

Balkanfila



News letter

No 5, September 2024

Editorial

Is Balkanfila ready for the next step ?

In less than two months, Balkanfila Exhibitions will celebrate their 60th anniversary, having overcome all the adverse situations and steadily grown stronger both in terms of country participation and exhibit quality. The important footprint of Balkanfila countries at both the regional and continental levels has already become evident. While this makes us feel good, it does not lead to complacency.

Today, the challenges to philately, stemming from ongoing technological upheavals, have irreversibly diminished its charm and appeal.

Organised philately has no alternative, but to face these challenges using its unrevealed strength : the communication among federations, societies, and philatelists, as well as the general public who for too long were mistakenly labelled as “outsiders”. When we communicate the unrevealed assets of philately, without using philatelic jargon, people get interested as it always happens whenever an interesting story is told.

Our “philatelic tribe” has meaningful, fascinating stories to narrate using all the “digital vehicles” available today and spread the message far and wide, instantly. Regrettably, very few of us know how to make effective use of these tools. Whether we like it or not, the fact is that the majority of our “tribe” are digitally illiterate, apart from being able to just send emails or type texts on a computer. In addition, philatelic websites and social media, nowadays the “shop window” of philately, are often outdated and boring, if not unattractive.

Recently, more voices within our “philatelic universe” have expressed concern about the future of philately. On the other hand, some members of organised philately remain optimistic pointing out that the number of philatelic exhibitions held worldwide continues to grow each year.

This optimism is valid to a certain extent, but if one looks around at the familiar faces of fellow philatelists participating in exhibitions and events, how many new faces could be spotted among the old friends ?

In less than two months, BALKANFILA XX will return to Thessaloniki, 35 years after Balkanfila XII was last hosted there. During the scheduled roundtable discussions and our friendly gatherings after the exhibition’s opening hours, we will have the opportunity to discuss and hopefully outline a roadmap not just for the Future of Philately, but for a more open and better communicating Philately of Tomorrow in a systematic and organised way.

Is Balkanfila ready for the next step ?

This will be one of the main topics discussed at the Round Table during Balkanfila XX.

Thessaloniki, a fascinating multicultural metropolis hosts **Balkanfila XX**

Due to the strategic importance of the Thermaikos Gulf numerous settlements developed around Thessaloniki, ever since the Neolithic Era and the Bronze Age. Thessaloniki was founded in 315 B.C by Cassandros of Macedon and became an important metropolis during the Roman period. Thessaloniki was the second largest and wealthiest city of the Byzantine Empire.

Today Thessaloniki enjoys 50 km of coastline, surrounded by extraordinary landscapes and locations that can inspire every visitor with their natural beauty.



In the north, the city is covered by woods on the hill slopes, while along Thermaikos Gulf one finds picturesque places for holiday-makers. In the southeast, along the gulf, stands Mt. Olympus in its divine grandeur, home of the ancient deities, with its unique flora.

The city is also adorned with at least 30 Museums and 15 UNESCO World Heritage monuments. Around the city centre, visitors should visit the Archaeological Museum, the Byzantine Museum, and the State Museum of Contemporary Art with its impressive collection of nearly 1300 masterpieces of prominent Russian Avant Garde artists.

Less than an hour away lies ancient Vergina. It is a city of world acclaim due to its famous royal tombs of the 4th century B.C. and its model Archaeological Museum with exquisite exhibits reflecting the wealth, grandeur and glory of the Macedonian Kingdom.

Due to its commercial importance, Thessaloniki became the cosmopolitan crossroads of the Balkan peninsula with thriving ethnic communities, including the Ottoman, the Sephardic Jewish, the Levantine, the Bulgarian, and the Greek.

Among the monuments within the city centre, one could see the Palace complex of the Roman Caesar Galerius Valerius Maximianus, Rotunda, and the 4th A.D Galerius' Triumphal Arch "Camara". Not to be missed are the numerous Byzantine monuments and the 15th century Ottoman White Tower, the city's emblematic landmark.

Other important Ottoman monuments are the 15th c. Bey Hamam, Alaca Imaret and Yeni Camii (the former Archaeological Museum) built according to designs by the Italian architect Vitaliano Poselli, a characteristic example of the 20th-century eclectic architecture, not to mention the House of Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk).

Important buildings of the Sephardic Jewish community are the Synagogue of the Monastiriotes, the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki and Agora Modiano, the city's central indoor marketplace to this day.

BALKANFILA XX at a glance

The Venue

The International Exhibition and Conference Centre of HELEXPO–Thessaloniki International Fair comprises 62,000 sqm of indoor exhibition halls and three conference centres for a total seating capacity of 4,000 persons.

The emblematic "Pavilion of the Nations" or Hall No. 6 offers an exhibition space of 2,800 sqm, where Balkanfila XX will take place from 13 to 16 November 2024.



HELEXPO



20th International Philatelic Exhibition Balkanfila

13 - 16 November 2024

Thessaloniki International Exhibition &
Conference Center | Pavilion 5

The Exhibition

All Philatelic Federations of the Balkans, as well as the invited Federations from Cyprus, Italy and Israel will participate with quality competitive exhibits. In addition a number of individual exhibitors from around the World will also take part. The smooth “judging” operation is guaranteed by the experienced International Jury that mostly comprises accredited FIP and FEPA Jurors.

The Court of Honour will present four world-class exhibits related to the Large Hermes Heads stamps of Greece, the 1896 Athens Olympic Games and Classic Mexico postage stamps.

Non-competitive exhibits such as Antique Maps, Engravings, Coins, Banknotes and other collectibles will be shown to offer the visitors a glimpse of the past of Thessaloniki and the greater area.

Partners and Sponsors

Balkanfila XX is co-organised by the Hellenic Philatelic Society of Thessaloniki and the Hellenic Philatelic Federation. It has been granted the Auspices of the Municipality of Thessaloniki and the Central Macedonia Region, who are also Sponsors. Major Sponsors are an anonymous individual, and A. Karamitsos Auction House. The FIP is also included to the sponsors. The event has been granted Recognition by FEPA, and Patronage by the Hellenic Philatelic Federation.

Events

Principal target of Balkanfila XX organisers is to offer the visitors a cultural programme that includes presentations of philately to the general public as well as specialised lectures and a round table on current philatelic issues.

*The O.C welcomes everyone interested in culture
to visit Balkanfila XX and
discover the secret charm of philately.*



BALKANFILA exhibitions : a Brief Overview

by Francisc AMBRUS

The BALKANFILA exhibitions appeared at the initiative of six countries from the Balkans with the idea of collaboration on the philatelic level and beyond. It is quite difficult to write an article about exhibitions that you have not physically participated in, and in this case, for the first editions, I took the information from the Philatelic Press of the time, my participation starting only in 2007, both as an exhibitor and as a visitor. The article is a review of the editions together with the presentation of some images of materials issued at the respective edition.

