



Autumn Restart

Summertime has reached its end and our usual philatelic activities are restarting.

This Newsletter two weeks ago seemed to be page-wise the “slimmest” of all previously issued ones but over the last two weeks the number of articles that reached us was unexpected and amazing both regarding their variety as well as their quality.

After a short summer break, exhibitions are back.

Egyphila is a national exhibition with international participation of 11 countries, with Croatia and Greece being two of them. **ITALIA 2026** is a FEPA Philatelic Literature with considerable exhibit participation, including the Balkanfila Newsletter and the Balkanfila Yearbook. **Srbijafila XIV** –after a 15-year break– is back for a national competitive exhibition that includes exhibits from the former Yugoslavia region. The report on the Slovenian “**Okno – Window**” Biennial Exhibition of Narrow Theme Exhibits with International Participation gives details on how it has started and have grown to a considerable biannual philatelic exhibition today. On the other hand **Apatin** is a fine example of an online philatelic exhibition that introduces exhibitors to a new, digital era.

**The newly-elected Philatelic Federation Board just announced
the organization of Balkanfila XXII that would take place from 13–16 May, 2027 in Bucharest.**

In this issue, there are eight articles offering a variety of topics ranging from Traditional to Open Philately as well as outdoor philatelically-inspired displays.

The article on **Greece’s Large Hermes Heads** is much more than commenting on an inaccurate claim of a “newly-found outstanding printing variety”. This article’s real aim is to point out that superficial knowledge and limited experience “seasoned” with expert “AI-based research” can be misleading. An article that deals with a 1936 stamp issue with a mission that was to commemorate a **Slavonic Congress in Sofia**, sheds light on the dynamics of philately as a means of information and promotion. A detailed account of the making of the **Philatelic Section of the Museum of Romanian Records** describes a remarkable project that has ended as an extraordinary philatelic achievement. Next is the story of the **Greek Community in Port Said** –related to the construction of the Suez Canal– is presented through philatelic and non-philatelic material. The **past of Ayvalik** as documented by engravings and philatelic material provides the reader with intriguing details of the city’s history since antiquity. An article that **combines a tutor of Royals**, a 19th c. treatise on meteorites, a Museum lecture as well as cosmonauts and their space food is an intriguing story that it could easily be developed into an Open Philately exhibit. The case of two **outdoor philatelic displays** could give some ideas on how philately could reach a broader audience, something that it also is the core aim of FEPA’s “Philately Forward” competition.

Finally, there is a report on a new publication of the **Serbian Postal Stationery** and the new issues section.

EGYPHILA 2026

International Philatelic Exhibition



DATES

Thursday 17 – Saturday 19 September 2026

VENUE

Egypt Digital Creativity Center, Giza (next to Cairo University)



CLASSES ACCEPTED : All FIP classes

PATRONAGE : FEPA

ENTRY FEES

Standard Rates for Single frame US\$50
for 5 or 8 frame entry US\$40 per frame

For Members of the Philatelic Society of Egypt there is 50% discount :
Single frame : US\$25, 5 or 8 frame entry : US\$20 per frame

The 10-member ORGANIZING COMMITTEE is headed by **Hany Salam**
whilst EGYPHILA 2026 General Commissioner is Dr. Eng. Mohamed Omar

International Participation consists of the following 11 countries :

Algeria (17 Frames)
Croatia (8 Frames + 5 Literature)
Greece (45 Frames)
Jordan (8 Frames)
Lebanon (15 Frames)
Libya (20 Frames)
Morocco (8 Frames)
Qatar (28 Frames)
Saudi Arabia (30 Frames)
Sudan (1 Frame)
UK (25 Frames)

JURY

President of the Jury

Dr. Eng. Sherif Samra, FIP – JF

Jury Members

Julije Maras – FIP
Mr. Samir Nabih – National Jury
Mr. Vahe Garo. – National Jury.



NATIONALEXHIBITION · BELGRADE 2026

SRBIJAFILA XVI

Serbia's National Philatelic Exhibition Returns After Almost Fifteen Years

After a break of almost fifteen years, Serbia will once again hold its national philatelic exhibition.



From 7 to 11 October 2026, Belgrade will host SRBIJAFILA XVI, the 16th Serbian National Philatelic Exhibition with International Participation. Organised by the Post of Serbia in cooperation with the Union of Philatelists of Serbia, SRBIJAFILA XVI marks the long-awaited return of Serbia's principal national philatelic event.

The international standing of SRBIJAFILA XVI has been confirmed by FEPA Recognition and FIP Sponsorship. These two international distinctions place the exhibition within the wider framework of organised European and

world philately and reflect the organisers' ambition to stage Serbia's national exhibition according to established international standards.

A special part of SRBIJAFILA XVI will be dedicated to Aleksandar Boričić, one of the most prominent Serbian philatelists and internationally successful exhibitors. His long-standing contribution to Serbian philately, collecting and philatelic research deserves a prominent place at the country's principal national exhibition.

“For many philatelists, the Military Club is a familiar venue: BalkanFILA XIX was successfully held in the same building in 2023.”

SRBIJAFILA XVI will be held at the prestigious Military Club of Serbia (Dom Vojske Srbije), situated in the historic centre of Belgrade. Built between 1929 and 1931 and today protected as a cultural monument, the Military Club is an important part of Belgrade's architectural and cultural heritage. Its galleries and ceremonial halls regularly host major cultural events.

Although SRBIJAFILA XVI is Serbia's national exhibition, its international participation is primarily focused on the philatelic community of the former Yugoslavia. Exhibitors from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia have been invited to join their Serbian colleagues in Belgrade, with national commissioners appointed for the participating countries. Exhibitors from other FEPA and FIP member federations may also participate with exhibits related to the territory and postal history of the former Yugoslavia, in accordance with the exhibition regulations.

The competitive programme covers virtually the full spectrum of modern philately: Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Revenue Philately, Thematic Philately, Maximaphily, Open Philately, Picture Postcards, Youth Philately and Philatelic Literature. Exhibits will be evaluated according to FIP regulations, offering exhibitors the opportunity to present both established collections and new research before an experienced jury.

Beyond the competition itself, SRBIJAFILA XVI will bring together philatelists and collections from Serbia and across the former Yugoslavia, creating an opportunity for professional exchange, presentation of new research and renewed cooperation between philatelic organisations whose traditions have been closely connected for decades.

“After almost fifteen years without a Serbian national philatelic exhibition, its return in October 2026 will provide an important meeting point for philatelists from the former Yugoslavia and guests from the wider international philatelic community.”

With FEPA Recognition, FIP Sponsorship, strong participation from across the former Yugoslavia and one of Belgrade's most distinguished cultural venues, SRBIJAFILA XVI aims to be much more than a national competition.

