



No 12, December 2025

## *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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 "Dobrudzha", 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 Dobrudzha. 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.

**FEDERAZIONE FRA LE SOCIETÀ FILATELICHE ITALIANE**  
FONDATA NEL 1919 - ADERENTE ALLA FIP FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATÉLIE

**FEDERAZIONE FRA LE SOCIETÀ FILATELICHE ITALIANE**  
Fondato nel 1919

**Unione Siciliana Collezionisti**

Con il patrocinio ed il sostegno della CITTÀ DI SIRACUSA

**LIONS CLUB FILATELICO ITALIANO**

**Esposizione Filatelica Nazionale e di Qualificazione "Un Quadro"**  
SIRACUSA 2025

**VENERDI 7 SABATO 8 NOVEMBRE 2025**

**URBAN CENTER**  
Via Nino Bixio 1  
Siracusa

**ARS**  
CON IL PATROCINIO DELL'ASSEMBLEA REGIONALE SICILIANA

**ANCE SIRACUSA**  
CON IL PATROCINIO DELLE ASSOCIAZIONI COMUNALI DI SIRACUSA

**UNPLI SIRACUSA PROLOCO**

**bell'ALBERGO SIRACUSA**  
CON IL PATROCINIO DELLA GALLERIA REGIONALE DI PIAZZA BELLOMO MUSEO INTERNAZIONALE

**GULINO 1793**  
GULINO

**AEGIS CORE**  
CITY OF THE FUTURE

**l'isola dei MARETTI**

**Pleumirio**  
AQUA MARINA SICILIA

**Club Greco Tricottò**  
SIRACUSA

**UNITRE**  
PROMO GARGALLO

**Venerdì 7 novembre 2025**  
Ore 9,00/13,00 - 15,30/19,00

**Sabato 8 novembre 2025**  
Ore 9,00/13,00

**ANNULLO SPECIALE**  
**SABATO 8**  
DALLE ORE 9,00  
ALLE ORE 13,00

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.fsf.it/PaginaStandard.php?CodiceExpo=Siracusa2025&Ambito=USER&Page=partecipazioni\\_risultati.php&Lingua=IT](http://expo.fsf.it/PaginaStandard.php?CodiceExpo=Siracusa2025&Ambito=USER&Page=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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Andelković, 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."

Andelković 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Dragoteanu – 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://udruzenjefilatelistaaapatin.org.rs/apatin-2025/.](https://udruzenjefilatelistaaapatin.org.rs/apatin-2025/)

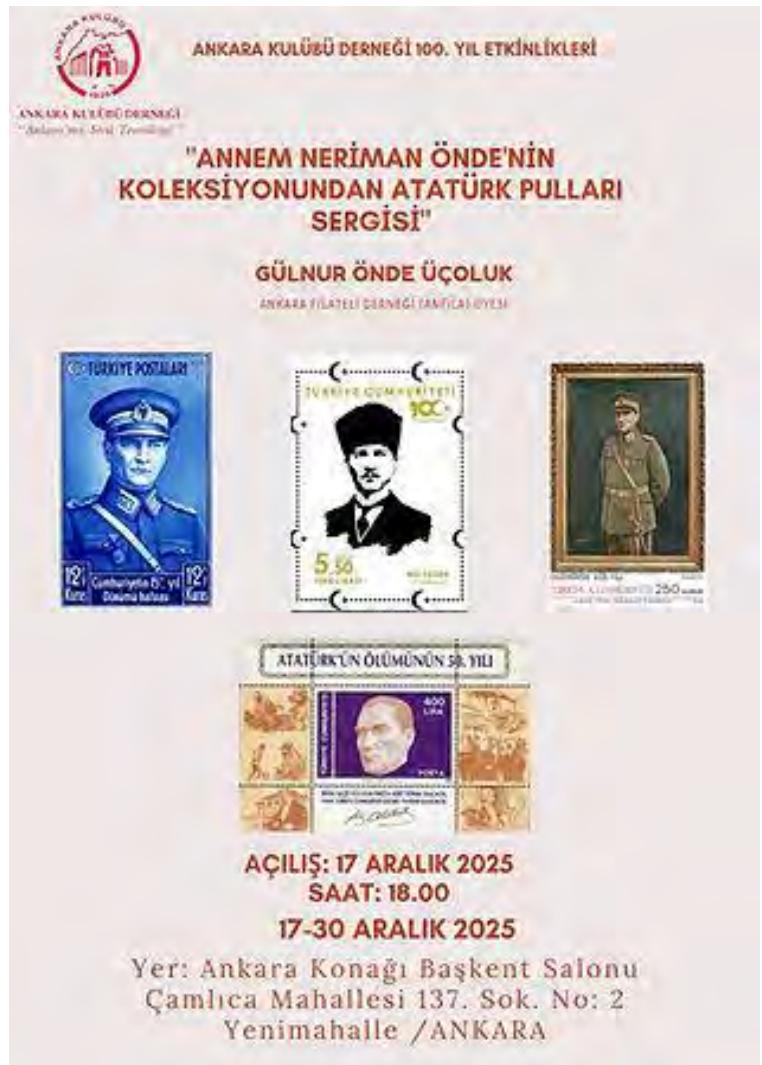


Exhibit	Exhibitor	Country	Frames
<a href="#">Back and forth to BBA in Algeria 2012 2024</a>	Belaref Mohamed Amine	Algeria	3
<a href="#">Post offices cancellations and auxiliary post offices of the city Sarajevo from 1878 to 1918</a>	Davorin Gelo	BIH	3
<a href="#">French military mail in Greece to 1861</a>	Thomas Arvantis	Greece	1
<a href="#">Censorship in Old Kingdom of Romania Bessarabia Bucovina and Pokutia during WW1 1916-1920</a>	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 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events, the exhibition will be open to visitors until December 30, 2025.



