



Awards in the Netherlands and USA



LEFT: The Omnisport stadium in Apeldoorn, venue of "POSTEX 2019"
RIGHT: The Westin Northwest Hotel, Itasca, Illinois, venue of "Chicagopex 2019".

November was an incredibly busy month for IMPS with participation at two national exhibitions, in the Netherlands and the USA. We are glad to report that all the work was worth the effort.



First came "POSTEX 2019", the national exhibition for the Netherlands, held at the splendid Omnisport stadium in Apeldoorn between November 1 and 3.

The Netherlands was entirely new territory for IMPS but not for our senior member, Andy van Tilburg, a Dutch native, who took this occasion to exhibit his very first display of modern Moldovan philately.

Whilst IMPS has been touring the world's philatelic exhibitions with digi-

tal literature entries (website and newsletter), we are also very busy developing physical exhibitions with actual philatelic materials.

The required theme of the POSTEX exhibition was "Transport" and Andy (with IMPS support) developed a 5-frame exhibit of stamps and covers around this.

See the full report and photos inside.



The next exhibition was "Chicagopex 2019", organized by the famous Chicago Philatelic Society (CPS) and held between November 22 and 24 at the Westin Northwest Hotel in Itasca, Illinois.

Here, IMPS again participated with an entry in the

Digital Literature class and we were taking a considerable risk in doing so.

Chicagopex is oldest philatelic exhibition in the USA, this year being their 133rd edition, and the organizers, the CPS, the longest established philatelic group. Whilst this is not a very large show, the standards are among the very highest in the world.

The jury applies the very strictest standards and expects the very best from participants. Being awarded a medal of any kind at Chicagopex, is praise indeed.

With unfamiliar and modern subject matter, there was a risk that IMPS would receive only a certificate of participation, but not so and we received an amazing result.

See the full report and photos inside.



Inside this month's issue...

New stamp issues in November:



November Exhibition Reports:



National Museum of Fine Arts of Moldova



Exhibition News: “POSTEX 2019” National Exhibition of the Netherlands

We were really delighted when we heard that our esteemed colleague and IMPS member, Andy van Tilburg in the Netherlands, would take up the challenge of philatelic exhibiting and start work on exposing some of his truly magnificent collection of Moldovan philatelic materials.

Physical exhibitions of philatelic material issued by the modern Republic of Moldova, especially at national and international level, are presently quite rare. Local philatelist seem to prefer to exhibit materials from the former Soviet Union. This is a situation that we at IMPS are working hard to change.

We knew Andy van Tilburg for many years and we knew that he has one of the world's best collections of Moldovan stamps. We convinced him to get involved in exhibition activities. As a great supporter of the field and of IMPS, he agreed to take up the challenge. But there were conditions and Andy said: “I am not interested in medals. I am only interested in putting Moldova on the world map of philately.” No problem for us. We totally agree.

Andy also agreed to become involved in exhibitions on the condition that there would be no personal glorification, saying, “As far as I am concerned, if we exhibit material from the Republic of Moldova and we win any awards for it, then all the honour belongs to the Nation.”. Again, on this point, IMPS is in total concurrence.

The venue for “POSTEX 2019”, the national exhibition of the Netherlands, was the magnificent Omnisport stadium in Apeldoorn. Before the show, we did not pay too much attention to this place and we were quite dazzled when we saw the first photos. There was an enormous trading area (bourse) and a smaller area given over to the philatelic exhibition frames (approx. 300 frames).

Although this was Andy's very first exhibition entry and bravely, at national level, the judges were not being lenient in any way. The competition was, to say the least, fierce, and judging standards were rigorously enforced.

The exhibition theme was “transport” and preference was given to exhibits using this theme. Thus, to have any chance of participating at this oversubscribed event, it was essential to comply with the suggest theme. This presented a challenge since Moldovan philately does not have substantial material based on transport. Nevertheless, Andy created an outstanding 5-frame display.