Vladimir Milić FRPSL

ITALIA 2026



The International Philatelic Literature Exhibition Italia 2026 is a specialised world exhibition, organised by the Federazione fra le Società Filateliche Italiane (Fsfì) under the patronage of the Federation of the European Philatelic Associations (Fepa). ITALIA 2026 will be held from 15–18 October 2026 in Rome, at the Villa Eur Parco dei Pini hotel, where all events will also take place.

The Organising Committee President and General Commissioner is **Bruno Crevato–Selvaggi** RDP, President of the Federation of the Italian Philatelic Societies with Senior Consultant, **Giancarlo Morolli** RDP AOFI and FEPA Consultant **Claudio Manzatti** AOFI.

The 7–person Jury is headed by **Giancarlo Morolli** RDP – President of the Jury and the following Jury Members : **Gerald Heschl**, **Bernard Jimenez** RDP, **Wolfgang Maassen** RDP, **José Ramon Moreno** RDP, **Ari Muhonen** and **Marco Panza**.

Apprentice Juror is **Luca Lavagnino** (Secretary of the Jury).

There are six Competition classes as follows :

1. Monograph 1 (investigative research in the field of philately)
2. Monograph 2 (documentation, education and promotion of philately)
3. Periodical 1 (investigative research in the field of philately)
4. Periodical 2 (documentation, education and promotion of philately)
5. Digital media 1 (investigative research in the field of philately)
6. Digital media 2 (documentation, education and promotion of philately)

The Participation fee for exhibits is 50 Euros and the deadline for applications is until 15 September.

ITALIA 2026 has a full schedule of conferences, meetings, seminars, events, and presentations that include :

On 15 October 2026

10h. is the Opening of Italia 2026 and
from 10 to 18h. FEPA Board (event reserved for FEPA Board members)

On 16 October 2026

10–15 h. PostHorn Books are on display and
from 15 to 18h. will be held the FEPA Seminars

On 17 October 2026

from 10 to 12h. will take place a Joint meeting between Accademia Italiana di Filatelia e di Storia Postale and Académie de Philatélie, France (Room A) and

from 10 to 15.30 h. PostHorn Books will be on display (Room B)

at 12–12.30h. Federico Borromeo, The Borromeo's Philatelic Library (Room B), followed
from 12.30 to 13.30 h. Antoine Clavel, Presentation of Edition d'Or #89, Louis Fanchini "*The Fabrication and Postal Usage of the large Hermes Heads of Greece : 1861–1901*" and Wolfgang Maassen, "*The Fascination of Philatelic History*" by Dieter Michelson giving a Presentation of the sale of Wolfgang Maassen's Archive.

AIEP Annual General Meeting (Room A) is from 14,30 to 15,30h. and

15,30–16h. Giorgio Battioni, "*The Sovereign Military Order of Malta: origins, history, communications*" (Room B).

From 16–18h. will take place : *Post Horn, books presentation* (Room B),

Oral Avci, Mail & Might, Guido Morolli, "*Postal History of Romagne (1859–1860)*" and Federico Borromeo, "*Adhesive wafer seals (1820–1860)*".

At 20h. will be the Palmarès dinner

On 18 October 2026

from 10 to 13h. will be held the FEPA Congress (Room A),
and at the same time a display of PostHorn Books display (Room B)

ITALIA 2026 will be closed at 13.00.

Invitation - Online Philatelic Exhibition with International Participation

APATIN 2026

(*Apatin 6*)



We invite fellow philatelists to participate in the online philatelic exhibition “APATIN 2026” (“APATIN 6”), an online philatelic exhibition with international participation, open to all exhibition classes in philately.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Period	15 December 2026 – 15 January 2027
Website	https://udruzenjefilatelistaaapatin.org.rs

ORGANIZERS	Udruženje Filatelista Apatin Associazione Italiana di Maximafilia (AIM) Federation of Italian Philatelic Societies (FSFI)
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Sponsor	Municipality of Apatin
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Character	Competitive
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Entry Fees	Exhibitors do not participate in the costs of the exhibition
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WHO MAY PARTICIPATE

All exhibition classes in philately may participate and compete. The exhibition is open to all members of SFS, members of the Federation of Italian Philatelic Societies (FSFI), and members of other national philatelic organizations from abroad.

Exhibits (collections) must be written in English.

KEY DEADLINES

Registration	15 October – 15 November 2026
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Submit introductory sheet to: apatinfila@gmail.com

Exhibit Submission	25 October – 25 November 2026
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Send scanned files to: apatinfila@gmail.com

*Transfer method: **WeTransfer***

EXHIBITION DOCUMENTS

All further information and exhibition documents are available on the official website:

<https://udruzenjefilatelistaapatin.org.rs>

*Željko Popović President of the Organizing Committee
Online Philatelic Exhibition “APATIN 2026” (Apatin 6)*

Apatin

Eight Decades of Organized Philately

Philately in Apatin has a tradition longer than a century. The beginnings of collecting postage stamps go back to the beginning of the 20th century, when the first private collections were created. Already during the twenties of the 20th century, the Philatelic Agency operated in Apatin, which supplied collectors with postage stamps, philatelic accessories and professional literature, and published a philatelic bulletin. This type of activity testifies to the developed philatelic activity in Apatin already in the first half of the 20th century.

Organized philately began in 1933, when fourteen Apatin philatelists joined the Society of Novi Sad Philatelists. After the Second World War, on December 24, 1945, the Apatin Philatelist Club was founded, which has been a member of the Union of Serbian Philatelists since January 1, 1949. In the following decades, the club developed its philatelic activity, and in 2011 it continued its work as the „Udruženje Filatelista Apatin“ Apatin, maintaining continuity of work, membership and goals.

The first philatelic exhibition in Apatin (Serbia) was held from September 26 to 29, 1965 as part of the Apatin fisherman's evening event. Apatin fishermen's evenings represent one of the oldest and most visited tourist and gastronomic events in Vojvodina and are traditionally held in the first week of July in Apatin. The central event of the four-day event is the competition in preparing the famous Apatina fish stew. Since the first exhibition held in 1965, philately has been an integral part of this traditional manifestation.



Setting up the exhibition frames ahead of the opening



Visitors touring the halls during the opening

The international activity of the Association began in 2012 with the organization of the first International Philatelic Exhibition “Fishermen's Evenings 2012.” This exhibition was recorded as the first in Serbia where a complete collection of personalized postage stamps of the Republic of Serbia was presented in one exhibit. The author of that unique exhibit was the prominent Serbian philatelist Jovan Ristić “Rico.”

From 2012 until today, the „Udruženje Filatelista Apatin“ Apatin has organized thirteen international philatelic exhibitions. After the eighth international exhibition held in 2019, the organization of the exhibition was temporarily interrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. International exhibitions continued in 2022 with the ninth exhibition in a row. Exhibitors from Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia,

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Republika Srpska, Italy, Portugal, Albania, Romania, Russia, Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Slovakia participated in the Apatina international exhibitions. During all these years, almost all the most important Serbian philatelists exhibited in Apatin, which made this manifestation a significant place in the calendar of philatelic events in Serbia.

