



Editorial

Quo Vadis ?

Recently, the London-based British newspaper “The Guardian” reported that “the Danish postal service will deliver its last letter on 30 December, ending a more than 400-year-old tradition”. The reason offered for the termination of mail delivery was the “increasing digitalization” of Danish society that affected the traditional correspondence.

The question that comes up to most of us is “Quo Vadis” Philately in the era of “increasing digitalization” and spreading “artificial intelligence”? Where is Philately going in this storming digital era? Is this new reality a vital threat or is it an opportunity for Philately?

In this issue, the readers will come across the core issues related to “The Future of Stamps Exhibitions” based on the teleconferences initiated by FEPA with the National Federations. This is a systematic and comprehensive approach to key issues that Philately faces as well as a blueprint for actions to tackle current critical decisions on where we are heading.

Reading the pages of Balkanfila Newsletter no12, which has become 2 years old, one can see how specific Federations have already responded to the tectonic changes that “increasing digitalization” has brought. Virtual and hybrid exhibitions have been organized as well as targeted exhibitions and presentations to non-philatelic audiences as well as participations in Trade Shows and Scientific Conferences. During these events various approaches that could appeal to specialized professional and the general public employing philatelic narratives and explanations focusing on History, Art and Society have been employed with encouraging response.

Certainly the second quarter of the 21st century is the time of major challenges but it is also the time to “push forward” the cultural value of philately because, in my opinion, “Philately Matters” for everyone as it is reflecting both the individual and his/her thoughts and feelings as well as the Societies and their ideologies in general.

Christos Gikas

"Dobrich Filex 2025" – Philately as Memory and Inspiration

by George Dechev

From October 15 to 17, 2025, the "Dora Gabe" Regional Library in Dobrich became a center of attraction for both philatelists and connoisseurs of postage stamp art. The anniversary philatelic exhibition "Dobrich Filex 2025" came to life in the library halls, dedicated to two bright anniversaries – 85 years since the return of Southern Dobrudzha to the Fatherland and 155 years since the founding of the "Yordan Yovkov" National Community Center – 1870.

The event, organized by the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists and "Bulgarian Posts" EAD, with the assistance of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, was under the honorary patronage of His Royal Highness Tsar Simeon II – Honorary Chairman of the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists, who also presented part of his personal collection – a testament to a life that preserved the history of Bulgaria in miniature.



Stamps that tell a story

The opening of the exhibition began with an artistic composition "Dobrudja", performed by students under the guidance of Mariana Uzunova – a combination of words, music and movement, which brought the spirit of the native land to the philately holiday. This was followed by the validation of a special postcard dedicated to the 85th anniversary of the accession of Southern Dobrudja. The author of the artistic project is Assoc. Prof. Nenko Atanasov, and the postage stamp bears the image of Tsar Boris III – the Unifier.

A little later, another postal publication was presented – “Bulgarian Folk Tales”. Artist Deya Valcheva breathes new life into familiar fairy-tale characters from the fairy tales “The Three Brothers and the Golden Apple” and “The Eaglet”, transferred to a stamp with a face value of 3.75 leva. The block “Bulgarian Folk Tales” is a poetic nod to folklore – a way to preserve the memory of the folk word through the visual art of postal miniature.

A children’s view of fairy tales and football

A children’s drawing competition was held within the framework of the exhibition on the themes “Heroes from Bulgarian Folk Tales” and “Football – a Game of Millions”. Over 200 young artists from Dobrich schools and kindergartens drew their world – colorful, dreamy and full of life.



The winners in the competition impressed the jury with their imagination and expressiveness:

- On the theme of fairy tales – Yoana Stoyanova (13 years old) with “The Boy and the Girl”, Raya Ilieva (5 years old) with “Grandfather and the Turnip”, and Monika Mileva (6 years old) with “The Golden Girl”.
- In the football category – Kristiyan Atanasov (12 years old) with “The World is Football”, Georgi Toshev (12 years old) with “Gundy (George Asparuhov) – the Blue Legend” and Teodor Panchev (7 years old) with “Penalties”.

The consolation prizes reminded us that every child’s drawing is as priceless as a rare stamp – unique, unrepeatable, full of feeling.

The postage stamp as a symbol of memory

On October 16, 2025, the “Yordan Yovkov – 1870” community center also became a scene of cultural celebration. There, an illustrated postcard dedicated to the community center itself – a home of spirituality in the heart of Dobrudzha – was validated.

On the same day, in the library, a postage stamp from the series “Bulgarian Football Legends” dedicated to Manol Manolov – Simoliata was also validated. The artist Lalo Nikolov created a composition in which sports glory meets philatelic aesthetics – applause for a life played out on the green field and sealed on a sheet of paper.

The next morning – October 17, the philatelic public got to see a new issue from the thematic series “Fauna”, dedicated to the Eurasian beaver. Elegant and informative, it draws attention to the restored species in Bulgarian nature, proving that a postage stamp can also be a lesson in ecology.

Art in children’s hands

The kind students and kindergarten children turned the exhibition into a celebration of joy and talent. They performed songs, recitals, dances – their every gesture was like a small signature on the big picture of “Dobrich Filex 2025”.

Their participation was not just part of the protocol, but the heart of the event – a bridge between generations, between tradition and the modern spirit.

Between history and the future

A seminar on maximaphily was also held within the framework of the exhibition. Lecturers Nikolay Penev, Sergey Magdichev and Vladimir Kurtev shared their experience and passion, which showed that maximaphily is not just a philatelic hobby, but a cultural bridge between countries, people and eras.

Among the exhibits were those that had been repeatedly awarded at the highest international exhibitions – by the chairman of the Bulgarian Federation of Stamps Spas Panchev “Eastern Rumelia and Southern Bulgaria”, by Orlin Todorov – “Rural Post” and “Sanatorium Fund”, by Guido Craveri... The projects for postage stamps from the period 1964–1984, presented by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, made a strong impression – there were works by outstanding Bulgarian artists such as Boris Angelushev, Veselin Staykov, Stefan Kanchev, Alexander Poplilov... The honorary chairman of the Bulgarian Federation of Stamps His Royal Highness Simeon II participated in the development of the regular issues from the period 1940–1943. Each exhibit was like a window to the past – miniature, but containing an entire world.

Closing chords

"Dobrich Filex 2025" has established itself as not just a philatelic exhibition, but a celebration of national memory, cultural heritage and children's inspiration. Within its framework, history came to life through the stamps, and the stamps – through the people who collect, preserve and love them.

Eng. Svetoslav Gochev, head of the Regional Post Office – Dobrich, and Mrs. Teodora Denkova, director of the Regional Library "Dora Gabe", deserve heartfelt gratitude. Thanks to their diligence and dedication, "Dobrich Filex 2025" has become an event that not only celebrated an anniversary, but tells a story in which postage stamps come to life, and the memory remains.

SIRACUSA2025 :

Italian One-Frame Philatelic Exhibition with Greek participation

The Philatelic Exhibition "Siracusa2025» is one of the four national exhibitions organized annually by the Federation of Italian Philatelic Societies (F.S.F.I) and which hosts one-frame exhibits.

This year's «Siracusa2025» was held in Syracuse from November 7–8 and The Hellenic Philatelic Federation (H.P.F) responding to the honorary invitation of the Federation of Italian Federation of Philatelic Societies participated with 12 Greek exhibits and it was by Thomas Arvanitis –member of the Board of Directors of H.P.F and Christos Gikas, President and Juror.

In his introductory note to the Exhibition, Leonardo Pipitone President of the Sicily Collectors Association that was responsible for organizing «Siracusa 2025» underlined the inextricable links between Syracuse (Ortygia) and Greece, since the city was of Syracuse was founded by the Corinthian settler Archias in 734 BC The posters and philatelic material of the exhibition depicted the «OIKOS» – the ancient Greek temple which built in Syracuse by Archias, keeping in its interior the «sacred and holy objects» of the metropolis of Corinth.

The poster for the exhibition features a central illustration of a classical Greek temple (the Oikos) with a figure seated inside. Above the temple is a banner for the 'FEDERAZIONE FRA LE SOCIETÀ FILATELICHE ITALIANE' celebrating its 100th anniversary. To the right, logos for 'Unione Siciliana Collezionisti' and 'LIONS CLUB FILATELICO ITALIANO' are displayed. The main title 'Esposizione Filatelica Nazionale e di Qualificazione "Un Quadro" SIRACUSA 2025' is prominently displayed. Below the title, the dates 'VENERDI 7 SABATO 8 NOVEMBRE 2025' and the location 'URBAN CENTER Via Nino Bixio 1 Siracusa' are listed. A section for 'Partecipano, su invito della Federazione, collezionisti aderenti alla Hellenic Philatelic Federation' is also present. The bottom of the poster is filled with various logos of participating organizations, including ARS, ANCE SIRACUSA, ARCA, BELLINO, GULINO, and others.

The Exhibition included 63 exhibits, of which 50 exhibits were posted in frames, while an additional 13 were only posted online. The 12 Greek exhibits in «Siracusa 2025» had a notable philatelic presence, receiving 4 Gold, 3 Large Vermeil, 3 Vermeil, 1 Large Silver and 1 Silver medals.

The four-member Judging Committee during the exhibition consisted of: Luca Lavagnino (Chairman of the Committee), Claudio Manzati (Representative of the Italian Federation), Luciano Calenda and Christos Gikas while on the committee also participated two external jurors for Postal Stationery and Maximaphily.

The 7-member panel of speakers during the awards ceremony consisted of : Claudio Manzati, Luca Lavagnino, Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi, Francesco Italia - Mayor of Syracuse, Christos Gikas, Leonardo Pipitone and Luciano Calenda.



Leonardo Pipitone standing and in the panel Claudio Manzati, Luca Lavagnino, Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi, Francesco Italia, Christos Gikas and Luciano Calenda (from left to right)

The Federation of Italian Philatelic Societies established the special award for «the Best Greek Exhibit» which was awarded to Manolis Koutsounakis for his exhibit «The Italian Military Forces in Crete - from Naval Blockade to Autonomy 1896-1909».



All the Siracusa 2025 exhibits can be seen at

: http://expo.fsfi.it/PaginaStandard.php?CodiceExpo=Siracusa2025&Ambito=USER&PagSec=partecipazioni_risultati.php&Lingua=IT

The National Grand Prix (Italian) was awarded to the outstanding Open Philately exhibit titled «Pierre de Coubertin : from the beginning to the 1st Olympic Congress» of Mario Rosario Capuano.

O Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi, President of Federation of the Italian Philatelic Societies, presented an honorary plaque to the Hellenic Philatelic Federation for its participation in «Siracusa 2025».



*Leonardo Pipitone and Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi
being interviewed by a local TV station*

The organization of this high-philatelic quality Exhibition by the Sicilian Collectors Association (U.S.C) chaired by Leonardo Pipitone and by the President of the Federation Italian Philatelic Societies Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi as well as the hospitality were impeccable in every way.

Serbia Post Honors Pioneers of Aviation and Airmail

At the PTT Museum in Belgrade, a philatelic exhibition titled "Aviation in Serbia 1910–1919 and Airmail of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia 1923–1941" has been officially opened. The exhibition pays tribute to the pioneers of Serbian aviation and their contribution to the development of postal services.



Фото Пошта / Вук Бранковић

Organized by Serbia Post, the PTT Museum, and the Union of Philatelists of Serbia, in collaboration with exhibition author Aleksandar Borčić, a world-renowned sports official and passionate philatelist, the display is unique in scope, historical importance, and documentary value. It presents original postal and archival material tracing the evolution of Serbian and Yugoslav aviation in the first half of the 20th century: from the first flights and heroic endeavors of aviation pioneers, through the establishment of airmail as a symbol of technological progress and a modern state, to the interwar period when the Kingdom of Yugoslavia became part of the European air network.

Zoran Anđelković, Acting Director of Serbia Post, emphasized that collecting historical material requires dedication, speed, sensitivity, and a sporting spirit, noting that philately is "a kind of sport" that helps young people discover their history. He highlighted Borčić's extraordinary collection, stating: "What Aleksandar Borčić possesses is beyond what many museums have. His passion and desire to leave a lasting mark resulted in an exhibition that can be considered a museum in itself."

Anđelković also underlined the educational value of the exhibition: "It is important for students to visit such museums, not because it is the PTT Museum, but because it is part of our history and the development of aviation."

Exhibition author Aleksandar Borčić described the project as one of the most significant exhibitions dedicated to Serbian aviation pioneers and the beginnings of airmail in the country: "Through every postcard, letter, and postal cancellation, we can feel the era, courage, and vision of those who first flew above Serbia. This exhibition is a tribute to those pioneers and a reminder that airmail was more than a technical achievement—it was a symbol of connection, trust, and progress."



Vladimir Milić, President of the Union of Philatelists of Serbia, stressed the importance of philately as part of national culture: "Philately is not just a hobby, but an essential part of cultural memory. Through postal documents, we preserve identity, remember history, and pass on the values that built our country. Cooperation with the PTT Museum and Serbia Post shows how vital it is to nurture this tradition."



The exhibition aims to bring the cultural and technological heritage of early airmail closer to the public and to honor the pioneers who laid the foundations of modern aviation in Serbia and the wider region.

By hosting this exhibition, the PTT Museum continues its mission of preserving national postal and philatelic heritage, reminding us that cultural memory and archival material are a precious link between the past and today's technological age.

Exhibition was open to visitors: November 12–30, 2025

Photo credit Pošta/Vuk Branković

TimFileX 2025

From November 14 to 16, 2025, the National Philatelic Exhibition with International Participation TimFileX 2025 took place in Timișoara, a celebration of Romanian philately and more, organized under the patronage of the FFR and recognized by FEPA.

The exhibition was held at the West University of Timișoara, the preferred venue for philatelic events in Timișoara.



Over 70 exhibits from Romania, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Ukraine participated, displayed on nearly 290 panels, as well as 10 philatelic literature works.

The Grand Prize as well as the Large Gold Medal went to Alfred Schmidt (Germany) for the exhibit “Prussian Mail to Foreign Countries 1850–1867”. Ion Chirescu also received a Large Gold Medal for the exhibit “Quarantine Services at the Borders of Romanian Principalities at the Beginning of the 19th Century”.

Additionally, 12 more Gold medals were awarded for exhibits in postal history, traditional philately, thematic philately, aerophilately, postcards, or literature to philatelists recognized on both national and international levels: György Lövey (Hungary) – Postal Documents of the International Airmail Service, Moskalyuk Tymoshyk (Ukraine) – Termopil Region in Philately (Literature), Mircea Dragotescu – Revolutionary Year 1848; Năsăud County Municipal Revenue Stamps; Hohe Rinne History (Literature), Cristian Ionițoiu – Censorship in Old Kingdom of Romania, Constantin Călin – The Lion in Humanity Culture, Mircea Mureșan – Post in Bucharest during German Occupation, George Singer – The Titan, Ioan Dejugan – Sibiu, Medieval Town, Dan Grecu – Repression and Population Movements in Romania (literature) or AF Sibiu – Curierul Filatelic (literature).