VARNA 1965



The 1st exhibition of the inter-Balkan philatelic exhibitions took place between August 7-15, 1965 in Varna (Bulgaria), the participating countries being Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania (with 68 exhibits), Turkey and Yugoslavia. 850 frames (362 exhibits) were exhibited.

Grand Prix Interbalkanique: **Filmer Cemil** (Turkey): Turkey Specialised Collection;

Grand Prix National: **Theodor Popoff** (Bulgaria): Bulgaria Specialised Collection.

ISTANBUL 1966

The 2nd exhibition was hosted in Istanbul in the Galata Saray high school building, Istanbul (Turkey) between September 3–11, 1966, the participating countries being Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania (with 38 exhibits), Turkey and Yugoslavia with totally 860 exhibited frames.

Grand Prix Classe d' Honneur:

Cemil Filmer (Turkey): Turkey Specialised Collection, Grand Prix

Interbalkanique: Nicolaos Vasdekis (Greece): Large Hermes Heads,

Grand Prix National: Aram Hocalanyan



BUCHAREST 1971



The 3rd exhibition was hosted at the Roman Athenaeum, Bucharest (Romania) between May 27 and June 5, 1971, the participating countries being Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia with 750 exhibited frames.

Grand Prix Classe d' Honneur: Theodor Popov (Bulgaria): Bulgaria Specialised Collection,

Grand Prix Interbalkanique: Orhan Brandt (Turkey): Venetian and Austrian Post Offices in Near East,

Grand Prix National: Ludovic Dengel (Romania): Romania 1858–1872.

IZMIR 1973



The 4th exhibition was hosted in the Culture Park in Izmir (Turkey) between October 26 and November 5, 1973, the participating countries being Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania (with 180 frames), Turkey and Yugoslavia. A record of 1200 frames were exhibited.

Grand Prix Classe d' Honneur: **Ara Garmiryan** (Turkey): Turkey Specialised Collection,
Grand Prix Interbalkanique: **Charilaos Binos** (Greece): Large Hermes Heads,
Grand Prix National: **Teufik Kuyas** (Turkey): Anatolia Overprints.

SOFIA 1975

The 5th exhibition was hosted in the Youth House in Sofia (Bulgaria) between September 27 and October 5, 1975, the participating countries being Bulgaria, Greece, Romania (with 22 exhibits), Turkey and Yugoslavia with 1200 frames (324 exhibits) exhibited.

Grand Prix Classe d' Honneur: **Ara Garmiryan** (Turkey): Turkey Specialised Collection, Grand Prix

Interbalkanique: **Ludovic Dengel** (Romania): Transylvania Cancellations,

Grand Prix National: **Theodor Popov** (Bulgaria): Preclassic and Classic Bulgaria.



BELGRADE 1977



The 6th exhibition was hosted in Belgrade (Yugoslavia) between October 24–30, 1977, the participating countries being Bulgaria, Greece, Romania (with 14 exhibits), Turkey and Yugoslavia with 213 exhibits.

Grand Prix Classe d' Honneur: **Vasil Karaivanof** (Bulgaria): First Bulgaria Editions,

Grand Prix Interbalkanique: **Vedat Kocak** (Turkey): Collection of first Editions of Turkey and Duloz,

Grand Prix National: **Mihajlo Janjic** (Yugoslavia): Specialised Serbia Collection 1840–1920.

ATHENS 1979

The 7th exhibition was hosted in Athens (Greece) between November 24–30, 1979, the participating countries being Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia with 1800 frames were exhibited.

Grand Prix Classe d' Honneur: **Cengiz Arsman** (Turkey): Postal History of Ottoman Empire,

Grand Prix Interbalkanique: **Angelos Papaioannou** (Greece): Small Hermes Heads,

Grand Prix National: **George Trefonas** (USA.): Large Hermes Heads



ISTANBUL 1981



The 8th exhibition was hosted in Istanbul (Turkey) between August 8–16, 1981, the participating countries being Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania (with 45 exhibits), Turkey and Yugoslavia with 435 exhibits and a record of over exhibited 2000 frames.

Grand Prix Classe d' Honneur:

E. Deris (Turkey): Classic Turkey,

Grand Prix Interbalkanique: **Vassilios Arapoyiannis** (Greece): Greek Air Mails,

Grand Prix National: **Hiluyi Bayindir** (Turkey): First Classic Editions of Turkey.

BUCHAREST 1983

The 9th exhibit was hosted in Bucharest (Romania) between December 17–21, 1983, the participating countries being Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania (with 45 exhibits), Turkey and Yugoslavia. Almost 1000 frames (177 exhibits) were exhibited.

Grand Prix Classe d' Honneur:

Vedat Kocak (Turkey): Turkey 1863–1876,

Grand Prix Interbalkanique:

Angelos Papaioannou (Greece): Postal History of Crete,

Grand Prix National:

Dumitru Pisoschi (Romania): United Principality and Romania



VRATA 1985



The 10th exhibition was hosted at the Palace of Culture in Vrata (Bulgaria) between November 29 and December 6, 1985, the participating countries being Bulgaria, Greece, Romania (with 24 exhibits) and Yugoslavia. 83 exhibits were exhibited.

Grand Prix Classe d' Honneur: **Vojin Visacki** (Yugoslavia): "Vojna granica",

Grand Prix Interbalkanique: **Nia Stratos** (Greece): Postal History of the Aegean Sea,

Grand Prix National: **Bratan Raltchev** (Bulgaria): Classic Bulgaria 1879–1901.

NOVI SAD 1987

The 11th exhibition was hosted at the "Vojvodina" Cultural Center in Novi Sad (Yugoslavia) between September 19–26, 1987, the participating countries being Bulgaria, Greece, Romania (with 24 exhibits), Turkey and Yugoslavia. 196 exhibits were exhibited.

Grand Prix Classe d' Honneur: **George Dolianitis** (Greece): Greek First Flights,

Grand Prix Interbalkanique: **Yalcin Bicioglou** (Turkey): Classic period of Ottoman Empire,

Grand Prix National: **Velizar Kardos** (Yugoslavia): Principality of Serbia 1840–1872.



THESSALONIKI 1989



The 12th exhibition was hosted in Thessaloniki (Greece) between September 30 and October 2, 1989, the participating countries being Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

Grand Prix Classe d' Honneur: Gerassimos Zissimatos (Greece): Postal History of Dodecanese,

Grand Prix Interbalkanique: Costas Matthaïos (Greece): Large Hermes Heads,

Grand Prix National: Athanassios Kadinopoulos (Greece): Large Hermes Heads.

BACAU 1991

The 13th exhibition was hosted in Bacau (Romania) between September 20–25, 1991, the participating countries being Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Moldova.