This year's 13th International Philatelic Exhibition was held as part of the 62nd Apatina Fisherman's Evening and brought together exhibitors from Serbia, Italy and Slovakia. The exhibition was set up in 27 exhibition showcases, which represent its maximum exhibition capacity, and the exhibits were presented in different competition classes.

The traditional part of the event is the Collectors' Meeting, which gathers collectors from Apatin, Novi Sad, Sombor, Subotica, Belgrade and other cities of Serbia, as well as guests from the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina – Republika Srpska. The meeting contributes to the exchange of experiences, the presentation of new collections and the development of international cooperation among collectors.



The Collectors' Meeting in full swing



Exchanging albums and material among members

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when international travel and the holding of classic philatelic exhibitions were not possible, the Apatin Philatelic Association launched the International Online Philatelic Exhibition in 2021 to enable philatelists to continue exhibiting their exhibits and international exchange of experiences. In this way, it was possible for the exhibitors to continue their international exhibition even in the period when classic exhibitions could not be held due to travel restrictions. The online exhibition has been held every year since then and has become a regular part of the Association's program. Preparations are currently underway for the 6th International Online Philatelic Exhibition APATIN 2026, which will be held according to international exhibition rules in all competition classes. The organizers of the exhibition are the „Udruženje Filatelista Apatin“ Apatin, the Associazione Italiana di Maximafilia (AIM) and the Federation of Italian Philatelic Societies (FSFI), with the patronage of the Municipality of Apatin.

In addition to organizing exhibitions, the Association also carries out significant publishing activities. To date, it has issued 12 personalized postage stamps, 12 commemorative envelopes and 21 maximum cards, thereby contributing to the promotion of Apatin, the preservation of cultural heritage and the development of Serbian philately.



Presenting acknowledgements and certificates to the youngest participants

Today, with a tradition of organized work spanning more than eight decades, continuous organization of international and online exhibitions, developed international cooperation and rich publishing activities, the „Udruženje Filatelista Apatin“ Apatin occupies an important place in Serbian philately.



Socializing over the traditional Apatin fish stew

Željko Popović, Organizer of exhibitions and meetings of collectors, Apatin, Serbia

DvanajstoOkno Kranj 2026

Regional NTE Exhibition with tradition

At the European exhibition AMPHILEX 2002 in Amsterdam, my colleague Mihael I. Fock and I first encountered the then experimental class of one-frame exhibits. On the long journey home, we decided to organize one such exhibition as a presentation of a new exhibition class for narrower topics that do not fit into five frames. In addition, we all agreed that this was the right organisational size of the exhibition for the small -sized Slovenian Association.



Old City Hall Kranj, Gorenjski Museum, place of DvanajstoOkno Kranj

We contacted the regional Gorenjska Museum in Kranj, which immediately accepted the initiative and provided us with exhibition space in autumn 2003. We prepared IREX of the exhibition and sent out invitations to all regional Federations, Societies and individuals with whom we collaborated within the framework of the Alps Adriatic Philately Working Community and the ex-Yugoslavia. The name of the exhibition: One frame we renamed to EnoOkno / One Window, as a Window into a New Story. Thus, the name for one-frame exhibitions and exhibits, One Window, became established in the Slovenian environment. Over time, the temporary class became an integral part of each exhibition, the rules for judging developed and, most logically, merged with the rules of the class to which the individual exhibit belonged. And finally, with the proposal of NTE – Narrow Theme Exhibit – FEPA bridged the too-large gap between one and five frames, to one to three frames.



SedmoOkno Kranj 2015, from right: late Michael Fock, Slovenia, Les Glassman, Israel, Jörg Maier, Germany, Dr. Hadmar Fresacheer, Austria, Mr. Bostjan Petauer, Slovenia

If I go back to the first exhibition, EnoOkno in 2003. It was a success, with the participation of exhibitors from Germany, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Israel and of course Slovenia. Therefore, it was decided that the next exhibitions would be held in two years rhythm, which would allow the exhibitors enough time to understand and process the jury' feedback and also prepare a new exhibit. This was followed by EnoOkno 2005, then 2007, and so on every two years until the outbreak of COVID-19, when we postponed the

exhibition by one year, from odd to even years. In addition, we also made it possible to exhibit it in a digital form, with a projection at the exhibition and online. The name of the exhibition changes every year, with the sequential number of the exhibition – this year's is DvanajstoOkno 2026, which means *the twelfth window* (and the next one will be TrinajstoOkno 2028, i.e. the thirteenth window).



Opening ceremony of DevetoOkno Kranj, 2019



Opening Ceremony DesetoOkno 2021



Jury work at DesetoOkno 2022, Covid time

Where the exhibitors were from – in addition to the countries already listed above, also from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Romania, are regular guests, Algeria, Russia and Belgium. At all twelve exhibitions, including this year's, over 600 exhibits were on display.

We are happy to have helped many exhibitors with their personal development, trained two national jurors from visiting countries, and what is our greatest honor, an exhibitor who exhibited for the first time in his life, which was in 2007 at TretjeOkno in Kranj, received a large gold medal for a second, later exhibit in eight frames in South Korea in 2025!



Palmares table at SedmoOkno 2015

A specialized biennial exhibition of exhibits on narrow themes with international participation, DvanajstoOkno Kranj 2026, will take place from September 3 to 12 in the old Town Hall in Kranj, in cooperation with the Gorenjski Museum. Most of the collections will be exhibited, but all will also be shown on projection in the exhibition hall. The judging team consists of two FIP jurors and one FEPA, which will ensure high-quality feedback for the exhibitors.



Visitors at the exhibition DesetoOkno 2022

This report is not just a retrospective, but also an invitation
and challenge to all potential exhibitors to register
for the 13th Window Kranj 2028,
which will take place in the first week of September 2028.
The invitation will be published in due time in regional philatelic media.

BALKANFILA XXII : BUCHAREST 13–16 MAY 2027



The Romanian Philatelic Federation announced the organization of
BALKANFILA XXII in Bucharest
at the Museum of Romanian Records from May 13th to 16th, 2027.

The exhibition has been granted FEPA Recognition and FIP Sponsorship
and it includes exhibits of all Philatelic Classes, including Youth and Literature.

The participation fee for exhibits is as follows :

One-Frame exhibits	€80
Two-Frame exhibits	€140
Three-Frame exhibits	€180
Exhibits 5–8 Frames	€50 per Frame
Literature Exhibits	€50 per Exhibit

Official BALKANFILA 2027 website : <http://balkanfila.eu/>

Balkanfila XXII General Commissioner is :

Muresan Mircea Cornel

e-mail: mircea.muresan@mdaglobal.ro

NEW BOARD of ROMANIAN PHILATELIC FEDERATION



Federația Filatelică Română

The General Assembly of the Romanian Philatelic Federation was held in Bucharest on **18 July 2026**, during which elections took place for the new Board of the Federation.

