



Editorial

A significant Anniversary is approaching

Summertime is usually a time of reduced stress, of relaxation, re-organization and planning for most people. For philatelists summertime serves as a “timeout” from everyday tasks and an opportunity to go back to philately by reading, possibly writing an article and engage into our collections. When September arrives everyday philatelic activities return to their “factory reset”, with exhibitions, presentations as well as public debates on philatelic topics that come back.

This Balkanfila Newsletter no10, offers to potential readers a variety of material ranging from reports on upcoming and past exhibitions, presentations and philatelic activities, articles on various topics from museum exhibits, postal and social history to advice how to build a non-competitive thematic exhibit. Forthcoming events on philatelic bilateral co-operations with countries that share common history and traditions are also reported in this issue. New Philatelic issues are also included as they are showing the direction of modern philately that cannot be looked down as less important because current issues function as a “greenhouse” for new entrants to philately.

A highly commendable FEPA initiative, was recently communicated to the member-federations, regarding a well-planned exchange of ideas and a focused discussion on Philatelic Exhibitions will take place in October. It is important that International Federations and National Federations establish an open channel of interactive communication that hopefully will result into action. This kind of initiatives can be proved exceptionally beneficial as Philately – nowadays– seems to have internationally lost its appeal, proven by diminishing numbers of new philatelists.

A significant issue for Balkanfila member-Federations to be considered is related to an important anniversary that deserves to be celebrated. In 1965, the Union of Philatelists in Bulgaria had decided to organize a Philatelic Exhibition with the name "Balkanfila" sending an open invitation to collectors of all Balkan countries. This idea was accepted with great enthusiasm by a number of Balkan Philatelic Federations. It was then decided to set up a similar exhibition every two years, in a different city each time, with the intention that all countries will take turns in hosting the event. Sixty years after this inspiring first Varna Exhibition, Balkanfila today stands strong as the largest, the oldest and one of the most active regional philatelic “alliances” in world philately. A call for action to the Balkan Federations for celebrating this significant anniversary is required.

Istanbul'25 National Stamp Exhibition

(September 27 - October 5, 2025)



The protocol for the **Istanbul '25 National Stamp Exhibition** was signed by PTT and TFDF.

The exhibition will take place at the historic Rami Barracks Cultural Centre, which received the Grand Prize of the 2024 Aga Khan Award for Architecture.

By the end of August, approximately 500 frame applications had been submitted.

Applications were accepted until September 1, 2025.

İİSTANBUL '25 ORGANİZİİNG COMMITTEE

TFDF President Ziya Ağaoğulları,
Exhibition Secretary General Arman Arıkan,
Exhibition Coordinator Mehmet Akan,
Deputy Secretary General Muzaffer Arda,
and General Commissioner Murat Hazinedaroğlu.

SRBIJAFILA XVI is announced

The National Stamp Exhibition "SRBIJAFILA XVI" will be organized by the Union of Philatelists of Serbia, and will take place from October 7 to 11, 2026, in Belgrade.

SRBIJAFILA XVI stands as a celebration of two historic jubilees of Serbian philately – 75 years since the very first national stamp exhibition of 1951 and 160 years since the printing of the first Serbian definitive postage stamp, the Prince Michael issue of 1866.



International participation is foreseen, featuring exhibitors from philatelic federations across the former Yugoslav region – Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia.

SRBIJAFILA XVI takes place in the building of the Military Club of Serbia, a building at the city centre. The building was built in the spirit of modern architecture with elements of expressionism of the forties of the twentieth century.

More information will be available soon.

www.srbijafila.org

Organizing Committee
SRBIJAFILA XVI

85 Years of the Return of Southern Dobrudja:

Historical Justice and Contemporary European Unity

On September 7, 2025, we mark 85 years since the return of Southern Dobrudja to Bulgaria – one of the most significant and peaceful achievements of Bulgarian diplomacy in the 20th century. With the signing of the Treaty of Craiova in 1940 between the Kingdom of Bulgaria and the Kingdom of Romania.

This act remains a symbol not only of national unity, but also of the possibility of resolving conflicts through reason and diplomacy, and not with weapons. Today, when Bulgaria and Romania are allies in the European Union and NATO, the historical context takes on even greater significance, because it shows how former disputes and borders can become bridges for cooperation and development.

From historical justice to European solidarity

The Craiova Agreement is a vivid example of a peaceful and just resolution of a territorial issue. Unlike other cases in the region, where violence marks relations between nations, the agreement between Bulgaria and Romania showed that pragmatism and mutual interest can prevail over nationalist rhetoric.

Today, Southern Dobrudja is not only an integral part of Bulgaria, but also of the European Union. Cities such as Dobrich and Silistra are developing as cultural and economic centers, connecting not only Bulgarian, but also European horizons. In the context of our common membership in the EU and Schengen, the region is acquiring a new role – from a historical territory of conflicts, it is becoming an example of cross-border cooperation and stability.

Schengen and the abolition of borders – literally and symbolically

In 2024, Bulgaria and Romania partially entered the Schengen area – with the abolition of air and sea controls. This was another step towards the complete elimination of barriers between our two countries. It is in the context of Southern Dobrudja that this process takes on a deep symbolic meaning – the borders that once separated fraternal peoples are now gradually losing their weight, replaced by corridors of free movement, trade and cultural exchange.

From the past to the future – in the spirit of good neighborliness

Recognition of history is essential for building a sustainable future. The anniversary of the return of Southern Dobrudja should not be used for political revenge, but to affirm the

lessons of history – that with patience, vision and diplomatic maturity, justice can be achieved, without violence.

Today, Bulgaria and Romania have a common mission – to be an active factor for stability in the Balkans, to build infrastructure, energy and cultural ties, and to establish themselves as worthy members of the European family. Southern Dobrudja, as part of this common European space, can be a symbol of this path – from historical pain to a shared future.

But here is how the Bulgarian postal administration documented this event 85 years ago:

The very next day after the return of Southern Dobrudja – September 8, 1940, the famous philatelist and merchant Simeon T. Chirakchiev from Sofia (who owned a small printing house) printed special illustrated postcards and envelopes.



The special illustrated postcard (with illustrations of all the movements of the Bulgarian border from 1878 to 1940) traveled by post on September 9, 1940 in an unusual way. The postcard was placed on the tram (with a stamp in Cyrillic "By Tram, Sofia"), with a fee paid for registered delivery (1 lev for a postcard in the same city + 2 lev for the recommendation), it was processed at the tram's final stop – the Central Station, at the post office there at 11:00 p.m. and the stamp "Sofia – Gare" was affixed. There is a pencil mark for weight (4 grams) and a mark that the receipt was sent to the sender (Mrs. Penka Ruseva, Tsar Boris Street 107, Sofia). According to the postmark on the back "Sofia Gara" from the next day at 9:00, the postcard was sent to the recipient (Yordan D. Rusev, probably a collector), and was delivered to him according to the next postmark at 10:00.

The stamps with which the postcard is affixed are from two different regular series from 1940 and show Tsar Boris III.

On September 20, the postage stamps for the upcoming official annexation of Southern Dobrudzha to Bulgaria the next day were officially validated.



The artist of the set of four commemorative stamps is Boris Angelushev:

1. The main postal colors and tariffs according to the Universal Postal Union are observed:

Green – 1 lev – postcard and envelope for the same city;

Red – 2 lev – envelope for the country;

Brown – 4 lev – registered envelope for the country;

Blue – 7 lev – envelope for abroad;

2. Typical motifs and medallions are depicted:

1 lev – Dobrudzha woman and Dobrudzha man, holding ears of wheat in Dobrudzhan folk costume;

2 lev – a wheat field with wheat ears and unfurled Bulgarian battle flags;

4 lev + 7 lev – map of Dobrudzha and the five returned cities indicated: Tutrakan, Silistra, Dobrich, Balchik and Kavarna.

All stamps have the heraldry respected: medallions of Tsar Boris III in general uniform, with the hanging order "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" or with a military helmet, with the crown of the Kingdom of Bulgaria and the inscription "Kingdom of Bulgaria".

The stamps are printed on glossy paper, with comb-shaped perforation "13", on sheets of two wings (10 by 10) and are in a huge circulation, used until 1944.

For the date of the great event – September 21, 1940, the Bulgarian postal administration is preparing a special:



The special cancellation is quite special and unusual for that time, depicting the map of Southern Dobrudzha, the date September 21, 1940 and the five cities marked with dots – Tutrakan, Silistra, Dobrich and Kavarna, as well as the adjacent Black Sea maritime territory.

The cancellations were prepared for the cities of Sofia, Burgas, Varna, Vidin, Vratsa, Gabrovo, Dupnitsa, Kazanlak, Kyustendil, Pleven, Ruse, Stara Zagora, Sliven, Tarnovo, Shumen, Yambol, as well as for the newly added cities in Dobrudzha – Tutrakan, Silistra, Dobrich, Balchik and Kavarna.

The Palace in Sofia also ordered the special can for its Palace Post Office.

Only the names of the cities + the Palace in Sofia in the text are written in Cyrillic and French script, again following the rules of the Universal Postal Union.



An envelope traveled from the palace in Sofia with the special stamp of September 21, 1940 to the notable collector Franz See. A precisely franked envelope with the 1 leva stamp for a letter in the same city and with a receiving stamp on the back from station 6 in the capital. The sender is Captain Georgi Uzunov from the Palace security.

The Jubilee Philatelic Exhibition "**Dobrich Filex 2025**" is dedicated to this remarkable event in Bulgarian history – the return of Southern Dobrudzha to the borders of Bulgaria, at which newly developed exhibits from Bulgaria will be shown. The Ministry of Transport and Communications will present designs for postage stamps by notable Bulgarian artists from the second half of the 20th century. Each day of the exhibition will be held official validations of new limited editions, eagerly awaited by philatelists.

20th International Philatelic Exhibition PETROVECFILA 2025

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the renewal of the work of the Philatelic Club Bački Petrovac, and during the celebration of the Slovak National Festival, the International Philatelic Exhibition PETROVECFILA was held from August 8 to 10.

The opening ceremony, held in the hall of the “Jan Čajak” Elementary School, was attended by representatives of the local government; Mr. Filip Kulić, member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Philatelists of Serbia; Mr. Marko Jelić, director of the PTT Museum in Belgrade; representatives of institutions and societies from Bački Petrovac; philatelists and friends of philately from Novi Sad and Belgrade; as well as guests from the Slovak Republic.



The opening was covered by Television Vojvodina, Slovak Television, Television Petrovec, Radio Novi Sad, and representatives of the print media.

The opening speech was given by Mr. Jaroslav Lekar, deputy director of the Elementary School, who spoke about the long-standing cooperation between the school and philatelists. Exhibitions have been held in this school for over 40 years, and Petrovecfila since 2012. Mr. Ondrej Zahorec spoke about the history of the Club. He noted that this year marks a double

jubilee: 50 years since the renewal of the Bački Petrovac Philatelic Club, and the 20th Petrovecfila exhibition.

In recognition of these anniversaries, the Board of Directors and the Assembly of the Club decided to thank individuals and institutions that have helped sustain philately in Petrovac through the years.

The Society's Golden Badges were awarded to:

- The Municipality of Bački Petrovac, for many years of support and co-financing of the Club's work and projects.
- The Union of Philatelists of Serbia, for help, support, and exceptional cooperation throughout the years.
- Mr. Miroslav Ňaršík, Nitra, Slovakia, former president of the Slovak Philatelic Association, for initiating international cooperation and helping to organize the first international exhibition, as well as subsequent exhibitions that now bear the name Petrovecfila.
- Novi Sad Philatelists' Club, for long-term cooperation and joint projects, especially in the last ten years.
- Mr. Ivan Tangl, Vojvodina Philatelists' Association, for long-term cooperation and assistance in organization.
- The "Štefan Homola" Library, for cooperation and support throughout the years.

The exhibition was officially opened by Mr. Rastislav Labat, Head of the Municipal Administration. Twenty-two exhibitors from Slovakia and Serbia presented their works in 40 exhibition cases. Most of the exhibits had already won awards at international exhibitions, several of them gold medals.

The exhibition catalog presented the history of the Society and philately in Petrovac in 12 pages.

Greeting texts for the catalog were contributed by:

Vladimir Milić, President of the Union of Philatelists of Serbia

Miroslav Ňaršík, former President of the Slovak Philatelists' Association

Ivan Tangl, President of the Vojvodina Philatelists' Association

Filip Kulić, President of the Novi Sad Philatelic Club

On August 9, a commemorative postmark dedicated to the exhibition was in use at the Bački Petrovac Post Office, and a commemorative envelope published by the Club was also issued.



On the second day of the exhibition, Saturday, the traditional International Collectors' Meeting was held, bringing together philatelists and numismatists from Slovakia, Croatia, and Serbia.

12th International Philatelic Exhibition in APATIN

As part of the 61st Apatin Fishermen's Evenings, the 12th International Philatelic Exhibition was officially opened on July 4th at the "Žarko Zrenjanin" Elementary School. Visitors will be able to view the exhibition until July 6th.