Grand Prix Classe d' Honneur:

Yalcin Bicioglu (Turkey): The Anatolia Government,

Grand Prix Interbalkanique: Stefanos Calliga (Greece): Large Hermes Heads 1861–1885,

Grand Prix National: Mircea Stanculescu (Romania): Romania Postal History 1790–1872.



ISTANBUL 2007



After a 16-year interval, the 14th exhibition was hosted in Istanbul (Turkey) between October 28 and November 3, 2007. The 9 participating countries being Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, Serbia.

Grand Prix Classe d' Honneur: **Emmanuel Mavrides** (Greece): The 1896 First Olympics,

Grand Prix Balkan Competition: **Manolis Mylonakis** (Greece): Postal History of Crete,

Grand Prix non-Balkan residents: **Mehmet Basaran** (UK): The First Stamps of Ottoman Empire 1863–1865,

Grand Prix National: **Turgut Telman** (Turkey): Classic Crescent and Star stamps.

PLOVDIV 2010



The 15th exhibition was hosted in Plovdiv (Bulgaria) between October 28–31, 2010, the participating countries being Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, Serbia and Cyprus.

Grand Prix Balkan Competition: **Edip Agaogullari** (Turkey): The Postal History of Thrace,

Grand Prix National: **Nikolay Mandrovsky** (Russia): Bulgaria.

MARIBOR 2012



The 16th exhibition was hosted in Maribor (Slovenia) between May 24–27, 2012, the participating countries being Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, Serbia.

Grand Prix Balkan Competition: Aleksandar Boričić (Serbia):

Postal History of Serbia 1750 – 1914

VIDIN 2014

The 17th exhibition was hosted in Vidin (Bulgaria) between April 5–7, 2014, 250 frames were exhibited, the participating countries being Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, Serbia and Cyprus.



Grand Prix Balkan Competition: Atadan Tunaci (Turkey): Ottoman Railway Postal History,

Grand Prix National: Orlin Todorov (Bulgaria): Bulgaria, Small Lion 1889–1901.

TIRANA 2016

The 18th exhibition was hosted in Tirana (Albania) between May 5–9, 2016, the participating countries being Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, Serbia and Cyprus.



Grand Prix Balkan Competition:

Spas Panchev (Bulgaria):

Pre-Liberation Post Offices in
Bulgaria 1840– 1879

Grand Prix National: **Joseph Hackmey (Turkey):**

Ottoman post Offices in the Albania and Kosovo.

BELGRADE 2023

The 19th exhibition was hosted in Belgrade (Serbia) between October 12–14, 2023. 162 exhibits were exhibited, the participating countries being Albania, BIH – Republic of SRPSKA, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, Serbia and Hungary



Grand Prix Balkan Competition: **Joseph Hackmey (Turkey):**

Ottoman post Offices in the former FPR of Yugoslavia.

The establishment of the Balkanfila Working Group



The 1st meeting was in **2005 in Brno** on the occasion of a FEPA exhibition where 8 member countries generated the idea of establishing a Balkan philatelic association and discussed the Balkanfila 2007 which will be held in Istanbul.

The 2nd meeting was in **December 2006 in Sofia**, where 8 delegates and 7 guests from FEPA and FIP participated. The agenda included:

- Proposal for re-establishing Balkanfila exhibitions
- Principle regulations for organizing Balkanfila exhibitions
- Proposal for organizing Balkanfila 2007

The 3rd meeting was in **2007 in Istanbul** where 10 delegates participated in the election of the First President, Mr. Mahmut Emirmahmutoglu, they discussed the new status, the accession of new members and the organization of the next exhibition of Balkanfila with no. XV in Serbia and the new exhibition logo.

At the session was also launched by Mr. Anthony Virvilis the idea of establishing a Balkan Philatelic Academy, a proposal agreed by all participants.

The 4th meeting of the BWG was in **Bucharest** during the World Exhibition **EFIRO 2008**. 8 delegates were present and the president of FEPA, Mr. Pedro vaz Pereira. It was discussed about the next exhibition of Balkanfila, the new logo and the execution of a website of the working group that I took care of.

The 5th meeting was in **Sofia in May 2009** during the European philatelic exhibition **BULGARIA 2009**. 10 delegates were present and the new FEPA president, Mr. Jorgen Jorgensen. Proposals were made for the admission of two new members, Moldova and Cyprus.

The 6th meeting was in **Plovdiv in 2010** with 9 delegates and two FEPA observatories. On the agenda, elections were held, the new President of the BWG being elected in the person of Mr. Spas Pancev, the GREX statute and regulations were discussed.



The 7th meeting was in **Maribor in May 2012**. 12 delegates participated in the election of the new president in the person of Mr. Igor Pirc, the statutes, the organization of the next edition, the website and the participation in Jury Seminar Budapest 2012 were discussed.



The 8th meeting was in **April 2014 in Vidin**, 10 delegates, two absent, presidential elections were held and Mr. Spas Pancev and Secretary Igor Pirc, the next edition and various other regional issues were discussed.



The 9th meeting was in **Tirana, May 2016**, 11 delegates and the president of FEPA, Mr. Jose Ramon Moreno, participated in the election of the new President in the person of Mr. Muharem Gimjani, discussions about the next edition, and various regional issues.

The 10th meeting was in **Athens in November 2021** during the NOTOS 2021 exhibition. 8 delegates and 6 guests participated, the exhibition problems created by the recent pandemic, the opportunity to rent frames from the Museum of Romanian Records, and the future expected edition at Bucharest.

The 11th meeting was in **October 2023 in Belgrade**, The President of the Serbian Philatelic federation Nikola Ljubičić was unanimously elected as a new Balkanfila President.

The 12th meeting of the BWG was in Bucharest, at the Museum of Romanian Records, Strada Parfumului 25, in the Amphiteatre, on Friday, April 19th 2024 during the world exhibition EFIRO 2024. Unfortunately, I could not participate and I have no information.

The Minutes of the 12th BWG in Bucharest were prepared by BFWG Secretary Igor PIRC

12 participants from 7 Balkanfila Member Federations took part on the Meeting of the Balkanfila Working Group (Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Türkiye).

Igor Pirc, BF Secretary welcomed all present participants and proposed the Agenda, sent out with the Agenda of the Meeting.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of 12th Balkanfila Meeting in Belgrade

2. Presentation of the Balkanfila XX Exhibition in Thessaloniki

3. BF Newsletter – experience after the first two newsletters

4. Miscellaneous (+ group photo)

- Minutes of the 12th Balkanfila Meeting in Belgrade was unanimously accepted.
- Friends from Thessaloniki, organizers of the XX Balkanfila Exhibition comprehensively presented the preparations for the November Event. The Exhibition will have FEPA Recognition as well 50% of FIP support for the regional level of the exhibition. There will be available up to 1.800 frames for competitive

and non-competitive exhibits. The aim is to prepare beside the philatelic also cultural event.