Following the elections, the Board of the Romanian Philatelic Federation for the **2026–2030 term** is composed as follows:

President: Arch. Ion Chirescu

Vice-President: Mircea–Cornel Mureșan

Secretary General: Romeo–Radu–Cristian Mincă

Board Members:

George Grigore

Silviu–Dan Roșu

Marius–Vasile Muntean

Gheorghe Vasiliu

All members of the new Board were elected unanimously by the representatives present at the General Assembly.

The Large Hermes Heads :

the vertically laid background of the 2 lepta Paris Print

by Ioannis Peristanoglou

In an article titled “Paper and printing varieties of the early printings of the 2 lepta Large Hermes Heads”, published in No. 739 March–April 2023 issue of “Philotelia” review, Mr. Dimitris Papitsis discussed a variety he claimed to have discovered on a 2 lepta Paris print. The passage of his article I am referring to reads as follows: *“In this article, we will focus on two previously unreported varieties, either in commercial catalogs or philatelic literature, of the 2 lepta denomination: vertically laid background in Paris printings [..]. The existence of vertically-lined background in the 2 lepta denomination has not been previously recorded in philatelic literature (excluding the similar quadrille variety, which is mentioned in Photiadis’ study).*



Detail of vertically-lined background 2 lepta Paris printing

The author first observed this variety in 2021 in an auction lot he won. The first report of this variety was reported at the online philatelic forum “Philotelistes”. Additional copies later appeared and described, such as one in Karamitsos Auction 700 (October 1, 2022). The rarity and commercial value of this variety is difficult to estimate”.

Later on, in page 35 of his book about “The Large Hermes Heads of Greece – Deciphering these magnificent classical stamps”, Mr. Papitsis reasserted that: *“Vertically laid background – They are not mentioned in any study. Copies were recognized as early as 2021 by the author. Others appeared and were described later at auctions and an announcement was published in 2023.* The announcement referred to is his aforementioned article in No. 739 issue of “Philotelia”.

The glorification of the 2lepta Paris print with vertically laid background was climaxed two years later in a letter Mr. Papitsis addressed to the editor of “Philotelia” which was published

in No. 751 March–April 2025 issue of the periodical. Commenting on an article written by Mr. Stavros Andreadis regarding a 5 lepta Paris print with vertically laid background, Mr. Papitsis ruled that: *“It is quite surprising that this 5 lepta Paris–printed variety escaped the eyes of past experienced collectors for so long”*. And so as to make it crystal clear that his dictum extended to the 2 lepta print too, he added a footnote stating: *“Something that is true for the recently published variety of the Paris–printed 2 lepta stamps (Papitsis, *ibid*, pp. 88–89.)”*

To put the record straight, Mr. Papitsis has been all the time carrying coal to Newcastle, as the vertically laid background variety of the 2 lepta Paris print was known to almost every one of the Large Hermes Heads philatelic circle of the early 1970’s, the time I began my travels into the fascinating world of early Hellenic philately. As a matter fact, I had two such stamps in my collection, one being a final Barre proof, and the other a mint copy with full original gum. Both were sold by A. Karamitsos together with my collection of Large Hermes Heads on July 3, 2000, for 42 and 34 Euros respectively (see lots No. 1017 and 1021 in the attached page of No. 114 auction catalogue). Lot No. 1017 was not, by omission, described as with “laid background”, but it is so marked in the page it was mounted on of which I retained a copy. Lot No. 1021 on the other hand, was properly described “laid background”.

ΔΗΜΟΠΡΑΣΙΑ Νο 114 ΤΗΣ 3/06/2000	
PUBLIC AUCTION Νο 114 OF 3 JUN. 2000	
	STARTING PRICE in EURO
LARGE HERMES HEAD	
1001 FC 11.chocolate-deep marron on thin paper (5,5p.) in white (slightly to marron).Plate PROOF (Constantinides study IAKITI1). Superb quality.	60,0 —
1002 FC 11.red-marron on thin paper in white colour (slightly to marron). Plate PROOF (Constantinides study IAKITI3). Superb quality.	60,0 —
1003 FC 11.black-marron with white contour printed on both sides.Plate PROOF (Constantinides study IAKITI9). Superb quality.	60,0 —
1004 FC 51.ESSAY in rose-carmine on very thin paper.	185,0 —
1005 FC 101.red-orange.Plate PROOF (Constantinides 44OK T 3).Very large margins.Superb quality.	200,0 —
1006 FC 201.blue with DOUBLE print.one INVERTED.Plate PROOF (Constantinides 54OK T 10 var.).Large margins.Superb quality.	45,0 —
1007 FC 401.ESSAY in black colour in bl.6 (3x2).Large margins.	440,0 <i>453</i>
1861 PARIS PRINT	
1008 F 11.brown,mng.Final PROOF (Barre).Large margins (VI.1).Supers.	20,0 <i>32</i>
1009 F 11.brown with vertically laid background.Parr of contour in coarse print.Large margins (VI.1)	100,0 <i>100</i>
1010 FC 11.brown in BLOCK OF 4.canc.dott.“40”.Good/large margins.Some paper porous (VI.1).Rare lot.	4.600,0 <i>2330</i>
1011 FC 11.red-brown in BLOCK OF 4.m.Good/large margins (VI.1a-29000000) *	4.600,0 —
1012 FC 11.red-brown with vertically laid background.canc.dott.“57” (=Syr os).Good/large margins (VI.1a).Lux quality.	190,0 <i>190</i>
1013 PC 11.red-brown.canc.dott.“32” (=Sparta).Large margins (VI.1a).Superb quality.	210,0 <i>120</i>
1014 FC 11.chocolate in pair,m.Good/large margins (VI.1b).Excellent quality.	300,0 <i>300</i>
1015 F 11.chocolate with contour around head,mng.Large margins (VI.1b).Superb quality.	100,0 <i>116</i>
1016 FC 11.chocolate,u.Strongly laid background.Large margins (VI.1b+e).Superb quality.	280,0 <i>320</i>
1017 F 21.brown-bistre,mng.Final PROOF (Barre).Very large margins (VI.2).Superb quality.	12,0 <i>42</i>
1018 F 21.brown-bistre in BLOCK OF 60,u/m (VI.2=well over 1.000.000 dr.).Superb quality.	1.550,0 —
1019 F 21.brown-bistre in bl.10 (5x2),u/m.Large margins (VI.2).Superb quality.	340,0 —
1020 F 21.bistre-brown in bl.4.Origin.gum.Good/large margins (VI.2)	95,0 —
1021 F 21.brown-bistre with laid background,m.Large margins (VI.2).Superb quality.	25,0 <i>34</i>
1022 FC 21.bistre in bl.10 (5x2) on THIN paper,u.Small tear in one stamp. Two very large & two narrow margins (VI.2a).Extremely rare multiple o	1.220,0 —
1023 F 21.bistre in bl.4.Good/large margins.Sig.A.DIKSA (VI.2a)	110,0 —
1024 F 21.bistre,m.Large/very large margins (VI.2a).Superb quality.	20,0 <i>32</i>
1025 F 21.olive-bistre,m.Large margins (VI.7b).Lux quality.	20,0 <i>32</i>
1026 F 21.bistre-brown in bl.4,u/m.Large/very large margins (VI.2).Superb quality.	120,0 —
1027 FC 1862 EX. fr.5x21.Paris print (pair+bd.3)+201.blue Provision (fine print).canc.dott.“67” & EYPOE (67)+25 MOEN 62.trans.ARHNAI,arr.SA	