## Mevlana-themed exhibition

Our Mevlana-themed exhibition at the Eye Foundation opened on December 17<sup>th</sup>.



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

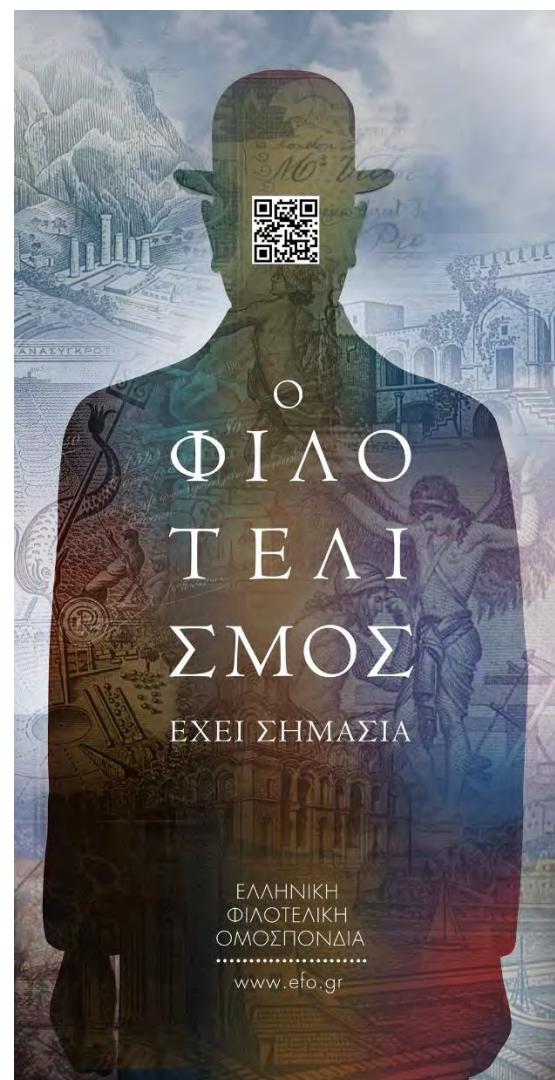


## The Hellenic Philatelic Federation's participation at the Athens Collectible Festival

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 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.

<p>Επισκεφτείτε την ιστοσελίδα της :</p> <p><b>ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΦΙΛΟΤΕΛΙΚΗΣ ΟΜΟΣΠΟΝΔΙΑΣ</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.efo.gr">www.efo.gr</a></p> 	<p>Αναζητήστε:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Βραβευμένες Ελληνικές Φιλοτελικές Συλλογές (ψηφιακή παρουσίαση),</li><li>➤ Φιλοτελικά Περιοδικά και Βιβλία,</li><li>➤ Ελληνικά Φιλοτελικά Σωματεία,</li><li>➤ Νέες Εκδόσεις των Ε.Λ.Τ.Α,</li><li>➤ Εκπαιδευτικές Παρουσιάσεις με βάση τα Γραμματόσημα.</li></ul>
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The intention of the Hellenic Philatelic Federation was to 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 3<sup>rd</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at 6 p.m.



Muzej pošte in telekomunikacij



Muzej pošte in telekomunikacij

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.*



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](mailto: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 101<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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.

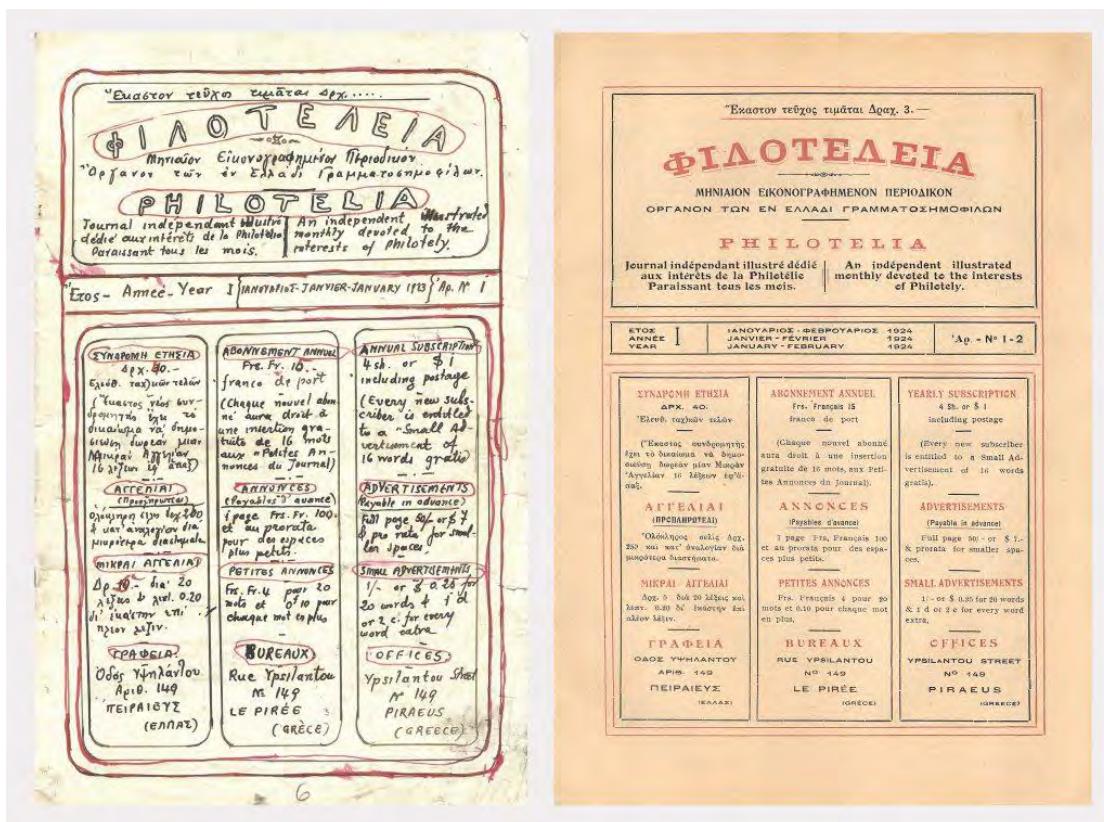


On 24 May 24<sup>th</sup> 1925, the first Administrative Council of the H.P.S was elected.