George Thomareis will serve as a Jury President. The organizer waits for the following nominations of National commissioners: Romania, Moldova Croatia, Albania, and Montenegro. Guest Countries: Cyprus, Italy and Israel as well as Lebanon.

- Editor of the Balkanfila Newsletter and 13 correspondents from all BF Member Countries assembled the first two Balkanfila Newsletters and Boncho Bonev expressed the impression of the high quality and standard of the first two newsletters.

The third number will be edited and sent out mid of May.

The discussion was about the method of distribution – either through National Delegates or directly to individual e-mail addresses. In the end, it was agreed to send the BF Newsletter to all Federations, to the National Delegates, and to individual addresses only on request.

- Next Balkanfila Meeting will be at the time of the XX BF Exhibition in Thessaloniki.
- Group photo was taken at 17.45, after the conclusion of the Meeting.



EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition : French Olympic Games through stamps and philately

by Omer Merzić

The French Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in collaboration with the French Institute Sarajevo and the Society of Philatelists and Numismatics of the Canton of Sarajevo, organized an exhibition to mark the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

This exhibition showcased a selection of stamps from all the Olympic Games held in France. Visitors had the opportunity to explore a rich collection that highlights the historical significance and cultural impact of the Olympics through philately.

The event aimed to celebrate the 2024 Paris Olympics while also reflecting on France's history with the Games. Besides stamps commemorating the 2024 Paris Games visitors had the chance to look at stamps and other philatelist materials from the Paris 1900, Paris Chamonix 1924, Grenoble 1968, and



The organiser of the exhibition is **Bernard Pavlinović**.

NEWS from SERBIA

The New Issue of the National Magazine PHILATELIST (284) is available in pdf version on the website of the Serbian Federation:

- Digitization of the “PHILATELIST” magazine – Boris Stupar
- AUSTRIAN COURIERS and CONSULAR POST in BELGRADE 1792–1869. – Dragoljub Jovanović
- A STUDY of the SERBIAN POST from the SECOND OCCUPATION of ALBANIA IN 1915 [4] – Prof. dr Milan Radovanovic
- FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE POSTCARDS of the KINGDOM of S.H.S. and the KINGDOM of YUGOSLAVIA – Damir Novakovic
- THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION (UPU) – 150 years since its Foundation (1874–2024) – Alma Koman
- KEEP PHILATELY OPEN – Chris King
- RDP “COMITE DES FEMMES SERBES“ – Prof. Dr Milan Radovanovic
- SERBIAN DEFINITIVE Stamps 2024–2027 EXPOBG – Adam Sofronijevic and Aleksandar Bata Despotovic
- 11th APATIN´S EXHIBITION – Srdjan Acanski and Zeljko Popovic
- OREBIC´S POSTACARDS EXHIBITION – Ugljesa Stefanovic
- PETROVECFILA EXHIBITION – Rastislav Spevak



Türkiye Philatelic Report : May to September 2024

Next events



BOSTON 2026 WORLD EXPO



"Academies of Philately Summit"

The Organizing Committee of Boston 2026 World Expo is sponsoring an Academies of Philately Summit. It invites organizations with exclusive membership that promote their countries or region's philatelic study and scholarly research to participate in this first-of-its-kind event.

Turkish Philately Academy accepted the invitation to participate in the event with great pleasure.

ULM

The International German Postal History Masters Ulm Fair (Internationale Briefmarken-Börse) will be held on 24-26 October 2024, and high-level postal history collections and books in the field of postal history will participate in the Fair as competitors.



The Fair is organized by Deutschen Altbriefsammler Vereins e.V. (Association of German Postal History Collectors). The Fair not only provides a platform for specialist dealers, postal administrations, and publishers but also serves as a source of knowledge and inspiration for stamp collectors. Specialist presentations, a postal history symposium, and consultancy services are offered in the Fair by working groups, thematic groups, expert examiners, and major association representatives. The event is acknowledged as the most important exhibition competition for postal history exhibits in Europe.

Türkiye (Turkish Philatelic Academy) has been invited to the Fair, where a country is invited every year, for 2024. On behalf of the Turkish Philatelic Academy, coordination of the Türkiye's participation to the Ulm Exhibition is carried out by Turkish Philatelic Academy Director Dr. Murat İbrahim Çelebi.

24-26 OCTOBER 2024 ULM EXHIBITION PARTICIPANTS

<i>Ağaoğulları, M. Edip</i>	<i>The Postal History of Thrace</i>
<i>Akan, Mehmet</i>	<i>The Last Post Office of the Empire 1841-1919 ANKARA</i>
<i>Erhan, Yamaç</i>	<i>Postal Marks Used in the Early Years 1923 - 1930s of the Turkish Republic</i>
<i>Günyeli, Mehmet</i>	<i>Ottoman Postal History</i>
<i>Mellaart, Alan</i>	<i>Registered Mail of Ottoman Empire 1840-1923</i>
<i>Mellaart, Alan</i>	<i>Ottoman Empire Postal History of Greece</i>
<i>Papuçcuoğlu, Bülent</i>	<i>Post Offices of the Ottoman Empire(Literature)</i>
<i>Papuçcuoğlu, Hülya</i>	<i>Ottoman Empire Postal History 1840-1862</i>
<i>Tunacı, Atabey Ege</i>	<i>Battle of Suez Canal</i>
<i>Yılmaz, Hakan</i>	<i>Hüdavendigâr Postal History 1840-1929</i>
	<i>Seminar</i>
<i>Turhan Turgut RDP, FRPSL</i>	<i>A specific speech regarding "German - Ottoman Field Post During World War I"</i>

Recent events

Ankara 2-8 May 2024



"Art in Stamps" Stamp Exhibition

was opened by the Ankara Philatelists Society.

Çanakkale 7 JUNE 2024

The "**Greeting from Çanakkale**" Seyhun Binzet collection Picture Post Card exhibition was opened by the Republic of Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism.



Ankara 2-10 August 2024

The Japanese Embassy in Ankara Philatelic Society held the 'Japanese Stamps and Postcards Exhibition' between August 2nd and 10th.



Ankara 24 August 2024

On 24 August, the Vietnam Embassy and Ankara Philatelic Society held a special exhibition about Vietnam National Day.



Seminar and Workshops :

2024 Seminar Program of the Turkish Philatelic Academy :

April 2024: Threats, risks, opportunities in philately

May 2024: The Baghdad and Mosul Provisionals Issue on the Ottoman Stamps

* The seminars for the second half of 2024 and the determined dates for the seminars will be further scheduled and announced.