The judges seemed to struggle in their attempts to evaluate this modern and unfamiliar material and, in the process, they made some very strange remarks regarding the categorisation of transport themes which seemed quite irrelevant. But other useful feedback was received and Andy learned a great deal from the experience. He was awarded a bronze medal. A remarkable achievement for a first time exhibit at this



Andy van Tilburg and his Moldovan wife, Aliona, proudly present the first display of philately of the Republic of Moldova in the Netherlands.

highly competitive national level.

Additionally, the primary objective of this exhibit was entirely met, i.e. to bring awareness of the wonderful material of the modern Republic to a new country. Andy received many visitors to his exhibit and there was great curiosity from the Dutch collectors.

There was also great support from Andy's local stamp club, the NVPV in Alkmaar, who though his display was really excellent and invited him to enter it again at their annual club exhibition in March of next year.

Andy says, “It was a really exciting experience for me and I am very pleased I participated. I will be happy to do it again.”.

LEFT & BELOW: As usual, wherever IMPS becomes involved in any exhibition, we make a very limited set of special exhibition covers and distribute these to the various people involved, as a token of appreciation.



Continued...

The image shows the exterior and interior of the Tottam Stadium. The main photograph is a wide shot of the stadium's exterior, featuring a large, curved facade with vertical gold and silver stripes. The stadium is situated on a grassy hill with a paved parking lot in the foreground. An inset photograph in the bottom right corner shows the interior of the stadium, highlighting the tiered seating and the bright, modern lighting fixtures.



“Chicagopex 2019” USA National-Level Exhibition



MAIN PICTURE: The atrium of the Westin Northwest Hotel, Itasca, Illinois, venue of “Chicagopex 2019”. INSET: Gold Medal of the Chicago Philatelic Society.

We were originally introduced to the world of American philately by our friend and colleague, Gheorghe Plugaru, a Moldovan-born philatelist who had emigrated to the USA. Gheorghe was extremely impressed with level of professionalism and enthusiasm he experienced for philately in America, and not least with the Chicago Philatelic Society, where he is now a proud member.

In 2017, at his very first exhibit of Moldovan philatelic material in the United States, Gheorghe was awarded a gold medal for his 5 frame exhibit of maximum cards “Moldova - My Homeland”, at the “Chicagopex 2017” show.

Gheorghe had set his standards very high. The Chicago Philatelic Society (CPS), the longest established such organization in America, takes the field of philately very seriously indeed, expect-

ing the highest levels of accuracy and dedication from its members. The CPS annual exhibitions, “Chicagopex” have been running now for 133 years and the judges do not give out awards lightly.

Following Gheorghe’s lead, and seeing that the CPS was a progressive organization, accepting digital literature and websites, IMPS decided to take the plunge and see if the standards of our work were really up to the highest possible levels.

Continued...

LEFT & BELOW: As usual, wherever IMPS becomes involved in any exhibition, we make a very limited set of special exhibition covers and distribute these to the various people involved, as a token of appreciation.



Exhibition News *Continued:* “Chicagopex 2019” USA National-Level Exhibition

With some trepidation, we sent our application for participation at “Chicagopex 2019” to the CPS.

We felt moderately confident about our chances since we had already been awarded gold medals at the American Philatelic Society’s “StampShow” and the national exhibition of Belarus “BELFILA”, earlier in the year.

The application process was straightforward. Forms were available online and easily completed. The entry fee was a very modest \$25 which was paid using PayPal. There was no requirement for membership of the CPS nor any other philatelic organization and no requirement for applicants to have earned points at previous exhibitions. In short, the exhibition was open to the whole world without the usual lengthy list of restrictions that typically apply in most European exhibitions.

Typically, juries are allowed three months to evaluate philatelic literature in advance of the show. We could see from our website visitor metrics that there was a great deal of activity originated from the State of Illinois during this time and it was clear that the IMPS website was being very carefully studied.

We are extremely grateful to Gheorghe Plugaru, who dropped his previous business appointments and drove through the night, half way across the continent, just to be present at the jury feedback session in Chicago, so he would be the very first to hear the results and to speak to the judges.

Very fortunately, his efforts were well worth the trouble and IMPS was awarded 92 points, equivalent to a Large Gold medal. Jury criticism of our work was minimal.