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 AMBRUS

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.



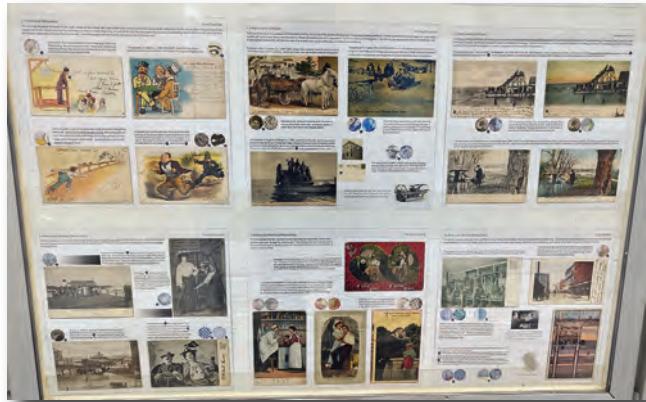
...Sam Chiu, Bernard Jimenez, Seija-Ritta Laakso, me and Bruce Chadderton, THAILANDA 2023 jury team OP, PPC and MOD

...'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.

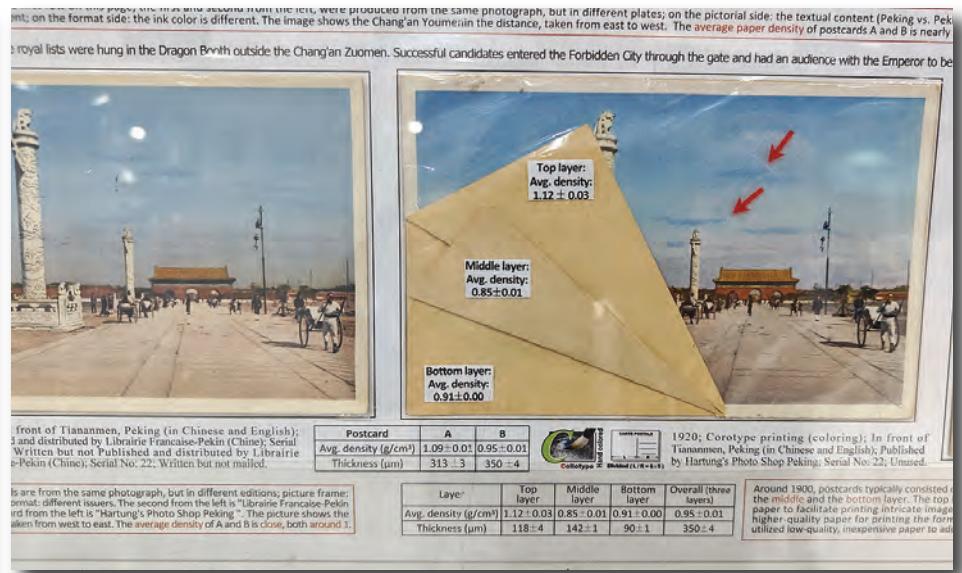


... 'Golden Decade of US Pictures Postcards (1900-1909) 92 p. G - Zhongwei Zhao

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.



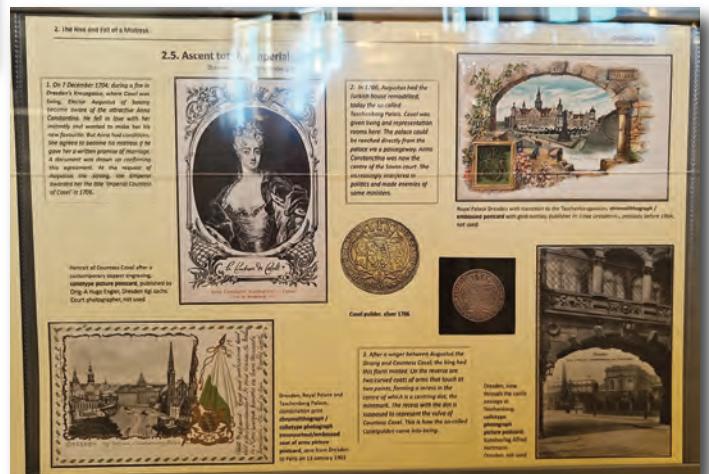




It's surprising how some exhibitors can speculate about the ambiguities of a regulation that is still unclear and with many possibilities for interpretation. G exhibit in LIBERC 2025 exhibition.