*Threats, risks,
opportunities in
philately*

HAKAN AKÇAĞLU

MEHMET AKAN

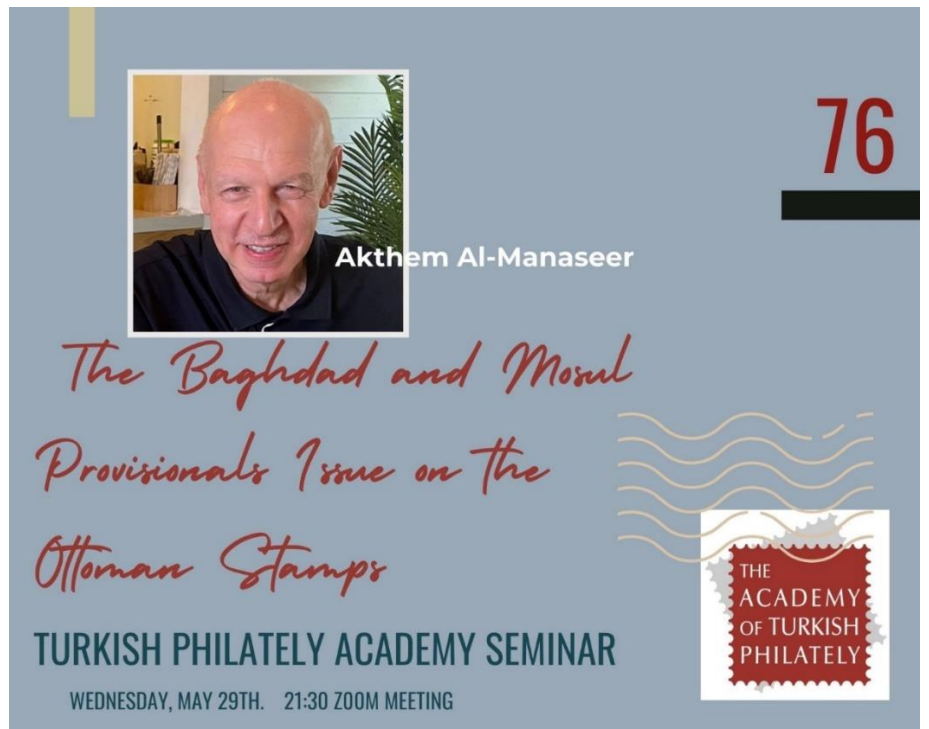
MURAT HAZINEDAROĞLU

ATADAN TUNACI

THE ACADEMY OF TURKISH PHILATELY

TURKISH PHILATELY ACADEMY SEMINAR NO: **75**

4 APRIL, 2024 21:30 ZOOM MEETING



76

Akthem Al-Manaseer

*The Baghdad and Mosul
Provisionals Issue on the
Ottoman Stamps*

TURKISH PHILATELY ACADEMY SEMINAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29TH. 21:30 ZOOM MEETING

THE ACADEMY OF TURKISH PHILATELY

On May 29th, our dear friend and TFA member Dr Akthem Al-Manaseer presented his seminar titled 'The Baghdad and Mosul Provisionals Issue on the Ottoman Stamps'. It was a chance for all of us to hear from a real expert on the subject. Over 40 philatelists from different parts of the world, honoured by FIP Vice-Presidents Reinaldo Macedo and Yigal Nathaniel, have followed the seminar till midnight.



Ankara Philatelic Society informative seminars



ANKARA FİLETELİ DERNEĞİ
KOLEKSİYON TANITIM SÖYLEŞİLERİ 5
'Kartpostal Koleksiyonculuğu'
Necati KAZANCI

Tarih : 28.03.2024
Saat : 18.30
Yer : Ziya Gökalp Caddesi No:72/1
Kolej - ANKARA

Ankara Philatelic Society continues its educational and informative seminars, in the Society's facility. The events, in which an Association member's exhibition that has won awards in competitions is presented every month, attract great attention from collectors in Ankara.

Slovenian Natural Parks

The natural parks of Slovenia are the most valuable parts of the Slovenian territory from the point of view of long-term preservation of natural values, biotic diversity and special landscape features. Protected nature areas in Slovenia include: 1 national park, 3 regional parks, 34 landscape parks, 66 nature reserves and more than 1,200 natural monuments, which together cover 13% of Slovenia's territory. Of course, there are still many interesting and exceptional areas in Slovenia that would also deserve legal protection and protection.

Sečovelje Salina Nature Park



Together with the nearby ones in Strunjan, the Sečovel salt pans are one of the last salt pans in the Mediterranean where salt is extracted by hand using a centuries-old method. The nature- and people-friendly method of salt production has over time enabled the development of special living environments in and around salt pools.

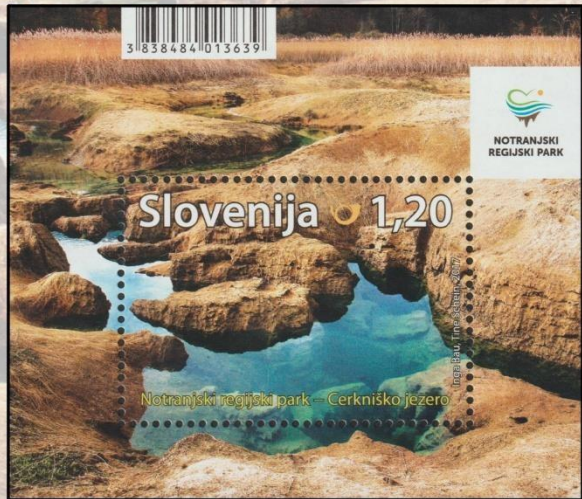
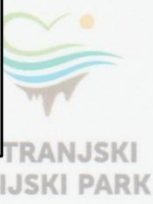


Notranjska Regional Park



**NOTRANJSKI
REGIJSKI PARK**

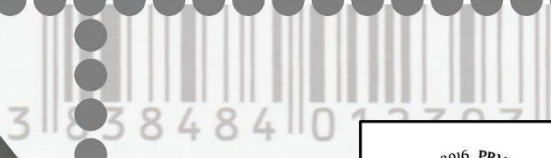
**29. 9. 2017 PRVI DAN
1380 CERKNICA**



The central area of the park is the intermittent Lake Cerknisko, whose largest flood surface is almost 29 km². The lake has no surface drainage. The park is characterized by a large number of karst phenomena on the surface and underground.