This is one of the highest awards ever received for an exhibition relating to modern Moldovan philately, since the founding of the Republic in 1991.

IMPS considers this most auspicious award a validation of our many years of work in the field and of our objective of propagating world-wide awareness of the culture and history of Moldova through the medium of philately. IMPS accepts this award with humility and dedicates it to the Moldovan Nation.



New Stamps Issue:

Art: Paintings from the Heritage of the National Museum of Fine Arts of Moldova

November 26 sees the release of several issues connected to the National Museum of Fine Arts of Moldova which this year celebrates the 80th anniversary of its founding in 1939.

Firstly the Post of Moldova releases an extremely elegant series of four postage stamps "Heritage of the National Museum of Fine Arts", featuring a selection of some fine paintings from the museum's extensive collection.

The stamps were designed by the Moldovan artist, Lilian Iațco and were printed in Chisinau by Nova Imprim. The Stamps with horizontal (landscape) format are perforated 14:14½ and the sizes are 46mm x 27.5mm. Stamps with vertical (portrait) format are perforated 14½:14 and the sizes are 27.5mm x 46mm.

Vertical maximum cards have a size of 105mm x 148mm and horizontal cards are 148mm x 105mm.

Postage stamp № 1123 and official maximum card № 1123 MC show the painting "Venus and Mars" by French artist, Jean-Baptiste Van Loo (1684-1745).

The postage stamp is released in 100,000 copies and with a face value of 1.20L, corresponding to the tariff for 20g letters, for domestic, local delivery.

The official maximum card was printed in 500 pieces and franked with the official cancellation of the first day.

Postage stamp № 1124 and official maximum card № 1124 MC show the painting «The Holy Family» by the Italian artist, Andrea Sacchi (1599-1661).

The postage stamp is released in 100,000 copies and with a face value of 1.75L, corresponding to the tariff for 20g letters, for domestic, nationwide delivery.

The official maximum card was printed in 500 pieces and franked with the official cancellation of the first day.

Continued...



LEFT: № 1123.
BELOW: № 1123 MC



ABOVE: № 1124.
RIGHT: № 1123 MC



New Stamps Issue *Continued*:

Art: Paintings from the Heritage of the National Museum of Fine Arts of Moldova

Postage stamp № 1125 and official maximum card № 1125 MC show the painting «Bathsheba» by an anonymous artist of the 12th century.

The postage stamp is released in 100,000 copies and with a face value of 5.20L, corresponding to the tariff for 20g letters, for domestic, local delivery with registration.

The official maximum card was printed in 500 pieces and franked with the official cancellation of the first day.

Postage stamp № 1126 and official maximum card № 1126 MC show the painting «Angelica and Medoro» by French artist, Michele Desubleo (1602-1676)

The postage stamp is released in 100,000 copies and with a face value of 5.75L, corresponding to the tariff for 20g letters, for domestic, nationwide delivery with registration.

The official maximum card was printed in 500 pieces and franked with the official cancellation of the first day.



LEFT: № 1125.
BELOW: № 1125 MC



ABOVE: Official First Day Cancellation
№ CF418

The official First Day cancellation, also designed by Lilian Iațco, is dated November 26, 2019 and issued at the main post office branch MD-2012 in Chisinau.

Continued...



LEFT: № 1126.
BELOW: № 1126 MC



New Stamps Issue *Continued*:

Art: Paintings from the Heritage of the National Museum of Fine Arts of Moldova

All stamps were printed on minisheets of 10 values (2x5 or 5x2, depending on the aspect ratio of the stamps) and with decorated margins.



The official First Day Cover (№ 1123-1126 FDC) was issued in only a very small quantity of 300 pieces. The cachet features the painting “The Holy Family with John the Baptist” by an anonymous artist of the 16th century.



Official First Day Cover № 1123-1126 FDC

New Special Cancellation: National Museum of Fine Arts of Moldova - 80th Anniversary



November 26 sees the release of several issues connected to the National Museum of Fine Arts of Moldova which this year celebrates the 80th anniversary of its founding in 1939.