#### 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/>

The collage consists of several images related to the Ausvipex 2025 exhibition:

- APF Logo:** Australian Philatelic Federation logo featuring a map of Australia and the acronym APF.
- Exhibition Banner:** "AUSTRALIAN VIRTUAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION-2025 AUSVIPEX 2025" held from 27 Nov. 2025 - 28 Feb. 2026, organized by the Australian Philatelic Federation (APF).
- Gold Medal:** A gold-colored commemorative medal with the map of Australia and the text "AUSVIPEX 2025 Australian Virtual Philatelic Exhibition".
- Jury Member List:** A grid of 12 jury members with their names and countries: Ian McMillan (UK), Glen Stafford (Australia), Malcolm Groom (Australia), Frank Pauer (Australia), Bruce Chadderton (Australia), John Moore (Australia), Nigel Carter (Australia), Mohammed Iqbal (Australia), Denise Rosenfeldt (NZ), Bob Gilson (NZ), Javid Mohammed (UAE), and Sam Chia (Canada).
- Certificate of Award:** A certificate for Francisc Ambrus, awarded a Large Gold Medal (92 points) for the exhibit "Romania as it was", held at the beginning of 20th century, in the Picture Postcards class.
- Picture Postcards Exhibit Page:** A page from the exhibition showing various postcard exhibits, including "Kachina: Through the Lens", "Johnson's Image: A Window into the Past", "An Exploration Through the Use of Magi Stamps of India", "Social Mores", "Voyage des Phéniciens", "The Native Birds of New Zealand", "Souvenirs of K.K.", "Hunting Boars of British Colonial India", and "Caveons-Mâche".

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.

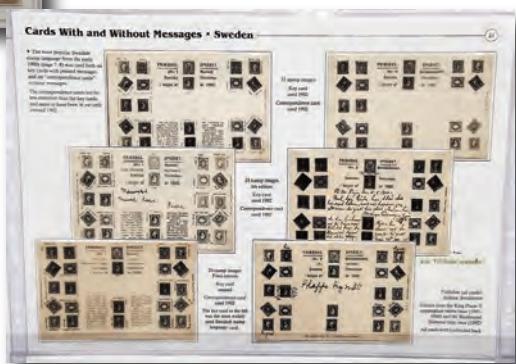
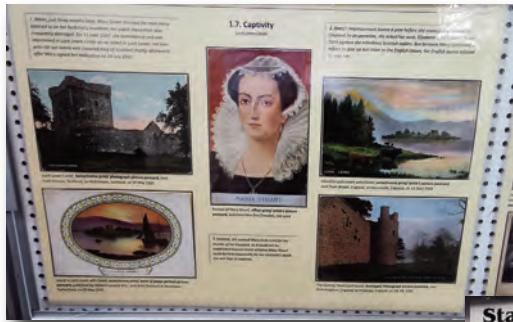
To be more specific, while collecting postcards, I also noticed small differences or the adoption of the cliché by various publishing houses. I decided to intersperse such pieces with the necessary explanations in my story, as they contribute to the sensitive score of the study and research. For the 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.



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.





# 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

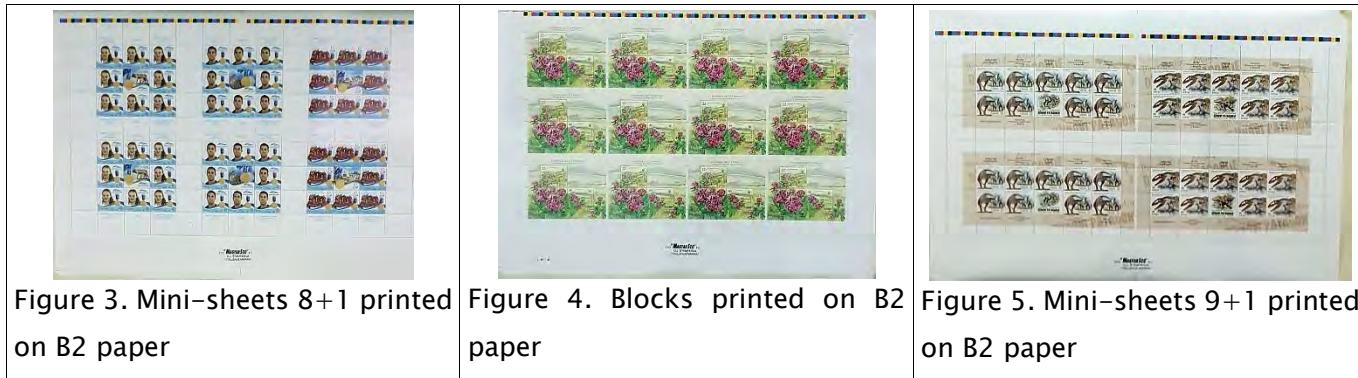


Figure 2. Short technical specification of the printing system

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 ( $10 \times 10$ ) – 2 sheets per press sheet
- Mini-sheets 8+1 ( $3 \times 3$ ) – 6 mini-sheets per press sheet
- Mini-sheets 9+1 ( $5 \times 2$ ) – 4 mini-sheets per press sheet
- Blocks – 12 blocks per press sheet

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



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.

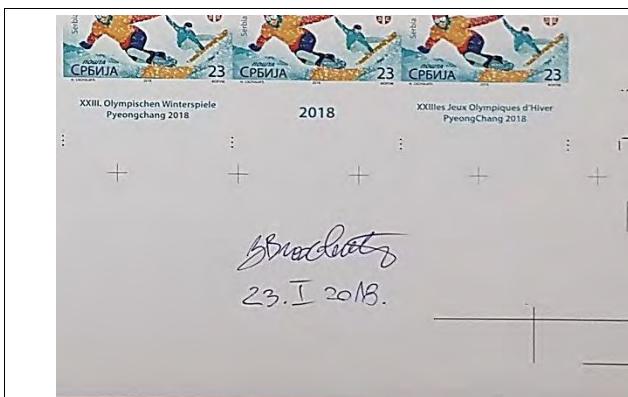


Figure 6. Proof sheet of the issue "Winter Olympic Games 2018" signed by designer J. Vlahović



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.