One last word to say is that I do not propose to respond on behalf of “philatelic giants” who are no longer with us for the derogatory remarks Mr. Papitsis reserved for them. This is a matter for philatelic societies to consider, should they wish to defend the philatelic reputation of their late fellow members.

Sofia – the capital of Slavic science

IV Congress of Slavic Geographers and Ethnographers of 1936 :
the largest scientific event in Bulgaria up to that point

by **Bozhidar TSVETANOV**

The scientific world looks to Bulgaria

In the second half of August 1936, between the 16th and 26th, Sofia became the arena of a significant international event – the Fourth Congress of Slavic Geographers and Ethnographers. Bulgaria not only hosted this forum, but actively sought to turn it into a symbol of Slavic scientific unity and a demonstration of its cultural maturity.

The event was held under the high patronage of Tsar Boris III, and the interest was impressive – over 320 scientists from ten Slavic countries gathered in Sofia to exchange knowledge, ideas and discoveries. This made it the largest international scientific event organized in Bulgaria up to that point after the Liberation.

Leaders with a vision: Prof. Arnaudov and Prof. Batakliiev

The organization of the congress is entrusted to a specially formed committee, headed by the rector of Sofia University, Prof. Mihail Arnaudov. However, the main driving force is Prof. Ivan Batakliiev – head of the Geographical Institute at the university. With his passion for science and international contacts, he breathes life into the ambitious idea, turning it into reality.

For his contribution to the holding of the congress, Prof. Batakliiev was awarded the high state award – the Order of St. Alexander, which emphasizes the recognition of his dedication and scientific activity.

Non-profit postage stamps – a precedent with a non-profit purpose

One of the most interesting initiatives related to the congress is the proposal of the Organizing Committee of the Ministry of Finance – to issue commemorative postage stamps dedicated to the event. What makes the proposal unique is the fact that the congress organizers explicitly refuse to receive any revenue from their sale – something unheard of in the 1930s, when such ideas were implemented with the idea that a portion of the sales of such stamps would benefit the respective importers.

The idea here is for the stamps to serve to promote Bulgaria to foreign delegates and to symbolically mark the significance of the event.

Three faces of Bulgaria on three stamps

The committee proposes that the stamps be three in number – with denominations of 1, 2 and 7 leva – and each of them should present a characteristic Bulgarian image:

- The meteorological station on Mount Musala – the highest point in the Balkans, with a facility unique to Southern Europe.
- Bulgarian agriculture – with illustrations of emblematic crops such as grapes, tobacco and roses.
- A bird's eye view of Nessebar – showing both the antiquity and the maritime beauty of the country.

The author of the projects is the then established artist Prof. Vasil Zahariev, also known for his work on the "Vladislav Varnenchik" series from 1935.



Official approval and the seal of history

On June 24, 1936, with protocol No. 103, the Council of Ministers adopted a Regulation–Law approving the issuance of commemorative stamps. They were printed at the State Printing House by intaglio printing, in the following editions:

- 100,000 pieces of 1 lev (violet)
- 100,000 pieces of 2 lev (light blue)
- 200,000 pieces of 7 lev (dark blue)

The stamps were put into circulation on August 13, 1936 – just three days before the opening of the congress. Their distribution was strictly limited – only in selected branches of the Bulgarian National Bank in large cities. Due to the limited quantities, additional applications are not allowed after the circulation is exhausted.

A historical legacy with a lasting imprint

The 4th Congress of Slavic Geographers and Ethnographers is not just a scientific event – it is a landmark manifestation of Bulgaria's efforts to establish itself in the international scientific and cultural landscape. The combination of scientific precision, diplomatic culture and national self-confidence turns the forum into a historical moment of the first magnitude.

And today, almost a century later, the commemorative stamps, created without self-interest and with a sense of mission, remind us of a Bulgaria that confidently stood on the map of European science – with an eye to the future and respect for the Slavic cultural community.

BALKANFILA NEWLETTER and BALKANFILA YEARBOOK

take part as competitive exhibits

in International Philatelic Literature Exhibiton "ITALIA 2026"

Philatelic Section of the Museum of Romanian Records

Francisc Ambrus

I have promised for a long time that I would dedicate an article to this fabulous section, unique in the world, which is the most important collection out of the museum's 100 collections. The idea was born exactly 16 years ago, when Mr. Ion Chirescu, the owner and sponsor of the museum, came to the Bucharest Philatelic Club and asked how he could exhibit the collection inherited from his parents, in a personal philatelic museum. He looked, measured philatelic frames and started planning the exhibition of the collection. A collection that cannot be called modest, Romania from 1900 to the present, unused postage stamps, unique and in blocks, sheets, FDCs, which had to be arranged chronologically and exhibited. He asked me if I wanted to be part of this project and I agreed.

As we started planning, we asked ourselves what we wanted to present, in what form and in what space. And so a plan began to take shape. Together we realized that the ambitious project needed to be supported by much, much additional philatelic material. And we began a campaign of acquisitions, from private collections, auctions, donations, books and information materials, absolutely everything that was necessary for this grandiose project. To be able to collect and then present the entire philatelic history of Romania was a daring undertaking but after 12 years of work it became a reality. The space allocated to the philatelic sections was insufficient for what we had to present, and we proceeded to build atypical frames compared to the standard of 16 A4, frames with 30 A4. The future has shown us that it was the optimal solution, the material purchased or in the process of being purchased being enormous. Also, one person could not complete this project in a lifetime and gradually the team grew to 7 people. Three with solid knowledge in philately and the rest beginners but with the will to do it.

Thanks to the entire effort, both financial and lucrative, the philatelic section was ready by the launch in May 2018. Organized by sections and participation classes according to exhibition standards, the 357 frames presented to the public, beginner and specialist philatelists, something that no specialized catalog will succeed in. From philatelic rarities, errors, varieties, essays and proofs, models, special circulations, the museum managed to present to the public something that even in the most beautiful dreams could not be achieved.