A large number of philately enthusiasts and guests from the cultural and public spheres gathered at the opening ceremony, which was officially inaugurated by Slađana Šušnjar, a Member of Parliament from Apatin. The exhibition brought together philatelists from both Serbia and abroad, showcasing valuable and rare collections of postage stamps and related materials.

During the event, the traditional collectors' gathering was held on Saturday, July 5th, attracting participants from Apatin, Sombor, Srbobran, Novi Sad, and Belgrade. Collectors had the opportunity to exchange, buy, or sell stamps, old coins, medals, and other intriguing items. The socializing continued at the "Bucov" fishermen's restaurant with traditional fish stew.



The organizer provided refreshments for all participants, and entry was free of charge. This event once again affirmed the importance of philately and collecting in preserving Apatin's cultural heritage.

Maritime Week 2025

The Maritime Museum of Crete participated with great enthusiasm and honour in the events for the Maritime Week 2025, an institution that was revived 17 years after the last Maritime Week in 2008.

On Friday, July 04, 2025 at 10:30 a.m., a guided tour of the philatelic exhibitions on the themes of “Lighthouses of the World” and “Navigation” was held at the dockyard Moro – where is displayed the Permanent Exhibition of Ancient and Traditional Shipbuilding.

The philatelic material presented are part of the wider collections of the Maritime Museum of Crete and part of the travelling exhibitions of our Museum. The exhibition on the theme “Lighthouses of the World” was presented at the Maritime Museum of Thira in Santorini, while the exhibition on the theme “Navigation” was initially presented in Trieste at the Telegraph and Postal Museum of Central Europe and then in Ljubljana at the Slovenian Post Office Building.



Then, the guided tour began at the breakwater of the Venetian Port of our city with an intermediate stop at the church of St. Nikolaos of Molos and the final destination was the lighthouse, where a visit to its interior was held. As part of the tour, information was provided on the operation of lighthouses and a short historical review was held on the period of Venetian rule in Chania.

The Museum administration is confident that the start of the 2025 Maritime Week in Chania is the trigger for the promotion of the glorious history of the Greek Navy. The Maritime Museum of Crete, we will continue the effort to promote the Greek Maritime Tradition and the History of our country with actions both in Greece and abroad.

The nurse L. Koning with the Serbs – before, during and after the Great War

Prof. Dr. Milan Radovanović, Peter Portfleet

Introduction

The motive for this text lies in a dozen postal items related to the period of the First World War and the aid that the neutral Kingdom of the Netherlands sent to Serbia by dispatching medical missions—both to mitigate the typhus epidemic, which had broken out due to captured Austro-Hungarian soldiers, and to assist in the treatment of wounded Serbian soldiers. These observed postal items concern correspondence to and from the nurse L. Koning, who spent nine years in Serbia (1913, 1915, and 1919–1920) or with the Serbs on the Salonika Front (1916–1918).

The correspondence of this remarkable woman, then in her early forties (1874–1955), was addressed to her own family, friends and colleagues in the profession, Serbian authorities on the Salonika Front, and the Serbian Consulate in the Netherlands. Two newspaper wrappers, from subscriptions she held and included as attachments to this work, also speak to her cultural interests.

In the following sections, parts of her life will be presented through postal items addressed to this nurse, with attention to the periods of her stay in Serbia.

The period of L. Koning's stay in Serbia in 1913.

In this section, information will be provided about the Dutch medical missions that were present in Serbia during the Second Balkan War in 1913, based on the available sources.

In mid-April, a Dutch field clinic was established in Serbia, headed by G. W. S. Lingbeek, with three doctors, two medical students, two nurses, five male orderlies, four female orderlies, a secretary, and a cook. Their departure was scheduled for July 23..."

Ned. Rode Kruis naar den Balkan.

Dokter A. W. S. van Hamel, die met de zusters Vermaes, De Groote en Kürtz nog te Vranja (Servië) werkzaam was, is nu bij het uitbreken van den tweeden Balkanoorlog aangesteld als chef van het hospitaal, dat in de onmiddellijke nabijheid van het oorlogsterrein gelegen is.

De ambulance, welke het Nederlandsche Rode Kruis, op verzoek der Servische regering, naar Belgrado zal uitzenden, is samenge-

Fig.1 Text from the Dutch newspaper Telegraaf of July 23, 1913, with the headline "The Dutch Red Cross Goes to the Balkans": "Doctor A. W. S. van Hamel, who together with the nurses Vermaes, De Grote, and Kürz worked in the town of Vranje during the First Balkan War, has now, at the outbreak of the Second Balkan War, been appointed head of a hospital located in the immediate vicinity of the battlefield. The field clinic, which the Dutch Red Cross

will send to Belgrade at the request of the Serbian government, consists of the following personnel: [list follows].

"The Supreme Committee of the Dutch Red Cross has once again appealed to the Dutch people for help.... 'This is not a question of sympathy or antipathy: aid is necessary.... During the First Balkan War, Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey were given generous

assistance. Now it is Serbia's turn. Please send your charitable contributions to the Dutch Red Cross....' (text from Fig. 1)"



Fig. 2 A Serbian patriotic map showing King Peter on a white horse trampling the Turkish flag, with a bilingual text identifying him as the liberator of "Serbian" regions (Skopje and Durrës) after the First Balkan War.



Fig. 3 The back of the map from Figure 2, sent by a member of the Dutch Red Cross from Serbia to Rotterdam. It has a red stamp from the Dutch Red Cross ambulance (Ambulance de la Croix Rouge Néerlandaise). (1)

We find the first information about nurse Koning after a long period of time in the Serbian newspaper printed on Corfu, in an article dedicated to Dutch aid titled "THE RED CROSS IN THE NETHERLANDS - The Dutch Committee for Aid to the Serbian Red Cross and the Victims in Serbia," followed by the text:

Fig.4 text fragment translation

Even before the evacuation, the Dutch Committee for Aid to the Serbian Red Cross and the Victims in Serbia requested information from the Serbian Royal Government and the Serbian Red Cross about what assistance Serbia needed. As requested, they then sent medicines, bandages, and condensed milk. In addition, on behalf of the Serbian Red Cross and the Royal Government, the Committee engaged a doctor, Dr. Doorenbosch, and nurses M. van Oien, W. Forbes Schmelzer, M. Westerhof, L.J. Koning, Verwey-Mejan, S. de Vries, van Schermkek, and G. van de Veen

ЦРВЕНИ КРСТ У ХОЛАНДИЈИ
— Холандски Одбор за помоћ Српском Црвеном Крсту и пострадалим у Србији —

У децембру 1914 године основан је у Амстердаму Одбор за Српски Црвени Крст, који су састављали господи: J. Th. Boelen, као председник; T. Th. Gleichman, као благајник; J. B. de la Faille, као први секретар; Bastiaan v. Ommen, као други секретар. После годину дана рата иступио је из Одбора Г. J. B. de la Faille, на чије је место дошао Г. A. J. Frolich, а Одбор је допуњен новим члановима: госпођама. G. H. Marez Oyens, рођена бароница, van Ittersum као потпредседница, и г-ђа Thierry de Bye Dolleman, рођена Prins van Westdorp, као чланица. Генералном конгреду Србије у Холандији, Г. M. Megeus-у уступљено је место почасног председника.

Крајем 1916 године умро је Г. A. J. Frolich. При оснивању Одбор је имао 31 члана, а после су придошли још 6.

Још пре евакуације, Одбор је тражио од Српске Краљевске Владе и Српског Црвеног Крста податке о томе: каква је потреба Србије, за коју би Одбор могао пружити своју помоћ, а затим је послао, по тражењу, лекарије, завоје и кондензовано млеко. Осим тога Одбор је ангажовао за рачун Српског Црвеног Крста и Краљевске Владе лекара Г. Dr. Doorenbosch-а и болничарке M. van Oyen, W. Forbes Schmelzer, M. Westerhof, L. J. Koning, Verwey-Mejan, S. de Vries, van Schermkek и G. van de Veen.

У августу 1915 године Г. Dr. Doorenbosch је дошао у Србију са 9 болничarki. По

In addition to the assistance from the Dutch Red Cross, there was also Dutch medical aid from so-called non-governmental organizations. In 1912, money was collected in the Netherlands by benefactors, and an ambulance unit was sent to Belgrade under the leadership of Dr. Arius van Tienhoven. When the Second Balkan War broke out, Serbia invited him to return. The ambulance staff also consisted of: Dr. van Hamel, two medical students: H.C.V. Serle and J. Riedijk, eight nurses, including G. van der Zwan, A.J. Schuitermaker, and G. Joon. The ambulance was in Valjevo. Due to a reduced number of wounded soldiers, their departure from Serbia had been planned for September. This ambulance ultimately returned to the Netherlands on October 4th.

According to J. Novaković-Lopušina (2): "Nurse J. Koning... reflected on her experiences from the Second Balkan War: 'Perhaps I would never have had to deal with war casualties if, in 1913, Dr. Van Tienhoven, who was then working in Serbia, had not asked for the help of Dutch nurses. I went with three other Dutch nurses and for several months I experienced the Second Balkan War against Bulgaria.' 'Although we were not on the front line, we struggled with terrible hygienic conditions. However, the Serbs were extremely warm-hearted; they are a very grateful and kind people' (De Telegraaf, 15.07.1935)."



Fig. 5 Reception of the wounded at the ambulance of the reserve hospital in the 17th Regiment barracks where the Dutch medical mission worked, Valjevo, 1913 (photo by A. Tienhoven, in Lopušina).



Сестре Схајтемакер, Вестерхоф, Де Хроге, Вермас,
Конинг и др Добоготов. Ваљево, 1913.

Fig.6 Nurses Schuitermaker, Westerhof, De Groot, Vermaas, Koning, and Dr. Dobrogotov, Valjevo, 1913 (photo by A. Tienhoven, in Lopušina).

L. Koning's stay in Serbia in 1915

In the "Srpske novine" (Serbian newspaper), published on Corfu, an article was found with the title: "The Red Cross in the Netherlands" and the subtitle: "The Dutch Committee for Aid to the Serbian Red Cross and the Victims in Serbia." Only a part of the legible text will be cited below.

Још пре евакуације, Одбор је тражио од Српске Краљевске Владе и Српског Црвеног Крста податке о томе: каква је потреба Србије, за коју би Одбор могао пружити своју помоћ, а затим је послао, по тражењу, лекарије, завоје и кондензовано млеко. Осим тога Одбор је ангажовао за рачун Српског Црвеног Крста и Краљевске Владе лекара Г. Dr Doorenbosch-а и болничарке M. van Oyen, W. Forbes Schmeltzer, M. Westerhof, L. J. Koning, Verwey—Mejan, S. de Vries, van Schermkeek и G. van d. Veen.

Fig. 8 A detail from the aforementioned text where Mrs. L.J. Koning is mentioned, among others.

This information about the presence of medical staff from the Netherlands in Serbia during 1915 is also confirmed by a text from a Dutch newspaper from that period, specifically a part from the Rotterdam daily newspaper ("Leidsche Dagblad") printed on July 30, 1915. (19).

Fig. 9 In this newspaper, under the heading "The Netherlands and the War," an article titled "Dutch Ambulance for Serbia" was published on July 30, 1915. Given the short text, a full translation is provided below: "Next week, with the date and place to be determined later, a team of nurses—W. Forben-Smeltzer, H. van Oyen, L. Koning, J. Wemmenhove, G. v. d. Veen, S. de Vries, N. Dorst, J. Derksen, and M. Verwey—Mejan—will travel to Serbia under the leadership of Dr. J.W.A. Doorenbos, a former Royal Dutch Navy health officer, to combat typhus. ... The journey will be made via London and Thessaloniki to Niš, where... (3)

Ambulance voor Servië.

De Servische ambulance zal de volgende week vertrekken onder leiding van dr. J. W. B. Doorenbos, oud-officier van gezondheid van de Kon. Ned. Marine, die pas uit Nederl.-Indië is teruggekeerd, waar hij medewerkte om de pest te bestrijden, de zusters W. Vorbes—Smeltzer, H. v. Oyen, L. Koning, J. Wemmenhove, G. v. d. Veen, S. De Vries, N. Dorst, J. Derksen en M. Verwey—Mejan. Tevens sluiten zich daarbij aan dr. P. Beyers, oud-officier van gezondheid van het Nederl. leger en de verpleger A. Kievenaar.

According to J. Novaković-Lopušina (2), "Nurse J. Koning... reflected on her experiences from her second arrival in Serbia: 'If I return to the Netherlands, maybe I'll be able to go

back to Serbia from there, where I felt I could help more... And I succeeded in doing that... In the summer of 1915, six of us set off for the Balkans. It was a long journey because we couldn't go through Germany and Austria now. First we crossed to England, then to Paris, in constant fear of mines and submarines. From Paris, we then traveled via Marseille and the Mediterranean Sea to Thessaloniki.'"



Fig.10 The field hospital in Kragujevac in 1915.