Additionally, 13 medals of the Large Vermeil rank and 8 of Vermeil were awarded. As noted by Mr. Boncho Bonev, the president of the jury, the exhibited items were of a high standard, and it is worth highlighting that 16 exhibits were presented for the first time. On the exhibition, Romfilatelia printed a postal stationery (designed by Ady Ciobanu) dedicated to Queen Maria, who was honored through this exhibition. The queen's personality was also marked through two exhibits (exhibitors: the Records Museum and George Grigore).

The Queen's image appears on the exhibition medal and on one of the exhibition stamps, which were used to create maximum cards.



The Official Postal Stationery printed by Romfilatelia (designer Ady Ciobanu) and the TimFilEx post mark

Many philatelists from Timișoara contributed to the realization of the exhibition. Students, children, and collectors were among the visitors who admired the exhibits on display panels. The young artists from the “Gallery in the Courtyard”, coordinated by visual artist Oana Bolog Bleich, visited the exhibition and drew their own stamps as part of the “Post in the Courtyard” project.

On Saturday November 15, a philatelic fair also took place in the halls of the University, attended by collectors from Germany, Serbia, Hungary, as well as from all corners of Romania, including Constanța, Suceava, Cluj, and Oradea.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed, through work or exhibits, to the success of the exhibition. We look forward to welcoming you again in Timișoara at TimFilEx 2027. Until then, we look forward to seeing you at the fairs organized by AF Timișoara on March 7 and October 24, 2026.



The Local Post Office at TimFilEx



*Maximum Postcard,
realized by the organizers*



2 stamps drawn by the children inside the exhibition.

Apatin 2025



As announced in our previous newsletter, international online philatelic exhibition Apatin 2025 have started. More than 50 exhibits in 13 exhibiting classes are already uploaded on official site of the Association of Philatelists Apatin

<https://udruzenjefilatelistaapatin.org.rs/apatin-2025/>.



Exhibit	Exhibitor	Country	Frames
Back and forth to BBA in Algeria 2012 2024	Belaref Mohamed Amine	Algeria	3
Post offices cancellations and auxiliary post offices of the city Sarajevo from 1878 to 1918	Davorin Gelo	BIH	3
French military mail in Greece to 1861	Thomas Arvantis	Greece	1
Censorship in Old Kingdom of Romania Bessarabia Bucovina and Pokuttia during WW1 1916-1920	Cristian Ionitoiu	Romania	5

Welcome !

Atatürk Stamps Exhibition

The "Atatürk Stamps Exhibition from My Mother Neriman ÖNDE's Collection" by Gülnur ÖNDE ÜÇOLUK, a member of the Ankara Philatelic Association, opened on December 17, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the Başkent Hall of the Ankara Mansion. Organized as part of the Ankara Club Association's 100th Anniversary Events, the exhibition will be open to visitors until December 30, 2025.

ANKARA KULÜBÜ DERNEĞİ 100. YIL ETKİNLİKLERİ

"ANNEM NERİMAN ÖNDE'NİN KOLEKSİYONUNDAN ATATÜRK PULLARI SERGİSİ"

GÜLNUR ÖNDE ÜÇOLUK
ANKARA FİLATELİ DERNEĞİ (AMFİD) ÜYESİ



ATATÜRK'ÜN ÖLÜMÜNÜN 80. YILI



**AÇILIŞ: 17 ARALIK 2025
SAAT: 18.00
17-30 ARALIK 2025**

**Yer: Ankara Konağı Başkent Salonu
Çamlıca Mahallesi 137. Sok. No: 2
Yenimahalle /ANKARA**



Mevlana-themed exhibition

Our Mevlana-themed exhibition at the Eye Foundation opened on December 17th.



The exhibition, hosted by the Lions Club, featured the Muzaffer Arda and Süreyya Erişkin exhibits.

GÖZ  **VAKFI** 
1984'ten günümüze...



Cağaloğlu İki Lions Kulübü'nün ev sahipliğinde,
7- 17 Aralık Mevlana'yı Anma Haftası dolayısıyla
Sayın Muzaffer Arda ve Sayın Süreyya Erişkin'in
katkılarıyla hazırlanan "**Mevlana**" konulu filateli
sergisine hoş geldiniz.

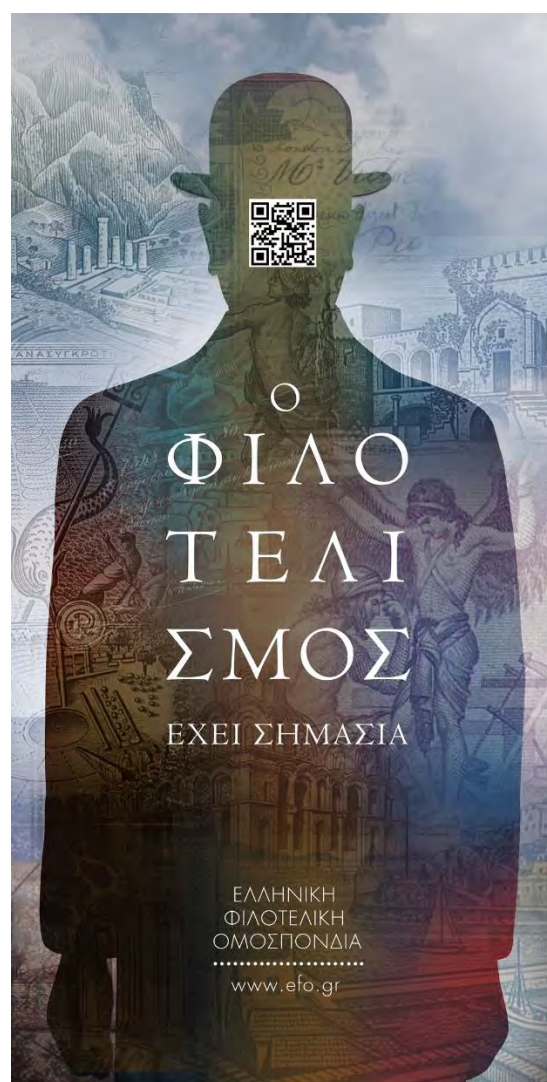
www.gozvakfi.com

The Hellenic Philatelic Federation's participation at the Athens Collectible Festival

On December 20–21, a special Christmas collectors' meeting took, featuring the largest exhibition and bazaar of collectibles and vintage items in Greece.

Stamp collecting is the beginning of a captivating journey through history, culture, the recording of emotions and ideas for every human activity, while others seek financial gain... Philately, which studies written postal communication, is a “cultural reservoir” that collects, explores, and discovers the various aspects of society, relationships, and culture.

The Hellenic Philatelic Federation (H.P.F.) as its main slogan “**Philately Matters**”, displayed a philatelic collection that the visitors were able to “meet” creatures that were once goddesses and later witches, the great injustice felt by the little beloved daughter of the father fighting in the Greek–Italian War, the Capital City of 3.8%, the storyteller–poet of mathematics, the god of wine and partying Dionysus–Bacchus at the a popular music fairs (bouzoukia), and the unpleasant arrogance of beauty. Many unexpected images and fascinating stories await the visitor to discover why “Philately Matters.”



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They were also displayed the thematic exhibition "Zappeion Megaron" – dedicated to the historic monument that hosts the event – will be presented, as well as the thematic exhibition "Large Hermes Heads – The First Greek Stamps" from the collection of George Economou.

Επισκεφτείτε την ιστοσελίδα της : ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΦΙΛΟΤΕΛΙΚΗΣ ΟΜΟΣΠΟΝΔΙΑΣ	www.efo.gr 	Αναζητήστε: ➤ Βραβευμένες Ελληνικές Φιλοτελικές Συλλογές (ψηφιακή παρουσίαση), ➤ Φιλοτελικά Περιοδικά και Βιβλία, ➤ Ελληνικά Φιλοτελικά Σωματεία, ➤ Νέες Εκδόσεις των ΕΛ.ΤΑ, ➤ Εκπαιδευτικές Παρουσιάσεις με βάση τα Γραμματόσημα.
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The intention of the Hellenic Philatelic Federation was show to the visitors and the general public to start a fascinating journey through Philately to history, culture discovering to new sources of information that sparkle imagination and creativity. The QR codes of the H.P.F banner and at the displayed collection took the interested visitor to main and exhibit pages of the Federations' website and enjoy the intriguing philatelic material from the comfort of their sofa at <https://www.efo.gr/en/exhibits/>

International event of the Philatelic exhibition of the two sovereign philatelic associations: Republic of Slovenia and Republic of Serbia



The **Technical Museum of Slovenia (TMS)** and the **Federation of Philatelic Association of Serbia**, together with other stakeholders in the project (FZS – Federation Philatelic of Slovenia, FD – Filatelistično društvo/Philatelic Society Lovro Košir Škofja Loka, and Pošta Slovenije/Slovenian Post Office) have agreed to organize an **International philatelic exhibition**, which will take place within the series of events organized by the **Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in the Republic of Slovenia: "Serbia in Slovenia 2026"** from **March 3rd to 22nd, 2026**, at the **Museum of Post and Telecommunications of Slovenia, TMS, in the Polhov Gradec Manor**. The official opening of the international exhibition will be on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026, at 6 p.m.



Fig. 1 and 2: Polhov Gradec Manor: Museum of Post and Telecommunications of Slovenia, TMS
Source: TMS



The exhibition, thematically dedicated to **the Postal history of Slovenia and Serbia**, will feature seven renowned philatelists from Serbia and Slovenia with their exhibits in 48 display cases.

The Serbian side will present three philatelic exhibits of high, internationally recognized value:

Vladimir Milić: **Inflated Stamp of Yugoslavia, 1989 – 1994,**

Aleksandar Boričić: **Aircraft of the Kingdom of SHS and Yugoslavia** and

Predrag Cuki Antić: **The Principality and Kingdom of Serbia**, which represents a unique philatelic collection in the world, on the theme: **"Classical Serbia"**.



Fig. 3, 4, 5, 6: Philatelic material from different periods of Slovenian postal history Serbia and Slovenia

The Slovenian side:

Bojan Bračič: **Postmarks of Maribor and Ptuj,**

Marjan Kranjc: **History of postmarks in Slovenia,**

Janez Cerkvenik: **Historical overview of postmarks of Škofja Loka** and

Andro Alujevič: **Daily and special postmarks of the Slovenian Post.**



Fig. 7, 8, 9, 10: Postmarks from different periods of postal history

On the day of the opening of the international philatelic exhibition, **special philatelic issues** will also be released: an illustrated postcard, which will also serve as *an invitation to the event*, *a special postmark*, *a postal envelope*, *a personal stamp of the Slovenian Post*, with denomination "A," and a *Catalog of the international philatelic exhibition*.



OPPZ_PS_A_DO_26102025_V1.jpg

Fig. 11: Draft of a personal commemorative postage stamp of Post of Slovenia, denomination A.
Author: Gregor Cerkvenik, Philatelic Society Lovro Košir Škofja Loka

You are cordially invited!

Janez & Gregor Cerkvenik, Coordinators,
Philatelic Society Lovro Košir Škofja Loka



Welcome to BALKANFILA XXI 2026

29 APRIL – 2 MAY 2026, BULGARIA, PERNIK



“BALKANFILA XXI, 2026 ” at a glance

Exhibition Name: BALKANFILA XXI

Dates: from Wednesday, 29 April to Saturday, 2 May 2026.

Venue: Palace of Culture in Pernik

Address: Krakra Square No. 1, Pernik.

Exhibition size: 500 frames of 16 pages each.

Website: <http://balkanfilaxxi.eu/en/index-en.php>

Email : balkanfilaxxi@gmail.com

Working Days : Mon-Fri 09.00 – 18.00 (UTC +02.00)

BALKANFILA XXI has obtained **FEPA Recognition** including **all Philatelic Classes** and it is both a **Competitive** and **Non-Competitive Philatelic Exhibition**.



BALKANFILA XXI 2026 - Bulgaria, Pernik

<http://balkanfilaxxi.eu/en/index-en.php>



BALKANFILA XXI 2026

Bulgaria, Pernik

HOME

ABOUT
BALKANFILA XXI ▾

EXHIBIT ▾

DIRECTIONS ▾

The Beginning of a Dream

The year is 1936. The Union of Bulgarian Philatelists does not yet exist as a national association of philatelic societies, but collecting Bulgaria is buzzing with active public life. It is precisely then that a new philatelic magazine appears named “Bulgarian Stamp”.

Its publisher is the barely **22-year-old Simeon Charykchiev** – a young philatelic dealer with flair and bold ideas. He does not simply sell stamps; he looks ahead, dreams, and sees the potential of philatelic collecting in Bulgaria. In his mind a vision is born, daring for its time: a major international philatelic exhibition would significantly stimulate the market and place Bulgaria on the map of European philately.

Europe was already organizing such events, and Bulgaria was then experiencing an economic upswing, supported by strong state protectionist policies. Charykchiev assessed the trends accurately, and in the second issue of “*Bulgarian Stamp*”, published in April 1936 – exactly 90 years before the date to be celebrated in April 2026 – he published the article “**Balkan Philatelic Exhibition in Sofia.**” In it, for the first time, he put forward for public discussion the **IDEA OF A BALKAN EXHIBITION.**

Simeon Charykchiev wrote:

“...the exhibition... must be organized under the leadership of the existing philatelic organizations in Sofia – dealers and collectors. A committee, composed of the two organizations, will prepare a well-founded memorandum to be submitted for approval by the relevant state authorities. Within one or two weeks, during which the exhibition would last, the state could realize a profit..., more than half of which would be in foreign currency... Such a Balkan exhibition, organized in Sofia, would be visited by thousands of foreigners... The philatelic public abroad is very responsive and generous towards such initiatives. Our colleagues from other countries have long understood this phenomenon, making the most rational use of it...”

Charykchiev foresaw a bright future for such an initiative – and he was right. But thirty years had to pass before his dream became reality. When the first **BALKANFILA** finally opened in Varna in 1965, Simeon Charykchiev was already living in France, where he continued to promote Bulgarian stamp issuing.

In Paris he founded the philatelic circle “*France – Bulgaria*”, organized exhibitions, and presented Bulgarian postage stamps to the international public. He attended the opening of BALKANFILA in Varna – but nowhere was it noted that he was the man who had conceived the idea.

The Organizers of BALKANFILA XXI are the **Union of Bulgarian Philatelists, Pernik Municipality, Pernik District Administration** and “**Bulgarian Posts**”.



The H.P.S celebrates its 101st Anniversary

by staging a hybrid exhibition, 2-7 of June 2026



“101” at a glance

Exhibition Name: 101.

Dates: from Tuesday, 2 June, to Sunday, 7 June 2026.

Venue: Arts Centre.

Address: Vasilissis Sofias Avenue, Parko Eleftherias, 11521 Athens.

Metro station: Megaro Moussikis.

Exhibition size: 101 frames of 16 pages each.

Website: <https://hps.gr/2026/en/home/>

E-mail: 101@hps.gr

The exhibits will remain on the website after the closure of the exhibition.



