the 1993 series "Endangered Snake Species - World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)" has the a huge number of varieties, few of which are well known or included in commercial catalogues.

The stamps were originally issued on July 3, 1993 and were printed in Spain by "Servicios Graficos Jamsa SA", Barcelona, and not by The State Printing Company of Bulgaria, as stated in the official philatelic catalogue.

and 55, as a single piece, recently discovered on the website of a large auction house in Germany.

Missing Text Errors:

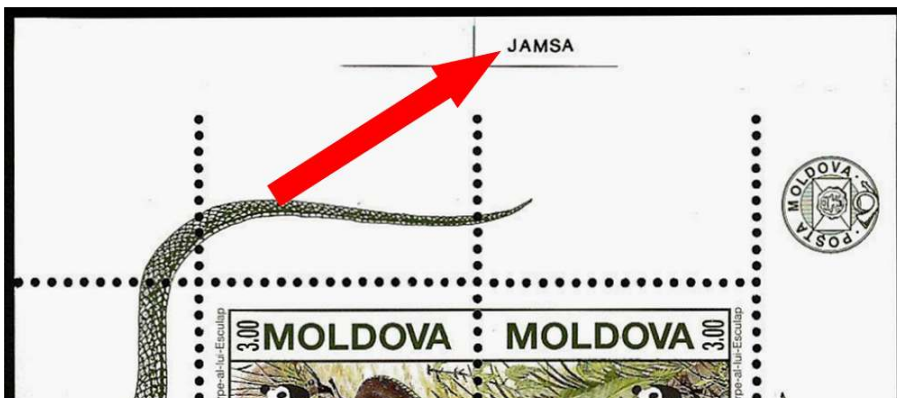
For many years, philatelists knew of the existence of stamps with missing text errors. The respected catalogue "Michel" lists only two of the six stamps from this issue has having such errors, № 54I and 55I.

In fact, this error is known to exist on all six stamps in the series, both as separate stamps and as se-tenant pairs and even blocks of 4.



Missing text errors are known to exist for every stamp in the series.

Bar far, the rarest and most valuable example of the material with missing text, is the booklet pane № 50I-55I Hb.

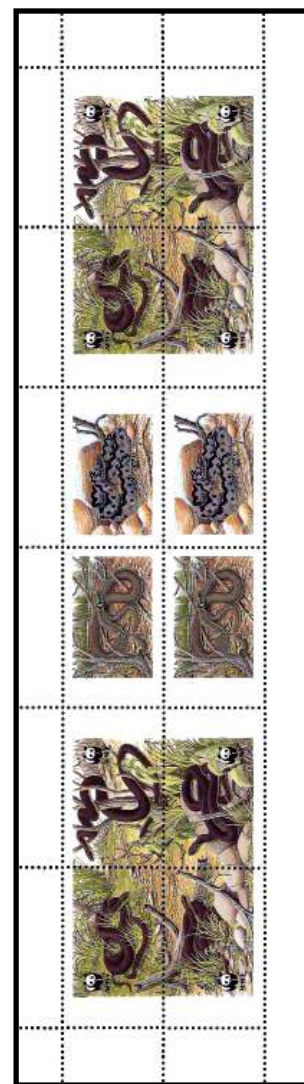
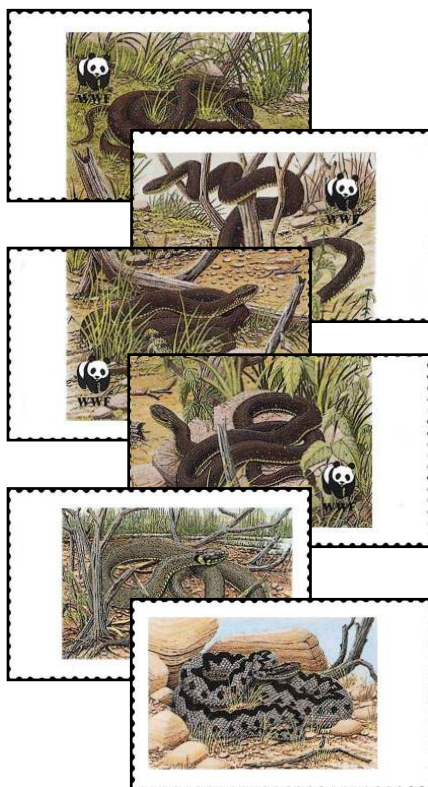


The stamps were printed in Spain by "Servicios Graficos Jamsa SA", Barcelona, and not by The State Printing Company of Bulgaria, as stated in the official philatelic catalogue.

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.