## 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 90<sup>th</sup> 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 270<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Post Office in Petrovaradin, featuring a special cancel and Cyrillic inscriptions "Petrovaradin 1753" (left) and of the 170<sup>th</sup> 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 (23<sup>rd</sup>) and November (9<sup>th</sup>), 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 33<sup>rd</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of rational beekeeping in Serbia. On the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> 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.



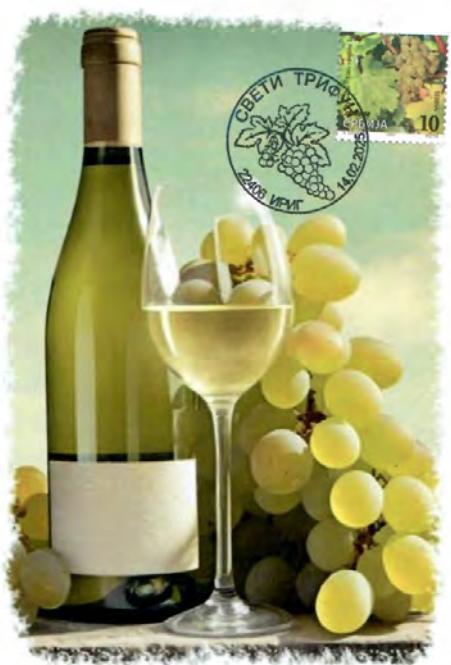


### Exhibition "100 Years of Organized Collecting"

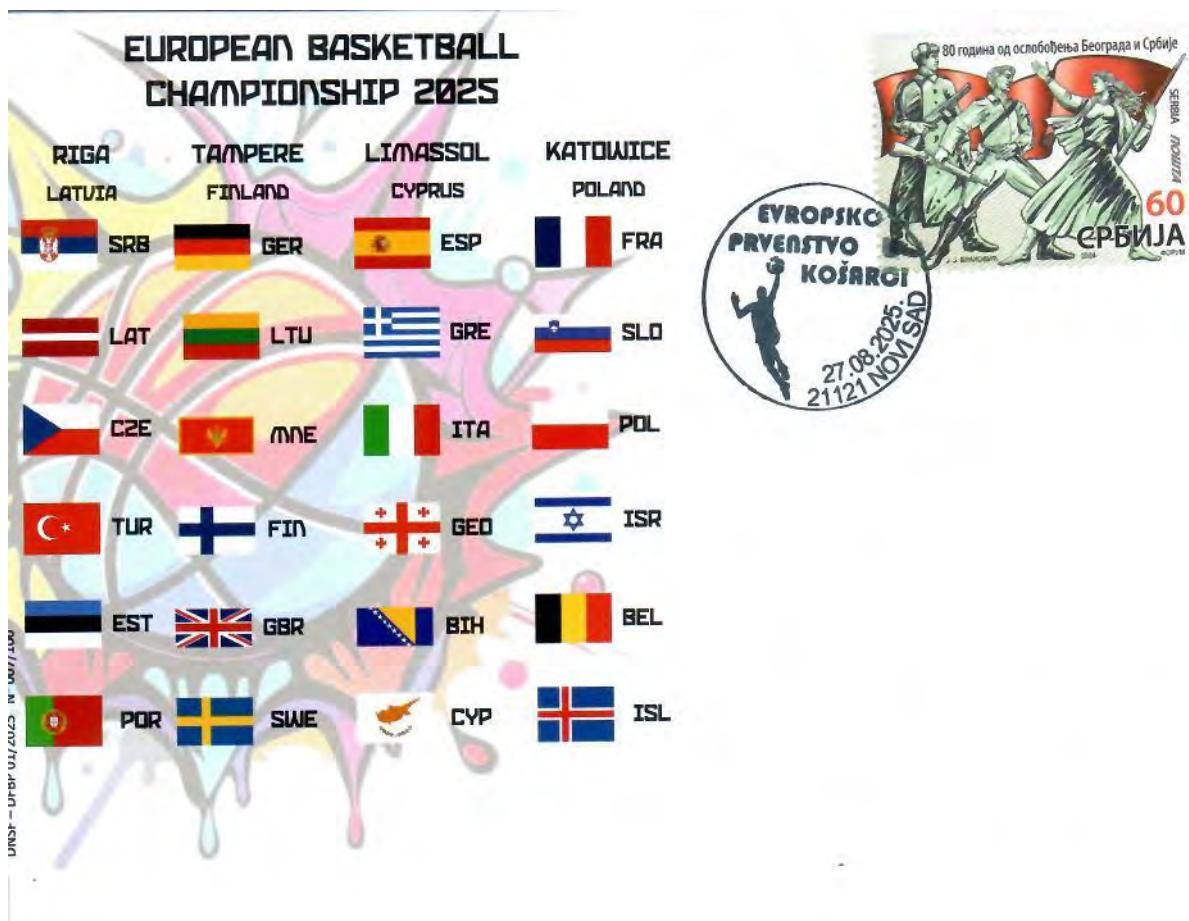
From October 23 to October 30, 2025, a thematic exhibition will be held at the Museum of Vojvodina to mark 100 years of organized collecting. The exhibition features 16 exhibitors with 21 exhibits.

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.