After the postage stamps series, this second item is a special commemorative cancellation (№ CS 2019/20) which celebrates the 80th anniversary of the founding of the museum itself.

The museum is actually located in two separate buildings, the “Casa Herta” and the “Casa Dadiani”, the latter having been closed for restoration for many years and only officially re-opening in November 2016.

Members of IMPS visited the Casa Dadiani building on a visit to Chișinău in October 2018 and we can confirm, as the publicity image above shows, the

interior is highly impressive with galleries in gleaming white marble.

The special cancellation was designed by artist, Vitaliu Pogolsha and was issued at the main post office, MD-2012.

In conjunction with this special cancellation, the Post of Moldova also released a special unstamped envelope, designed by Vitalie Leca and issued in 5000 pieces. Local philatelists will doubtless use this envelope, together with previously issued, related postage stamps and the new special cancellation, to realize some personal philatelic covers.

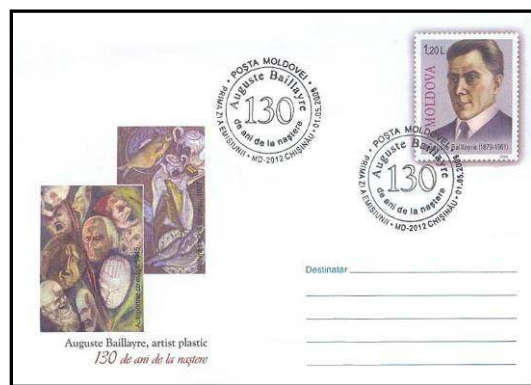


New Special Cancellation: Auguste Baillayre - 140th Birth Anniversary

Following the issue of the postage stamps and the special cancellation (see the article above), both relating to the 80th anniversary of the National Museum of Fine Arts, on November 26, a third philatelic item was released.

This special commemorative cancellation (№ CS 2019/21) commemorates the 140th anniversary of the birth of Auguste Baillayre, the first director of the National Museum of Fine Arts (1939). The publicity picture (right)

displays the cancellation on a background of the recently restored “Casa Dadiani” which currently houses the museum’s art collection.



Postal Stationery Envelope of 2009 № U240

Auguste Baillayre was born in 1879 in the Eastern Pyrenees of France where he spent his childhood and his adolescence in Georgia (between 1885 and 1898).

He subsequently moved to Amsterdam, St. Petersburg and Grenoble and later became an important artistic personality in Chișinău (between 1918 and 1943).

He was a professor at the Chiș-

nău Art School. Several of his works are kept today at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Chișinău.

Posta Moldovei has previously issued a prepaid postal stationery envelope (№ U240 May 1, 2009), commemorating the artist’s 130th birth anniversary. The cachet of the envelope features two of his works, “Still Life with Fish” (1927) and “Self Portrait with Masks” (1945).

From the Blog Site of Eric Contesse:
2014 : Military Officials During WWI
 (Originally published December 21, 2014)

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>



On November 22, 2014, the Post of Moldova has released a new series (3 stamps) dedicated to military officials, native from Bessarabia (an historical region shared today between Moldova and Ukraine), having played an important role during WWI.

Designed by Alevtina Cojocari, this series is on the official FDC below (print run : 300 only) with postmark from Chisinau (post office No. 12). Thank you very much Serge :-).

The most famous of the three figures in the spotlight here is probably Alexandru Avarescu (1859-1938), depicted on the L 5,75 stamp (print run : 50,000) and on his horse in his uniform of Marshal on the illustration to the left.

Alexandru Avarescu was general and minister of war in Romania at the end of the 19th century before being Chief of Staff during the 2nd Balkan War against Bulgaria in 1913.

During WWI, he was commander of the Army of the Danube and participated in decisive victories on the Eastern front with the Allies, in particular at the Battle of Marasesti in 1917.

Appointed Marshal, he was also Prime Minister of Romania three times, and awarded with the Order of Michael the Brave ("Ordinul Mihai Viteazul"), the

highest Romanian military award, established in 1916 by King Ferdinand I. The two men were together on a Romanian stamp issued this year, dedicated to WWI heroes.