According to J. Novaković-Lopušina: "After the Austrian offensive began, a part of the Dutch nurses moved to work in English missions. Ms. L. Koning, one of the most famous Dutch war nurses, kept a war diary and this is what she noted about her work in the Stobart mission in Kragujevac at the end of 1915: 'We hear the detonation of bombs. Anti-aircraft artillery thunders without ceasing. Our patients have to flee. Seriously ill patients are quickly placed in cars and left to lie somewhere in a valley. Many nurses and male nurses have shouldered the wounded and are carrying them into the hills. In a short time, our field hospital is evacuated. What a fear...'

'I was in the field hospital and when the Germans approached, six Dutch nurses were the only ones who stayed with seven hundred wounded. First the population was evacuated, then the pursued Serbian army passed; even the wounded who were somewhat mobile asked for additional bandages so they could flee.'

Nurse Koning was and worked during 1915 in Kragujevac within the Stobart mission. Several postal items sent by Miss Koning from Serbia from that period bear witness. The first object considered is a Serbian soldier's postcard sent by Nurse Koning to Amsterdam, Netherlands.

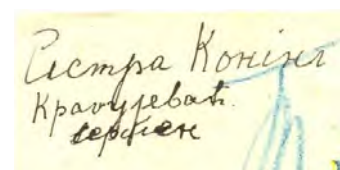


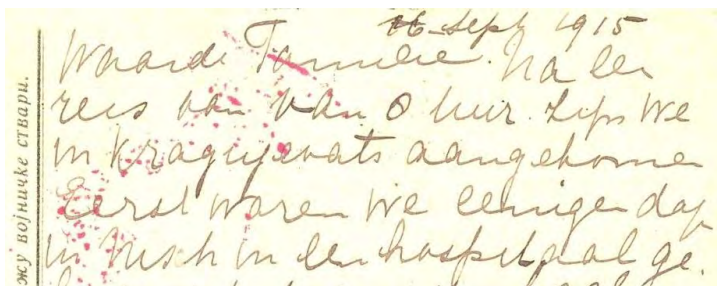
Fig. 11 A postcard from Serbian soldiers sent from Kragujevac (with an added 10-para "King Peter with a cap" stamp for international postal traffic), via Niš where it was censored (with the censorship stamp "CENSORED BY THE MAIN MILITARY CENSORSHIP"

and the date from the back of the card 16.09.1915), and then through France ("... CONTROLLE POSTAL MARCEILLE") to Amsterdam. The Serbian censor's blue-colored signature and the well-known black stamp of the Stobart Mission ("STOBART HOSPITAL Kragujevac"). In the top-left corner of this postcard, we find information about the sender—in Cyrillic script: "Sestra Koning, Kragujevac, Serbien". The Dutch postal reception stamp from Amsterdam is "A77".

Fig. 12 The back of the previous card with part of the text:

"Dear family,

After a journey of about 8 hours we arrived in Kragujevac. First, we were in Niš for a few days, accommodated in a hospital where they were very friendly towards us. Now we are setting up a kitchen in an English hospital. Everything is out in the open and on the ground. I'm working a lot. How are you? Does Paula have a recent report from the hospital? English women are cooking here. Lots of greetings to everyone, Mien K."



The second card was sent by nurse Koning to a family member in Amsterdam.

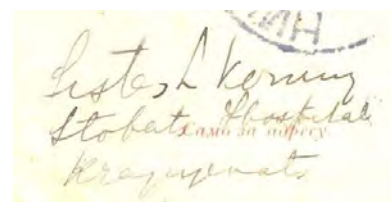
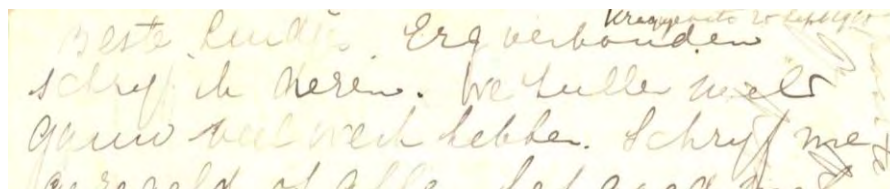


Fig. 13 A Serbian postal stationery for international postal traffic (late use) sent from Kragujevac via Niš (postal stamp 15.09.1915) where it was censored (red censorship stamp "CENSORED BY THE MAIN MILITARY CENSORSHIP" with

the date 18.09.1915) and via Italy (Bologna/posta estera) to Amsterdam. In addition to the Serbian censor's blue-colored signature, the card also bears the well-known black stamp of the Stobart Mission that was in Kragujevac ("STOBART HOSPITAL KRAGUJEVATZ / SERBIAN RELIEF FUND / STOBART MISSION KRAGUJEVAC"). In the bottom-left corner of this postcard, we find the sender's information: "Nurse L.Koning, Stobart Hospital, Kragujevatz".

Fig. 14 Fragment of the text: "We don't work the whole week. Write to me regularly to let me know if you are well. I like my tent hospital. The wounded arrive at a specific time. I would like to be at the front. Write to me at the address Jevremova 5, Niš. There is a Dutchman here who is very friendly."



The next item to be considered is a German military "Feldpostkarte" which provides new information about Nurse Koning. It is evident that she did not retreat with the other foreign medical missions or was captured and remained in Kragujevac, where she was under the control of German occupying forces. The card in the following image shows this.

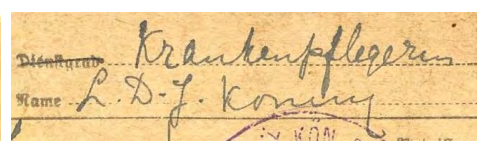
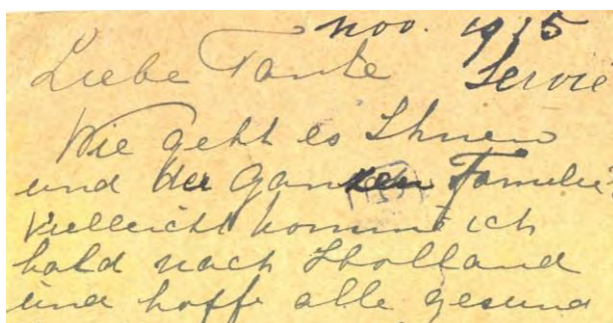


Fig. 15 A German military "Feldpostkarte" used by nurse Koning (L.D.J. Koning) from Kragujevac and sent to Gouda, Netherlands, in November 1915 (with a German military stamp "Herres-Gruppe v. Mackensen" from 3.12.1915 and... an Amsterdam arrival stamp – "A-25". The text "Krankenpflegerin, L.D.J. Koning" is

singled out. It is characteristic that this card also bears the stamp of a German military hospital "KON. PRE. KRIEESLAZ. ABTEILUNG/7. ARMEES. KORPS. REG/LAZ. 2," which raises the question of whether Nurse Koning worked in a German hospital or cared for Serbian patients. The text on the back, however, provides the answer:

Fig. 16

"Dear aunt, I'll probably come to the Netherlands soon and hopefully see you all in good health. I'm still here with three other Dutch nurses, and we are caring for the Serbian wounded. There are many German nurses in this city. We are well, and because of the transportation, there are fewer wounded. Many greetings to everyone. Goodbye, your Mien. Kragujevac."



The next document is a postcard sent by Nurse Mejan from Amsterdam on December 8, 1915, to Nurse Koning. It was sent via Emmerich to the same address, "III. Pr. Armeekorps, Lazarett 7—in Kragujevac," but it was not delivered; it was returned (with a purple "Zurück" stamp).

Figs. 17, 18

Part of the text from both sides of this postcard is given below: "Dear nurse, from Skopje... I arrived in Greece. I telephoned Dr. ... and ... and told them you were healthy and well."

"Dear nurse, you must have already received my card that I wrote on December 8, 1915. Your package will arrive soon. How are you... I have a lot to tell you about our experiences. We traveled for 5 and a half days, arrived at 7 a.m. very tired, and went to my nurse's place in Hengelo. Although it is not easy to travel



L. Koning. N. keine Karte, welche J. Dec. 1915 ich unterwegs geschrieben habe, hast du sicher schon empfangen. Dein Pass kann in Ordnung kommen so bald du zurück kommst. Wie soll es sich mit dem...

without money, the journey went quite well. The Dutch consul helped us. In Vienna, I tried to find Mrs. ..., but unfortunately, she had left the day before."

The next image shows a letter sent on February 17, 1916, from the Netherlands to nurse Koning in Kragujevac.



Fig.19 This example shows a letter from Gouda with an illegible date (17.02.1916 from the Gouda postal stamp on the back) sent to Nurse L. Koning, with the address of the Stobart Mission in Kragujevac. It obviously did not reach her, as its delivery was stopped by England, given that it was addressed to a member of the Stobart Mission in enemy territory—Serbia, which was occupied by the Central Powers: "UNDELIVERABLE L.F.S." and "RETOUR À L'ENVOYEUR."

The Danube & Black Sea Railway, local post Kustendje-Czernawoda

Francisc Ambrus

The first railroad in the Ottoman Empire was the Czernavoda-Kustendje line opened in 4 October 1860, concessioned to the British company "Danube & Black Sea Railway" associated with "Kustendje Harbour Company". This line shortens the route to Constantinople by almost 400 km and in the context of the Russo-Turkish wars it was of great strategic importance. The railway served to avoid the crossing of the Danube Delta by ships, a long and dangerous road. Czernavoda and Kustendje acquired supraregional importance after they became the start and end point of the railway connection of Danube and Black Sea Railways (DBSR). From then on, in the shipping season they also functioned as mail transshipment points for the mail route between Vienna and Constantinople.

From November 7, 1866, the DBSR railway connection between Czernawoda and Kustendje lost its importance for the connection to Constantinople, because a 224 km long railway line from Varna to Rustschuk had been opened and from there and there express ships of the DDSG took care of the onward transport to Basiasch. *In this context, the number of postal items was significantly reduced and evidence of the use of the local 20 paras stamp is on approximately 16 letters published or known in postal history. 10 copies are already in the philatelic collection of the Museum of Romanian Records and were presented in two exhibits, each three times Large Gold awarded in F.I.P. exhibitions, owners Ion Chirescu and Andrei Chirescu.*

In 1867 the company made the decision to print a local stamp with face value 20 paras, the tax that would have covered the cost between the two port cities, Czernawoda and Kustendje. The stamps were printed by Jakob Boschan & Co in Vienna with clichés executed by M. Kaiser Co.

In 1882, the company was sold to the Romanian State.

Local stamp of 20 paras, on good quality paper, with a slightly checkered texture, coloured bright slightly yellowish-green to greyish-blue shade. The gum used was colourless and fairly thin; after the lapse of time was a tendency to crack. Printing run about order 5,000 or 10,000.

Three distinct reprints are published in "The Private Ship Letter Stamps of the World" Part 2 by S. Ringstrom and H.E. Tester. In all of these reprints the "perforating" was carried out with the same punch as was used for the originals.

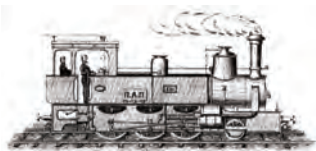
This is the first stamp in the world to show an image of the train



Enlarged detail of the 20 paras DBSR stamp



'RADETSKY' D.D.S.G. paddle steamer 1851



DBSR locomotive



'TRIESTE' Lloyd Austriaco paddle steamer 1836

Die proofs on colored cardboard



The only known letter with linear cancel KUSTENDJE

Postmark. P(Porto)

Pagato (Postage paid) - Until 1863 the name Lloyd was in Italian, all documents ending in Italian, this explains the markings in Italian: "Porto Pagato", or "lettere arivate per mare"

July (1861) Prepaid folded letter 1st weight step from Constantinople to Sistov (Bulgaria). Linear pmk.type "Paquebot": KUSTENDJE. Unknown "Kustendje" linear pmk. - probably the first cancel used in the Kustendje (Constanta) Harbour. The letter circulated with Lloyd ship on the Black Sea, from Constantinople to Constanta port - by train on the DBSR railway to Cernavoda and further to Sistov with DDSG ship. The letter has no note on the tariff applied .