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



On the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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 symbol "◎" and one cancelled with a postmark used in Slovenian territory, marked with the symbol "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!**)

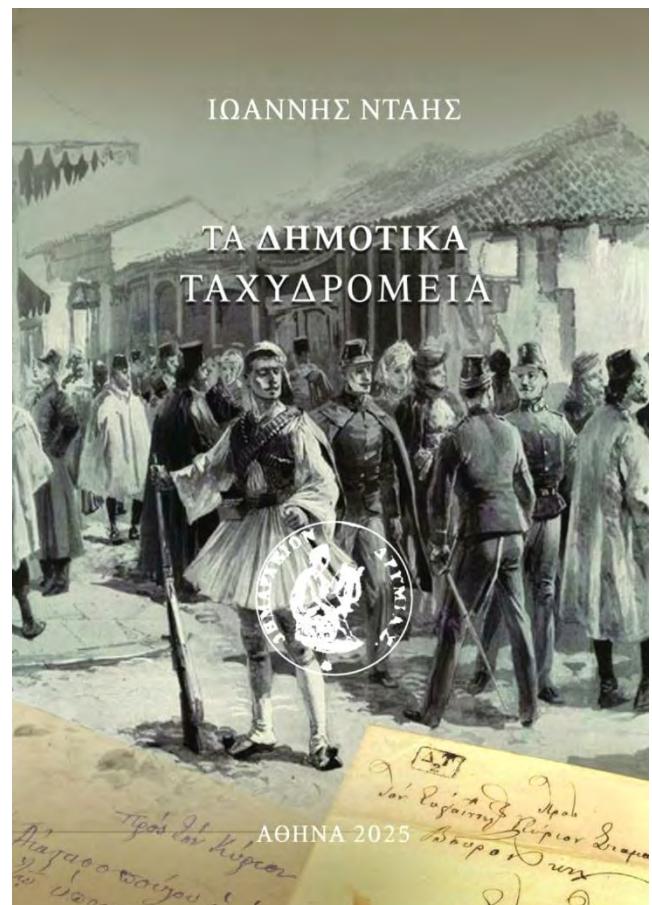
The catalogue is bilingual (Slovenian and English), and we hope it will also be appreciated by collectors outside Slovenia.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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":

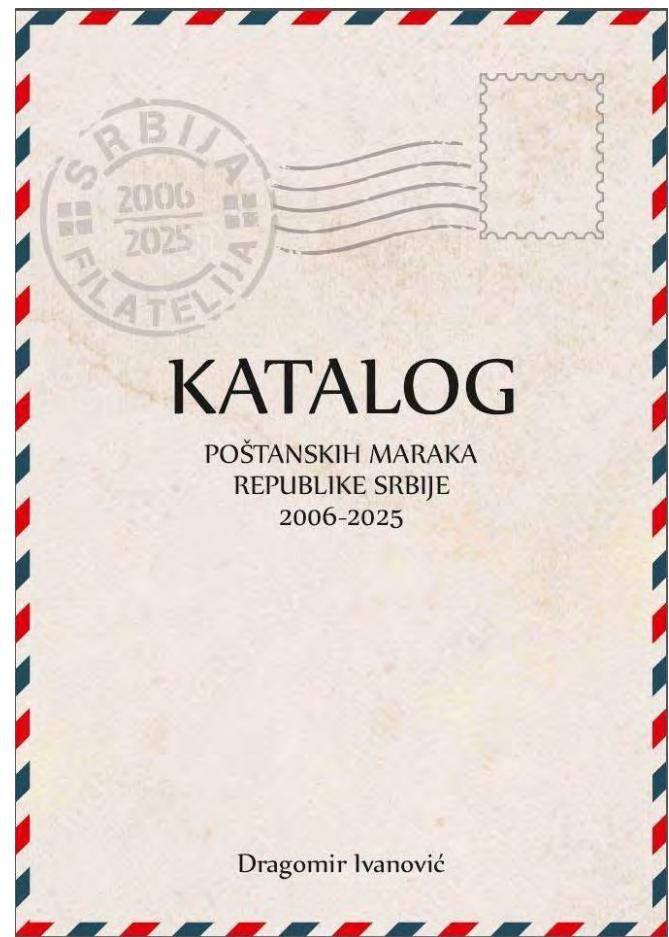
“For the great, for the free, for the brave, the strong,  
great words, free words, brave words, strong words  
are appropriate.”

# 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.

## Dopljatne marke i nalepnice 2015

2015, 15. jun - Dopljatna 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, polusujajna. Zupčanje: češljasto 13 1/4.



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

## Dopljatne marke i nalepnice 2015

Pored dopljenje 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):

P.T 100 komada

4,50 0,30

2015, 5. oktobar - Dopljatna marka u korist Dečje nedelje. Autor: Aleksandar Zolotić. Štampa: ZIN Beograd. Papir: običan. Guma: bela, polusujajna. Zupčanje: češljasto 13 1/4.



074 10 din. višebojna (350.000)

0,50 0,10

U obaveznoj upotrebi od 05.10. do 11.10.2015. godine.

P. T. 100 maraka

2015, 26. oktobar - Dopljatna 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 13 1/4.



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

400

401

## 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, polusujajna i mat. Zupčanje: češljasto 13 1/4 i 12 1/2.



0001 16,50 din. zastava

1,20 1,20

A - zupčanje 12 1/2, guma polusujajna  
B - zupčanje 12 1/2, guma mat

1,20 1,20

0002 20 din. grb

A - zupčanje 12 1/2, guma polusujajna  
B - zupčanje 13 1/4, guma mat

1,50 1,50

C - zupčanje 12 1/2, guma mat  
D - fluorescentni nanos

1,00 1,00

10,00 10,00

Na marci 0002 postoji fluorescentni nanos na krstu na poljima 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 Paja Jovanovića (1859-1957). Autor: Nadežda Skočajić. Štampa: Forum Novi Sad. Papir: kredast. Guma: bela, mat. Zupčanje: češljasto 13 1/4:13%.



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 13 1/4:13%.



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 13 1/4:13%.