The opening was attended by illustrious philatelists, renowned auction houses, philatelic experts and of course many philatelists from the country and abroad. The event lasted two days, I was only present on the first day. The next day I had to leave for Prague 2018 where I was the national commissioner, traveling with my own car to transport our exhibits.



Fritz Heimbuchler, prestigious researcher of classic Romanian shows



Karl Louis (Corinphila Auction House) together with the owner of the collections Arch. Ion Chirescu



Some of the participants at the museum opening.

TRADITIONAL PHILATELY

- 004-016 Classic Stamps (1858-1872)
- 017-030 Postclassic Stamps (1872-1903)
- 051-052 Local Post, Cluj-Oradea
- 079-084 Service Stamps
- 086-091 Overprints, Tete-beche, Blocks of Four
- 092-093 Forgeries
- 094-097 Errors and Varieties
- 098-100 Romanian Exile
- 104 Unadapted Essays

POSTAL HISTORY

- 002-003 Beginning of the Post
- 031-036 Navigation
- 037-043 Foreign Posts, Quarantines, Romanian Post Abroad.
- 044-050 Military Post, Censored Mail WW1-WW2, Red Cross
- 053-054 Unusual Items
- 055-066 Classic and Postclassic Postmarks
- 067-071 Railway Postmarks
- 072-078 Aviation
- 085 Outgoing and Incoming Mail
- 108-109 Romanians in Foreign Philately, Joint Philatelic Issues
- 299-301 Letterheads
- 302-303 Booklets

AEROPHYLATELY

- 101-103 Air Flights Postmarks
- 105 Air Flights Postmarks
- 115-116 Aeromaximaphily
- 117-122 Aerophilatelic Postmarks
- 357 Balkan Flight

ROMANIAN PHILATELY

- 123-131 1903-1947 Royalty
- 132-175 1948-1989 Communism
- 176-263 1990-2018 Contemporary Period

STATIONERY

- 264-274 Miscellaneous
- 275-298 Postcards (Chronological)
- 306-348 Covers (Chronological)

OPEN PHILATELY

- 349 1906 Exhibition
- 353 Royal House Mail
- 354-355 Bull's Head Symbol
- 356 Stamp on Stamp

MAXIMAPHILY

- 106-107 Bucharest Views
- 110-114 Personalities
- 350-352 Romanian Royalty

REVENUES

- 001 1856 Princely Stamps

F.I.P. EXIBITIONS



The owner of the collections Arch. Ion Chirescu with his wife Simona Chirescu give explanations to visitors



Dr. Mircea Dragoteanu discusses with Fritz Heibuchler and Iulian Cherata, the new expert on classic Romanian stamps



International visitors



Fritz Heimbuchler explaining to me some aspects



International visitors



Part of the team that carried out the project



Part of the team that carried out the project



Part of the team that carried out the project

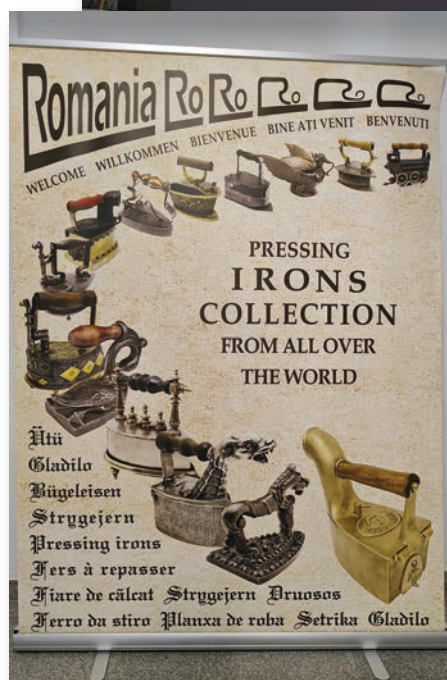
Given the great success enjoyed by this section of the museum and the opportunity to expand the exhibition space along with a reconfiguration of the philatelic section, the owner of the collections began an extremely arduous, daring and expensive campaign to rethink and rebuild the entire section.

A titanic work. I don't think there has ever been a motivation for collectors to do philately on an industrial scale. For generations, philatelic collectors have worked alone or at most with a family member. Coordinating an entire collective was a daring act, especially since at the same time they were also making acquisitions, managing them, documenting them and putting them into practice on frames.

However, the entire image of the new museum, an entire floor of the building, in three large halls on an area of 2000 sqm, was ready to receive visitors from the world exhibition EFIR 2024. 905 frames and 113 showcases organized by types of collections, delighted visitors. This time, each type of collecting was taken to the absolute by presenting pieces from all phases of printing, world rarities, unique items brought from all over the world, extremely special and rare circulations but above all the emphasis was placed on the educational role and specialized studies were presented as well as forgeries from various issues.



Welcome



Second floor - philately

Hall A : Traditional Philately Romania 1858 - to day, 340 frames + dark camera with invited Bull Head collection 'CARPATIA'

Hall B : Postal History, OPEN, Stationery, Maximaphily, Pictures Postcards, various collections, 440 frames

Hall C : Service stamps (back of the book) and Revenues 125 frames + F.I.P. Exhibitions and Congresses 112 showcases

PLAN ETAJ 2



Hall A - Traditional Philately

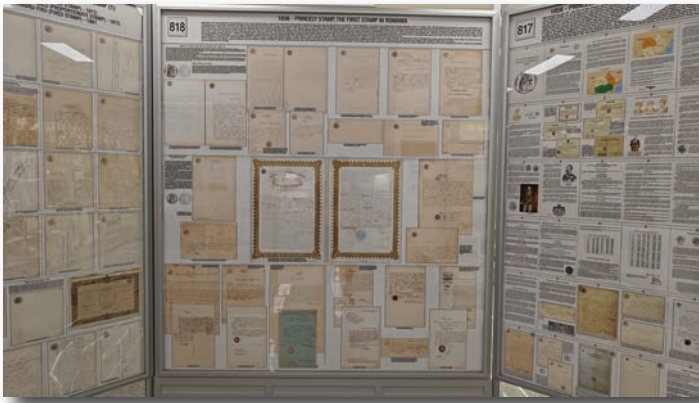




Hall B - OPEN, Postal History, Stationery, Maximaphily, Pictures Postcards, ...



Hall C - Service Stamps, Revenues F.I.P. Exhibitions and Congresses



This ambitious project did not stop at the development and completion of the section. The museum hosts 99 other collections with tens of thousands of objects that would make any collector's heart leap. I will not go into details, inviting you to go and visit. You will only regret the short time of a few hours that you may allocate to yourself. To see everything carefully and relaxed, you will need weeks.