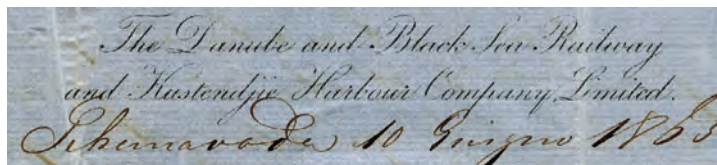
Letter to DBSR company

Mr. William Brown
(-are of)
Mr. James Walker
Danube & Black Sea
Czernavoda Turkey
(currently a locality in Romania)



18 Oct. (1864) Insufficiently prepaid cover from Glasgow to Czernavoda via London (19/10) - Calais (20/10) - Vienna (22/10). Cover addressed to Danube & Black Sea Railway Company - Czernawoda. The cover was dimmed, underpaid and travelled instead "Via Vienna". Manuscript notes at left "59+30=89 Porto"

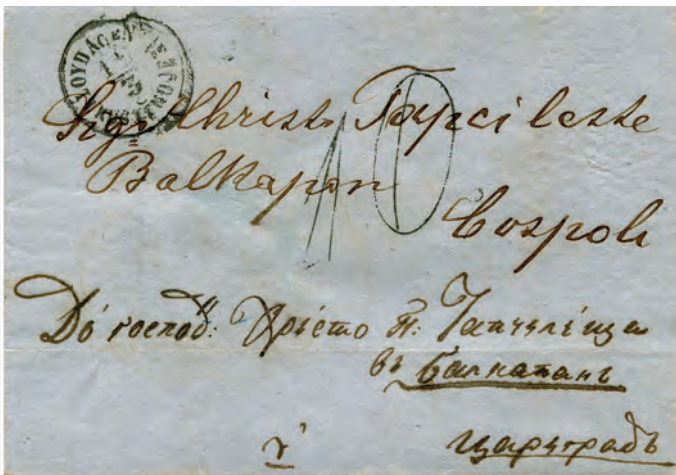
Letter from DBSR company



1865 (June 9): Prepaid letter 2 Loth sent from Czernavoda to Marcone (Italia) via Vienna, inside with printed sender address The Danube and Black Sea Railway and Kustendje Harbour company Ltd. Via Vienna 15/6 by DDSG steamers, railway mail Desenzano Milan 15/6, Ancona 16/6, railway mail Molfetta-Napoli 19/6, Benevento 18/6 to Morcone 20/6, struck with Austrian Consular CZERNAVODA 9/VI consular pmk. arrival Manone 20/GIU/65.



One from four known with "10" mark used in correspondence from Dobrudja



1867 (March 19): Unpaid letter 1 Loth sent from Kustendje to Constantinople 22/3 struck with Austrian Lloyd LLOYD AGENTIE KUSTENDJE 20/10 pmk. Hand cancel '10' in black applied on front of letter. Austrian rate 15 Sld. for route to Constantinople not requested.



Probably the earliest known circulation

29 June (1867) Prepaid letter 1 Loth from Kustendje (Constanta) to Orebich (9/7) franked with 20 paras for railway fee + 15 soldi for Austrian Levant canceled with postmark LLOYD/AGENTIE/KUSTENDJE, the letter went on the Constanta - Cernavoda route with the train of the private company DBSR and on the Danube river by boat to Vienna with DDSG.

One from two recorded to this destination

1868 (May 18): Prepaid letter 1 Loth from Kustendje to Genova at 40 soldi rate, via Vienna 23/5, Verona 24/5, Milano 25/5, bearing KUSTENDJE-CZERNAWODA DANUBE AND BLACK SEA RAILWAY local post stamp 20 Para black in combination with Levant 1864 40 Sld stamps, tied LLOYD AGENZIE / KUSTENDJE 18/3 pmk. Reverse with Vienna transit cds and Verona arrival (Mag 24).



Probably the only one recorded REGISTERED on Austrian stationery and to this destination

11 April (1868) Registered inland cover from Kustendje (Constanta) to Ibraila (16/4) via Czernavoda franked with 20 paras for railway fee + 10 soldi austrian stationery for Levant + 10 Soldi Austrian stamps for registration (on back side). The envelope traveled on the Constanta - Cernavoda route with the train of the private company DBSR and on the Danube river by boat to Braila. Circle pmk.: LLOYD/AGENTIE/KUSTENDJE.



Only recorded from Bucharest

1868ca (June 6): Prepaid cover sent from Bucharest to Kustendje (Constanta) 27/9 via Czernavoda, cancelled with BUCAREST 11/6 consular austrian pmk. On tranzit applied 20 Paras DBSR local stamp, cancelled with LLOYD AGENZIE KUSTENDJE 22/9 pmk.





Only recorded to this destination

22 Sept. (1868) Prepaid letter 1 Loth sent from Kustedje (Constanta) to Vienna 27/9 via Czernawoda cancelled with LLOYD AGENZIE KUSTENDJE 22/9 pmk.

Single recorded to this destination



1869 (Aug. 24): Prepaid cover to Gravesend, England at 40 soldi rate, bearing KUSTENDJE-CZERNAWODA DANUBE AND BLACK SEA RAILWAY local post stamp 20 Para black in combination with Levant 1864 15 Sld. and 1867 25 Sld, tied LLOYD AGENZIE/KUSTENDJE 24/8 datestamps in black. Reverse with Vienna 28/8 transit pmk and Gravesend 31/8 arrival.

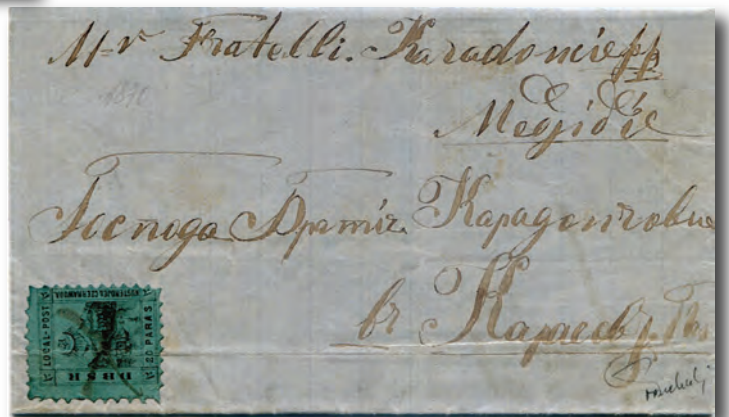


Only recorded from this destination

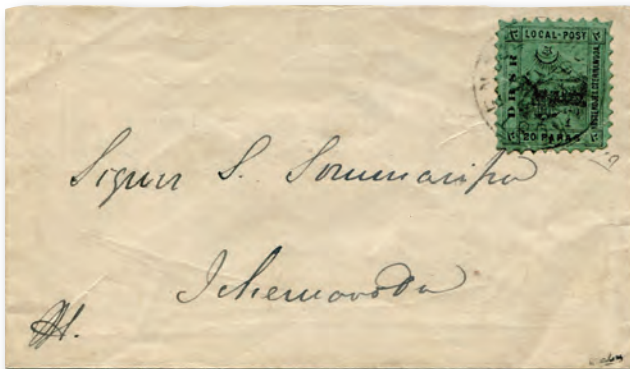
28 May (1869) Prepaid letter 1 Loth sent from Medgidie (Turkish name: Karasu) to Loano 4/GIU/69 via Kustendje 20/5, Verona 2/GIU/69, Milano-Staz 3/GIU/69, Savona 4/GIU/69, cancelled with LLOYD AGENZIE KUSTENDJE 22/9 pmk.

One from two recorded to this destination

1870 (Aug. 29): Prepaid local letter sent from Kustendje to Karasovi (Medgidia), local fee KUSTENDJE-CZERNAWODA DANUBE AND BLACK SEA RAILWAY local post stamp 20 Para 1867 issue, tied by manuscript cross on large part of a letter sent to "Signori Fratelli Caradoncieff Medjidie" (middle station of railway Kustendje-Czernawoda).



Only recorded with this cancellation



1871-72 ca (?): Prepaid local cover sent from Kustendje to Czernawoda, local fee KUSTENDJE-CZERNAWODA DANUBE AND BLACK SEA RAILWAY post stamp 20 Para 1867 issue, tied by KUSTENDJE TURQUIE 7/6 austrian consular pmk.



The images and descriptive texts were obtained with the consent of the owner of the Museum of Romanian Records.
<https://museumofromanianrecords.com>



Mutual philatelic cooperation within the framework of two Philatelic Federations, members of Balkanfila: Slovenia & Serbia for next year, 2026 in the field of Postal History:

**International Retrospective exhibition of postmarks in Slovenia between 1945 and 1991
&**

**International cooperation between the two Postal Administrations
with the issuance of a Joint Post Stamps and FDC in 2026
simultaneously with the occasional International Philatelic Exhibition**

In 2026, the Philatelic Federation of Slovenia and the Philatelic Society Lovro Košir Škofja Loka are organizing, in cooperation with the Philatelic Federation of Serbia and other domestic and foreign stakeholders, two exceptional philatelic events.

The first major, exceptional philatelic event will be International retrospective exhibition of postmarks in Slovenia between 1945 and 1991 from the unique archival depot collection of postmarks from the PTT Museum of Serbia, JP Pošta Srbije from Belgrade (PTT Yugoslavia was the federal postal administration for the entire territory of Yugoslavia in the period under review, which also included all postal branches in Slovenia) and from some collections of prominent philatelists from Slovenia. The exhibition, which will take place between 3rd and 22nd March 2026 (opening will be on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026, at 6 p.m.) at the Museum of Post and Telecommunications of Slovenia, Technical Museum of Slovenia in the Polhov Gradec Mansion, will include over 2000 impressions of daily and occasional postmarks, some of which will also be presented in physical form at the exhibition, as museum exhibits. The international exhibition of postmarks will cover the entire ethnic territory of Slovenia, including the territory that, after liberation in 1945, was under the administrative administration of VUJA/VUJNA – the Military Administration of the Yugoslav Army until the Paris Peace Conference in 1947 and after it, including 1954, as well as the territory of Prekmurje after the liberation in 1945.



Figure 1: Postmarks of the post office Škofja Loka in the years between 1950 and 1979.

At the same time, the international exhibition will present the original graphic designs of the postage stamps issued by formerly a joint venture PTT Yugoslavia (1945–1991), by Slovenian authors, such as the academic painter and graphic artist, academician Božidar Jakac and others.



Figure 2: The first graphics basics for the production of post stamps by the academic painter Božidar Jakac: sample prints of the design for the commemorative cover of the 400th Anniversary of the first Slovenian book (steel engraving, 1951, 4.9 x 6.3 cm).

This international exhibition is unique in that it displays selected post stamps from the territory of Slovenia in a selected period, which will be seen in this form for the first time.

A comprehensive catalogue of the international exhibition will also be published.

Another important philatelic event will be after ten years (joint issue of a post stamp on the theme of the Slovenian composer Davorin Jenko, who works professionally in Serbia and is also the author of the music for the Serbian anthem), the Slovenian Post and the Serbian Post are planning to jointly issue a post stamp and FDC again in 2026, along with a commemorative postmark, this time dedicated to the topic: the exceptional humanitarian work of two great personalities of Slovenia and Serbia: Franja Tavčar (1868–1938), court lady and wife of lawyer, writer, politician and Mayor of Ljubljana dr. Ivan Tavčar and The Yugoslav Queen, H.H.M. Marija Karađorđević (1900–1961). The event is expected to take place in June 2026, both in Serbia (Belgrade, under the patronage of the Crown Prince, H.R.H. Alexander II Karađorđević), and in Slovenia (chapel at Loka Castle in Škofja Loka). The humanitarian work of both ladies, after the death of their respected husbands, included concrete material humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable groups, especially children without parents and single mothers throughout the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Queen Marija Karađorđević, under a pseudonym: "Marija K. Đorđević" (including humanitarian packages for approximately 200,000 Yugoslav internees in German concentration camps) during and immediately after World War II, with her humanitarian aid: a large-scale free package to Yugoslav war refugees.



Figure 3: H.H.M., Queen Maria Karađorđević and Franja Tavčar, the queen's court lady at the Ljubljana fair in the autumn of 1932.

At the same time, an international philatelic exhibition of Slovenian and Serbian philatelists on the topic: "Reciprocally important personalities of Serbia and Slovenia" will be held in Belgrade at the Museum of PTT Serbia, JP Pošta Srbije, in Belgrade. The Slovenian and Serbian peoples were very closely connected in the history of the common state, both the Kingdom of SHS/Yugoslavia and the DFY/FLRY/SFRY. Therefore, many important personalities of the Slovenian and Serbian peoples were shared reciprocally, both in the political, economic, and cultural spheres.

World philately, in the sense of organizing philatelic exhibitions, is a living organism and its rich history is being passed on to younger generations.

Janez Cerkvenik, Ph.D. & Gregor Cerkvenik, Ph.D.,

Philatelic Society Lovro Košir Škofja Loka & Philatelic Federation of Slovenia



Source & Literature:

- Albert Murn, Dalibor Stoviček: Poštni žigi Škofje Loke, ob 140 – letnici prve poštne zbiralnice na Gorenjskem (1840–1980), Loški razgledi št. 29, leto 1982, stran 69 – 85.
- [Po Franu in Frančku je prišla še Franja: www.delo.si/magazin/.](http://www.delo.si/magazin/)
- Božidar Jakac ob 85–letnici: Osnutki za znamke, znamke, ovitki prvega dne in priložnostni ovitki, priložnostni žigi, Škofja Loka, 1984, stran 25.

PERFORATION FORGERIES ON YUGOSLAVIA STAMPS

Svetislav D. Jelić

Among collectors, and therefore in the postal stamp market, a certain niche is occupied by stamps with errors. The explanation lies in the fact that stamps with errors differ from the rest of the print run, which makes them rarer examples that can be included in collections, which in turn gives them a higher market price. We often find stamps with perforation errors in the offers of auction houses and on online auctions, which, as already mentioned, have a much higher price than the same stamps without such errors.



Fig. 1 Original perforation error on stamps in block of four



Fig. 2 Original perforation error on a single stamp

Nevertheless, recently I found two types of forged perforation stamps on Serbian stamps market.