Proofs:

Whilst many error varieties of the individual stamps and sheet are known to exist, proof material is very rare indeed. In fact the only proof material we have seen, printed on card, without gum or perforations, is this example of № 54



Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part V

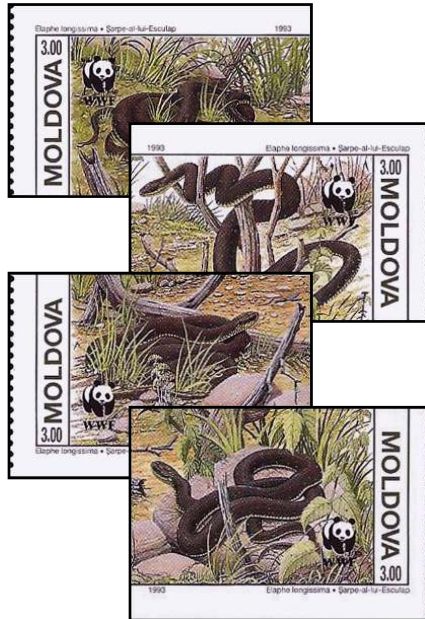
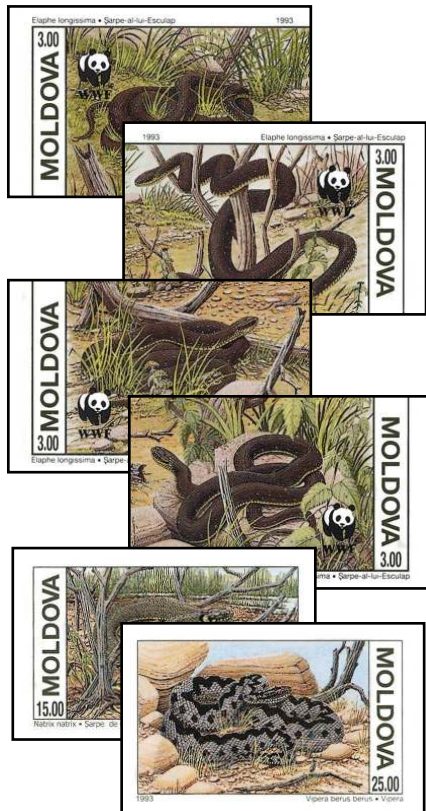
Continued...

Imperforate Errors:

Far less well known than the missing text errors, are the imperforate errors. Every stamp in the series is known to exist imperforate, as single stamps, as se-tenant pairs and blocks and even as entire sheets. Imperforate material is printed on coated paper, with full gum.

Of the imperforate errors, the most rare examples include the uncut block of 4 se-tenant blocks № 50B-53B Zd. Complete minisheets (4x4) of № 54B and 55B are also known.

Additionally, all stamps from the se-tenant block are known to exist with partial perforations.



Rarest among these partial perforation varieties are the complete booklet panes № 50-55 HbC1 (imperforate To the left) and 50-55 HbC2 (imperforate To the right).



An exceptional rarity is the uncut block of 4 se-tenant blocks № 50B-50B, imperforate.

Recent Issues: "Personalities I: Anniversaries & Commemorations"

November 13 2018:

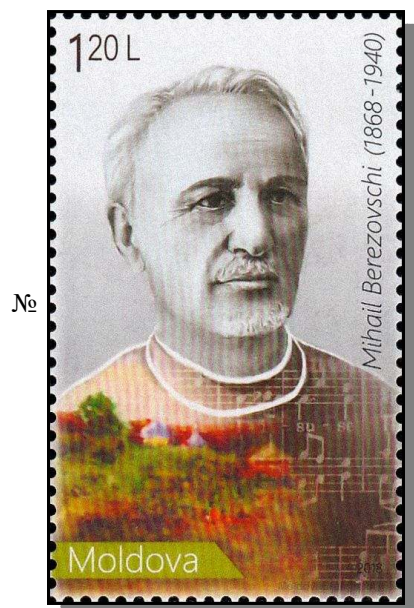
http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=3015

On November 13, 2018, the Post of Moldova put into circulation a series of four stamps to commemorate the anniversaries of various personalities.



No 1065 1.20L. George Meniuc (1918-1987).

Meniuc was born on May 20, 1918, in Chişinău. He graduated from the University of Bucharest. In 1940, he returned to Chişinău. George Meniuc was editor in chief of Nistru, a newspaper of the Moldovan Writers' Union.



1066 1.20L: Mihail Berezovschi (1868-1940).

Berezovschi was born into a family of priests in the town of Căplan, in the County of Cetatea Albă. He studied at the Theological Seminary in Chisinau, between 1880-1890, continuing his music studies at the Academic Conservatory of St. Petersburg.

He was ordained priest at the church of St. Arhangheli in Chisinau and later worked as a titular professor at the Archdiocesan Cathedral. He also held the position of Deputy Director of the Cathedral Choir (1892), being the first conductor in 1904.

After 1918, when Moldavia joined with Romania, he became a professor at the Music Conservatory in Chisinau.

He was a founding member of the Society of Romanian Composers, as well as a member and vice-president of the Central Committee of the Music Association "Song of Bessarabia".



1067 1.75L: Eugenia Maleşevschi (1868-1942).

Eugenia Maleşevschi (1868-1942) was one of the great artistic personalities of Bessarabia who together with Alexandru Plămădeală, August Baillayre, Pavel Şilingovschi, Mihail Kogan and others, constituted an epoch. Their work was an effort to synchronize the native art with the European one.



1068 1.75L: Constantin Mimi (1868-1935).