Let us return to the activities of the philately section. Since 2016, the museum has hosted several national and international philatelic exhibitions, generously providing the space and logistics for these events. It was also the welcoming host of the three-day session of the FIP Jury Academy before the opening of the world philatelic exhibition EFIRO 2024.

The museum has a presentation hall with a capacity of 220 seats, where performances, congresses, seminars and scientific activities have been held throughout these years.

The museum's philatelic collections do not stop here, they are presented in specialized exhibits, obtaining countless gold and large gold medals, National Grand Prix and candidates for the International Grand Prix, enormously raising the prestige of Romanian philately starting with 2018.

Among the museum's future projects are the continuation of its presentation at world philatelic exhibitions, the development of books and scientific studies with the help of the enormous treasure it holds, and possibly, if there are also amateurs, the establishment of a Romanian philatelic academy.



AEROMFILA 2016

Exhibition host Arch. Ion Chirescu with Romanian astronaut Dumitru Prunariu



Vizitors



Jury work



Jury work

EFIRO 2019

International Jury Team



Jury work



AEROMFILA 2020
during the coronavirus
pandemic



International vizitors

*Aldo Samamé y Samamé, FIP Vice-President
visiting the FIP Exhibitions and Congresses
collection*



*The President of the Czech Philatelists' Union, Mr. Jiri Kraus visiting
the collection with his team*



*Past FIP President, Bernard Beston
visiting the collections - 2019*



*Yigal Nathaniel, FIP Vice-President talking
with Mr. Alexandru Dan Bartoc*



*Participants at the FIP Jury Academy
visiting the philatelic museum*



Conducting study sessions for the FIP Jury Academy

Conducting study sessions for the FIP Jury Academy



The museum owner, Arch. Ion Chirescu, talks with the participants of the FIP Jury Academy



Visiting the Black Camera



The team of 16 student judges, 3 lecturers and the missing photographer (me)

In the end, I am glad that I participated in this unique and grandiose project and I invite you to come and visit the philatelic collection and of course the other 99 collections. I guarantee that you will only regret the short time you have allocated. But, the gates are open to you and you can come anytime.



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



The Greeks of Port Said

From the Canal to the Greek Community

by Yiannis Dimitriadis

A historical journey through community records, the Greek Press, the naval presence, and the postal history of the City.

At the northern end of the Suez Canal, where the Mediterranean meets one of the world's most important sea routes, Port Said was born. The city was founded in 1859, when work on the Canal began, and was named after **Said Pasha**, the Viceroy of Egypt. Its geographical position quickly made it a transit point for sailors, workers, merchants, soldiers, and travellers from every continent. With the establishment of Port Fuad on the eastern bank in 1926, as an Egyptian district and an integral extension of Port Said, a single urban complex took shape across two continents: Africa and Asia. In this cosmopolitan city, the Greeks were not merely one more foreign community. They took active part in its construction, its economic development, and the creation of its institutions.



Before the rise of Muhammad Ali in 1805, Egypt was an Ottoman province subject to the Sublime Porte. The Muhammad Ali dynasty subsequently established a distinct Egyptian administration, with considerable de facto autonomy but under the nominal suzerainty of the Sultan. Port Said was founded within this political framework, during the rule of Said Pasha, and from 1882 it came under British occupation together with the rest of Egypt. France exercised strong economic, technical, and cultural influence through the Suez Canal Company, but was never a formal administrative authority in the city.

From the Canal Works to Permanent Settlement

Thousands of migrants from the Kingdom of Greece and the wider Aegean region arrived during the construction of the Canal, between 1859 and 1869. Particularly numerous among them were people from the Dodecanese islands, above all the Kasiots, together with Karpathians, Kastellorizians, and Symians. Others came from Cephalonia, Kythera, Epirus, the Peloponnese, and the coast of Asia Minor. They worked as labourers and craftsmen, foremen, engineers, sailors, and, later, pilots. After the inauguration of the Canal on 17 November 1869, many remained and turned to port services, ship provisioning, commerce, retail businesses, hotels, and the liberal professions.

Their contribution was acknowledged by Ferdinand de Lesseps. In 1866, through the Greek Government, he granted a plot of approximately 6,000 royal cubits for the construction of a church, schools, and residences for the priests. The final deed of donation was not signed until 1888, after lengthy negotiations with the Egyptian authorities. The plot became the nucleus around which the Greek community was organised.

The earliest form of community organisation remains unclear, since not all the early minutes have survived. The decisive step came with the *Royal Decree of 18 April 1889*, published in Government Gazette No. 98 the following day. The decree approved the statutes of the 'Greek Community in Port Said' and granted it legal personality. It provided for a twelve-member governing board and defined its principal purposes as maintaining schools, founding and maintaining a church, assisting the poor, and caring for its members. It was therefore not merely an ethnic association, but a complete mechanism for education, worship, and social welfare.

A Working and Commercial Community

The numerical strength of the Greeks was often exaggerated in later accounts. The Egyptian census of 1907 recorded 4,606 Greek subjects in Port Said. Together with the 1,078 in Ismailia and the 1,059 in Suez, the Greeks of the Canal cities numbered 6,743, more than one tenth of the 62,973 Greek subjects in Egypt as a whole. The actual number of people of Greek origin or Greek cultural identity may have been higher, because the censuses were based primarily on nationality. The community did not consist solely of prosperous merchants. Most belonged to the middle and lower social strata: labourers, employees, craftsmen, small shopkeepers, and sailors. Alongside them emerged an active class of merchants, agents, ship chandlers, and professionals who connected the port with Alexandria, Piraeus, the Aegean islands, the Mediterranean, and the routes to India and the Far East. Port Said thus became not only a place of work, but also a link in a Greek maritime network.



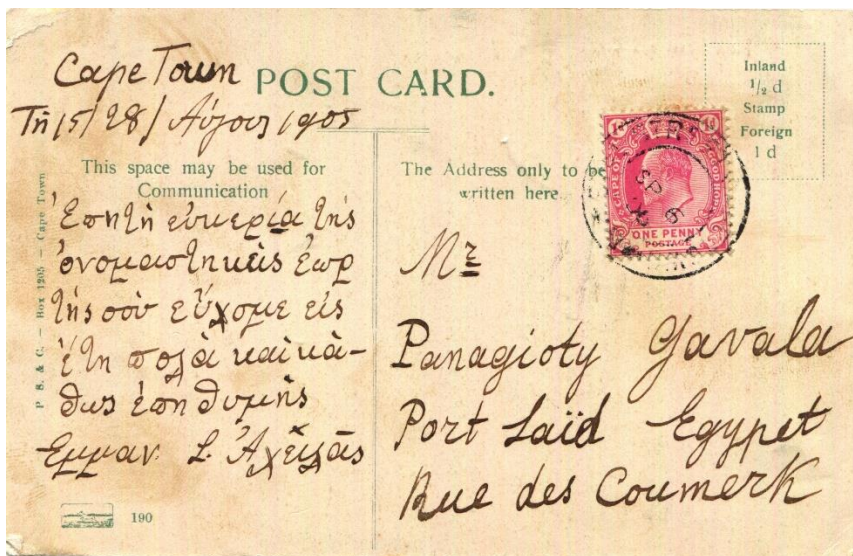
Letterhead of A. Mazarakis, Grand Dépôt de Meubles, Port Said, documenting a Greek-owned furniture business operating in the cosmopolitan canal city. The French commercial heading reflects the language commonly used in international trade, while the Greek proprietor's name provides direct evidence of Greek entrepreneurial activity and participation in Port Said's commercial development.