Notranjski regijski park – Cerknisko jezero

Strunjan Landscape Park

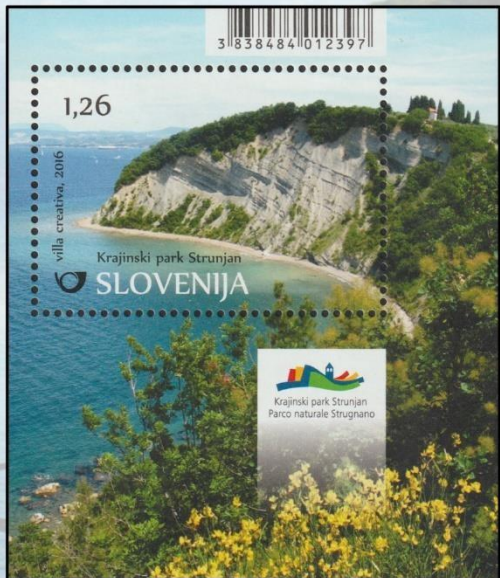


30. 9. 2016, PRVI DAN



Krajinski park Strunjan
Parco naturale Strugnano

6322 PORTOROŽ/PORTOROSE



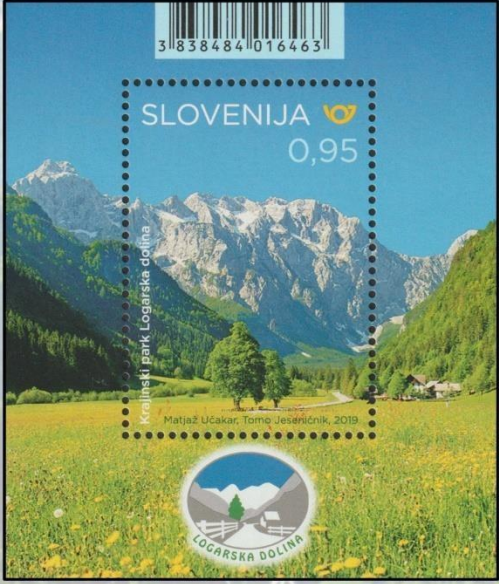
is unique due to its location by the sea. Part of the park is covered by salt marshes, which are home to rare plants and animals adapted to salty soils. The specialty of the landscape park is Stjuža, the only Slovenian sea lagoon, and the Strunjan cliff with flysch cliff walls.

villa creativa, 2016

3 838484 016463



Logar Valley Landscape Park



The park covers a 9 km long and 500 m wide valley, one of the most beautiful glacial valleys in the entire Alpine chain. The park also includes a crown of more than 2,000 m high peaks (Ojstrica, Planjava, Brana,...). On the slopes of Olševa, there is the archeological site Potočka zijalka with the remains of a human settlement from the Younger Paleolithic.

Pivka Lakes Nature Park



is unique in the world with its 17 intermittent lakes. Because of them, the landscape changes from day to day. Because of them, there is a great biotic diversity in the area of the park. As many as 133 birds, 106 butterflies, 211 beetles... can be found here.

Pivška

3 838484

Kolpa Landscape Park



The park is located in the extreme south of the country. The most important part of the park is the biotically rich river Kolpa, which, due to the diversity of its flow and the high quality of the water, hosts as many as 30 different species of fish.

Ljubljana Marshes Nature Park



Over thousands of years, the Ljubljanica river and man co-created the landscape of the Ljubljanski barje. In addition to the biotic diversity of the bog, we also find here the remains of old cultures, from piledrivers (the oldest wooden wheel in the world) to the ancient Romans.

BiH (Canton of Sarajevo)

European Champion Lana Pudar featured on BH Pošta Postage Stamp

BH Pošta issued a commemorative postage stamp featuring "Lana Pudar, European Champion" under the Mediterranean Postal Union theme "Euromed Postal – Sports in the Mediterranean." This stamp supports and recognizes swimmer Lana Pudar for her achievements. Printed in 10,000 copies with a nominal value of 3.20 KM, it also includes a commemorative FDC envelope in a circulation of 150 pieces, valued at 2.00 KM. The authors are Tamer Lučarević, Istvan Derencseny, and European Aquatics.

Born on January 19, 2006, in Mostar, Lana Pudar holds national records in all six butterfly disciplines and the Mediterranean Games record for the women's 100-meter butterfly. She won gold in all three butterfly disciplines at the 2023 European Junior Championships, setting new records. She also won Gold in the 100 and 200 meters and Silver in the 50 meters at the 2023 World Junior Championships.



Commemorative card marking Lana Pudar's performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics

Before the Olympic Games Paris 2024, BH Pošta issued a commemorative postage stamp featuring "Lana Pudar, European Champion" under the Mediterranean Postal Union theme "Euromed Postal – Sports in the Mediterranean." To mark this occasion on 31st July The Society of Philatelists and Numismatics of the Canton of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) made a Commemorative card marking Lana Pudar's Performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics. The author of this commemorative card is Bernard Pavlinović and it represents Lana Pudar holding the flag of Bosnia and Herzegovina with dates of the events she will compete at the Paris Olympic Games.