The two other soldiers honored in this series (print run : 100,000 each), Constantin Brăescu (1873-1928) and Dimitrie Bogos (1889-1946) are both associated with the creation of the Molda-

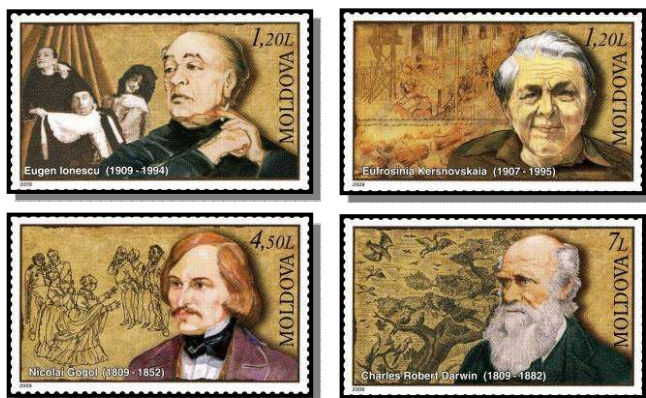
vian Democratic Republic (MDR), the name taken by the autonomous Bessarabia after the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Brăescu was minister of war and first general of this independent Republic which signed a union with neighboring Romania in 1918. Bogos was General Chief of Staff of this MDR and, later, minister and member of parliament in Romania.



10 Years Ago...

November 26, 2009 saw the release of the excellent series "Famous Writers" which included Charles Darwin.



Full technical details at
https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=227

20 Years Ago...

November 27, 1999 saw the release of the beautiful issue "Women's World Chess Championship".



Full technical details at
https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=102



The Post of Moldova regularly issues some very nice series of stamps dedicated to objects or works of art kept in the main museums in the country. I've already spoken about some of them widely on this blog.

On May 3, 2014 a new set of three stamps (design by Alexandr Kornienko) was issued, this time depicting the buildings of these main museums all located in the Moldovan capital, Chisinau : the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History (L 1.20), the National Museum of History of Moldova (L 2.00) and the National Museum of Fine Arts of Moldova (L 4.00).

I was lucky to receive the three beautiful official FDCs (print run : 300 each) below regarding these 3 stamps with postmarks from Chisinau. Thank you very much Nicolae :-)

Figure 1: The National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History (print run : 200,000) is the largest and oldest museum in Moldova. It was created in 1889 on the basis of the exhibits at the first agricultural exhibition of Bessarabia.

In 1903, a new building (architect V. Tsigankov) was built in an oriental style, very unique in Moldova. At present, the museum's collection consists of about 135,000 pieces being part of many geological, paleontological, zoological, entomological, archaeological, ethnographic and numismatic collections.

The illustration on this envelope on the left evokes some typical carpet and textile from the interiors of houses in Moldova.

Figure 2: In order to send these 3 FDCs, Nicolae supplemented his postage by using other stamps on the back of each envelope to achieve the postal rate of L 4.50 (up to 20g letter sent to France by land).