This first-time in Greece, Hybrid Philatelic Exhibition is going to be versatile including both Competitive and Non-Competitive exhibits. The exhibits of all philatelic classes would either be displayed physically on the exhibition frames or they will be digitally shown at the exhibition's website. “101” National Philatelic Exhibition is under the Auspices of the Hellenic Philatelic Federation.

“101” National Philatelic Exhibition is organized in order to celebrate the Centenary Anniversary of the Hellenic Philatelic Society (E.F.E) since its founding in 1925, as well the entering in the second century of its existence in the current, digital era.

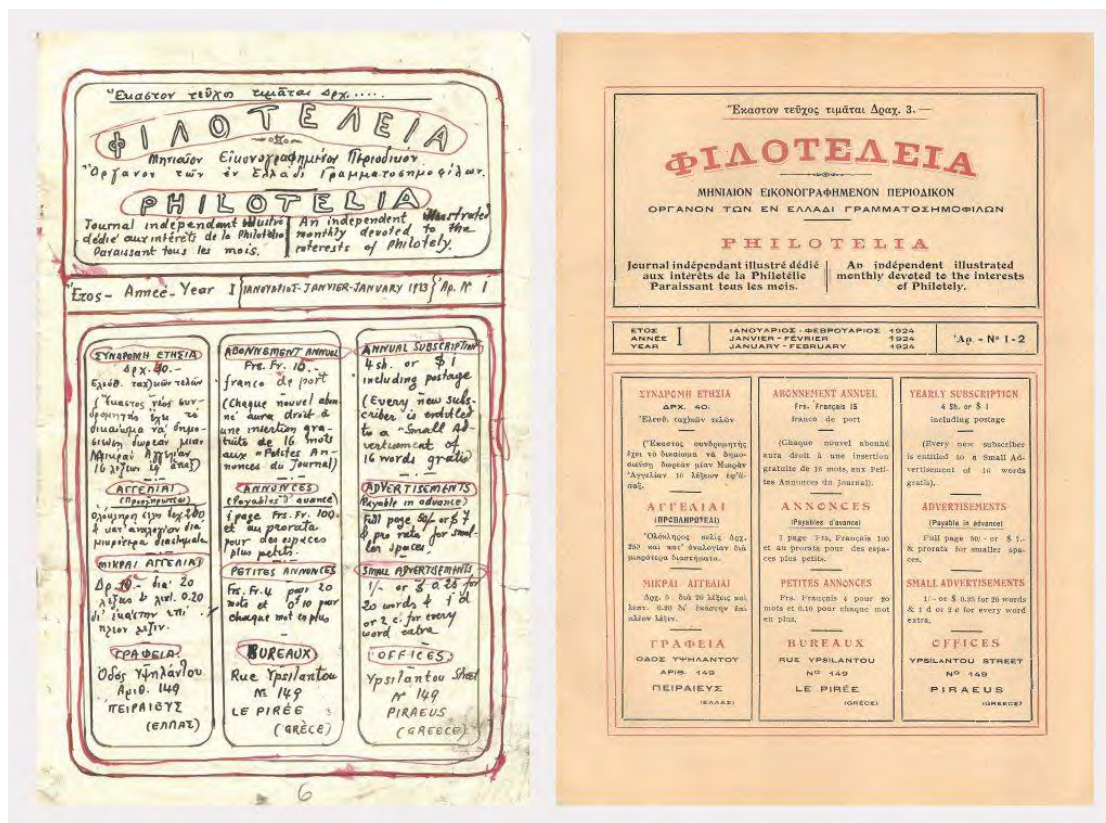


On 24 May 24th 1925, the first Administrative Council of the H.P.S was elected.

Front row from left: Othon Rentzos (President) and John Maniatakis (Vice-President).

Back row from left: Stephanos Macrymichalos (Curator), John Soliotis (General Secretary), and Athanasse Zervopoulos (Treasurer)

In 1924, a year earlier since the founding of H.P.S, S.J. Macrymichalos had issued the Philatelic Journal “PHILOTELIA” that was then granted to the Hellenic Philatelic Society.



“PHILOTELIA” : Front Cover Draft (left) and the Front Cover of the No1 Journal (right).

FEPA web meeting on “The Future of Stamp Exhibitions”

PART I

“The Future of Stamp Exhibitions” is a vital issue of Organized Philately as we have entered a new communication era and the traditional postal environment has already undergone tectonic changes. The consultation the FEPA has initiated is beyond doubt a functional blueprint that not only points out specific weaknesses but it also proposes certain actions and practices across Organized Philately in Europe in order to go through.

This significant initiative of FEPA took place during 5 Zoom small groups’ sessions staged –on October 8, 14, 16, 20 & 21– with a participation of 30 FEPA member Federations. Well before the Zoom sessions had started, a well-designed, thorough questionnaire was emailed to the National Federations in order to express their views, ideas and experiences on the “Future of Stamp Exhibitions” beforehand in order to hold constructive Zoom meetings coordinated by Vice President Lars Engelbrecht and members of the FEPA Board.

“Inspiration across borders” was the main concept of the second FEPA–organized Zoom meeting with member–Federations to discuss common challenges in European Organized Philately – together with sharing successful experiences and exploring solutions.

This FEPA initiative is a committed, well–planned effort to put critical issues of Organized Philately on the table, issues that have been for long time known but kept under the carpet.

These Zoom meetings were planned to deal with all the main challenges that Organized Philately faces nowadays such as declining attendance, aging audience, volunteers, exhibition costs. They were also put on the table : New exhibition Formats, such as: micro–exhibitions, Museum collaborations, Travelling exhibitions etc. The issue of Marketing, Promotion, Sponsorship of Philatelic Exhibitions was discussed too as well as the ongoing unwillingness of most National Postal Authorities to sponsor Exhibitions.

This dialogue of the critical issues don’t just refer to the future of stamp exhibitions, it refers to the future of Philately within the current demographic, financial and digital world we are living. If all these issues related the existing, current environment are not dealt at once in an innovative and daring approach, I am afraid soon –even within the next decade– we shall not be talking on the **Future of Philately but about Philately’s Glorious Past.**

FEPA REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS & PROPOSALS

A) For PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Across Europe, philatelic societies are at a turning point. While exhibitions remain one of the cornerstones of organized philately, their format, funding, and audience are under increasing pressure. During 5 FEPA-hosted Zoom meetings in October 2025, representatives from 30 European philatelic federations shared their experiences and innovations on how to secure the future of exhibitions. This report consolidates the best practices and insights emerging from those discussions, providing inspiration and guidance for both local societies and national federations.

Key recommendations for Societies include:

1. Rethink the exhibition format – experiment with smaller, specialized, and one-frame shows.
2. Consider hybrid exhibitions that combine physical exhibitions with virtual presentation of the same exhibits.
3. Have joint exhibitions/fairs that combine philately with related hobbies such as numismatics, postcards, medals, or model trains.
4. Engage with new venues – such as museums, libraries, or city cultural spaces.
5. Embrace digital elements – from QR codes on frames linking to exhibit scans or videos.
6. Strengthen marketing – especially through social media, online videos, and local promotion.

B) For PHILATELIC FEDERATIONS

Federations play a key role in shaping the future of exhibitions. To ensure sustainability and innovation, they should provide leadership, coordination, and shared digital infrastructure.

As a result of FEPA discussions, 5 Strategic Recommendations emerged for Federations:

1. Facilitate collaboration between member societies to share experiences and digital solutions.
2. Support and standardize hybrid exhibition models combining physical and online participation.

3. Develop sponsorship and funding partnerships to reduce reliance on public subsidies.
4. Promote training of potential exhibitors.
5. Encourage experimentation – in all aspects of exhibitions.

Stamp Exhibitions in Europe

Across Europe, **stamp exhibitions remain a central pillar of organized philately**. They bring together exhibitors, jurors, dealers, and visitors in an atmosphere of shared passion and expertise. From large continental exhibitions such as *EUROPHILEX*, *HAFNIA*, *NOTOS*, or *LIBEREC*, to smaller national and regional shows, exhibitions continue to play a vital role in motivating collectors and preserving philatelic culture.

However, the discussions and data collected from the FEPA questionnaire and five Zoom meetings reveal a complex picture:
exhibitions are both valued and vulnerable.

Good and not so Good News : a Strong Tradition – but Growing Pressure

- Nearly all Federations reported that exhibitions are still considered essential to the life of the Philately.
- More than 60 planned exhibitions in Europe in the coming years, covering all levels – local, national, and international.
- Many organizers still succeed thanks to experienced teams and a strong sense of community.
- In some countries, public authorities, museums, or postal administrations still offer financial or logistical support.

Yet, this tradition faces increasing strain:

- 86% of respondents cited **high costs and limited funding** as a major concern.
- 82% mentioned the **aging exhibitor base and audience**.
- 78% observed **declining attendance**.
- 78% also reported a **shortage of volunteers** able to sustain the workload.

This combination of financial, demographic, and structural pressures makes it clear that the current model – built around large, multi-day, volunteer-driven events – is becoming difficult to maintain.

To be continued in the next Balkanfila Newsletter

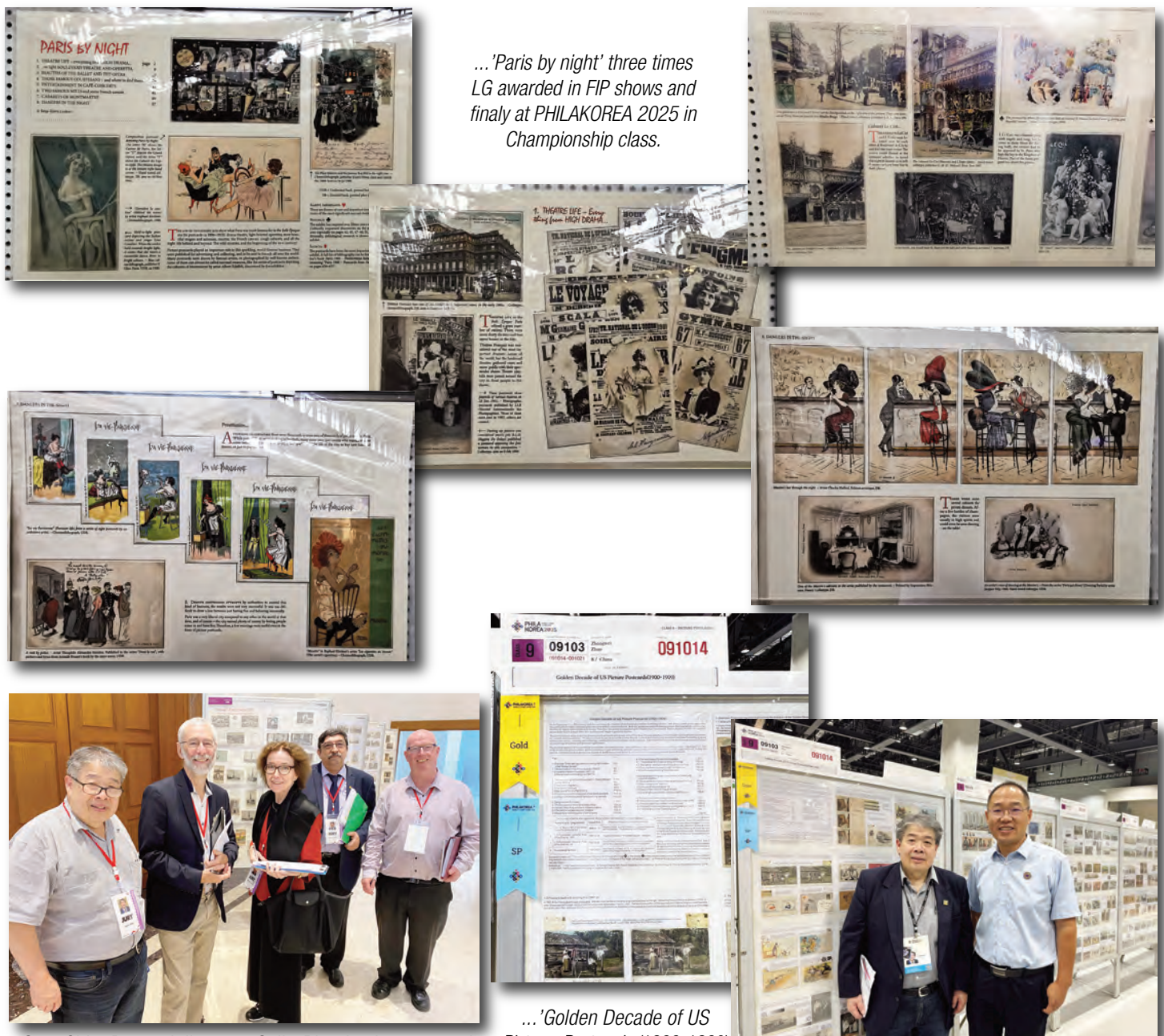
'To be or not to be!' Story or study, where are we heading?

Francisc AMBRUŞ

Not many years ago, while participating in a philatelic seminar in Greece, in 2018, Mrs. Birthe King proposed the inclusion of the Pictures Postcards class in FIP exhibitions. Initially, stuck in the old mindset of the philatelic collector, I was against this proposal. However, the world does not orient itself only by the outdated ideas of one and the other, and Pictures Postcards became a fully-fledged class in the FIP and Continental exhibitions. An idea that is ultimately a good one, giving color to monotonous exhibitions, alongside OPEN.

At first I wasn't very interested, but by participating in exhibitions as an exhibitor in other classes, or a juror, or simply a visitor, I wanted to help my suffering colleagues and I took photos of the exhibits that I found more interesting, images that I sent to enthusiasts so they could have comparison subjects with their work. I was curious and participated in a few specialized seminars, trying to understand the rather confusing world of illustrated postcards for me, how they can be aligned in a successful exhibit.

And for not very many years, since around 2022, I have made a small archive of photos for later study. Driven by the contradictions that some exhibitors with long-standing PPC statuses go through, but with poor results despite having impressive collections, I started a few months ago to purchase material for an exhibit with a theme that, in my mind, would be of interest in an exhibition. I did not have the ambition to reach above the level of the exhibit 'Paris by night' of the first FIP juror at PPC, LAAKSO Seija-Ritta with three LGs and at Philakorea 2025 already present in the Champions Class, but I also wanted to feel what it is like to be an exhibitor in this class. Initially, I learned something along the way by being assigned to Thailand 2023 alongside two other classes, and to PPC. I learned quite a bit then working with a team of four professionals and I thank them very much.



... 'Paris by night' three times
LG awarded in FIP shows and
finally at PHILAKOREA 2025 in
Championship class.

...Sam Chiu, Bernard Jimenez, Seija-Ritta Laakso, me and
Bruce Chadderton, THAILANDA 2023 jury team OP, PPC and MOD

... 'Golden Decade of US
Pictures Postcards (1900-1909)
92 p. G - Zhongwei Zhao

...juror Sam Chiu and exhibitor Zhongwei Zhao

I didn't even get started well and I was disappointed when I saw an exhibit at Birmingham 2025 on a theme close to mine, but of an extremely good level in my opinion. How can I compete with something like that? I became confused and disoriented to the point of almost giving up on the idea of exhibiting in this class.