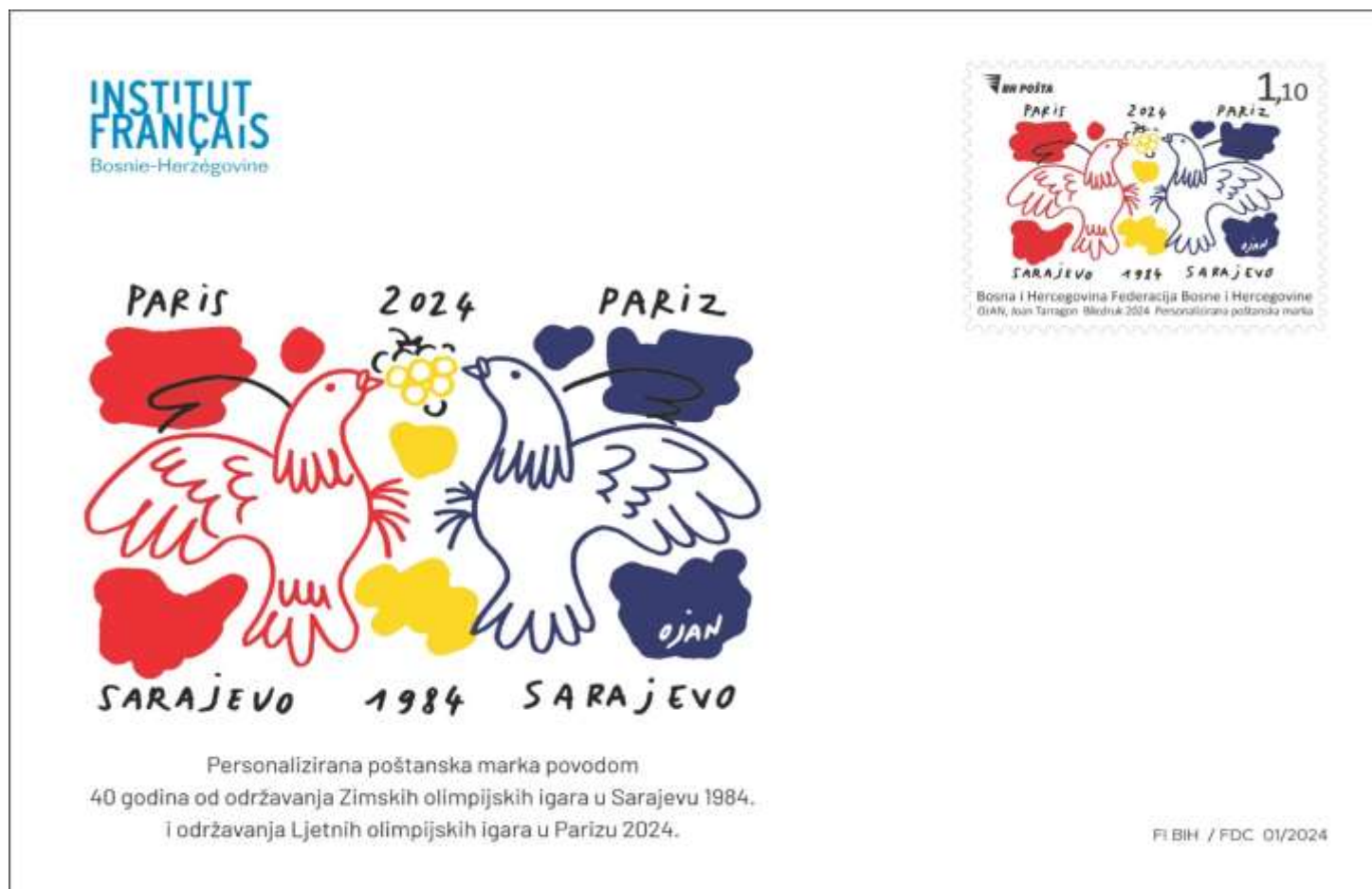
Philatelist gem with an Olympic theme

As part of the celebration of the opening of the Olympic Games in Paris and the commemoration of the Winter Olympic Games in Sarajevo, a special postage stamp presentation ceremony was held.

This personalized stamp, marking 40 years since the 1984 Sarajevo Winter Olympics and the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, is the work of French artist OJAN (Joan Tarragon).

The stamp shows two doves, a universal symbol of peace and freedom, and represents the Olympic spirit and the long-term cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of France.

This project was realized in cooperation with the French Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ambassador François Delmas, the French Institute in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Director Loé Lagrange, and BH Post, and with the help of the Association of Philatelists and Numismatists of Sarajevo Canton.





NEUM Underwater Film Festival

You do not have to take a dive to experience the pleasure of the underwater world. It is enough to visit the Neum underwater film festival, a unique festival of underwater films.

The Neum underwater film festival put Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina's only access to the sea, on the world map of cultural events of this kind. Films have the power to convey the author's feelings. Underwater films delight with their quality and diversity and the richness of the underwater world through the eyes of artists, whose goal it is to inspire the viewer.



The Neum underwater film festival took place on **August 23 and 24, 2024**. 22 films have been shown in the official competition, with the accompanying Fest&Val program. Awards at this international festival were awarded in 5 categories (Best Underwater Film, Best Camera, Best Original Music, Best Eco Film and Best Underwater Film of Bosnia and Herzegovina). A special category is the Audience Award for Best Film.

An ecological educational film workshop, teaching how to shoot creatively and safely underwater, was held on August 24, 2024. (Željka Šaravanja)

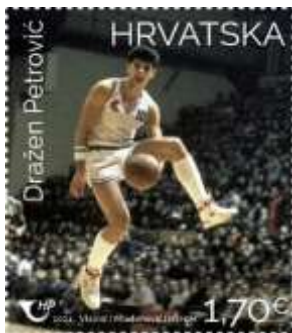
Croatian Post Mostar Ltd. issued 1 commemorative stamp in a sheet of 8 stamps + vignette, a postmark and a first day cover (FDC).

Stamps and accompanying materials can also be purchased online at www.epostshop.ba

CROATIA

Two Legendary Sportsmen

On September 5th, Croatia Post Office issued a set of two stamps for two legendary sportsmen : **Miroslav Ćiro Blažević** and **Dražen Petrović**. These stamps were issued in a 9–stamp sheetlets with one label, and the Croatian Post has also issued a First Day Cover (FDC). This edition has been realized in cooperation with the Croatian Sports Museum and Museum–memorial center "Dražen Petrović".



More than three decades have passed since the world of basketball lost one of its greatest gems – the tragic death of Dražen Petrović on 7 June 1993. He was a wunderkind who improved his great talent with his remarkable work ethic. He trained more than anybody and the success simply awaited him.

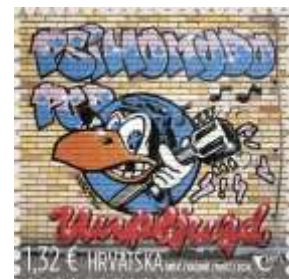


Miroslav Ćiro Blažević was and is the one and only, outstanding, coach who was much more. Always friendly towards everybody, he was and is a man of the people who, even at his very top, never turned anybody down. The period between 1994 and 2000, when he led the Croatian national team, is Blažević's life's work. The first coach who led the chosen Croatian team in a grand tournament of the European Championship and in 1996 reached the quarter–finals in England.

Croatian Music

On September 5th were circulated three stamps dedicated to Croatian Music.

Daleka obala is simply the mecca of Split music tradition, since the festival of Prokurative, the bohemian heritage of Toma Bebić, rockers from the Split's "energetic streets" and lastly, omnipresent "southern comfort".



The signature sign of **Parni valjak** was always recognizable: the music one, as well as the literary one. Within the roots of rock understood always as a "generic term" of urban music, and not as a genre fossil and their recognizable "ich" text form which reflected personal doubts, introspective "daily paranoias", generational jam and frustration, even – uncommonly – thoughts of "aging".

Since their 1988 debut album "Godina zmaja" which they waited, for the then well–established demo band, for five years, **Psihomodo** Pop is amongst the most popular, and today amongst the most long–lasting representatives of the Croatian Rock scene.

BULGARIA

On 10.07.2024 the Ministry of Transport and Communications put into circulation a set of two postage stamps “Cinema: 100th Birth Anniversary of Dimo Kolarov and 100th Birth Anniversary of Vili Tsankov”.

The 1st stamp depicts **Dimo Kolarov’s** portrait and a film camera at the background.



The 2nd stamp shows **Vili Tsankov’s** portrait in front of a theatre curtain.



Dimo Kolarov (1924–1997) was a famous Bulgarian cameraman. In 1946 he went to the Czech Republic with the idea of studying medicine, but he graduated from the Faculty of Film and Television of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague under professor Karol Klitska. He then worked on dozens of Bulgarian films including “Haidushka’s Oath” (1958), “The Inspector and the Night” (1963), “Mr. Nobody” (1969), “The Goat Horn” (1972), “Captain Petko Voivoda” (1981), etc.