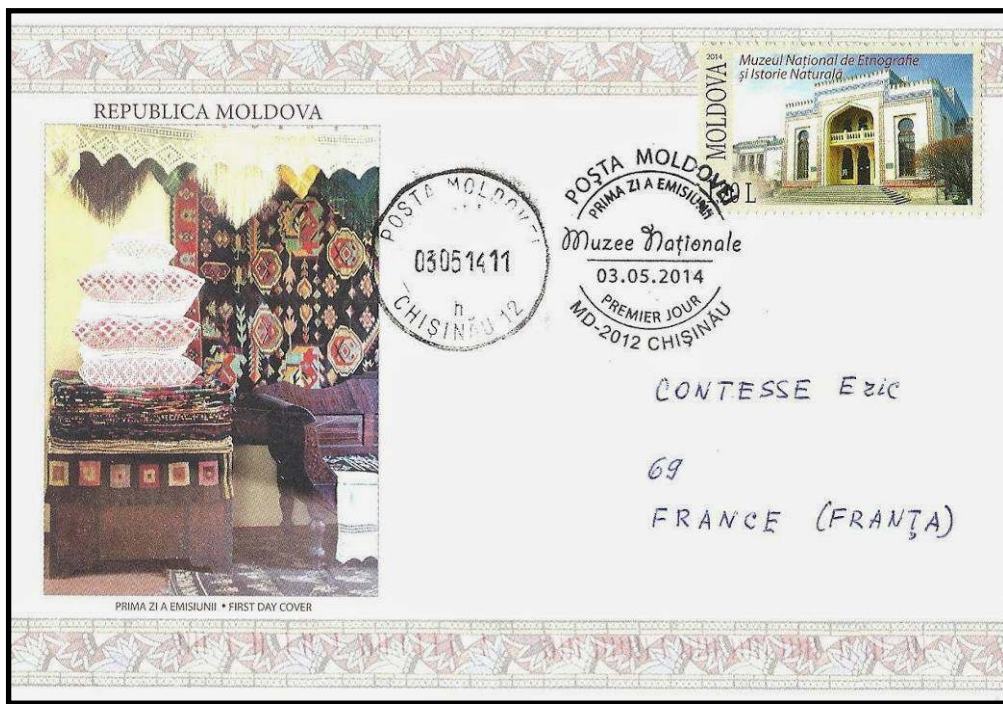


Figure 1



Figure 2

The L 3.00 stamp above to the left (cimbalom) is part of the EUROPA series issued on March 22, 2014 while the three stamps on the right (L 0.10 each) are part of a definitive series issued on February 15, 2011, devoted to different rural buildings, the manor of

the family Ralli (19th century) located in Dolna, Strășeni here.

Continued...



Figure 3: The building of the National Museum of Archaeology and History (stamp above, print run : 100,000) was built in 1837 by architect Simsko-Savoisky and originally housed the municipal assembly. It was rebuilt in 1862 after a fire and was seriously affected by an earthquake in 1977.

The National Museum of History of Moldova was founded in 1983 and includes collections of several dissolved museums following the collapse of the Soviet regime.

At present, the museum collections gather more than 250,000 works concerning several areas : ancient history and archeology, medieval history, history of Bessarabia, contemporary history, treasures...

Figure 4: The stamp (L 2.50) used on the other side of this letter above is part of the EUROPA series, consisting of 3 stamps, issued on June 18, 1994, whose theme was dedicated to great discoveries.

Through this series, the Moldovan Post has chosen to evoke space research and in particular the 25th anniversary of the first lunar module (Apollo 9 Mission in 1969) on this stamp.



Figure 3



Figure 4

Continued...



Figure 5: The National Museum of Fine Arts (stamp above, print run : 100,000) was founded in 1939 by the sculptor Alexandru Plămădeală and painter Auguste Baillayre.

The building was built by Alexander Bernardazzi, the architect who designed many buildings in Odessa and Chisinau.

Today, this museum has an extraordinary collection that includes pieces of religious art, national art, national painting (Mihai Greuc, Valentina Rusu-Ciobanu, Alexandru Plămădeală, Glebus Sainciuc...), a collection of foreign paintings and sculptures as well as decorative arts.

Figure 6: The two stamps (0.25 L each) used on the other side of this FDC above, are also part of the definitive series issued on February 15, 2011, devoted to different rural buildings, the manor of the family Mirzoian "Manuc-Bei" (19th century) located in Hîncești here.