To make things even more confusing at Philakorea 2025, after I finished my work judging the Revenues class where I took the exam, and spent another day with the team at the Modern Philately class, I managed to steal half a day from the very busy schedule made by the jury secretary, and visited two classes. Pictures Postcards and Postal History, where I photographed the more interesting exhibits and which were well-awarded. My confusion became even greater when I saw two extremely interesting exhibits with a completely new vision compared to what I had seen so far. The exhibits belong to Chinese exhibitors and judging by the manner of the exhibits I judged at Revenues, I notice that there is a very strong and extremely competitive exhibition group from Asia. Exhibits respecting all points of the class regulations, extremely well documented and constructed, of great future and in which I found with great difficulty minor shortcomings in the texts.



... 'Golden Decade of US Pictures Postcards (1900-1909) 92 p. G - Zhongwei Zhao

Returning to what I saw at Pictures Postcards and which made me think. Two exhibits that are absolutely a study of the illustrated postcard, the evolution of the cliché that has passed through several printing houses, the typology of printing and in one even a study on the printed cardboard support of the postcard. Of course, the exhibitors included these studies in the topic addressed, but the percentage of pages with studies was very high, with both exhibitors being awarded Gold and LV medals. From my point of view, I wasn't very happy with what I saw because it overturned all my theories about the illustrated postcard which, in my opinion, was supposed to tell a story like at OPEN.



6.2 The fast start of native American enterprises

Before foreign companies in the US were forced to close, various rescue measures were taken. Some were merged with domestic companies in this country, such as Valentine & Sons and Leighton & Valentine in this page. But as the Golden Age came to an end, these two American companies quickly went bankrupt.



Publisher the Hugh C. Leighton Co. (1904-1909) from Portland, with its parent company in Germany.

Publisher Valentine & Sons Co. (1907-1909) from NY, parent company is Valentine from Scotland.



6.2 The fast start of native American enterprises

Another type is retail, such as the German postcard company Rotograph Co., which was acquired by the Illustrated Postcard (this page) in 1911, which was a local American company that began printing postcards on its own and no longer importing from Germany after the introduction of the new restriction act in 1909. Unfortunately, the quality of postcards in the US cannot be compared to those made in Germany. As a result, the postcard industry declined and never regained its former glory. Illustrated Postcard went bankrupt in 1914.

Publisher of card 1 is Subling & Kohn Co. (1904-1912) who conducted offset printing in Germany. Number 216 belongs to the "Elite" set.

Cards 2, 3 and 4 are all offset prints, published by Illustrated Postcard (1904-1914) from NY. Three card numbers are all C-30. From the year of printing, it can be seen that the exact embossed printing went from clear to black, which is also the result of transferring from German printing to domestic printing in US.



Data Analysis and Personal Research (6/7)

Number of statistical samples (exhibits)	Statistical objects (Continuing with the analysis on page 87)	Mail From Top 3	Mail Receiving Top 3	Personal conclusions
153ea	Mailed/Place of population (inferior) and received/Place of population (superior) during Sander's tourism and travel	New York State 45ea California 17ea Massachusetts 16ea Pennsylvania 26ea New York State 21ea California 8ea	New York State 26ea Massachusetts 17ea Connecticut 15ea Pennsylvania 24ea New York State 21ea Illinois 8ea	Postcards are widely used in economically developed and densely populated states on the East and West coasts of the US. These areas were also states with a high number of travelers at that time. New York State is certainly the region with the highest population density, and it's worth noting that California ranks first in terms of population inflow on the West Coast. In terms of postcard history, entertainment, and cultural mailing, Pennsylvania and New York rank among the top while Chicago is located in Illinois, the only central state that is roughly equivalent to California.

6.3 Postcard industry was developing and growing in the US

There are no particularly large postcard publishers on the West Coast of the United States, and many are mainly concentrated in San Francisco and Los Angeles, but their production quality and quantity are not inferior to other developed regions.

Card 1 and 2 are both offset prints published by Britton & Ray Lithographers (1852-1913) in San Francisco. Since 1847, Britton has been working in lithography. In 1852, he partnered with French immigrant painter Jacques Joseph Rey (1820-1892) in California to establish this company, which later became one of the largest lithography publishers in California.



Card 1 mailed in 1906, Card 2 mailed in 1907.3 with divided back, and color deepening in front.

Card 3 offset printing, Card 4 collotype. All published by Albert from Oregon. Thomas (1895-1947) and Albert Lewis Thomas (1875-1940) were important historical characters of early 20th century coastal life in the Newport region of Oregon.



The continuously expanding company surfaced 1.3 years years after Albert's death, his son Richard sold the store.

6.3 Postcard industry was developing and growing in the US

With the rapid development of the printing and publishing industries, many publishers have made a lot of money, and the postcard business has made a significant contribution. It can be said that in the Golden Age, picture postcards created a large number of American entrepreneurs, and conversely, these entrepreneurs also contributed to the formation of the Golden Age of American postcards.

Published by H. Denver H. Tammen Curtis Co. (1896-1953), whose building appears in postcard patterns with normal proportions 1. Low



Large enterprises

The publisher is Williamson Haffner (1905-1910) also in Denver, -being H.H. Tammen's early self promotion picture, with the Denver Post Office on the left far below the company building 2. High



A well-known photo from the same angle shows that the Denver Post Office on the left is far higher than Tammen company building. From this perspective, postcards at that time were not only "deceiving" realities in terms of printing technology, but many also tampering with intuitive perspectives.



Tammen company has a wide range of business operations, including minerals, stone affairs, book, games, various businesses and scenic postcards, as well as folk fossils, political figures, animal and plant specimens, and pottery carving artifacts.



1. Overview: Three new regulations promoting the formation of the "Golden Decade"

1.1 Allow private printing of mailing card (1898-5)

In the short three years of 1898-1901, two major events occurred in the development of picture postcards in the US. Firstly, according to Article 281 of Title 38 of Congressional Act, the monopoly of the postal service on the postcard printing business was ended on July 1, 1898. All non-governmental issued postcards were required to have the words "Private Mailing Card approved by Congress on May 19, 1898" printed on the back. This regulation lasted until December 23, 1901. Secondly, on Dec 24, 1901, the Postmaster-General issued Post Office Order No. 1447, which allowed replacing "private mail cards" with "postcards", officially giving birth to postcards in the modern sense of the US.



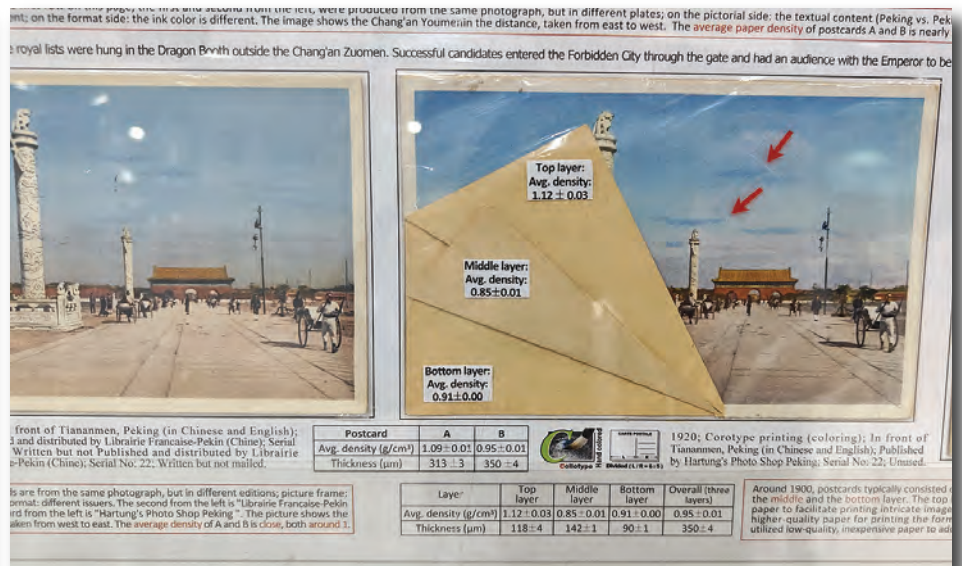
All are lithographic printing, published by E. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. C. Krop Co. (1898-1956), now merged into GAF Corporation.

The size of the Private Mailing Card was required to be less than the standard size of 3 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches recognized by the Universal Postal Union in 1874, and printed on light yellow, cream, or gray paper.

The "Postal Card" was printed directly and published in late 1901, approaching the end of the period of private mailing. After promulgation of the Postal Regulations on December 24, 1901, this private mailing card was replaced by Post Card.

Look carefully at the way the study is presented. The exhibitor found the distinctive elements that separate the print runs by period, or the use of the same photographic cliché by different publishers. Where he did not have pieces with the same cliché but printed by different publishers, he presented a study of the printing process. Certainly, great emphasis was placed on the study and research of the illustrated postcard, the story being secondary.

Will this class be split into two subclasses? One for the study of illustrated postcards and another OPEN type, with story and harmony?



...*'Peking City in the Late Qing Dynasty and Early Republic of China: The Symmetry of Buildings'*
85 p. LV - exhibitor Tang Qing

It's surprising how some exhibitors can speculate about the ambiguities of a regulation that is still unclear and with many possibilities for interpretation. G exhibit in LIBERC 2025 exhibition.

FIP provisional regulation 2024 - Art. 4.4Presentation

The text must be attractive and tastefully arranged. The overall impression of the exhibit is important, as is the variety in the mounting. Heavily coloured pages should be avoided. Framing or matting of the Picture Postcards may increase the visual impression. Illustrations (maps, drawings, etc.) may be used in limited numbers, but not so that the Picture Postcards become secondary to the exhibit.



As an exhibitor and juror, I would not abuse such loopholes. Upon closer inspection, adding those medals and coins is beneficial for OPEN, but they cannot replace the original model or postcard layout even if similar elements are found on an illustrated one. They are very good complementary images in an OPEN exhibit.

However, upon returning home, I took heart and rethought the entire structure and story of my exhibit, simply stealing from ideas already seen in exhibitions. I had already applied for Dubai 2026 since the beginning of the year and to my luck, the unexpected chance arose to present the exhibit in advance and be judged by a team of professionals. The opportunity was given to me by the Ausvipex 2025 virtual exhibition organized by the Australian Philatelic Federation. Thus, my fears that I had not done it correctly or that the theme I approached was not worthy of a high-level exhibition were dispelled. I realized that by participating in a juried virtual exhibition in advance, I can and have time to make subsequent changes and improvements to my work based on the jury's pertinent suggestions. Until February 28, 2026 you have the chance to visit the entire exhibition here: <https://ausvipex2025.com/visit-the-show/>



I would like to thank once again the organizers, jurors and exhibitors for this special experience. For a modest amount, without spending thousands of euros to travel to exhibitions, I passed a 'school' exam that will be useful for physical presentations of the exhibit in the future.

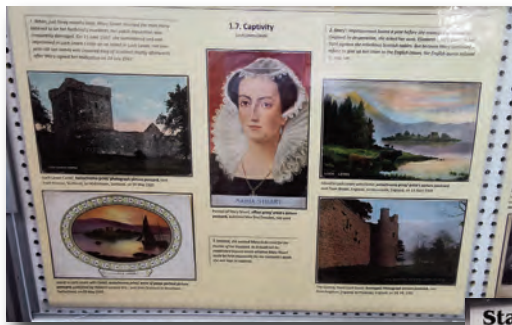
To be more specific, while collecting postcards, I also noticed small differences or the adoption of the cliché by various publishing houses. I decided to intersperse such pieces with the necessary explanations in my story, as they contribute to the sensitive score of the study and research. For the 5 frame version I had to be careful not to exaggerate even though I had sufficient material. By including the 'repetition' of the material, I took the place of other pieces that would have been completed in my story. Advantages or disadvantages, it is not known who decides until the end.

I also invented different colors for the frames of the pieces, with the risk that not everyone will like them. However, I took a risk, being several times in the position of the juror who doesn't have enough time for a very careful judging. Sometimes, elements that quickly attract attention become useful in an exhibit, but they must be used intelligently and with great care, the risk of not being understood always exists all the time.

I thought an explanatory legend on the first page would be useful to understand the difference between a common and a rare piece. Of course, I also included personal inventions, with icons to differentiate between study and research, a rarity. However, these helpful 'elements' should not distract from the piece or the descriptions.

During the judging process, I noticed that an important part is neglected by many exhibitors: the story of the piece and its technical description, as complete as possible.

In the pages that I will present next, you will see that some information is missing or is organized without a closeness to the piece in question. For the future, my big problem is how much to abuse this part of study and research. I will first present you with a few pages from the exhibits with various approaches and then I will delve deeper into the issue of study versus story.



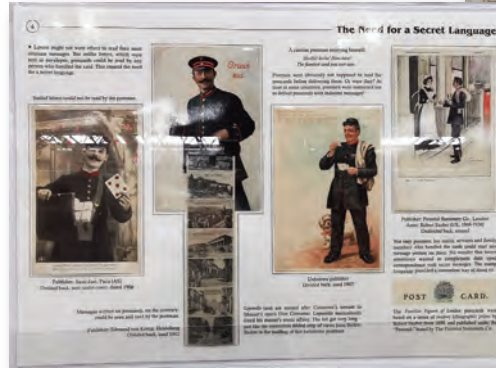
Stamps in Love

The Secret Language of Stamps on Pre-WWI Postcards

In the postcard world, there is a secret language. It is only in the last few years that this secret language has been revealed to the public. The secret language of stamps on pre-WWI postcards is a fascinating story of love, war, and the power of the postal service.