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

11

12

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> place with 51 votes, second place was Spain with 48 votes and the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> place



Title/titre:  
**Leuchtturm Alte Weser**

Postcard/carte-postale :  
**Commercial**

Creator's name/création:  
**Hubert Engel**

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

## Spain 2<sup>nd</sup> place



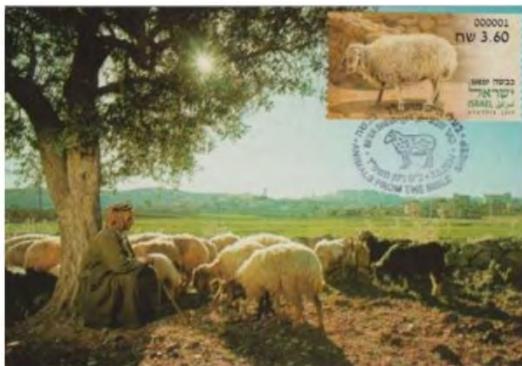
Title/titre:  
**Statue of the Count Ansúrez- Valladolid**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> place (tie)



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**

## China 3<sup>rd</sup> place (tie)



Title/titre: **Pine tree, joint 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**



# 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



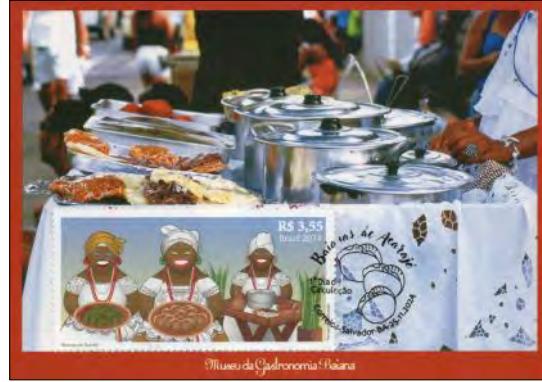
Title/titre: Conservation de la faune- Neophron percnopterus  
Postcard/carte-postale : Stiven,s Ltd  
Creator's name/création: Sergei Magdichev  
Cancellation/oblitération : First day-Premier jour- Dobrich- 11/10/2024

### 3. Bulgaria - Bulgarie



Title/titre: Organ- Klementinum  
Postcard/carte-postale : Commercial  
Creator's name/création: Martin Hlavaty  
Cancellation/oblitération : ordinary cancellation- Praha- 04/09/2024

### 5. Czech Republic - République Tchèque



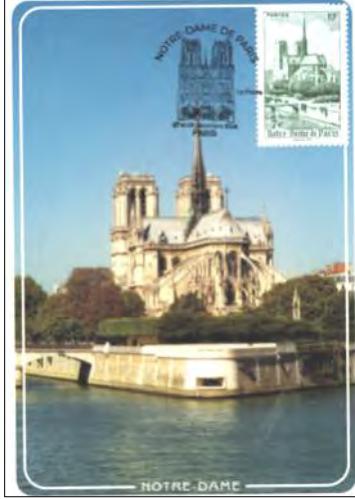
Title/titre: Gastronomy of the state of Bahia  
Postcard/carte-postale : Ed. Museu da gastronomia  
Creator's name/création: Agnaldo de Souza Gabriel  
Cancellation/oblitération : First day-Premier jour-Salvador/ Bahia-25/11/2024

### 2. Brazil - Brésil



Title/titre: 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: 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**

Creator's name/création:  
**Hubert Engel**

Postcard/carte-postale :  
**Commercial**

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



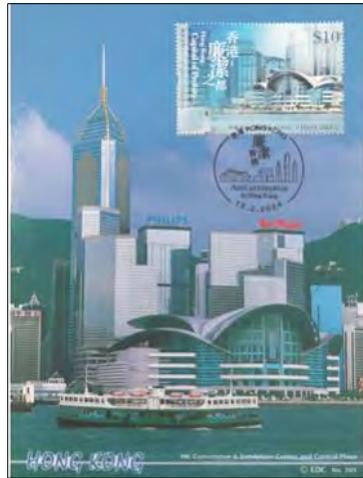
Title/titre: **Water Polo-Sports in the mediterranean**

Creator's name/création:  
**Philatelic Society of Patras**

Postcard/carte-postale : **PSP**

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

## 7. Germany - Allemagne



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- 1er jour- Pictorial postmark available for one day only-Hong-Kong-15/02/2024**

## 8. Greece - Grèce



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**

## 9. Hong-Kong



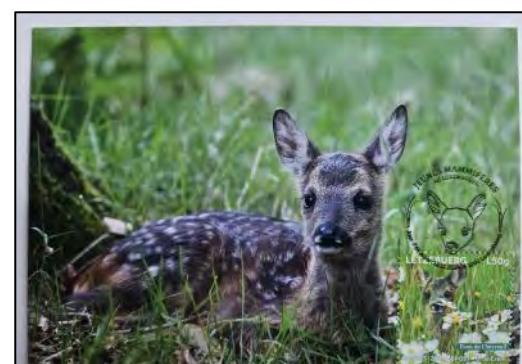
Title/titre: **Ancient italian rail-ways still active**

Creator's name/création:  
**Rosario D'Agata**

Postcard/carte-postale :  
**AIM**

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

## 10. Israël



Title/titre: **Faon du chevreuil**

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

Postcard/carte-postale :  
**Jurgen Borris**

Cancellation/oblitération : **First day-Premier jour- Luxembourg- 12/11/2024**

## 11. Italy - Italie

## 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



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

### 13. Poland - Pologne



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

### 14. Roumania - Roumanie



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

### 15. Russia - Russie



Title/titre:  
Statue of the Count Ansúrez - 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