Specifically, the following appear in the offers with the aim of profit for dealers, to the detriment of collectors:

- stamps that are perforated on one side with a forged linear perforation (usually in a pair) and
- stamps with a forged double or shifted perforation (usually in a pair or a block of four)

The source of these two seemingly different types of forgeries is obviously a single one, with the difference that in the first type, the forger separated the stamps along the line of the forged perforations. Definitive and commemorative stamps were the subject of the forgery.

Balkanfila



Newsletter

Type I forgeries



Fig. 3 Comparison of forged perforation on definitive stamps

Fig. 4 Comparison of forged perforation on definitive and commemorative stamps



In comparing two forged perforations (figs. 4, 5) we see that they perfectly match.



Fig. 5 Comparing the original perforation with the forged one by removing the margin with original perforation from the stamp left side (see fig. 4).

In this comparison case we see that forged perforation doesn't match the original one.

The technical characteristics of the forged perforation are:

- The measured value on the perforation gauge is between $13 \frac{1}{4}$ and $13 \frac{1}{2}$.
- The diameter of the circle is slightly smaller than the diameter of the original perforations.
- The forged perforation is uneven.

This last characteristic is not easily noticeable in the first type of forgery, as the impression is that the mentioned unevenness of the teeth is a consequence of separating the stamp from the sheet.



Fig. 6 Uneven forged perforation on stamps in pair

Type II forgeries

With the second type of forgery (stamps in a block of four), the difference between the original and forged perforation can be clearly observed.



Fig. 7 double forged perforation is smaller than original

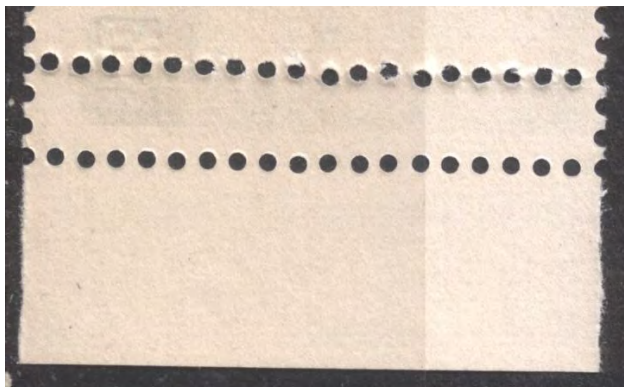


Fig. 8 Visibly crooked perforation and damage to the paper during forgery.

A detailed examination concluded that, depending on the quality of the paper on which the stamps were printed, we can differentiate between better and worse forged perforations. With lower-quality paper, damage to the paper is noticeable along the perforation line due to the pressure applied when creating the additional forged perforation. The stamps slightly curl along this line, a curling not noticeable with perforations created by the printing press.

Evidently, the "equipment" used to produce these forgeries is not professional, resulting in the aforementioned anomalies. However, it must be noted that despite these obvious and quite clear shortcomings, this material still finds its way to collectors.



Fig. 9 Unsuccessful attempt to create an additional (double) perforation.

In conclusion, I would add that there are some very successfully made examples of these forgeries, which are practically impossible to spot with the naked eye. You should definitely be cautious when buying stamps with errors.

Following the footsteps of Suvorov...

...from Odessa to Râmnicu Sărat and back, ending in Izmail, but still 'alive' in Romania !

Recently, I came into possession of a photographic postcard that can be dated with some precision to the autumn of 1913 (*photo 1*). This is the date of the unveiling of the monument dedicated to Alexander Suvorov in Dragosloveni, Dumbrăveni commune (Vrancea county), an equestrian statue of the Russian generalissimo of Tsarina Catherine II, the one whom the Tsarina ennobled with the title Count of Râmnic (Граф Рымникском).

On the foundation plate (which was to be placed under the foundation of the monument) it was written: "His Imperial Majesty, the Sovereign Emperor Nicholas II Alexandrovich, Autocrat of All Russia, in commemoration of the brilliant victory achieved by the Russian troops under the command of Generalissimo Count Alexander Vasilievich Suvorov of Rîmnik on September 11, 1789 over the Turks



at Rîmnik, was pleased to order the artist-sculptor B. V. Edwards, on December 9, 1909, to erect a monument dedicated to Generalissimo Suvorov on the battlefield at Rîmnic (Рымник), near the village of Târgu-Cucului (Тыргы-Кукули), on the site of the former Ottoman fortification. The construction of the monument is taking place on the territory of the Romanian Kingdom with the permission of His Majesty the Romanian King Carol I. This monument was created at the initiative of the Russian Imperial Military Historical Society".

The statue depicted Suvorov riding a Don steppe horse, holding a bicorn in his right hand. The model of the equestrian sculpture of Suvorov was made in the workshop of B. W. Edwards, under his personal supervision, all artistic and sculptural work belonging entirely to him. The development of the monument's design, its execution in all parts and the construction of the model took place over a year and a half and were completed in May 1911. The construction of the monument lasted 22 months, from the moment of approval of the design to its unveiling, with breaks for work during the winter at the installation site.

The statue was mounted on a Finnish red granite plinth with bronze bas-reliefs on

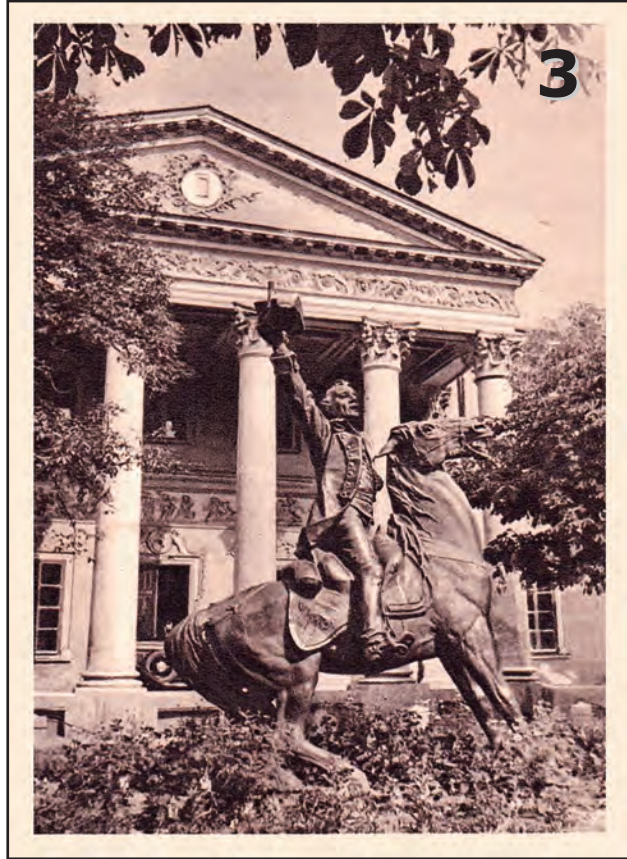
three sides. The central bas-relief depicted the charge of the Russian cavalry at the Lambs' Grove (Крынг-Мейлорский), the left bas-relief depicted the Russian Cossacks and grenadiers entering the Ottoman camp, and the right bas-relief depicted the hussars of the 4th Regiment of the Prince of Coburg, the Russian ally, depicted on horseback

The monument stood on a concrete foundation laid in solid clay soil, after a drilling investigation to a depth of 21 meters. A plinth was placed over the foundation and a pedestal made of Finnish pink granite was placed, with a polished cross on the main facade.

The monument was crowned with a bronze statue of Suvorov, on a horse that had been left on its hind legs, appearing to suddenly stop from galloping. The total height of the monument was 10.8 meters. The texts on the monument, inscribed in Russian and Romanian, were, on the facade, at the foot of the statue: "God is with us, miraculous heroes, hurrah!", and on the bronze cartouche: "To the Generalissimo, His Serene Highness the Prince of Italy, Count Alexander Vasilievich Suvorov-Rîmnikski". On the right side, on the base, it was written: "By order of the Sovereign Emperor Nicholas II, Autocrat of All Russia, with the permission of the King of Romania Carol I, erected in the summer of 1913". On



the left side, the same inscription in Romanian. On the back facade, on the plaque, the text appeared: "On September 11, 1789, on this field, near the city of Rîmnik, the great Russian commander Alexander Vasilievich Suvorov, leading the swift troops of the Russian army and the allied Austrian troops under the command of Prince of Saxony Friedrich Josiah Coburg-Saafeld and volunteers from the population of the Danubian principalities, achieved a brilliant victory over the Turkish forces, which were four times superior to him. May the brilliant feat of the great Russian hero, who fought for the good of the Christian peoples, live forever in the hearts of his descendants. Glory to the invincible leader".



By order of Russian Emperor Nicholas II, 120 thousand rubles and 5,000 pounds of metal (approx. 2.5 tons) of scrap iron from artillery pieces were allocated for the construction of the monument, according to the statement of the secretary of the construction commission, which refutes the popular opinion that the bronze sculpture of Suvorov was cast from captured Turkish cannons, which had been waiting for 120 years to be melted down into a monument.

On November 5, 1913, at a ceremonial breakfast offered in honor of the Russian military delegation, which arrived to participate in the unveiling of the monument, King Carol I of Romania addressed the Russian officers, saying: "I am deeply moved by the fact that your Lordship has erected on my land a monument to the great Suvorov, whom I have admired since childhood". The following day, the unveiling ceremony of the monument took place. The

Russian envoy Nikolai Nicolaevici Sebeko with his mission, the Russian military delegation led by General Romanenko, the Austro-Hungarian military attaché Hronilovici, generals, officers, authorities and representatives of Romanian society were present. The ceremony was also attended by Alexandru Vlahuță, as well as Ion Luca Caragiale with his son, Mateiu Caragiale... The Romanian bishop led the service together with the Russian clergy. After the service, the chairman of the construction commission, General Romanenko, gave a speech in which he presented the history of the monument's construction and concluded his speech with the words: "In the name of the Sovereign Emperor, I unveil the monument". The sculpture of Suvorov was freed from the veil, which smoothly descended to the foot of the monument. Then wreaths were laid on behalf of the Russian mission, the Romanian army, the Suvorov Corps and the regiments that participated in the Battle of Râmnic. At the end of the celebration, a review of the troops took place.

On this occasion, a commemorative brass medal (*photo 2*) was also issued, with a diameter of 65 mm, engraver Borys W. Edwards from Odessa and made by the house of W. Mayer & Fr. Wilhelm from Stuttgart.

But the life of the monument in Râmnic was not to be long... After only 3 years after its installation, as a result of the beginning of the First World War, the Russians dismantled the statue and moved it to Odessa (*photo 3*), where it was initially reinstalled in the sculptor's yard, and later, moved to Izmail (*photo 4*), in 1945 and installed in front of the city's cathedral, on the site where a statue of King Ferdinand of Romania had been placed, between 1938 - 1940 and 1942 - 1944 (*photo 5*).



About the statue of King Ferdinand from Ismail (made by sculptor Ion C. Dimitriu-Bârlad), we know that it was unveiled on November 4, 1937 at the initiative of Bishop Dionysie of Ismail. In 1940, Bessarabia was occupied by the Soviets, but until their arrival in Izmail, the statue was taken to Tulcea and deposited at the residence of the 1st Border Guard Battalion, and then installed on the pedestal where the statue of Mircea the Elder once stood, destroyed during World War I by the Bulgarian occupiers. The solemn unveiling of the monument of King Ferdinand I in Tulcea took place on November 17, 1940. In 1942, with the reconquest of Bessarabia by Romanian troops, the statue of Ferdinand re-



turned to Izmail, to its original place, in the Cathedral Square. After the reoccupation of the city by the Red Army in 1944, the monument to the Reconciler King Ferdinand disappeared without a trace...

Finally, returning to equestrian statue of Generalissimo Suvorov, we learn from Anatol Popescu, the founding president of "Bessarabia" Association of Romanians from the Odessa region, that on December 1, 2022, the very National Day of Romania, as part of the actions to de-Russify Ukraine, this monument

was dismantled by decision of the deputies of the Izmail Local Council (*photo 6*) and deposited on the territory of the Municipal Enterprise "Water-Drainage" Production Directorate, next to a statue of Lenin dismantled since 2016...

Back in present-day Romania, we still find Suvorov on a spur of a hill, still on horseback, at the entrance to the commune of Dumbrăveni on the left of the E 85 road, heading towards Focșani. How did he get there again? Here it is:

In 1949, on the occasion of the 160th anniversary of Suvorov's victory against the Turks, the Commission of Historical and Artistic Monuments of the Academy of the Romanian People's Republic (*sic!*) made the decision to restore the former monument, on which occasion, on the front of its base, a marble slab was mounted with the following inscription in Romanian and Russian: "This monument will be restored as a sign of the gratitude and friendship of the Romanian people towards the great Soviet people; it was erected in memory of the victory achieved



over the Turkish invaders, on September 22, 1789 on the Râmnic Plain by the Russian army under the command of the brilliant army commander, Generalissimo A. V. Suvorov. Numerous Romanian volunteers fought in the ranks of the Russian army. Eternal glory to the invincible army commander, A. V. Suvorov, who fought for the liberation of our people from the Turkish yoke".