Vili Tsankov (1924–2007) was a Bulgarian film and theatre director. He has 130 theatre productions, 15 films (the most famous of which are The Weddings of Joan Assen and The Demon of the Empire), 2 operas, operettas and a number of TV adaptations. In the last years of his life he worked mainly as a writer. He is the author of the novels Towers of Babel, The One-Eyed Man, The Tale of the Thief and the Maiden and the Seven Heavens.

GREECE

Hellenic Post circulates on July 24, 2024 the Commemorative Set of Stamp – Feuillet

"50th anniversary of the Restoration of Democracy in Greece".

This anniversary commemorates the restoration of the Republic after the collapse of the seven-year military Junta, and the return of democratic governance, celebrating five decades of political freedom, social progress and Greece's enduring commitment to democratic values and human rights.



185 years of diplomatic relations between Serbia and France

Serbia and France established contacts as early as the Middle Ages, as evidenced by the marriage of King Uroš with Princess Jelena of Anjou. The modern era brings new contacts between the two countries at the beginning of the 19th century, at the time of the First Serbian Uprising, and the formal establishment of diplomatic relations took place in 1839, when France opened the first consulate in the Principality of Serbia. The second half of the 19th century brought an intensification of relations and cultural influence brought to Serbia by numerous "French students", among whom were members of both Serbian dynasties, which led to the strengthening of French friendship with Serbia. The friendship between Serbia and France was confirmed by the fight against the common enemy – Nazism, during the Second World War, as well as by economic cooperation in the 20th century, and bilateral relations in the 21st century have seen an increase in the formation of a strategic partnership between the two countries. Economic cooperation has been intensively developing in the last few years, and France has been among the biggest investors in the Serbian economy and the most important foreign trade partners of Serbia for years.



- Motif on the stamp: Prince Miloš Obrenović and King Louis-Philippe I
- Motif on the vignette: Monument of gratitude to France at Kalemegdan in Belgrade, work of sculptor Ivan Meštrović; building of the Embassy of the Republic of France in Belgrade
- Motif on the envelope: Freedom, Equality, Fraternity, sculpture on the building of the Embassy of France in Belgrade

Upcoming stamp issues in September and October 2024

On **22 September** we will be issuing four stamps dedicated to the **Chamois** as part of our ongoing **Fauna series**. These stamps (three of them issued in sheets of 25 and one in miniature sheet format) will have the letter denominations A, B, C and D.

We will continue our **Road Safety** series with a stamp reminding us not to use our phones while driving. This will be issued in sheets of 25 and will have a face value of €0.98.

A new stamp in the **Milestones of Slovenia's Technical Heritage** series will feature Elan's car-shaped playground equipment. The stamp will be issued in sheets of 25, like all the stamps in this series, and will have a face value of €1.57.

A new stamp in the **Wells and Fountains of Slovenia series** will present the Da Ponte Fountain in Koper. This stamp will be issued as a miniature sheet and will have a face value of €2.67.

On **9 October** (World Post Day) we will be issuing a special stamp to mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Universal Postal Union. This stamp will have a face value of €1.57 and will be issued in sheets of 25.



ROMANIA

Olympic Medals Paris 2024

On August 23rd, 2024 circulated, the philatelic issue **Olympic Medals – Paris 2024**, consisting of seven postage stamps, an imperforated souvenir sheet and a set of three First Day Covers, within the issue being illustrated the images of the laureates in sports disciplines in which our country had participants.



Nine medals – three gold, four silver and two bronze – make up the ‘harvest’ with which the Romanian athletes participating in the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics, held between July 26th and August 11th, 2024, returned home.

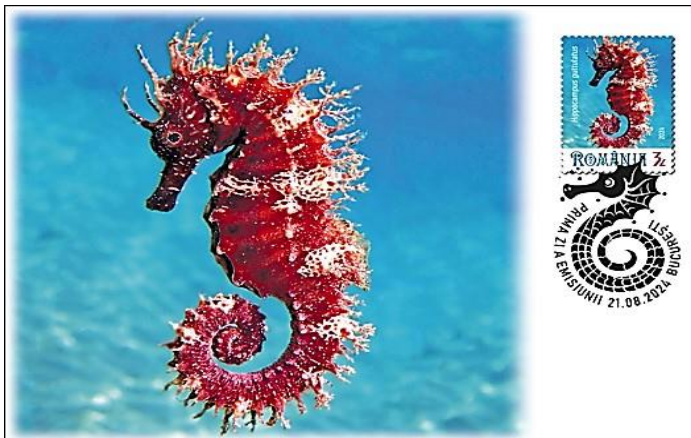
The sports, in which they achieved these remarkable results, are swimming (100m freestyle and 200m freestyle), men’s double sculls, lightweight women’s double sculls, women’s double sculls, rowing (eight), women’s coxless pair, women’s gymnastics and weightlifting (49 kg).

Seahorses

Romfilatelia circulated on August 21st an interesting postage stamp issue, entitled “*Seahorses*”.

Seahorses beloved for their shape and colour, seahorses include 53 species currently known, grouped into one genus, *Hippocampus*. Two species live in the Black Sea and in the very territorial waters of Romania : *Hippocampus guttulatus* (face value of Lei 3), also widespread in the eastern Atlantic and in the Mediterranean Sea, and *Hippocampus hippocampus*. The dwarf species *Hippocampus bargibanti* (face value of Lei 13 in the waters of the Indo–Australian archipelago.

The existence of seahorses is threatened by the degradation and pollution of the marine habitat, by accidental catches in fishing nets, but also by the trade (especially with dried specimens) practiced both for “curiosities” and for the superstitious “pharmacopoeia” of various countries.



The First Day cover depicts a seahorse, from the family *Hippocampus reidi*, living in the waters of subtropical regions, having a size of up to 15–18 cm.

The Voice of Silence

Feelings of understanding, care and support for our hearing impaired fellow people!



Romfilatelia introduced into circulation on September 4th, an issue of postage stamps whose subject addresses a special social situation that concerns people with hearing impairments.

Achieved with the direct support of the Romanian National Association of the Deaf (ANSR), the issue, suggestively entitled “The Voice of Silence”, is intended to be an active means of promoting understanding and support for our peers with disabilities.

The postage stamp (face value of Lei 25) and the First Day Cover, elements of the issue illustrate concrete situations of presenting what is known as “mimic–gestural” language, in which the hand alphabet invented by the French educator and philanthropist Charles de l’Épée is used in dialogue with people who suffer from deafness.



On September 27th a postage stamp will be issued marking the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Türkiye and Qatar

Mutual Understanding, Co-operation, and Friendship

are also the **Core Concepts** and the **Spirit of BALKANFILA Members**



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