### 16. Slovenia - Slovénie



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

### 17. Spain - Espagne

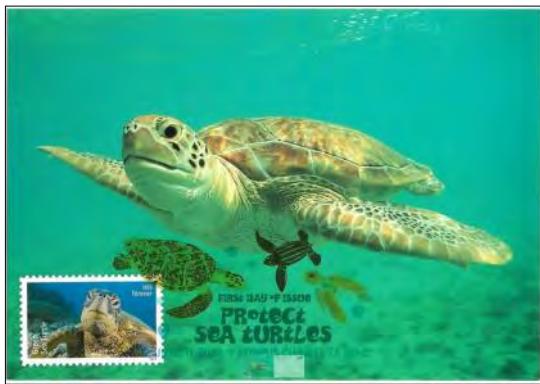


### 18. Switzerland - Suisse



# 2024 BEST MAXIMUM CARD WORLD COMPETITION

## CONCOURS MONDIAL 2024 DE LA MEILLEURE CARTE MAXIMUM



Title/titre:  
Protect Green Sea Turtles

Postcard/carte-postale :  
Graphics Ink Design Studio

Creator's name/création:  
James Tang

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



Title/titre: Hanoi- The flowers of  
4 seasons

Postcard/carte-postale :  
Art Publishing house

Creator's name/création:  
Pham Ngoc Son

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

## 19. United States of America - USA

## 20. Vietnam

## BiH – Mostar

On November 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 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»

## 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNESCO

On the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 accompanied by a Commemorative Postmark.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of OFI F.C



The special issue on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 was released to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> 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.

# ROMANIA

## FISH SPECIES

Romfilatelia and Poșta Română introduce into circulation on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 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-peach** (*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 AMPÈRE

On 28<sup>th</sup> 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-Lexicon', 6<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century objects dedicated to tea preparation.



The samovar from **19<sup>th</sup> century**, illustrated on the postage stamp of **Lei 3**, is made of gilded bronze, with the classic urn shape. The samovar from **England – 19<sup>th</sup> 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 – 20<sup>th</sup> century**, depicted on the postage stamp of **Lei 7**, produced in 1910 by Neues Münchener 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 – 19<sup>th</sup> 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 – 19<sup>th</sup> 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 – 19<sup>th</sup> century**, presented of **Lei 25**, is made in the 19<sup>th</sup> century during the Regency period, crafted from brass. The samovar from **Morocco – 20<sup>th</sup> century** is depicted on the perforated souvenir sheet having the postage stamp with the face value of **Lei 30**, made in the 20<sup>th</sup> century from nickel-plated brass.

## LEGENDARY AVIATORS : CONSTANTIN CANTACUZINO

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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.

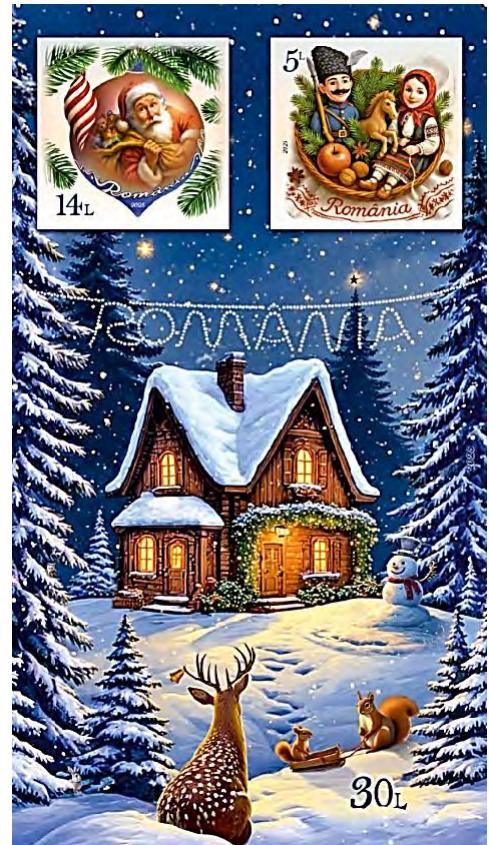


## CHRISTMAS 2025

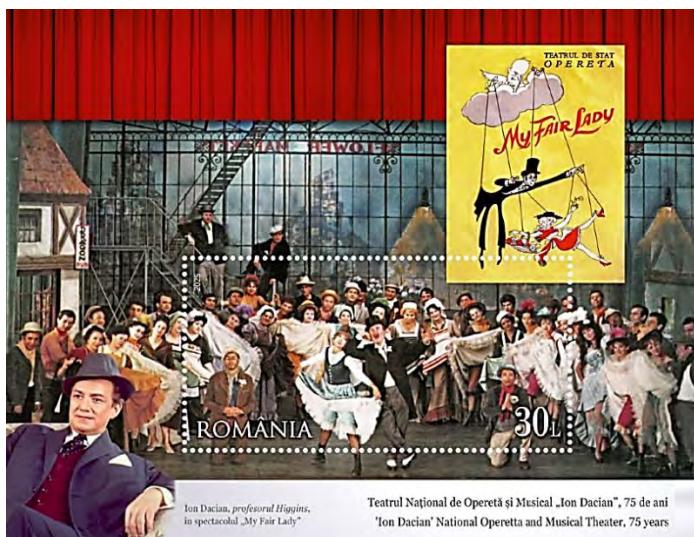
For the first time in Romania, our stamps carry the scent of fir trees!

On November 21<sup>st</sup> 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



Teatrul Național de Operetă și Musical „Ion Dacian”, 75 de ani  
‘Ion Dacian’ National Operetta and Musical Theater, 75 years

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 !**



**For Suggestions, Comments and Inquiries, kindly contact the National Delegates**

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