In the 1950s, the commune of Dumbrăveni was called Suvorov. On the occasion of the 170th anniversary of Suvorov's victory, a new statue was erected here, the work of sculptor Marius Butunoiu (*photo 8*). The equestrian statue, visible from the national road (today, road E 85, at the intersection with the Dumitrești - Bogza county road) was completed in 1957 and inaugurated in 1959, on the occasion

of the 170th anniversary of Suvorov's victory. There is an opinion that this is the first equestrian representation by a Romanian sculptor. There is also information, but not confirmed by documents, that the equestrian statue of Carol I in Bucharest (*photo 7*), the work of the Croatian sculptor Ivan Meštrović, was not melted down entirely, but only the representation of King Carol, the horse being preserved and "recycled" into the statue of General Suvorov in Dragoslaveni!...



In conclusion, let's see - *briefly...* - who this Suvorov was and what is his intimate connection with the city of Izmail: according to Wikipedia, Aleksandr Suvorov (1729 - 1800) was the fourth and last Russian Generalissimo (*not counting Stalin*). He was one of the few generals in history who never lost a battle. He is famous for his manual of military tactics "The Science of Victory". According to Ukrainian historians, Suvorov was responsible for the suppression of national liberation uprisings in right-bank Ukraine in 1768 - 1769 (*Koliivshchina*) and Poland in 1794 (*Kosciuszko's Uprising*). With the general's permission, about 20,000 people were killed in the massacre in the Praga suburb of Warsaw. Suvorov also led the deportation of Christians from Crimea to the Russian Empire in 1778, and in 1782 - 1783 he displaced the Nogai Tatars from the Kuban region. All of these actions were marked by excessive use of force and brutality by the tsarist army and bore signs of genocide. After the capture of the city of Izmail on December 11, 1790, Suvorov left it to his soldiers for three days. They spared no one, not even women or children. According to eyewitnesses, in Izmail Russian soldiers shouted to each other: "Kill the little *Basurmans* (*infidels*) so that they do not grow up to be our enemies". "The bloody Cossacks grabbed children by the feet and crushed their heads against the walls" - wrote Russian Colonel Nikolay Orlov, in 1890.

photo 1 - Russian postcard: Памятник Генералиссимусу А. В. Суворову на Рымникском пол сражению. Создалъ и соорудилъ Художникъ-Скульпторъ Б. В. Эдуардсъ Одессью (Monument dedicated to General A. V. Suvorov on the battlefield of Râmnic. Created and erected by the artist-sculptor B. V. Edwards Odessa / Art sculp. B. Edwards Creato e costruito)

photo 2 - medal issued on the occasion of the inauguration of the monument, with bilingual Romanian and Russian text: "In memory of the inauguration of the monument / Count A. V. Suvorov Râmnikskky / on the Râmnic-Sărat plain / 1789-1913"

photo 3 - Soviet postcard - 1946: Одесса - Памятник Суворову (Odessa - Suvorov Monument)

photo 4 - Soviet postcard - 1954: Измаїл - Пам'ятник О. В. Суворову (Izmail - O. V. Suvorov Monument)

photo 5 - Romanian photo postcard: Ismail - City Cathedral with the Monument to Reg. Ferdinand I (*Fotofilm Cluj, 1938*)

photo 6 - dismantling of the Suvorov monument in Izmail (December 1, 2022)

photo 7 - the former equestrian statue representing King Carol I of the Romanians, erected in 1939 in Bucharest, which was destroyed during the communist regime

photo 8 - the new A.V. Suvorov monument in Romania, inaugurated in 1959 and renovated in 2021...



Philatelic exhibition POPULAR MUSIC ON STAMPS

by Tone Petek, Celje, Slovenia

Preparing philatelic exhibitions on various themes has been a unique challenge for me for many years. Therefore, it is no coincidence that I recently embarked on an exhibition entitled POPULAR MUSIC ON STAMPS.

Dance and music are among the oldest forms of human artistic expression. They are inherent to all civilizations. Throughout history, music has evolved in tandem with other human achievements. The first material evidence of music dates back far into prehistory (in 2007, the Slovenian Post issued a commemorative postage stamp depicting a bone flute, the oldest musical instrument found at Divje Babe, caves in the hills above the Idrijca River – estimated to be around 55,000 years old).



With the development of humanity and communications, music not only developed but also spread. Due to its universal acceptance, it became increasingly popular. Postage stamps, as a form of payment for postal services, are relatively young. While the initial motifs, where crowned heads dominated, the images on the stamps expanded to many areas. Therefore, it is no coincidence that we see depictions of many genres of popular music on postage stamps today.

With these insights, I set out to create an exhibition with the above theme. About a year ago, during a conversation with Dr. Tone Kregar, the director of the Museum of Recent History in Celje (and frontman of the popular music band Mi2 = We two), I

agreed to prepare the aforementioned thematic exhibition at this institution. And the preparations began.

First, I tackled the design, the thematic structure. I was aware that popular music encompasses a wide variety of genres, not just pop music. I included a wide variety of genres within the thematic framework, from classical, folk-pop, "popular" and other music. In addition to philately, I also included some thematic non-philatelic material, such as interesting lyrics, concert tickets, records, photos of performers, autographs, guitar strings, picks and other interesting items. All this diverse non-philatelic material can stimulate greater interest in the exhibition visitor.



My philatelic exhibiting collections are not intended for philatelic competition exhibitions, but exclusively for the promotion of philately. That is why, for every postage stamp that I present first in the original, I also enlarge the same stamp to 200%, because in this way this tiny postage stamp comes to life and shows us many things that were previously less visible on the original and that is why we did not notice many things. Visitors to these exhibitions are satisfied because they can view the postage stamp in a more friendly way, and this leaves a good impression at the end of the visit. Those who forgot their glasses at home "just today" are especially grateful.

Among the most interesting philatelic curiosities are stamps of classical music masters, singers and bands of jazz, rock, old music genres, etc. As an interesting fact, the Elvis Presley stamp, which was issued in the USA in 1993, was issued in more than 500,000,000 copies. Among others, interesting stamps are those depicting Slovenian pop singers, old musical instruments, musical groups The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, etc.



The exhibition was set up in Celje on 28 May this year. It was prepared on 109 A4 sheets. I was helped by numerous philatelic colleagues in the preparation and setting up. At the event itself, I presented Tone Kregar, the director of the museum, with a yearbook of Yugoslav stamps that were published in the year of his birth. In this way, I am also trying to spread interest in philately among non-philatelists.



Tone Kregar receiving stamps from the year of his birth

A thematic musical performance accompanied the opening of the exhibition, and the event was well attended, receiving attention from various print and electronic media.



Young musical virtuosos at the exhibition opening

The responses of visitors to the exhibition, for whom music is a constant or frequent companion in their daily lives, were amazed by the diversity of the material displayed and everyone saw something interesting at the exhibition. Non-philatelists were especially enthusiastic, as they did not know that so many motifs related to music could also be found on postage stamps.



Visitors at the exhibition

Among the most important materials in the exhibition are also presentations of various musical instruments, as well as French chanson performers, composers and performers, such as Franz Liszt, Richard Wagner, Giuseppe Verdi, Ludwig van Beethoven, William Christopher Handy, Georg Gershwin, Bedrich Smetana, Johannes Brahms, W. A. Mozart, P. I. Tchaikovsky, Bela Bartok, Aram Khachaturian, Georg Gershwin, and a little later, such as Duke Ellington, Buddy Holly, Frank Sinatra, Louis Armstrong, Hank Williams, Bob Marley, Jim Morrison, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Edith Piaf, Janis Joplin, Ella Fitzgerald, Madonna, Barbra Streisand, Tina Turner, Montserrat Caballé, Michael Jackson, Freddie Mercury, Elton John, David Bowie, Falco, ABBA ... Of course, it was not without Slovenian personalities associated with music, such as the composer Josip Ipavec, and the brothers Vilko and Slavko Avsenik. Interesting venues, such as the Woodstock festival, the Vienna State Opera, and the radio station Radio Caroline ...

Very important note:

Promoter of the Philately Tone Petek has so far prepared 44 different non-competitive (!) thematic exhibitions. If we include the repetitions of exhibitions in other places, there have been 91 so far.

Therefore, this article serves as an example of an approach to a new topic and its practical application!

tone.petek@t-1.si

The 20th Philatelic Forum in Northeast China

Philately in Türkiye
土耳其集邮

梅赫梅特·阿肯
Mehmet AKAN

The 20th Philatelic Forum in Northeast China, September 5, 2025, at the Workers' Cultural Palace in Changchun, Jilin Province.

THE ACADEMY OF TURKISH PHILATELY

东北地区集邮联谊活动
Philatelic Friendship Forum in Northeast China

中国东北地区集邮联谊第20次活动定于2025年9月5日在吉林省长春市工人文化宫召开。

On September 5, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. Turkey time, our Academy will be a guest at **The 20th Northeast China Philatelic Forum**, to be held at the **Workers' Cultural Palace** in Changchun, Jilin Province. TFA President **Mehmet AKAN** has given a presentation titled **"Philately in Turkey,"** primarily aimed at young Chinese philatelists.

Basic information about the history of Turkish postal services from 1840 to 1923 and a brief history of organized philately in Turkey will be presented. At this forum, many prominent philatelists have previously given presentations, including our Academy member FIP Director **Peter Suhadolc**, **Vladimir Milić**, FIP Vice President **Aldo Samamé y Samamé**, FIP Director **Reinaldo Macedo**, FIP Revenue Commission Chairman **Ralph Ebner**, and Royal Philatelist President **Simon Richards**. The format also provides opportunities for young philatelists. On behalf of our Academy, our young colleague **Kaan Leonardo** will both give a presentation on **"Stamps of the Republic of Turkey"** and simultaneously translate the Academy's presentation into Chinese.

PTT NFT (Crypto) Stamp Consultation Meeting

(August 7, 2025)



On August 7, 2025 at the invitation of **Mr. Fatih Tezcan**, Deputy General Manager of PTT, we participated in a working dinner and presentation held at the **PTT Stamp Museum Special Hall** with the participation of approximately 25 people, including Department Heads, Deputy Heads, Museum Director, and Philately Branch Manager.

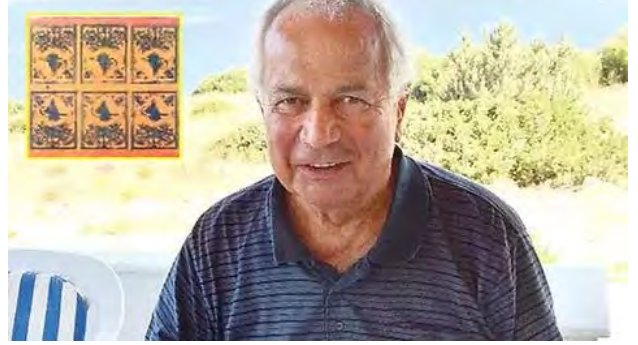
The main agenda of the meeting focused on various topics directly related to philately, particularly the issuance of **NFT (Crypto Stamps)**. Within this framework, a comprehensive and meticulously prepared presentation lasting approximately 40 minutes was delivered.

During the meeting, we shared our views and evaluations as philatelists and sought to clarify the subject by asking questions. Given that the concepts of NFT and digital stamps are still quite new and developing in terms of their impact on philately, PTT expressed a positive approach toward continuing the process in the form of a **working group**.

We are pleased to note that PTT's serious interest and enthusiasm for the subject is encouraging for us.

M. Kühut Alanyalı has passed away

On 2nd July 2025, our founding member and Honorary Chairman Kühut Alanyalı passed away. Philatelic world mourns the loss of one of the most influential founding members of Turkive Association.



When the **Ottoman Empire/Turkey study group** was formed, Kühut Alanyalı was already a world-renowned collector of stamps and postal history of the Ottoman Empire. Wilhelm Weber established contacts him and recruited him as a founding member of our association.

Kühut Alanyalı was born in 1939 in İzmir and lived in Germany since 1962. He was married and had two children. After studying Architecture and Engineering in İstanbul, he established several companies and was the managing owner of the WERT Group as well as an independent entrepreneur in the construction, fashion, textile, and hospitality industries.

He had been collecting stamps since the age of seven and had assembled an internationally renowned collection of the Ottoman Empire, focusing on Tuğra, Duloz, Empire, pre-philately, Lianos/İstanbul city post. Alanyalı also collected German states (especially Württemberg), pocket watches and Far East sea shells. He was an enthusiastic golf player.

He was a member of the Royal Philatelic Society London, the İstanbul Philatelic Association and the Heinrich von Stephan Stamp Collectors' Guild in Böblingen.

He used his reputation in international philately to establish contacts for our association. For many years, he was a staunch supporter of the Association, both organisationally and financially. His success as an independent entrepreneur had enabled him to assemble extensive collections. Tragically, it was the insolvency of his group of companies that forced him to sell some of his collections.

Unfortunately, many of today's members were not able to meet him personally at the annual meetings. However, it quickly became clear that the provenance 'ex Alanyalı' was a special mark of quality. He always brought parts of his fantastic collections to the meetings in Kirchheim and surprised even seasoned specialists with the scope and quality of his collection items.