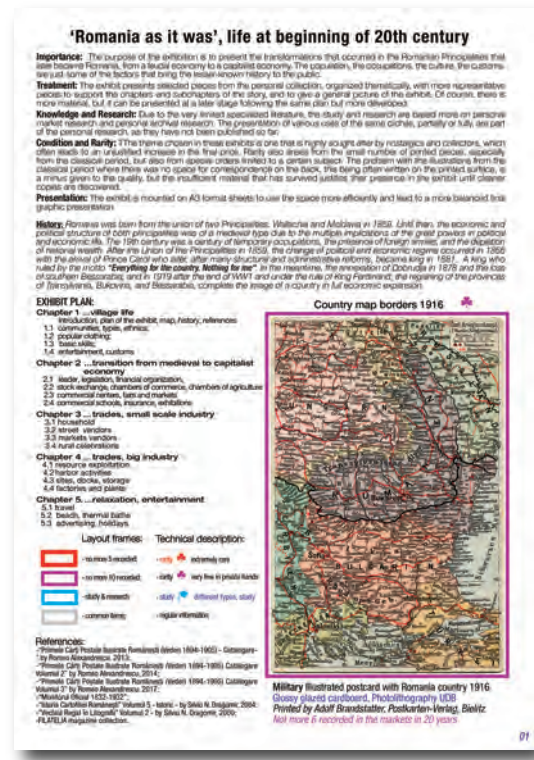
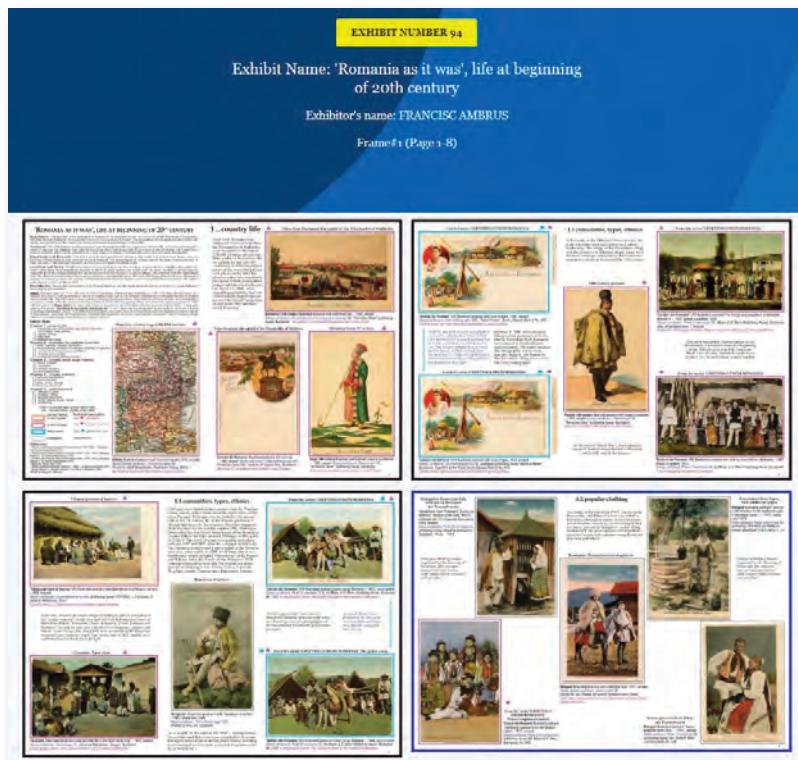
The secret language of stamps on pre-WWI postcards is a fascinating story of love, war, and the power of the postal service. It is a story that has been hidden for over a century, but it is now being revealed to the public.

The secret language of stamps on pre-WWI postcards is a fascinating story of love, war, and the power of the postal service. It is a story that has been hidden for over a century, but it is now being revealed to the public.



Some examples of thematic picture postcard exhibits in which the story told through images is the main factor. They seem much more attractive, with special ideas, exhibits that present the history, culture, habits of countries and time periods that the visitor has not known or spent.





In the end, what did I choose to do, at the risk of being wrong or being devalued? I chose a story that was initially intended to be a story only about Romanian trade. Seeing the exhibit of the Turk with his trades, I realized that it was already a well-established exhibit and repeating the same subject would not be beneficial. And then I reconfigured the story, expanding the theme to a general presentation of Romanian life and society in a period of great economic and social transformations. A subject that was quite difficult to sustain for the chosen period because the country underwent numerous territorial transformations at that time.

Having finalized the theme of the exhibit, the division into themes followed. I would have liked to present one theme on each frame, but the chapters are much more than the number of frames allocated. Now after this first examination I will reconfigure the story and the arrangement in frames.

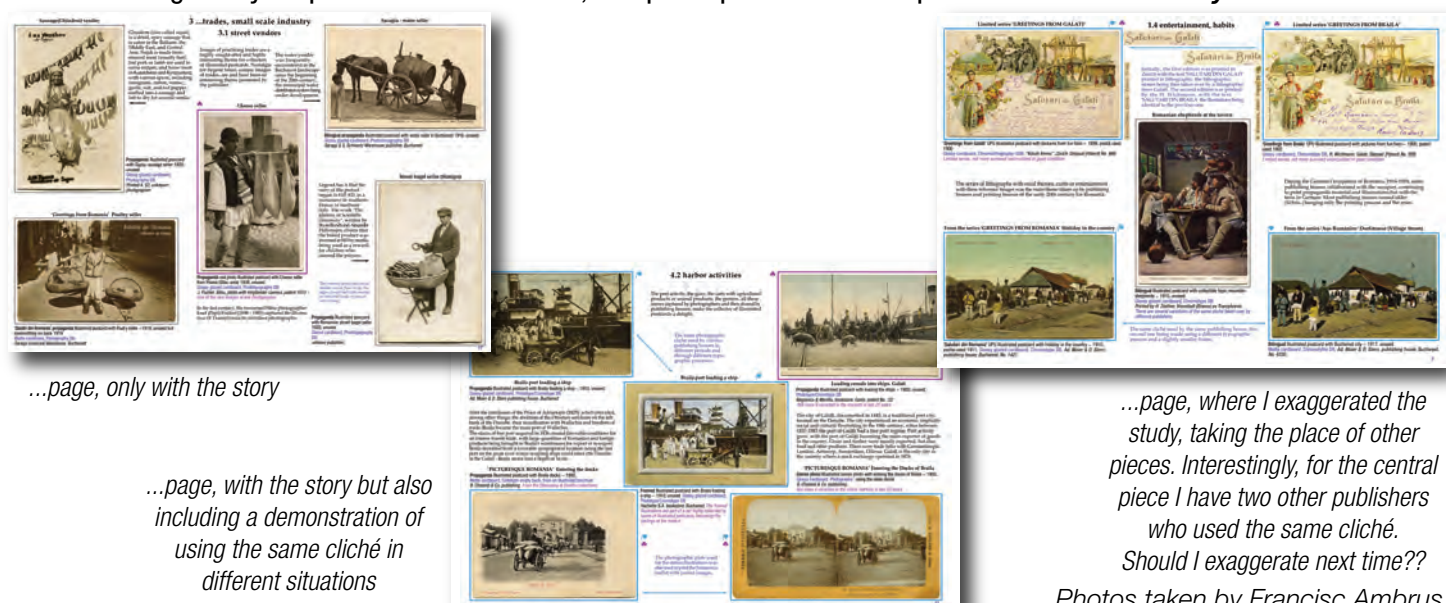
Next came the choice of small colored frames that would quickly visually separate the pieces of great interest from the common ones. I wanted the three icons to be representative, but in the next version I will change them.

Then came the technical description, where I've separated all the judging criteria and also used different colors and fonts for quick separation of the text.

Honestly, the most difficult part was finding the story text, a text that had to be as succinct as possible but also full of historical or cultural information. For each text, I searched the internet and historical books for between 1 and 2 hours.

In the end, I think the exhibit turned out to be satisfactory. The real test was at Ausivpex where my choices were correctly appreciated, the exhibit being the second candidate proposed for the Grand Prix, the first candidate being an 8-frame TR exhibit.

The final conclusion would be the following. Study the work of others, follow the rules, watch the seminars, continue to make changes to your presentation each time, and participate as often as possible. *Persevere and you will win.*



...page, only with the story

...page, with the story but also including a demonstration of using the same cliché in different situations

...page, where I exaggerated the study, taking the place of other pieces. Interestingly, for the central piece I have two other publishers who used the same cliché. Should I exaggerate next time??

Photos taken by Francisc Ambrus

The Process of Postage Stamp Production :

from Concept Design to the Post Office Counter

by Svetislav D. Jelić

Through the courtesy of the management of Magyar Szó d.o.o. – organizational unit Forum Printing House (hereinafter: Forum), we were granted access to the printing facility, where we were presented with the complete process of producing postage stamps for the needs of the Public Enterprise Post of Serbia as well as other clients. Today, Forum uses the most modern mass-printing technology known as Computer to Plate (CtP). As the name suggests, this process bypasses the traditional film-making stage and enables direct initiation of offset printing plate production from digital files. For printing itself, Heidelberg Speedmaster presses are used, with extended B2 and B1 paper formats (Figs. 1 and 2).



Figure 1. Printing system for extended B2 format



Figure 2. Short technical specification of the printing system

In most cases, printing is carried out on B2 format paper, on which stamps are typically produced in the following formats intended for later post office counter distribution:

- Counter sheets of 100 stamps (10×10) – 2 sheets per press sheet
- Mini-sheets 8+1 (3×3) – 6 mini-sheets per press sheet
- Mini-sheets 9+1 (5×2) – 4 mini-sheets per press sheet
- Blocks – 12 blocks per press sheet

Some of these formats are shown in Figures 3, 4, and 5.



Figure 3. Mini-sheets 8+1 printed on B2 paper



Figure 4. Blocks printed on B2 paper



Figure 5. Mini-sheets 9+1 printed on B2 paper

What is important for the topic is the proof print, which has increasingly appeared on the philatelic market under the name “Chromalin.” Once the artistic design and the printing plates are ready, the designer from Srbijamarka the official company producing postal stamps in Serbia personally comes to Forum printing house, where printing begins using a previously prepared layout (Figs. 3–5) in the form of a proof press sheet. Before the final print run begins, the designer personally signs the first (“proof”) sheet (Figs. 6 and 7), which fully corresponds in all parameters to the artist’s original concept. This first, officially approved sheet is then packaged and stored in the printing house archive. If any changes are required (such as sheet numbering, color shade adjustments, etc.), the designer writes comments directly on that sheet; once the corrections are implemented, printing proceeds. It is important to emphasize that all proof sheets, including the first signed one that is later archived, are printed on the original paper used for the final stamp production. In the case of surtax stamps, which have a different role in postal operations, the proof sheet is not signed by the designer but by the responsible official of the printing house. After printing, the sheets are transferred to a separate facility housing the perforation machine, where the process of perforating and final cutting into counter sheets takes place.

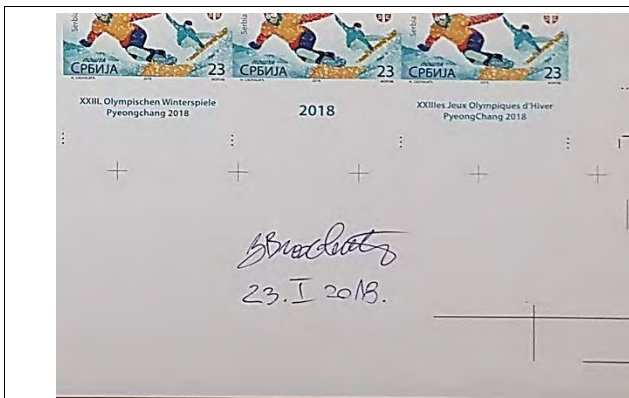


Figure 6. Proof sheet of the issue “Winter Olympic Games 2018” signed by designer J. Vlahović

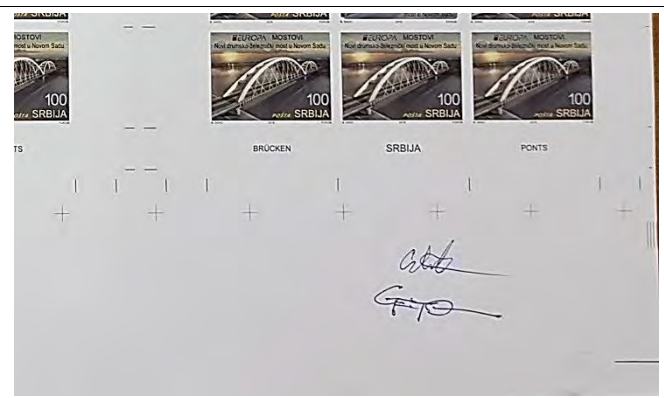


Figure 7. Proof sheet of the issue “Europa 2018” signed by designer B. Savić

Of key importance is the fact that printing house employees, on the workstations from which printing is initiated, have access only to digital files of postage stamps that are currently in production or were printed recently. This circumstance implies that unauthorized access to files for potential misuse or later unauthorized reprints is practically impossible.

By examining the archive of the head of the stamp production department, we were shown that each issue is archived in the following manner:

The signed proof sheet is placed in a folder containing detailed data for each issue, specifically: the client, order date, ordered quantity, printed quantity, number of perforated sheets, and the quantity of any unsuccessfully printed sheets (waste). The most common printing errors are misregistration and ink smearing on paper. Such sheets are subsequently destroyed: they are cut into 1 cm-wide strips using special knives and sent for further recycling.

From all of the above, it can be concluded that today (in the period after 2010) the Forum printing house does not use proofs printed on Chromalin or on any other test paper. All communication with Srbijamarka is conducted electronically, and therefore any items appearing on the market must be subjected to careful and detailed examination.

This text was originally published in Serbian language in philatelic magazine Filatelisticki Glasnik

Society of Novi Sad Philatelists Report on Activities

The Philatelists Society, later also including Numismatists, "Novi Sad," was founded on February 27, 1933, under the name Society of Novosad Philatelists. At its founding, the Society had 79 members, of whom 58 were from Novi Sad, and the rest from nearby towns in the then-Danube Banovina. The Society grew rapidly and became one of the largest in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Between 1933 and 1939, four philatelic exhibitions were organized, featuring not only Society members but also philatelists from across the country. From 1940 to 1946, the Society's activities were interrupted. On October 13, 1946, the Society was reestablished as the Society of Philatelists of Novi Sad through a founding assembly. Since then, the Society has been in continuous development, reaching around 500 members by the mid-1970s. The Society restored its original name, Society of Novosad Philatelists, in 2017.

On the occasion of the ninety years since its founding, the Society of Novosad Philatelists issued a personalized postage stamp, a commemorative cachet, a special envelope, and a maximum card in 2023. The personalized stamp was designed in the Art Deco style, which was the dominant European art style during the 1930s, when the Society was established. The stamp motif features the famous clock at the Petrovaradin Fortress, viewed through a philatelic magnifier. The print run of the stamp was 400 copies. The commemorative envelope depicts a motif of Freedom Square, with the Society's advertisement banner displaying its promotional poster, and the city hall in the background. The maximum card illustrates the clock tower on the Petrovaradin Fortress.



The commemorative envelope of DNSF was issued on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the Society of Novosad Philatelists, featuring a personalized postage stamp and a commemorative cancel.

170 Years of Postal Service in Novi Sad and 270 Years in Petrovaradin

The first post office in Petrovaradin was opened on December 29, 1753, and in Novi Sad in 1853, after years of intense protests and persistent efforts by Novi Sad's citizens to establish a post office there. On this jubilee, the Society of Novosad Philatelists commemorated both post offices by issuing a set of four commemorative envelopes and one special cancel. The motifs on the envelopes depict the postal buildings in Petrovaradin and Novi Sad.



Commemorative envelopes issued on the occasion of the 270th anniversary of the opening of the Post Office in Petrovaradin, featuring a special cancel and Cyrillic inscriptions "Petrovaradin 1753" (left) and of the 170th anniversary of the opening of the post office in Novi Sad, featuring a special cancel and Cyrillic inscription "Novi Sad 1853" (right).

Activities in 2024

During March (23rd) and November (9th), 2024, two one-day philately and collectibles fairs were held. The fairs took place at the Scientific and Technological Park building. At both fairs, more than 40 exhibitors from the country and the region participated, and each fair was attended by over 200 visitors.