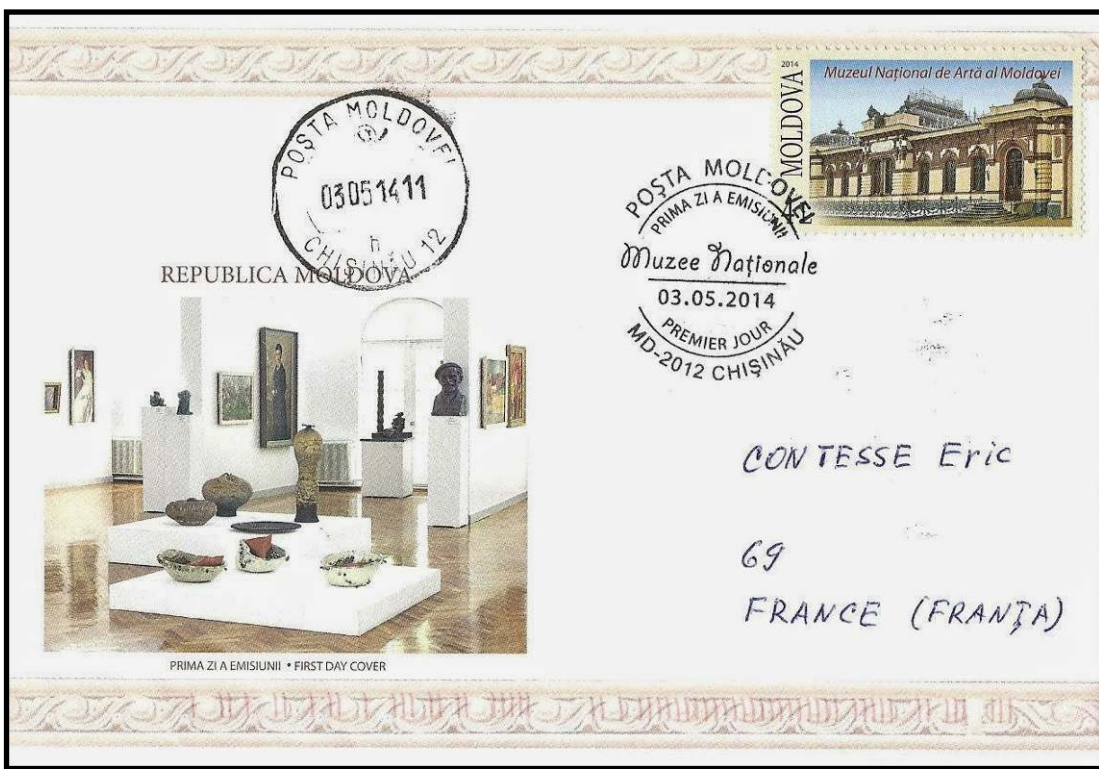


Figure 5

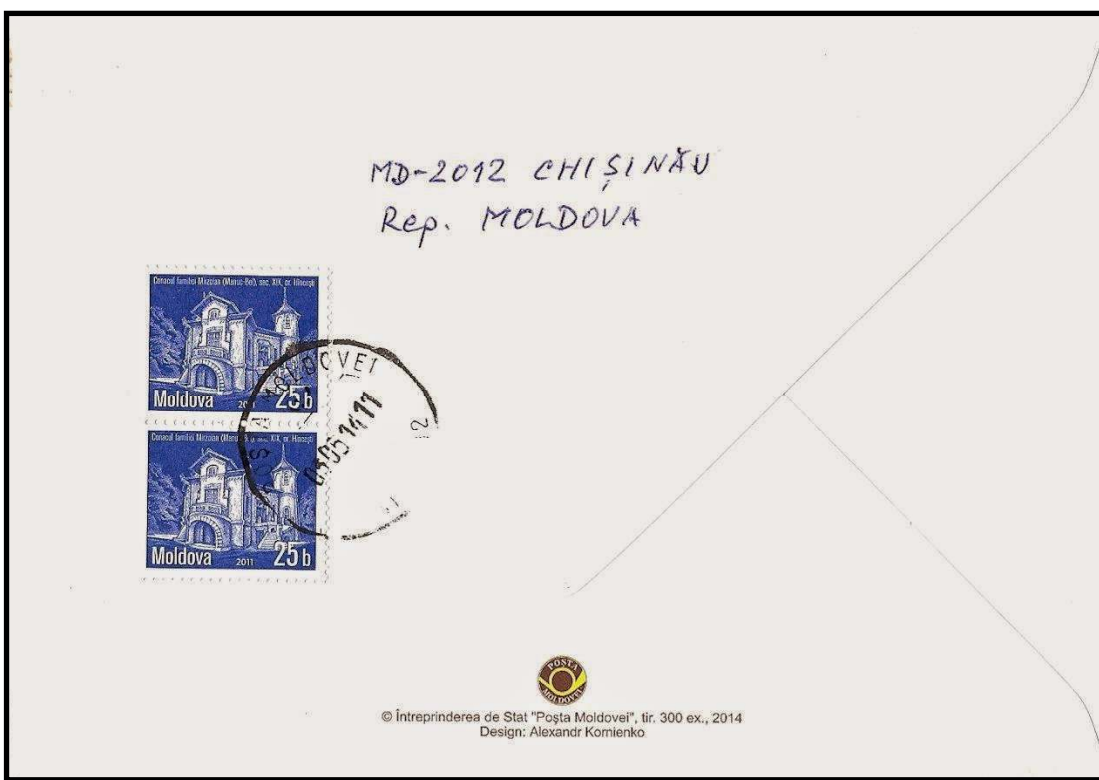


Figure 6



THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

CHIȘINĂU
LYON
SÃO PAULO

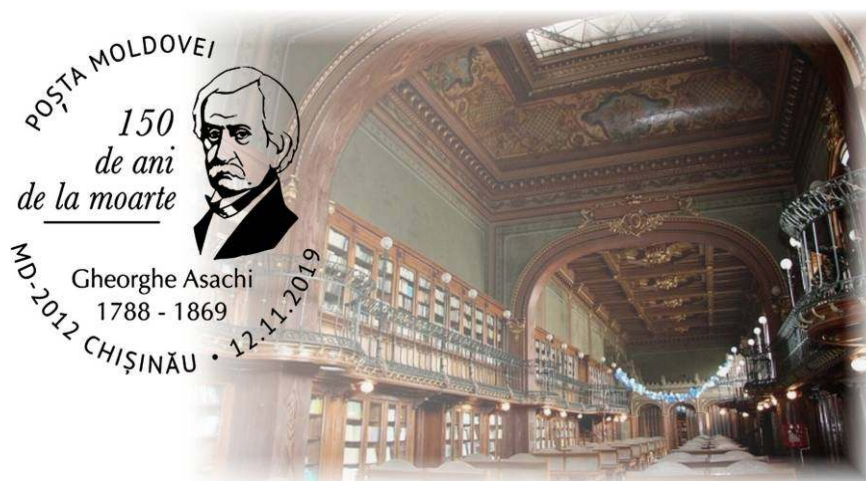
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**IMPS is founded on Friendship,
Equality and Passion.**

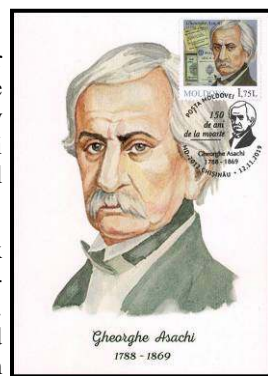
New Special Cancellation: Gheorghe Asachi - 150th Death Anniversary



On November 12, 2019, Posta Moldovei released a special commemorative cancellation (№ CS2019/19) to remember the 150th anniversary of the death of Gheorghe Asachi, the world-famous Moldavian/Romanian prose writer, poet, painter, historian, dramatist and translator. The cancellation was designed by Lilian Iațco and issued at the main post office in Chisinau, MD-2012.

Many educational and literary institutions are named after Gheorghe Asachi. In the publicity image above, we can see the cancellation on a background of the magnificent library of the Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iași (Romania), sometimes described as the most beautiful library in the world.

On January 15, 2019, Posta Moldovei issued a series of six stamps "Eminent Personalities - Anniversaries & Commemorations" which included Gheorghe Asachi (№ 1080). On the same day, they also printed a set of six associated postcards, one for each personality. Some samples of each postcard were set aside until the individual anniversary dates rolled around, then made the postcards available to local philatelists for the realization of personal maximum cards. An example is illustrated above.



Next Month...

New Stamps Issue:

Happy New Year!

New Envelope Issue:

Court of Audit of the Republic of Moldova

File Update:

2019 Stamp Album Pages Update

End of Year Survey:

Best Stamps Issue of 2019

New Special Cancellations

And lots more...

Newsletters Archive...



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

www.moldovastamps.org/info-newsletters.asp