After the sale of his collections, contact with the association unfortunately broke off more and more. However, as a founding member who had done so much for our association, he remains unforgotten. We have lost one of the great personalities of our association. We will remember him with gratitude. May he rest in peace.

"Travelling with Stamps Everywhere" : an exemplary Student Philatelic Competition

Students from 3rd to 6th grade of the Second Primary School of Axioupolis town, on the initiative of the school teacher Mr. G. Efthymiadis and with the participation of teachers from the respective grades, competed in Essay and Stamp Design.

Each student decided on their choice of topic, always within the general theme "**Travelling with Stamps Everywhere**", writing an essay of 150 words for 3rd grade participants (aged 8–9 years old) and 250 words respectively for students of 4th, 5th and 6th grades (aged 10–12 years old) as well as designing a stamp related to their essay. Thirty-two students signed up for this high-standard, challenging and entertaining competition.

The Jury consisted of school educators, members of the Hellenic Philatelic Federation, the Philatelic Museum, and a Postage Stamp Art-Designer. The Hellenic Post (EL.TA) and the Hellenic Philatelic Federation – E.F.O warmly supported this commendable initiative by offering philatelic prizes to the participating students.



On June 12, 2025, the celebration for the end of the school year took place, followed by the awards ceremony for this philatelic competition, when the local postman Mr. Panagiotis Depoudis, with the postal bag slung over his shoulders, presented the awards and commendations to the female and male students who had participated in the competition.

The childrens' participation and the effort they put forth, as well as the joy seen on their faces as they received their awards from the postman, provided the teachers the strength to continue this program next school year and let stamps take all of us traveling wherever we dream.

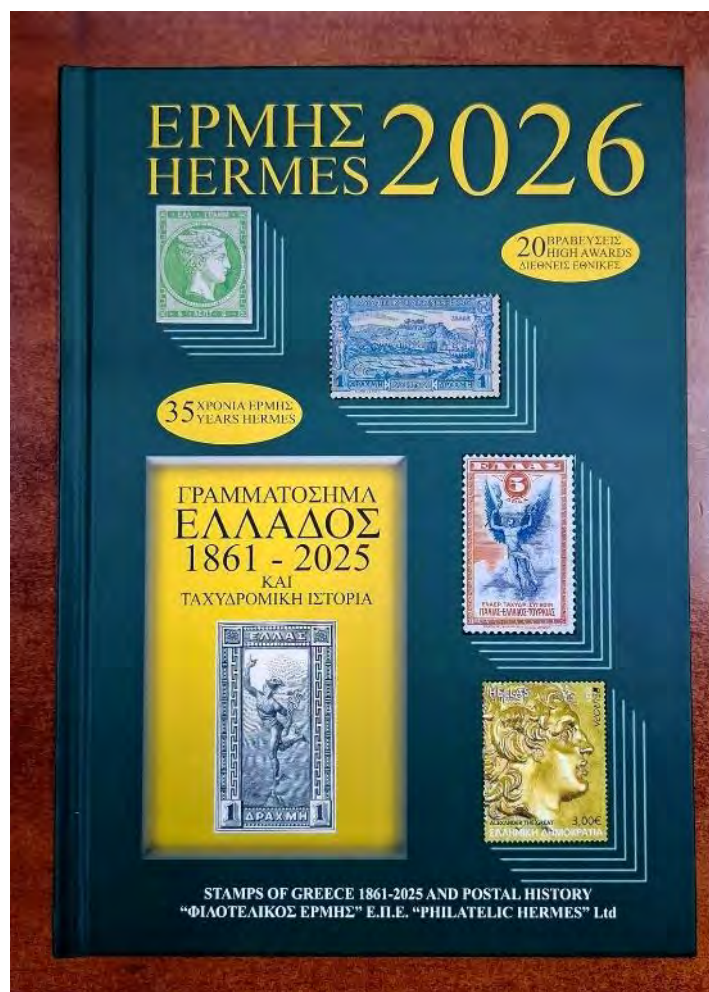


The Competition Prizes of "Travelling with stamps... everywhere" were offered by the National Historical Museum, the National Foundation for Research and Studies "Eleftherios K. Venizelos", the Hellenic Post, the Hellenic Philatelic Federation, the philatelic store "Ilissia Stamps" as well as by many individual collectors who contributed to our effort by sending rich material which was given to the contestants, while a large part of these philatelic items will be used during the activities of the "Travelling with Stamps" program during the next school year 2025–2026, starting in September.

NEW STAMP CATALOGUE «HERMES 2026»

During this summer, the New Stamp and Postal History Catalogue “HERMES 2026” was released, marking the 35-year presence in philately.

“HERMES” Catalogue has received 20 awards in both national and international philatelic exhibitions and it stands as a reliable reference book as well as a useful “instrument” for philatelists.



This New edition offers not only updated info on older and current stamp issues in a larger size format but it also features significant overall re-design as well as detailed descriptions of cancellations with the content editing by the late Manolis Vardoulakis, a well-known collector.

The Catalogue is the result of a professional partnership among four renowned philatelic dealers : C. Tarassouleas, E. Paidoussis, I. Sitarenios and Sp. Vanikiotis.

BULGARIA

200 Years since the Restoration of Preobrazhenski Monastery

On 06.08.2025 the Ministry of Transport and Communications launches a postage stamp "Bulgarian Monasteries – 200 Years since the Restoration of Preobrazhenski Monastery".

The Preobrazhensky Monastery is a Bulgarian monastery in the Diocese of Veliko Turnovo. It is located on the Yantra River, 7 km north of Veliko Turnovo. It is the fourth largest monastery in Bulgaria, founded during the Second Bulgarian Empire in the 13th – 14th centuries. At the end of 14th century, it was destroyed during the Ottoman conquest of Veliko Turnovo.



The Preobrazhensky Monastery was rebuilt on its present site in 1825 by the Rila monk Father Zotik, who served as an abbot of the monastery in the 1920s – 1930s. At the monastery there is a library and a museum exhibition, which houses books, historical documents, valuable medieval Bulgarian books, icons, and other works of applied art.

150th Birth Anniversary of Atanas Burov

On 09.07.2025 the Ministry of Transport and Communication launched a postage stamp "150th Birth Anniversary of Attanas Burov" into circulation.

Attanas Dimitrov Burov (1875 – 1954) is a famous Bulgarian financier, philanthropist, diplomat and politician of the People's Party and later of the moderate wing of the Democratic Alliance.



He was Minister of Trade, Industry and Labor (1913, 1919 – 1920) and of Foreign and Religious Affairs (1926 – 1931). He was considered one of the most influential figures in Bulgarian political life in the first half of the 20th century and was called the "ideologist of the Bulgarian bourgeoisie" due to his political speeches and the introduction of modern European practices.

175th Birth Anniversary of Ivan Vazov

On 09.07.2025 the Ministry of Transport and Communications launched a postage stamp "175th Birth Anniversary of Ivan Vazov" into postal circulation.



Ivan Vazov (1850 – 1921) was a Bulgarian historian, poet, writer, politician, and one of the activists of the Bulgarian National Revival. Between 1897 and 1899, he served as Minister of Education in the government of the conservative People's Party. He is considered the "Patriarch of Bulgarian Literature" in Bulgaria today. The Bulgarian National Theater in Sofia, many streets, city districts, schools, etc., bear his name.

GREECE

Resources of the Mediterranean

The EuroMED 2025 Special Set of Stamps, with the theme "Resources of the Mediterranean", was released simultaneously by all Postal Services – members of EuroMED Postal on July 7, 2025.



100th Birth Anniversary of Mikis Theodorakis

The Hellenic Post paid tribute to the great composer Mikis Theodorakis –an iconic figure whose life and artistic legacy are inextricably linked with the history and struggles of the Greek people– by issuing, on July 29, 2025, the Commemorative Stamp Series titled **"100 years since the Birth of Mikis Theodorakis"**. The series includes two stamps and a numbered Miniature Sheet.



Mikis Theodorakis (1925 – 2021) was not just a celebrated composer known for his film scores for “Zorba the Greek”, “Serpico” and “Z” among others, he was an active citizen participating in the Greek Resistance against the Nazi Occupation of Greece during WWII.



Being a political activist of the left he was imprisoned and exiled after the Civil War and the Military Dictatorship (1967 – 1974). Following the fall of the Military Dictatorship, Theodorakis he went on with his composing career as well as being a champion of human rights and for two years as a Minister of State (1990 – 1992).

HYDRANGEAS

As part of the general **FLORA** theme, Romfilatelia has included the philatelic issue titled **Hydrangeas**, consisting of four postage stamps, a First Day Cover and a philatelic folder with a special product in limited run printing which will be introduced into circulation on July 2nd of this year. The stamps of the philatelic issue (with the face values of Lei 4, Lei 6.50, Lei 8 and Lei 14 respectively) depict images of various flowers of the *Hydrangea macrophylla* species, highlighting the shape of the inflorescence and the shades of colour.

Hydrangea macrophylla, originally from Japan and China, the hydrangea initially spread to Central and South America, and later being cultivated in areas on all continents. In Romania, the most well-known *Hydrangea* species are: the smooth hydrangea, the paniced hydrangea and large-leaved hydrangea.



The First Day Cover features a floral arrangement matching the image of a beautiful garden space. The Philatelic Folder is created into a limited run printing of 190 pieces and is equipped with the special philatelic block of four imperforated stamps of the issue and the special philatelic block is numbered from 001 to 190.

ROMANIAN POSTAGE STAMP DAY : QUEEN MARIE OF ROMANIA

Romanian Postage Stamp Day is celebrated on the 15th of July, according to Law No. 62/2024. This date marks the appearance of the first Romanian postage stamp, 'Capul de bour' (The Bull's Head), printed in Iași on July 15th, 1858, under the auspices of the Royal Post Office of the Principality of Moldavia. Along with other national symbols, the postage stamp has become a symbol of Romania's social, political, economic and cultural activity. Over time, it has promoted Romanian personalities, events and achievements both

domestically and internationally. Thus, the Romanian postage stamp has established itself as a valuable landmark of the national cultural and spiritual heritage.

This year's special philatelic product, issued to mark Romanian Postage Stamp Day, is dedicated to the only crowned Queen of Greater Romania, as 150 years have passed since her birth. The issue includes a postage stamp, an imperforated souvenir sheet, and a First Day Cover, along with a special folder released in a limited edition.

Maria Alexandra Victoria of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Princess of Great Britain and Ireland, was born on October 29th, 1875 at Eastwell Park, Kent, United Kingdom. Her father, Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, was the second son of Queen Victoria of Great Britain, and her mother, Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna Romanova, was the daughter of Tsar Alexander II of Russia.

As sovereign, Queen Marie won the hearts of all Romanians through her natural grace, elegance, and intelligence, through her devotion and kindness – but above all, through her love for her country. She always knew how to stand out, to be appreciated and cherished. She had a particular admiration for the traditional folk costume, which she often wore at public ceremonies and during her travels across the country.



The postage stamp (with the face value of Lei 14), souvenir sheet (the postage stamp with the face value of Lei 30) and the First Day Cover feature portraits of Princess Marie before she became Queen (1914). Alongside the portrait, the souvenir sheet also includes the royal face, the monogram and Queen Marie's signature (the special block from the philatelic folder contains the same elements printed in gold foiling).

IMPRESSIONIST PAINTERS : ION ANDRESCU

On Friday, July 18th of this year circulated a philatelic issue dedicated to a leading representative of Romanian fine arts, Ion Andreescu. Titled “**Impressionist Painters. Ion Andreescu**”, the issue consists of four postage stamps and two First Day Covers.

Born on February 15th, 1850, in Bucharest, Ion Andreescu in 1869, he became a student at the “School of Fine Arts”. After graduating in 1872, Ion Andreescu became a teacher of Linear Drawing and Calligraphy at the Theological Seminary in Buzău. At the end of 1878, the painter left for Paris with a scholarship recipient attending courses at the “Julian’ Academy” and in May 1879, he took part in the Paris Salon with two works: “Începutul primăverii” (The Beginning of Spring) and “Bâlcii în România” (Fair in Romania). A year later, he participated again in the Paris Salon with two works: “Drumul mare” (The Main Road) and “Pădurea de fagi” (“The Beech Forest”). Andreescu in 1882, at only 32 years old, suffering from phthisis.

Art critics appreciate that Andreescu’s plain air painting is what created the link between Barbizon landscape painting and fully developed Impressionism.



*The Seamstresses
in the forest*

The postage stamps of the philatelic issue reproduce four works by the painter Ion Andreescu, which are part of the patrimony of the National Art Museum of Romania **Cusătorese în pădure** (The Seamstresses in the forest), the face value of Lei 8; **Ulcică cu tufănele** (Jug with Peonies), the face value of Lei 11; the City of Bucharest Museum **Cap de tânăr** (Young Man’s Head), the face value of Lei 6; and the “Ion Ionescu Quintus” Art Museum **Ghiveci cu Garoafe** (Flowerpot with Carnations), the face value of Lei 5.