European Football Championship

The European Football Championship is one of the most popular sporting competitions on the old continent. The seventeenth edition of this tournament was held in Germany from June 14 to July 14, 2024. The Serbian national football team qualified for the final tournament for the first time in twenty years.



Before this, the Serbian players participated in the final tournament in 2004 in the Netherlands and Belgium, where they competed together with players from Montenegro as the FR Yugoslavia national team. The Society of Novosad Philatelists commemorated the qualification of the Serbian national team for EURO 2024 by issuing a special cancel. The cancellation was in use on the tournament's opening day, April 16, 2024, at post office 21102 in Novi Sad.

Games of the XXXIII Olympiad – Paris 2024

The 33rd Summer Olympics of the modern era were held in Paris from July 26 to August 11, 2024. Serbia was represented by 113 athletes competing in 15 sports. A total of five medals were won: three gold (shooting mixed pairs, men's tennis, and men's water polo), one silver (women's taekwondo), and one bronze (men's basketball). The Society of Novosad Philatelists issued a commemorative envelope, an illustrated postcard, and a series of special cancellations. The motif on the commemorative envelope features Olympic rings, the competition logo, and the inscription "PARIS 2024." The same motif appears on the illustrated postcard. The special cancellations were issued to mark the start of the Olympic Games and the matches our men's basketball team played in in the group stage of the basketball tournament. A total of four commemorative cancellers were issued.



75 Years Since the Establishment of Radio – Television of Vojvodina

On the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Radio – Television of Vojvodina, the Postal Service of Serbia issued a commemorative stamp and first-day cover. The Society of Novosad Philatelists, in collaboration with Radio–Television of Vojvodina, issued a commemorative cover, a special cancel, and a maximum card. The motif on the cover features the new RTV building in Mišeluk, built after the old one was destroyed in a NATO bombing in 1999. The text on the cover reads: "RTV 75 – 75 years since the founding of Radio – Television of Vojvodina." The commemorative cancel was in use on the day of RTV's anniversary, November 29, 2024, at post office 21121 in Novi Sad. The motif on the cancel features the RTV logo, along with the inscription: "Radio – Television of Vojvodina – 75 Years Since Its Founding – 29.11.2024. NOVI SAD." The motif on the maximum card depicts the RTV transmission tower on Crveni Čot in Fruška Gora, destroyed during the NATO bombing in 1999.



The commemorative envelope issued on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Radio – Television of Vojvodina, featuring a special stamp and cancellation.



The Maximum Card issued on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of Radio – Television of Vojvodina, featuring a commemorative stamp and a cancel.

Suggestions for commemorative issues of Serbian Postage Stamps



At the end of 2024, DNSF submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications for two commemorative postage stamp issues.

The first proposal was to mark the 150th anniversary of the establishment of rational beekeeping in Serbia. On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the founding of rational beekeeping among Serbs and in Serbia, a proposal was made to issue a jubilee postage stamp featuring the image of Professor Jovan Živanović. The proposal was accepted, and the stamp was issued as part of the European Nature Protection series.



The second proposal was to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the renowned Novi Sad musician and tamburitza player, Janika Balaž. The proposal was accepted, and the stamp will be issued within the Art series on November 26, 2025.



Activities in 2025

Exhibition "80 Years of Victory"

From May 12 to May 18, 2025, a philatelic exhibition titled "80 Years of Victory over Fascism" was held. The exhibition was jointly organized by the Union of Associations of Fighters of the People's Liberation Wars (SUBNOR) and the Society of Novosad Philatelists.





Exhibition "100 Years of Organized Collecting"

From October 23 to October 30, 2025, a thematic exhibition will be held at the Museum of Vojvodina to mark 100 years of organized collecting. The exhibition features 16 exhibitors with 21 exhibits.

Personalized postage stamps, commemorative envelopes, cancels, and maximum cards.

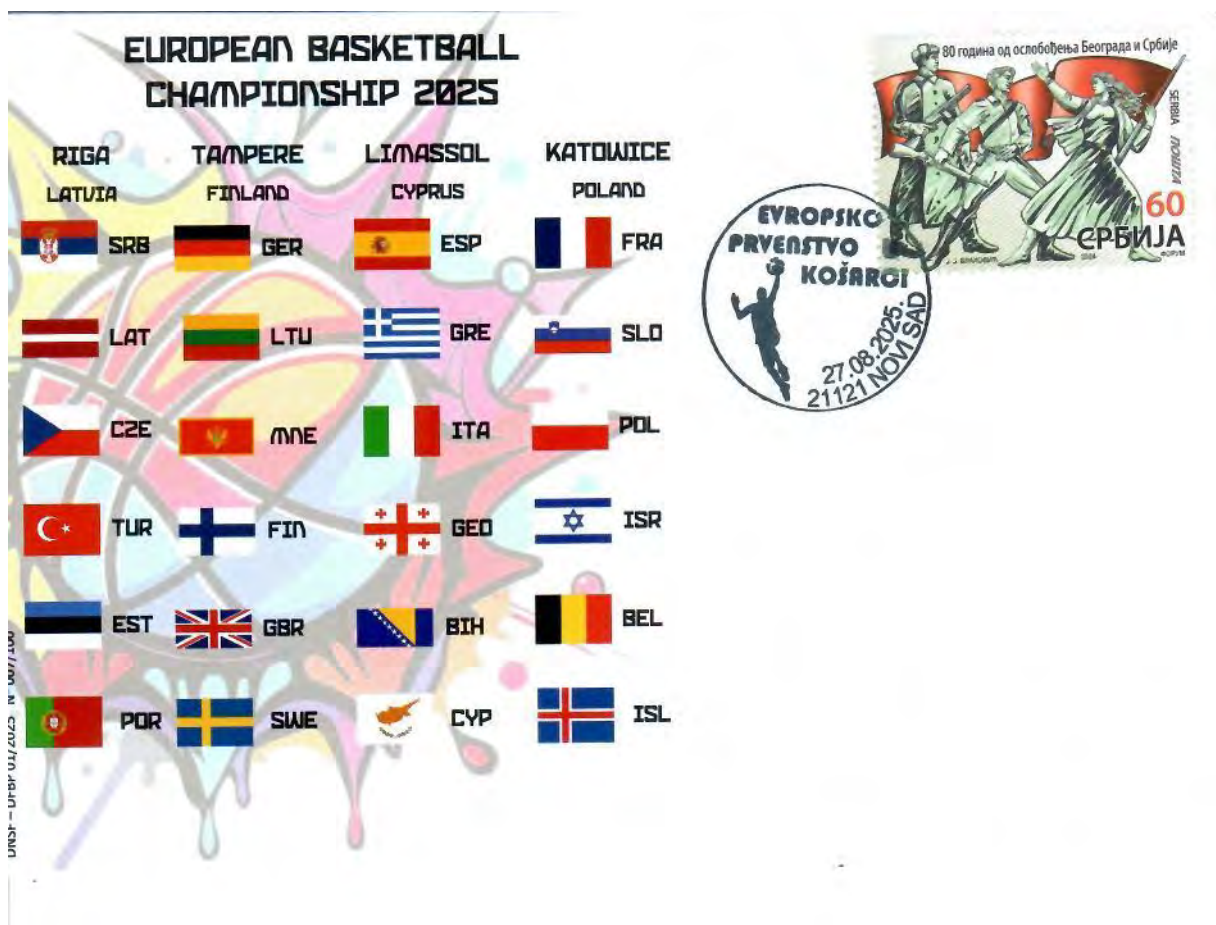
On the occasion of Winemakers & Vintners' Day, Saint Trifun, DNSF issued a commemorative cancel, an illustrated postcard & a Maximum card.



DNSF 01/2025



On the occasion of the 42nd European Men's Basketball Championship, DNSF issued a commemorative envelope and cancellation.



On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Yugoslav Sports Society Partizan, DNSF issued a personalized postage stamp, a commemorative envelope, a cancel, and a Maximum Card.





On the occasion of the exhibition and the 100th anniversary of Organized Collecting, DNSF issued a personalized postage stamp, a commemorative envelope, a cancel, and a Maximum Card.



Catalogue of Slovenian Philately, Volume 3

by Dr. Veselko Guštin,

The catalogue "Postage Stamps of Foreign Administrations and of Occupied Slovenian Territories" has been published by the World Stamps Project (WSP) and edited by Andrej Verbič and his team. I must say that for the first time in its history, Slovenian philately has received a catalogue that finally provides comprehensive and in-depth coverage of the entire territory of present-day Slovenia in the period from 1941 to 1945. The catalogue contains everything you need for your traditional or postal history collection: the names of post offices (in Italian, or German, or Hungarian), postal rates, a list of all stamps used during this period, a list of known errors, and, of course, a price list.



I must here commend the author for having highlighted the difference between a stamp used in Italy or Germany or Hungary with the simbol "⊙" and one cancelled with a postmark used in Slovenian territory, marked with the simbol "S⊙", i.e. cancelled with a "Slovenian" postmark.

The book with 328 pages contains the following chapters: Introduction, Italian Occupation of Julian Venetia 1918–1920, Kingdom of Italy, Italian Social Republic, German Occupation of Upper Krain, Carinthia, and Styria, Hungarian Occupation of Prekmurje, Province of Ljubljana (Italian and German occupation), Julian Venetia Zone A and the Free Territory of Trieste, Zone A. Both B Zones are covered in Volume 2 (**Yugoslavia 1918-1991, A Specialised Catalog of Postage Stamps**)!

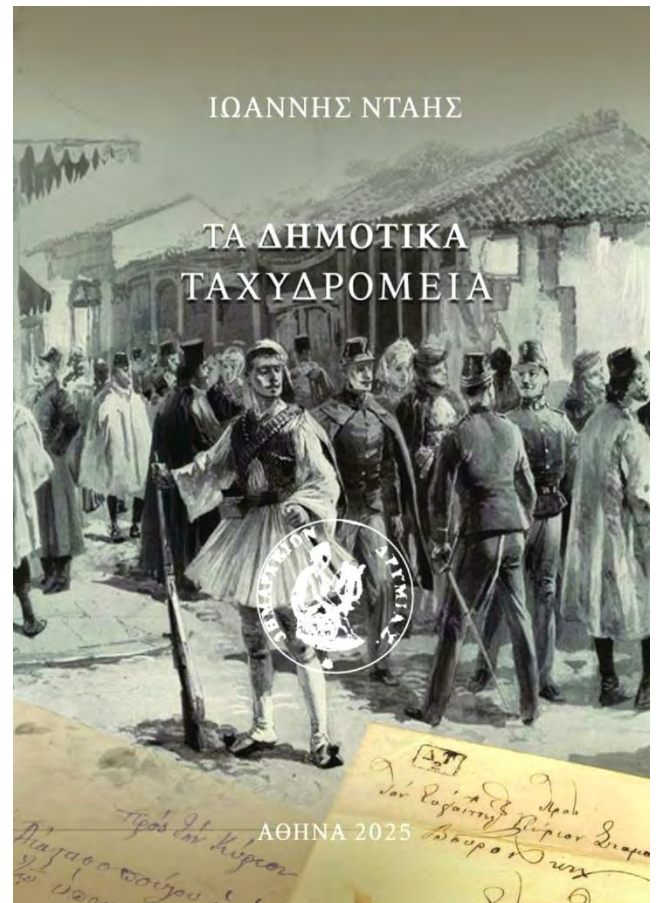
The catalogue is bilingual (Slovenian and English), and we hope it will also be appreciated by collectors outside Slovenia.

You can order all from the author Andrej Verbič (info-wsp@t-2.si). The price is 28 euros.

MUNICIPAL POST OFFICES: a monumental work by John Daes

"Municipal Post Offices," a 588–page study was recently completed by the tireless researcher of Postal History. This is not an unexpected accomplishment, as the author had successfully completed a number of reference books on Greek Postal History several times in the past.

The official book presentation took place on Wednesday, December 3rd, at the premises of the Hellenic Philatelic Society, with many philatelists in attendance who attentively heard from the author about this "difficult" mission of recording, classifying, and presenting the Municipal Post Offices that were established in 1843.



The Municipal Post Offices were serving the residents of villages in Greece at the time under adverse conditions and with a lack of state–municipal resources, relying solely on the conscientiousness and sense of honour of the Municipal Postmen. The municipal postmarks were poorly made, and the surviving material is scarce.

In the preface of this book, the significant author John Daes modestly mentions:

"I shouldn't have written this book. The "Municipal Post Offices" should have been written by either the late Stelios Kasimatis or by Alexandre Galinos. Two of the pillars of Greek philately".

The main supporters of this significant endeavor have been Alexandre Galinos and Dimitris Varelas, who stood by the author's side.



from left :
Dimitris Varelas, John Daes and Alexandre Galinos

The author has “dedicated” this monument book to his "Life Companion and Wife Georgia."



The "Municipal Post Offices" were given to the Hellenic Philatelic Federation, so every philatelist could download it free of charge.

The Hellenic Philatelic Federation expresses its gratefulness to John Daes for this generous donation and we would like to dedicate to him the opening verses of Nikos Eggonopoulos' poem "Bolivar":

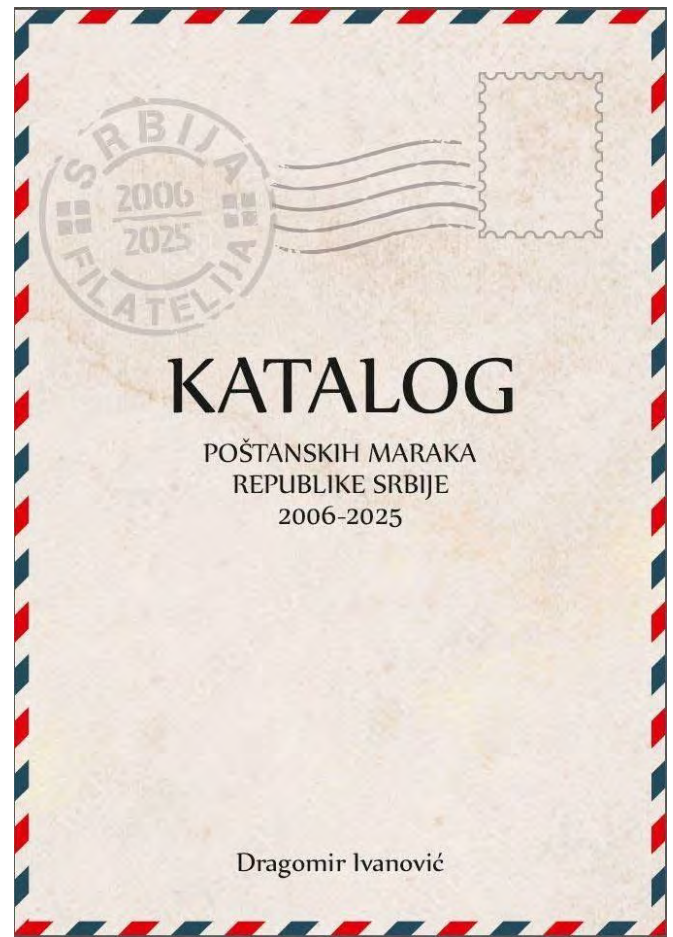
"For the great, for the free, for the brave, the strong,
great words, free words, brave words, strong words
are appropriate."