Constantin A. Mimi (1868-1935) was a Bessarabian politician and winemaker, whose family was originally from Albania.

This fresh and distinctive original artwork was provided by Lilian Iaţco and represents a new artistic style for Moldovan stamps.

Please note that Parts II-IV of this series will be released on various dates in December, as follows:

Part II 05.12.18: "Michael I King of Romania".

Part III 07.12.18: "Alexandru Moşanu – the first speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova".

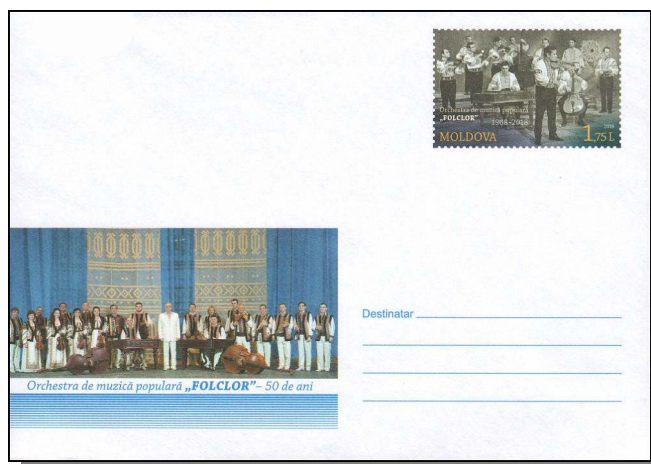
Part IV 08.12.18: "Vladimir Curbet – Director General of the Moldovan National Folk Dance Ensemble JOC".



Recent Issues: Postal Stationery—Envelopes

September 27, 2018

Folk Music Orchestra «FOLCLOR» - 50th Anniversary.



Full technical details at
http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=3048

The Folk Music Orchestra "Folclor" ("Orchestra de muzică populară Folclor") of the Moldovan National Radio-Television was founded in 1968 by Dumitru Blajinu, a gifted musician who brought to life hundreds of Moldovan folk songs and dances. This collective was founded to preserve and propagate Moldovan folklore - one of the treasures of the national culture. Over the decades, this orchestra has become very popular, producing an impressive number of audio and video recordings that have greatly enriched the funds of the National Radio-Television.

10 Years Ago...

November 14, 2008 saw the release of the magnificent 6th series of "Princes of Moldavia".



Full technical details at
http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=208

October 5, 2018

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova - 100th Anniversary.



Full technical details at
http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=3050

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova contributes to the increase of competitiveness of the Moldovan enterprises, to economic modernization and the promotion of the international trade.

The Chamber's objectives include promotion of trade and industry on the internal and external markets, developing public-private partnership, facilitating international trade, improving of professional training including the dual system, thus creating a competitive economic environment, and providing qualitative services to the CCI members.

20 Years Ago...

November 28, 1998 saw the release of the series of 4 stamps "Traditional Costumes".



Full technical details at
http://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=87



**THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

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

Warning! Counterfeit Overprint Issues 1992

This month, we were reviewing the Republic of Moldova catalogue, published by Yvert & Tellier in France, and we discovered some 1992 counterfeit stamps were still listed.

In 1992, the Post of Moldova released two series of overprinted definitive stamps. On August 31, the series "USSR Stamps Overprinted «MOLDOVA» and Surcharged" was issued. On October 20, the series "USSR Stamps Overprinted «MOLDOVA» and Grapes" was issued.



Unfortunately, counterfeit versions of both series appeared on the philatelic market, soon thereafter.

The original USSR stamps were issued in three varieties.

1. Engraved (photogravure), on glossy paper, 2. lithograph, on glossy paper and 3. lithograph on ordinary paper.

However, the Post of Moldova only manufactured authentic stamps, overprinted on stamps of the former USSR, having ordinary paper. All other overprinted varieties are counterfeit.

The counterfeit varieties soon found

their way into various published catalogues. The Post of Moldova informed the German catalogue publisher "Michel" about the counterfeit material and the offending items will quickly removed. However, it seems that not all publishers got the message.

This week, we re-confirmed all this information, with an official from Posta Moldovei. We have also advised our contact at Yvert & Tellier accordingly.



We still find this material for sale on internet sites such as Delcampe and eBay, and for premium prices. We strongly advice collectors that all these varieties are not rare or valuable and that they should not be brought into collections. This advice extends to all sub-varieties, including inverted overprints, double overprints, etc..

Collectors are advised to refer to the full catalogue listings on Moldovastamps.org, where all offending material is highlighted in red. Don't waste your money on worthless material and let's try to discourage the practice of counterfeiting!

www.moldovastamps.org

Next Month...

Unscheduled Stamp Issues:

Next parts of the "Personalities" stamps issue, including a stamp for King Mihai of Romania!

Unscheduled Stamp Issue:

Centenary of the Union of Bessarabia with Romania

Unscheduled Stamp Issue:

Joint issue with Ukraine "Church Bells"

And lots more...

Newsletters Archive...



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

www.moldovastamps.org/info-newsletters.asp