The First Day Covers feature backgrounds reproducing the paintings **Câmp în amurg** (Field at Dusk) and **Târg la Buzău** (Fair at Buzău) alongside two postage stamps issued in 1972 and 1975, each depicting a self-portrait.

ROYAL DEVOTION

An issue with an original subject presented under the title **Royal Devotion** was circulated on Thursday, July 24th this year. It consists of four postage stamps, one First Day Cover, 4 maximum cards for philately enthusiasts and a philatelic folder with a special product in a limited run printing.

In the history of civilization, the dog has had a fascinating journey in its relationship with man. Renowned American novelist Agnes Sligh Turnbull said “Dogs’ lives are too short. Their only fault, really”. Dogs are keen observers, and when their owners are affected by sadness or illness showing a universal value in their behavior which is attachment and devotion.



1 2 1

The four postage stamps of the issue illustrate suggestively the feelings of attachment and love for of the members of the Royal House of Romania the most devoted animals present at the royal court. King Ferdinand I (Lei 3), Queen Marie (Lei 6.50), King Michael I (Lei 11) and Queen Anne (Lei 14), appear in the images of the postage stamps, in poses captured by the photographers of the time, with their favourite animals.

EUROPEAN ART GALLERY, IAȘI

An issue on **European Art Gallery, Iași**, consisting of four postage stamps, a perforated souvenir sheet and a First Day Cover, was released on August 1st.

The beginnings of the organization of an Art Museum in Iași can be traced back to 1846, while on October 26th, 2024, was opened to the public with a permanent exhibition of eighty painting and sculpture artworks. The donated works are attributed to famous artists such as Rubens (“Caesar Receiving the Head of Pompey”), Murillo (“Pieta”), Liberi (“Judith and Holofernes”) and others.

The European Art Collection of the Museum has been gradually enriched through donations, acquisitions and transfers. In the five halls of the European Art Gallery, Iași, visitors can admire exquisite artworks from Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Russia and Poland.



The postage stamps reproduce images of paintings by painters Eustache Le Sueur ("Phaeton", Lei 3), Henri Felix Emmanuel Philippoteaux ("Berezina", Lei 5), Pietro Liberi ("Judith and Holofernes", Lei 8) and Bartolomé Esteban Murillo ("Pieta", Lei 25). The postage stamp of the perforated souvenir sheet (Lei 30) depicts the work of Peter Paul Rubens "Caesar Receiving the Head of Pompey".

The First Day Covers reproduce two exhibits of the European Art Gallery, Iași belonging to the painting sections "Austrian, German, Polish, Russian Art" and "Flemish and Dutch Painting" respectively.

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NATIONAL PARKS : THE JIULUI GORGE

On Tuesday, August 12th this year, the postage stamps issue **National Parks. The Jiului Gorge**, featuring elements of the fauna from the natural area of the 'Jiului Gorge National Park', which was declared a protected area in 2005. The issue consists of four postage stamps and a First Day Cover.

Covering an area of over 11,000 hectares, the protected zone is located in the south-west of Romania, in Gorj and Hunedoara counties, along the Jiului Gorge. The territory of this area is almost entirely covered by forests (85%): Dacian beech forests, alluvial forests, oak forests mixed with hornbeam and ash, and mixed broadleaf and coniferous forests.

The fauna is richly represented by mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and insects. The List of the European Council Directive on the conservation of wild fauna and flora species mentions seven mammal species: the brown bear, Eurasian lynx, Eurasian otter, greater horseshoe bat, common pipistrelle, greater mouse-eared bat, and long-winged bat. Among the many species recorded in the Jiului Gorge National Park area, one can also find the chamois, roe deer, wildcat, pine marten, hazel dormouse, common dormouse, smooth snake, and others.



The Jiului Gorge, which runs through the Park and is also known as the Surduc Pass, is a mountain pass carved by the river through the rocks of the Retezat, Vâlcă, Parâng, and Șureanu Mountains, connecting Transylvania and Oltenia. The Park's protected area offers visitors a variety of uniquely beautiful sites and landscapes, an original ensemble of manor houses (authentic traditional homesteads), monuments of spirituality (the Lainici and Vișina Monasteries, and the Locurele Hermitage), and the important Museum of Traditional Gorj Architecture in Bumbești-Jiu, located near the protected natural area. Among the spectacular tourist attractions are the Lainici Sphinx and the Murga Waterfall.

The postage stamps feature images of the area's fauna: Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) of Lei 4, Ural Owl (*Strix uralensis*, family Strigidae), of Lei 8, Lynx (*Lynx lynx*, family Lynx), of Lei 10 and Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*, family Bovidae), of Lei 14.

150 years of the Nevesinje Rifle

July 9, 2025 marks the 150th anniversary of the first organized struggle of the Nevesinje insurgents for liberation from centuries of Ottoman rule.

The flames of uprising spread to all of Herzegovina and Bosnia, and Montenegro, Serbia, and Russia also entered the war against Turkey. The three-year war ended with the Congress of Berlin, at which Serbia and Montenegro gained internationally recognized independence and territorial expansion, while Herzegovina and Bosnia, instead of the freedom they had earned through struggle and unification with Montenegro and Serbia, were united into one entity by the will of the great powers and occupied by the Austro-Hungarian monarchy.



The uprising is known in historical science as the Nevesinje Rifle and it had an extremely large resonance, not only in the Balkan Peninsula where the Serbian people lived, but also among other freedom-loving peoples throughout Europe. The uprising initiated unprecedented diplomatic activity by the great European powers. The most important Serbian and world media reported on the insurgents, the goals of their struggle, and their brilliant victories against the many times more numerous and better equipped units of the regular Turkish army and the local Bashibozuk, and folk artists sang numerous songs that became an integral part of the collective memory of the Serbian people.

The Nevesinje Rifle is also the first event in recent Serbian history that had a direct impact on European and world politics and international relations. The armed uprising of the Serbian people in Herzegovina and Bosnia, started on July 9, 1875 in the vicinity of Nevesinje, was one of the events that influenced all subsequent events in Serbian, European and world history from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The uprising subsequently led to the largest conflict in the history of mankind at that time, World War I, which resulted in the collapse of monarchical Europe and the emergence of new states, as well as the final liberation and unification of the Serbs.

Danube Day : 200th anniversary of the birth of Johann Strauss II

Danube Day was established on 29 June 1994, when the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River was signed in Sofia. This, the second longest river in Europe, with a flow of approximately 2,850 km from its source in the Black Forest Mountains in Germany to its drainage basin in the Black Sea in Romania and Ukraine, forms the most diverse ecosystems and a wealth of biodiversity, the preservation of which is the focus of Danube Day.

The Danube flows through ten countries: Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine and connects millions of people living in its basin.



For many cities, above all Vienna, Budapest and Belgrade, the Danube is also an important historical, economic and cultural symbol, immortalized in many works of art, of which the most famous musical composition is certainly the waltz “The Blue Danube”, composed by Johann Strauss the Younger (October 25, 1825 – June 3, 1899).

This native of Vienna is the author of more than 500 compositions – waltzes, polkas, mazurkas and operettas such as “The Bat” and “The Gypsy Baron”, which have placed him among the most popular, most beloved and most performed composers in the history of classical music. The music of Johann Strauss the Younger, whose 200th anniversary of birth we are celebrating this year, exudes elegance, rhythm and cheerfulness, and the waltz “The Blue Danube”, a symbol of the Vienna of his time, has long since transcended the boundaries of Austrian musical tradition and become a sort of anthem of the Danube.

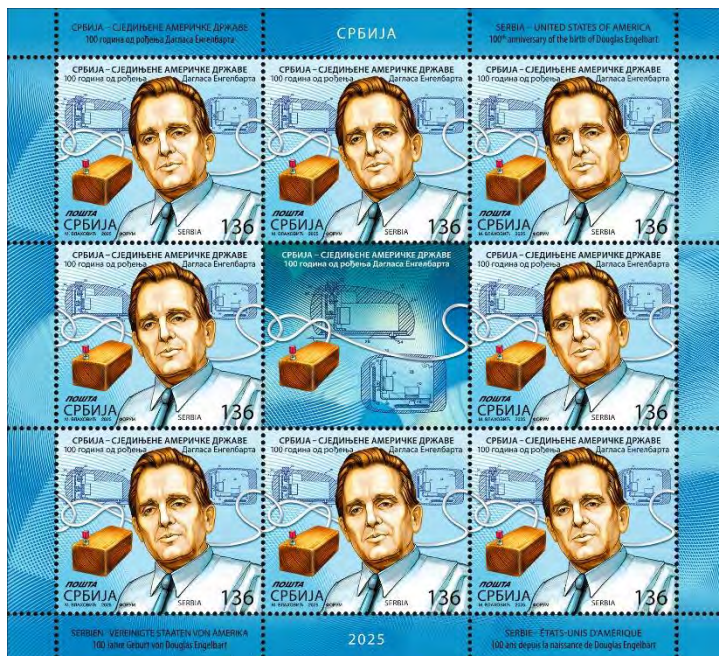
The celebration of Danube Day not only reminds us of the importance of this river in the lives of millions of people, but also inspires joint efforts to preserve the natural resources of the Danube, preserve water quality, protect Danube ecosystems, and preserve its nature for generations to come. The Danube is a river that connects people, cultures and nature and deserves our care and respect.

SERBIA – UNITED STATES of AMERICA

100th anniversary of the birth of Douglas Engelbart

Douglas Carl Engelbart (January 30, 1925 – July 2, 2013), an engineer and inventor, was one of the key figures in the history of computer technology development. He studied electrical engineering at the University of Oregon and received his doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1955.

Engelbart believed that computers should not only serve to automate tasks, but above all, to help people solve complex problems more easily. His vision of making the world a better place was based on the concept of collective intelligence and the improvement of human capabilities through computer technology. While conducting research in the field of computer science and developing technologies and concepts of human-computer interaction at the Stanford University Research Institute in California, he and his collaborators developed the user-friendly “oN-Line System” (NLS), and he also participated in the development of the computer network “ARPANET”, a national network for connecting scientific researchers, which was the basis for the emergence of the Internet.



He will be remembered in the history of computer science for his demonstration on December 9, 1968, later called the “Mother of All Demos”, which, in addition to the prototype of the computer mouse, also demonstrated for the first time in the history of computer science an interactive interface with structural links, working in multiple text panels on the same screen (the precursor to “windows”), as well as video calls and online communication in real time – today the basic elements of everyday computer use.

For his visionary work and ideas that paved the way for the digital age, Douglas Engelbart, a computer scientist pioneer and inventor, was awarded the National Medal of Technology by the President of the United States. He was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1994.

SERBIA – SWITZERLAND

150th anniversary of the birth of Rodolphe Archibald Reiss

Rodolphe Archibald Reiss (Hechtsberg, Hausach, July 8, 1875 – Belgrade, August 8, 1929) was a Swiss forensic scientist, criminal expert, university professor, publicist, and a great friend of the Serbian people.

He received a doctorate in chemistry and became an assistant professor at the University of Lausanne, dealing with photography and forensics, and in 1902 he began teaching forensic medicine, becoming a full professor in 1906.



After the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Archibald Reiss came to Serbia, at the invitation of the Serbian government, to investigate the crimes of the Austro-Hungarian army against the civilian population. His newspaper reports on the suffering of Serbs issued during 1914 were published in Paris in 1915 in a separate book “Comment les Austro-Hongrois ont fait la guerre en Serbie”, and then in London, in 1916, in English (How Austria-Hungary Waged War in Serbia: Personal Investigations of a Neutral).

Reiss later went through the Albanian Golgotha, Corfu and the Salonika Front with the Serbian army, documenting the wartime suffering and the lives of Serbian soldiers, which he published after the war in the piece “Letters of a Criminologist on the Serbian Macedonian Front” and his war diary “What I have Seen and Lived in Great Days”.

He was a staunch supporter of the creation of the Yugoslav State and a member of the Yugoslav Government delegation at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. After the war, he settled in Serbia and received citizenship. Known for his dedication to truth, justice, and love for Serbia, he wrote about social problems, disappointed with the conditions in the new state. His most famous work, “Listen, Serbs!”, was published after his death, according to his order.

He died on August 8, 1929 in Belgrade. According to his express wish, his heart was buried in Kajmakčalan, next to the fallen Serbian soldiers. Honorary Captain of the Serbian Army Archibald Reiss, the recipient of the World War I medal, was awarded the Order of the White Eagle with swords and two medals for bravery. History remembers him as one of the most sincere friends of Serbia and a symbol of honesty, humanity and sacrifice.

FIBA Eurobasket 2025 commemorative cover and cancel

On the occasion of FIBA Eurobasket 2025 Novi Sad philatelic society together with Bački Petrovac Philatelic Society issued a commemorative covers with cancels.



TÜRKİYE

Commemorative Stamp Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Alija Izetbegović

The "Commemorative Stamp Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Alija Izetbegović" commemorative stamp, priced at 35 TL (36 x 52 mm), and its corresponding first-day cover, priced at 70 TL, were put into circulation by PTT Inc. on August 8, 2025, and are available for sale at PTT offices and on the website www.filateli.gov.tr.





EUROBASKET 2025 Cover for Thematic collectors



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