New catalogue of Modern Serbia stamps

A new philatelic catalogue dedicated to the Republic of Serbia has just been published, offering collectors and researchers a comprehensive reference to modern Serbian stamp issues 2006 – 2025.

The catalogue is authored by Dragomir Ivanović, and published by Željko Perkunić. With a print run of 1,000 copies, it represents a valuable addition to the philatelic literature of the region.

This richly illustrated edition spans 664 pages in full color, providing detailed listings, images, and information that will serve both experienced philatelists and newcomers interested in Serbian postal history.



The catalogue stands as an important contribution to documenting and preserving the heritage of Serbia's postage stamps, ensuring that collectors worldwide have access to accurate and beautifully presented material.

2015, 15. jun - Doplatna marka za prikupljanje sredstava za završetak izgradnje Hrama Svetog Save na Vračaru u Beogradu. Autor: Anamari Banjac. Štampa: Forum Novi Sad. Papir: kredast. Guma: bela, polusjajna. Zupčanje: češljasto 13¼.



073 10 din. višebojna (7.600.000)

0,20 0,10

U obaveznoj upotrebi od 15.06. do 31.08.2015. godine.

P. T. 100 maraka

Pored doplatne marke u isto vreme su bile u prometu i nalepnice od 20, 30 i 40 dinara sa istim motivom. Štampane su na samolepivom papiru i korišćene su za vozne karte, bioskopske i pozorišne ulaznice i sportske priredbe.



Cena za seriju (3 kom):

4,50 0,30

P.T. 100 komada

2015, 5. oktobar - Doplatna marka u korist Dečje nedelje. Autor: Aleksandar Zolotić. Štampa: ZIN Beograd. Papir: običan. Guma: bela, polusjajna. Zupčanje: češljasto 13¼.



074 10 din. višebojna (350.000)

0,50 0,10

U obaveznoj upotrebi od 05.10. do 11.11.2015. godine.

P. T. 100 maraka

2015, 26. oktobar - Doplatna marka povodom sakupljanja sredstava za organizaciju Evropskog prvenstva u vaterpolu u Beogradu 2016. Autor: Nadežda Skočajić. Štampa: ZIN Beograd. Papir: običan. Guma: bela, sjajna. Zupčanje: češljasto 13¼.



075 10 din. višebojna (350.000)

0,35 0,10

U obaveznoj upotrebi od 26.10. do 01.11.2015. godine.

P. T. 100 maraka

Prigodna i redovna izdanja / 2006. godina

2006, 30. jun - Redovno izdanje sa grbom i zastavom povodom promene naziva države. Autor: Nadežda Skočajić. Štampa: ZIN Beograd. Papir: običan i gladak. Guma: bela, polusjajna i mat. Zupčanje: češljasto 13¼ i 12½.



0001 16,50 din. zastava

A - zupčanje 12½, guma polusjajna

1,20 1,20

B - zupčanje 12½, guma mat

1,20 1,20

0002 20 din. grb

A - zupčanje 12½, guma polusjajna

1,50 1,50

B - zupčanje 13¼, guma mat

1,80 1,80

C - zupčanje 12½, guma mat

1,00 1,00

D - fluorescentni nanos

10,00 10,00

Na mrci 0002 postoji fluorescentni nanos na krstunapoljima 2, 12, 35, 45, 79, 89 u tabaku.

P. T. 100 maraka

2006, 30. jun - Prigodno izdanje povodom 200 godina bitke na Mišaru. Motiv: slika Paje Jovanovića (1859-1957). Autor: Nadežda Skočajić. Štampa: Forum Novi Sad. Papir: kredast. Guma: bela, mat. Zupčanje: češljasto 13¼:13¼.



0003 46 din. višebojna (30.000)

1,20 1,20

FDC - na kovertu sa žigom prvog dana

2,20

P.T. 25 maraka

Prigodna i redovna izdanja / 2006. godina

2006, 1. septembar - Prigodno izdanje povodom održavanja evropskog prvenstva u vaterpolu u Beogradu. Autor: Marina Kalezić. Štampa: Forum Novi Sad. Papir: kredast. Guma: bela, mat. Zupčanje: češljasto 13¼:13¼.



0004 46 din. višebojna (28.000)

1,20 1,20

A - sa vinjetom

2,40 2,40

FDC - na kovertu sa žigom prvog dana

2,20

P.T. 8 maraka + vinjeta

2006, 13. septembar - Prigodno izdanje povodom osvajanja zlatne medalje na evropskom prvenstvu u vaterpolu u Beogradu. Autor: Marina Kalezić. Štampa: Forum Novi Sad. Papir: kredast. Guma: bela, mat. Zupčanje: češljasto 13¼:13¼.



0005 46 din. višebojna (28.000)

1,20 1,20

A - sa vinjetom

2,40 2,40

FDC - na kovertu sa žigom prvog dana

2,20

P.T. 8 maraka + vinjeta

BEST MAXIMUM CARDS 2024

This year 20 Countries entered the Annual Competition for the Best Maximum Card issued in 2024 and 21 delegates voted for them. Each delegate was entitled to vote for up to 3 countries.

The top 3 entries were Germany 1st place with 51 votes, second place was Spain with 48 votes and the 3rd place with 45 votes was a tie between Israel and China.

They were only 4 entries from Balkanfila countries : Bulgaria & Romania received 30 votes, Slovenia 21 and Greece 6 votes.

Germany 1st place



Title/titre:
Leuchtturm Alte Weser

Creator's name/création:
Hubert Engel

Postcard/carte-postale :
Commercial

Cancellation/oblitération : **Special illustrated- Bremen Haven- 04/07/2024**

Spain 2nd place



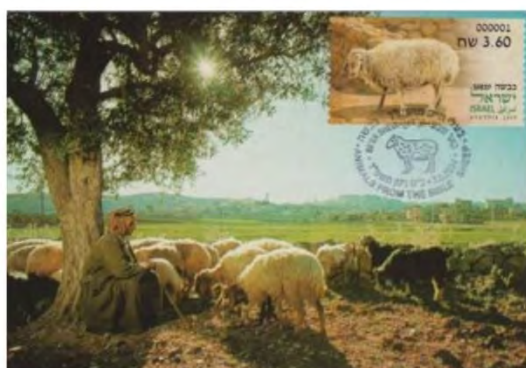
Title/titre:
Statue of the Count Ansurez- Valladolid

Creator's name/création:
José Fernando del Pozo Gonzalez

Postcard/carte-postale :
old commercial edition

Cancellation/oblitération :
First day-Premier jour- Valladolid- 3/10/2024

Israel 3rd place (tie)



Title/titre: **Animal from the bible-Sheep**

Creator's name/création:
Nahum Shereshevsky

Postcard/carte-postale :
Palphot 8758

Cancellation/oblitération :
First day-Premier jour- Be'er Sheva- 07/03/2024

China 3rd place (tie)



Title/titre: **Pine tree, join issued with Malaysia**

Creator's name/création:
Cao Fengzeng

Postcard/carte-postale : **Zhaohua publishing house edition**

Cancellation/oblitération : **First day-Premier jour- Mountain Huangshan- 31/05/2024**



2024 BEST MAXIMUM CARD WORLD COMPETITION

CONCOURS MONDIAL 2024 DE LA MEILLEURE CARTE MAXIMUM



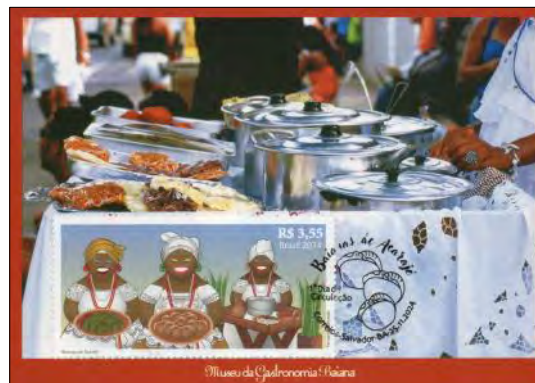
Title/titre:
Sergey Parayanov

Creator's name/création:
Sebrak Nersesyan

Postcard/carte-postale:
commercial

Cancellation/oblitération:
**Dedicated to 100
anniversary 20/06/2024**

1. Armenia - Arménie



Title/titre: **Gastronomy of the
state of Bahia**

Postcard/carte-postale : **Ed.
Museu da gastronomia**

Creator's name/création:
Agnaldo de Souza Gabriel

Cancellation/oblitération : **First
day-Premier jour-Salvador/
Bahia-25/11/2024**

2. Brazil - Brésil



Title/titre: **Conservation de la
faune- Neophron percnopterus**

Postcard/carte-postale :
Stiven,s Ltd

Creator's name/création:
Sergei Magdichev

Cancellation/oblitération : **First
day-Premier jour- Dobrich-
11/10/2024**

3. Bulgaria - Bulgarie



Title/titre: **Pine tree, join issued
with Malaysia**

Postcard/carte-postale : **Zhaohua
publishing house edition**

Creator's name/création:
Cao Fengzeng

Cancellation/oblitération : **First
day-Premier jour- Mountain
Huangshan- 31/05/2024**

4. China - Chine



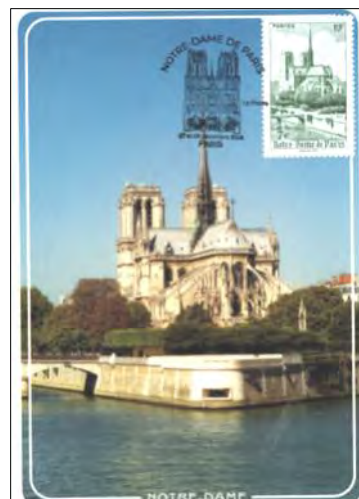
Title/titre:
Organ- Klementinum

Postcard/carte-postale :
Commercial

Creator's name/création:
Martin Hlavaty

Cancellation/oblitération :
**ordinary cancellation- Praha-
4/09/2024**

5. Czech Republic - République Tchèque



Title/titre:
Notre-Dame de Paris

Creator's name/création:
Maximaphiles Français

Postcard/carte-postale:
Ed. 4photos

Cancellation/oblitération:
**First day-Premier jour-
Paris- 7/12/2024**

6. France



2024 BEST MAXIMUM CARD WORLD COMPETITION

CONCOURS MONDIAL 2024 DE LA MEILLEURE CARTE MAXIMUM



Title/titre:
Leuchtturm Alte Weser

Postcard/carte-postale :
Commercial

Creator's name/création:
Hubert Engel

Cancellation/oblitération : **Special illustrated- Bremen Haven- 04/07/2024**

7. Germany - Allemagne



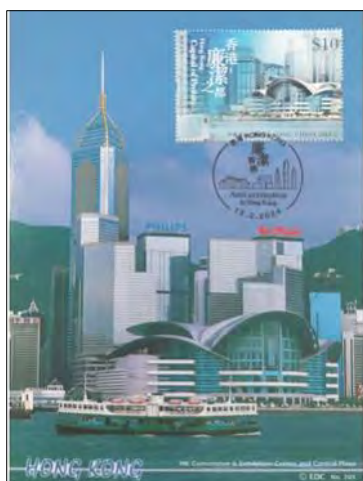
Title/titre: **Water Polo-Sports in the mediterranean**

Postcard/carte-postale : **PSP**

Creator's name/création:
Philatelic Society of Patras

Cancellation/oblitération :
First day-Athens- 08/07/2024

8. Greece - Grèce



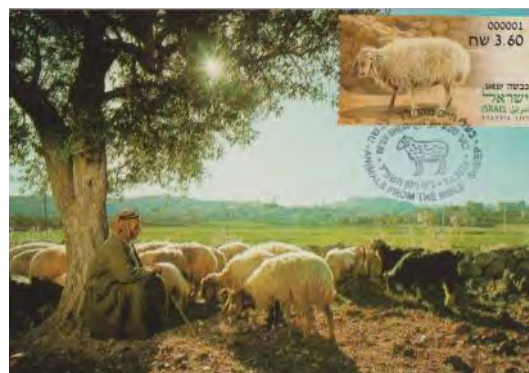
Title/titre:
Hong-Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Creator's name/création:
Pang Kam Tuen Pamela

Postcard/carte-postale :
EDC distribution Ltd

Cancellation/oblitération : **First day-er jour- Pictorial postmark available for one day only-Hong-Kong- 15/02/2024**

9. Hong-Kong



Title/titre: **Animal from the bible-Sheep**

Postcard/carte-postale :
Palphot 8758

Creator's name/création:
Nahum Shereshevsky

Cancellation/oblitération :
First day-Premier jour- Be'er Sheva- 07/03/2024

10. Israël



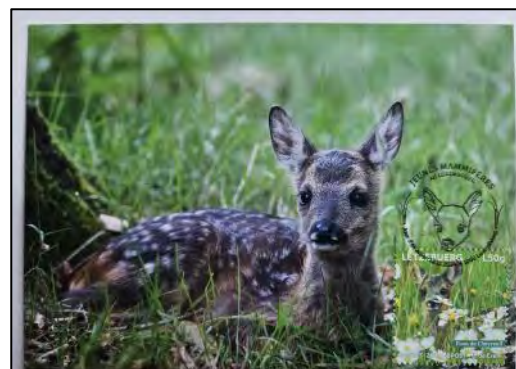
Title/titre: **Ancient italian rail-ways still active**

Postcard/carte-postale :
AIM

Creator's name/création:
Rosario D'Agata

Cancellation/oblitération :
First day-Premier jour- Catania- 02/08/2024

11. Italy - Italie



Title/titre:
Faon du chevreuil

Postcard/carte-postale :
Jurgen Borris

Creator's name/création:
Commission maximaphilie de la FSPL

Cancellation/oblitération :
First day-Premier jour- Luxem-bourg- 12/11/2024

12. Luxembourg



2024 BEST MAXIMUM CARD WORLD COMPETITION

CONCOURS MONDIAL 2024 DE LA MEILLEURE CARTE MAXIMUM



Title/titre:
Year of the dragon

Creator's name/création:
Nadzieje Sulima

Postcard/carte-postale :
Ed : commercial

Cancellation/oblitération :
**First day-Premier jour-
Poznan- 14/02/2024**

13. Poland - Pologne



Title/titre:
The Giurgiu Clock tower

Creator's name/création:
Cristea Virgil

Postcard/carte-postale :
Ed : commercial

Cancellation/oblitération :
**Oblitération spéciale-
Special cancellation-
Giurgiu 1- 16/09/2024**

14. Roumania - Roumanie



Title/titre: **300 ème anniversaire
de l'hôtel des monnaies de St
Petersbourg**

Creator's name/création: **Galina
Tchudesova**

Postcard/carte-postale :
Old postcard

Cancellation/oblitération
**First day-Premier jour- St
Petersbourg- 31/01/2024**

15. Russia - Russie



Title/titre:
Fauna of Slovenia

Creator's name/création: **Veko-
slav Kzahulec**

Postcard/carte-postale :
commercial

Cancellation/oblitération
**First day-Premier jour-
Kranjska Gora- 27/09/2024**

16. Slovenia - Slovénie



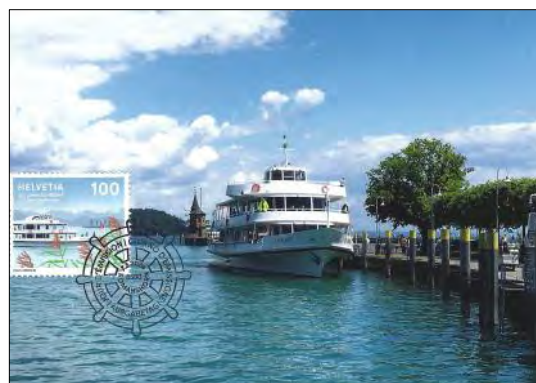
Title/titre:
**Statue of the Count Ansu-
rez- Valladolid**

Creator's name/création:
**José Fernando del Pozo
Gonzalez**

Postcard/carte-postale :
old commercial edition

Cancellation/oblitération :
**First day-Premier jour-
Valladolid- 3/10/2024**

17. Spain - Espagne



Title/titre: **200 ans de naviga-
tion sur le lac de Constance**

Creator's name/création:
Club philatélique de Meyrin

Postcard/carte-postale :
Andreas Wittwer

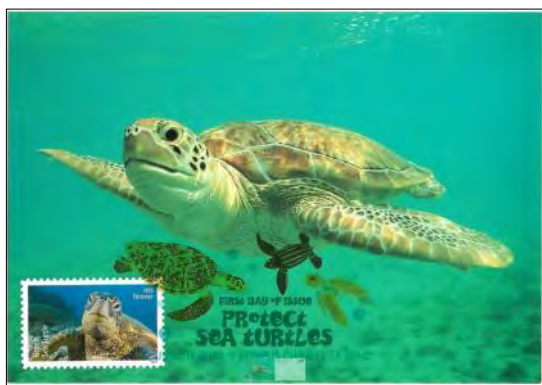
Cancellation/oblitération
**First day-Premier jour-
Romanshorn- 07/03/2024**

18. Switzerland - Suisse



2024 BEST MAXIMUM CARD WORLD COMPETITION

CONCOURS MONDIAL 2024 DE LA MEILLEURE CARTE MAXIMUM



Title/titre:
Protect Green Sea Turtles

Creator's name/création:
James Tang

Postcard/carte-postale :
Graphics Ink Design Studio

Cancellation/oblitération : **First day-Premier jour- Corpus Christi-Texas-11/06/2024**

19. United States of America - USA



Title/titre: **Hanoi- The flowers of 4 seasons**

Creator's name/création:
Pham Ngoc Son

Postcard/carte-postale :
Art Publishing house

Cancellation/oblitération : **First day-Vietnam Post- 25/06/2024**

20. Vietnam

On November 1st two new issues were put on circulation on the themes of Fauna and Flora followed by the last issue of the year which was dedicated to Xmas.

Fauna 2025

Croatian Post Ltd. Mostar issued 4 commemorative postage stamps in a sheet of 8 stamps, a postmark and a First Day Cover (FDC). The stamps and accompanying materials can be purchased at HP Mostar post offices and online at www.epostshop.ba

The Commemorative postage stamps were the **Triton's trumpet** (*Charonia*), the **Giant Tun** (*Tonna galea*), the **Roman snail** (*Helix pomatia*) and the **Banded Snail** (*Cepaea nemoralis*).



Triton's trumpet and Giant Tun are the largest sea snails in the Adriatic Sea and stand for rare and protected species. The fusiform **Triton's trumpet** (*Charonia*) has a large aperture and an oval operculum. It can weigh up to 1 kg, while its shell can reach over 50 cm in length. The **Giant Tun** (*Tonna galea*) has a large and fragile barrel-shaped shell, pale grey-yellowish to brown in colour and a white body with black spots. It can reach 1.5 kg in weight and up to 30 cm in length.



The **Roman Snail** (*Helix pomatia*) is one of the largest land snails. It has a solid, globular shell cream-white or yellowish-brown in colour and about 4 cm high and wide. It has two pairs of slender, retractable tentacles on its head, and eyes at the tips of the longer pair. It has a large aperture from which the anterior part of the body protrudes. The **Banded Snail** (*Cepaea nemoralis*) is one of the most common land snails in Europe. Its shells can be white, yellow, brown or even black, and usually have one to five dark brown or black stripes. Sometimes these stripes merge into one or two broad bands, while in some cases they are completely missing.

Flora 2025



The two commemorative stamps of the issue were depicting first the Common comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*), also known as purple comfrey or true comfrey, a perennial plant with purple or pink bell-shaped flowers. Both the leaves and the root are used for wound treatments as comfrey contains allantoin, a compound known for its skin-soothing and healing properties. It is also used to treat various digestive issues, pneumonia, and other illnesses. The second stamp of the set was the Black elder or elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) grows as a shrub or a tree, and can grow to six metres in height. Elderberry tea is used to treat respiratory illnesses, diabetes, and rheumatic diseases. It lowers high fever and acts as a diuretic.

Croatian Post Ltd. Mostar has issued 2 commemorative postage stamps in a sheet of 8 stamps, a postmark and a First Day Cover.

Xmas and New Year

The two commemorative stamps are referring to the Xmas and New Year's national traditions.



Christmas Eve, or *Badnjak* in Croatian, is the last day of Advent and, for Christians, a day of anticipation of the birth of Jesus Christ. The name comes from the Old Slavic word "b'deti", meaning "to be awake", "to keep vigil", or "to wait". Among Croats, "Badnjak" or "Badnjaci" also refers to three logs people bring into the house on Christmas Eve. They are cut on the morning of Christmas eve and placed against the house's outer wall until evening. They put a log about the size of a firewood piece on the hearth to burn, chatting and waiting for the time to come for a midnight mass.

Almost the whole world celebrates the arrival of New Year on 1 January, with decorated Christmas trees in city squares, fireworks, and festivities. On that day, Christians celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary, the Mother of God, and the Church places them under her maternal care and protection. In the late 19th century, Croats began decorating Christmas trees, first with fruits, walnuts, and hazelnuts, then with paper chains and candles, and today with colourful glass baubles.



Festive Stamps

Hellenic Post has released on November 5th, 2025, the new Commemorative Stamp Series titled “Festive Stamps,” featuring stamps that add a touch of magic to every traveling envelope, dress our wishes in holiday spirit, and carry messages of love, peace, and hope!



DENOMINATIONS	DESIGNS	QUANTITY
B' Domestic Mail 20 gr.	Happy New Year	170.000
A' International Mail 20 gr. (Zone 1)	Season's Greetings	70.000
Design: Anthoula Lygka		
Stamp Format: 35 X 45 mm		
Sheet layout: Sheet of 25		
Printing process: Multicolored (offset)		
Printer: «VERIDOS MATSOUKIS S.A. SECURITY PRINTING»		

80th Anniversary of UNESCO

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of UNESCO's founding, Hellenic Post (ELTA) has issued on 20 November 2025 the following philatelic product, which it is accompanied by a commemorative postmark.



ELPIDA Association – Friends of Children with Cancer



Hellenic Post honors the Association "ELPIDA – Friends of Children with Cancer" and its visionary founder and President, Marianna V. Vardinoyannis, with the release of a philatelic product, available from November 24th, 2025 accompanied by a Commemorative Postmark.

100th Anniversary of OFI F.C



The special issue on December 10th, 2025 was released to mark the 100th Anniversary of OFI's founding. The Hellenic Post is releasing a special range of philatelic products. These collectible items, accompanied by a Commemorative Postmark, are available from December 10, 2025.

FISH SPECIES

Romfilatelia and Poșta Română introduce into circulation on October 17th, this year, a postage stamp issue on the theme Fauna, under the generic title **FISH SPECIES**. The issue consists of four postage stamps and a First Day Cover.

It is worth noting that the postage stamps illustrate four species of freshwater fish : the **Perch** (*Perca fluviatilis*) shown on the postage stamp of Lei 5, is a widely fished freshwater predator. The **Pumpkinseed** (*Lepomis gibbosus*), pictured on the postage stamp Lei 6.50, is a species native to North America, successfully acclimatized in Europe. The **European grayling** (*Thymallus thymallus*) depicted has a face value of Lei 8. Widespread in the northern and central Europe, it is the **Sculpin-pearl** (*Romanichthys valsanicola*) pictured on the postage stamp of Lei 14, is a sweet-spotted fish of fast mountain waters.



PERSONALITIES OF UNIVERSAL SCIENCE. ANDRÉ-MARIE AMPERE

On 28th this year, an anniversary issue dedicated to a great French scientist under the generic title Personalities of Universal Science. André-Marie Ampère, consisting of a postage stamp and a F.D.C. André-Marie Ampère, a renowned physicist and mathematician and founder of electromagnetism, was born in 1775 in Lyon, France.



The postage stamp, of Lei 25, depicts a portrait-engraving of the French physicist reproduced from the German encyclopedic 'Meyers Konversations-Lexikon', 6th edition (1902–1908). A suggestive graphic, depicting a symbol of the magnetic field and electric current, is printed with UV-visible ink on the surface of the postage stamps.

The design of the First Day Cover reproduces a photographic image of an apparatus used to demonstrate the connection between electric current and the magnetic field.

ROMANIAN COLLECTIONS : SAMOVARS AND TEA POTS

On November 5th this year, a postage stamp issue under the generic title **Romanian Collections**, with the topic Samovars and tea pots was dedicated to Samovars and Tea Pots.

The issue includes six postage stamps, a perforated souvenir sheet, and two First Day Covers. The issue features traditional 18th – 20th century objects dedicated to tea preparation.



The samovar from **19th century**, illustrated on the postage stamp of Lei 3, is made of gilded bronze, with the classic urn shape. The samovar from **England – 19th century**, reproduced on the postage stamp of Lei 6,50, is a tea samovar made of red copper with brass accents, manufactured in England at the beginning of the 1800s. The samovar from **Germany – 20th century**, depicted on the postage stamp of Lei 7, produced in 1910 by Neues Münchner Kunstgewerbe. The emblem on the samovar indicates that it was made during the period when the Jugendstil style (the German counterpart of Art Nouveau) was in vogue. The samovar from **England – 19th century**, of Lei 8, is made of Copper, manufactured in England in the mid-19th century. This samovar has the classic 'tea urn' shape. The samovar from **Morocco – 19th century**, of Lei 9, is a large tea pot, made of silver-plated alpaca, with a burner composed of two pieces: the tea container and the burner. The samovar from **England – 19th century**, presented of Lei 25, is made in the 19th century during the Regency period, crafted from brass. The samovar from **Morocco – 20th century** is depicted on the perforated souvenir sheet having the postage stamp with the face value of Lei 30, made in the 20th century from nickel-plated brass.

LEGENDARY AVIATORS : CONSTANTIN CANTACUZINO

On November 11th, 2025, a tribute postage stamp issue, entitled “**Legendary Aviators. Constantin Cantacuzino**”, was dedicated to a heroic pilot of the Romanian military aviation, an emblematic personality who embodied courage, sacrifice and the desire for freedom and national sovereignty. The issue consists of a postage stamp, a perforated souvenir sheet, a First Day Cover and a philatelic folder with a special product in a limited run printing.

The postage stamp of Lei 11 features a photographic image of pilot Constantin Cantacuzino in his military aviation uniform, alongside the fighter aircraft Messerschmitt Bf 109 G. The perforated souvenir sheet, of Lei 30, depicts Constantin Cantacuzino in a fighter pilot uniform, alongside a panorama featuring the trajectory of an aircraft performing a looping manoeuvre during an aerobatic flight. The First Day Cover reproduces the aircraft used by Constantin Cantacuzino for aerobatics.



GOLDEN ATHLETES : GABRIELA SZABÓ

On November 14th, this year circulated a postage stamp issue dedicated to a world-class athlete. Under the title **Golden Athletes. Gabriela Szabó**, the issue consists of a postage stamp (with the face value of Lei 25), a perforated souvenir sheet (with the face value of Lei 30), a First Day Cover, a maxicard for maximaphily enthusiasts and a philatelic folder with special product in a limited run printing.



CHRISTMAS 2025

For the first time in Romania, our stamps carry the scent of fir trees!

On November 21st circulated a postage stamp issue entitled Christmas 2025. For the first time at national level, the postage stamps add to the beauty of the images the unparalleled scent of fir branches, melted into the printing ink, to the delight of those who will receive Christmas and New Year's letters.

The issue consists of two postage stamps, a perforated souvenir sheet, a First Day Cover and a philatelic folder containing a special collectible product, in a limited run printing. The postage stamp of Lei 5 features images of traditional gifts alongside the fruits offered to carollers. The postage stamp of Lei 14 depicts a detail of Christmas tree decorations, in which a bauble bearing the image of an angel from a Nativity scene accompanies a bauble bearing the image of a traditional Santa Claus.



ION DACIAN' NATIONAL OPERETTA AND MUSICAL THEATER, 75 YEARS



On November 26th, circulated the anniversary issue of postage stamps entitled 'Ion Dacian' National Operetta and Musical Theater, 75 years, dedicated to an elite cultural institution in Romania. The issue consists of a stamp, a perforated souvenir sheet and a First Day Cover. The postage stamp with the face value of Lei 8 depicts the stage of the 'Ion Dacian' National Operetta and Musical Theater, with the portrait of the great tenor in the foreground.

The perforated souvenir sheet features, within the perforated outline of the postage stamp with the face value of **Lei 30**, the cast of actors performing in the operetta *My Fair Lady* and a representative portrait of Ion Dacian, who played the character of Professor Higgins. The First Day Cover features artwork that conveys a defining musical atmosphere: the tenor Ion Dacian in front of a score, alongside a piano, an indispensable instrument in musical theater orchestras.

ROMANIAN JOCKEY CLUB, 150 YEARS

On November 28th this year, an anniversary postage stamp issue entitled **ROMANIAN JOCKEY CLUB, 150 YEARS**, dedicated to an elite Club with a tradition in the field of equestrianism. The issue includes two postage stamps, a perforated souvenir sheet, a First Day Cover, two maxicards for maximaphily enthusiasts and a philatelic folder containing a special collectible item, in a limited run printing. The postage stamps with the face values of **Lei 5.50** and **Lei 25.00** in the issue depict two scenes showing the presence of competitors in equestrian sporting events, highlighting the elegance and dynamism of the race, along with the beauty of the horses. The souvenir sheet, featuring a stamp with the face value of **Lei 30.00**, reproduces a painting depicting an equestrian posture of King Carol I on his way to the battlefields of the War of Independence of 1877.



HAPPY NEW YEAR with HEALTH, HARMONY and PROSPERITY !



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