The strong Kasiot presence left a distinctive mark. The couplet, *'Long may de Lesseps live, yet I would have him tried, for he settled the desert and left Kasos desolate,'* captures both the economic salvation and the human cost of migration. Ties with the island were maintained through family chains, correspondence, associations, and the community press.

The Italian occupation of the Dodecanese from 1912 and the Asia Minor catastrophe of 1922 generated new flows of migrants and refugees towards Egypt. Not all the newcomers settled in Port Said, but the family and professional networks already in place facilitated the absorption of many of them. Across Egypt, the number of Greek subjects peaked in the late 1920s, when it approached 77,000. Port Said served simultaneously as a place of permanent settlement, a temporary stopping point, and a gateway to other destinations.

The Phoenix and the Birth of Trade Unionism in the Canal Zone

The Greek labour presence acquired an organised form in 1908, when the 'Union of Greek Workers' was founded in Port Said under the name 'Greek Brotherhood The Phoenix'. According to the testimony of Ioannis N. Leropoulos, the organisation's substantive purpose was to defend the interests of the Suez Canal Company workers. Because the Company was hostile towards trade unions, however, its statutes presented its purpose as charitable. The Phoenix was recognised by the Greek and Egyptian governments and established branches in Ismailia and Suez.



Picture postcard from Cape Town to Panagiotis Gavallas, Rue du Commerce, Port Said, dated 15/28 August 1905. Franked with a Cape of Good Hope 1d King Edward VII stamp, paying the foreign postcard rate. The message is written entirely in Greek, providing direct evidence of the Greek community's presence in Port Said and its personal and commercial connections across the Mediterranean and beyond.

The high cost of living during the First World War, combined with stagnant wages, intensified labour discontent. In 1918, the Phoenix convened a general assembly at the schools of the Greek Community of Port Said and undertook the coordination of a general workers' mobilisation. Although it was an exclusively Greek association, it admitted representatives and workers of other nationalities – Italians, Austrians, Spaniards, Maltese, and Egyptians – and the ethnic brotherhood gradually evolved into a multinational labour nucleus. The petitions to the Company gathered approximately 1,200 signatures in Port Said and 1,800 in Suez. The demands included publication of the labour regulations, an eight-hour rather than a sixteen-hour working day, double pay for overtime, night work, and holidays, as well as pensions and workers' housing. These developments led to the great strike of 1919 and subsequently to the formation of the International Workers' Union of the Isthmus of Suez.

The Phoenix was not the first trade union in Egypt as a whole: the earliest organisations had already appeared among tobacco workers in 1899–1900, likewise with significant Greek participation. It was, however, the pioneering and most enduring trade–union organization in the Canal Zone and the principal nucleus around which workers of different nationalities united. In this more precise sense, the Greek initiative of 1908 represents one of the beginnings of organised trade unionism in the Canal Zone and an important chapter in the broader history of the Egyptian labour movement.

Church, Schools, and the Greek Press

The foundation stone of the Church of the Transfiguration of the Saviour was laid on 3/15 April 1888 in the presence of Sophronios, Patriarch of Alexandria. A shortage of funds delayed its completion, but the Community, under its Kytherian president Georgios Koronis and with the support of many members and benefactors, eventually succeeded in completing the project. The official inauguration took place on 1/14 November 1903, officiated by Patriarch Photios, as part of three days of celebrations. The published programme and Koronis's address reveal the importance attached to the church: it was at once a religious center, a symbol of cohesion, and a declaration of permanent presence in the city.



General View of Port Said with the Greek Church on the left

The Boys' School, the Girls' School, and the Kindergarten were developed within the same community precinct. For the 1903–1904 school year, the records mention 250 boys at the Boys' School, 208 girls at the Girls' School, and approximately 100 children at the Kindergarten. A new Girls' School was completed in 1911, while the educational facilities were expanded and inaugurated anew in 1923. Education ensured linguistic and cultural continuity, but also prepared the children for professional life in a multilingual city.



Greece to Egypt – 1925

International letter from Greece to **Demetrios Louris**, Port Said, Egypt. The 4-drachma franking comprises five 40-lepta and two 1-drachma definitives, paying the UPU foreign-letter rate. The stamps are tied by Greek departure cancellations; the reverse bears a clear bilingual **PORT-SAID C / 15 JUL 25** arrival datestamp.

An attractive example of inter-Mediterranean postal communication between Greece and Egypt.

The Greek Press was evidence of the community's intellectual life. The sources mention *Syndesmos* (The Association), *Foni tou Laou* (Voice of the People), *Kiryx* (The Herald), *Proodos* (Progress), *Nea Icho* (New Echo), and, from 1922, *Foni tis Kasou* (Voice of Kasos). The newspapers carried community news, political debate, shipping notices, and commercial advertisements, linking the community's everyday life with Greece and the islands. At the same time, the Zangaki brothers of Greek origin, probably Georgios and Konstantinos, operated a photographic studio in Port Said. Their images of the Canal, the monuments, and everyday Egyptian life circulated widely among travellers and contributed to the international visual memory of Egypt.

Wars, the Greek Navy, and Decline

The city's strategic position repeatedly placed it at the centre of warfare. During the First World War, Port Said was an important Allied port and hospital centre. During the Second World War, Egypt became a base for the Free Greek forces. On 23 February 1943, the armoured cruiser «Georgios Averof» was at Port Said as the flagship of the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Hellenic Navy, Rear Admiral Alexandros Sakellariou. The photograph of the ship in the harbour and the 20 March 1944 issue of *Foni tis Kasou*, with its references to the Kasiots' contribution to the Hellenic Navy, document the community's connection with the Greek war effort.

The community's contraction was not caused by a single event. The abolition of the Capitulations in 1937 removed the old privileges enjoyed by foreigners, while the Egyptianisation of labour and the economy gradually altered conditions. The nationalisation of the Suez Canal Company in 1956, the Anglo-French invasion, and the destruction in Port Said accelerated the departures. The socialist laws and nationalizations of the early 1960s intensified the exodus from Egypt as a whole. After the 1967 war, the closure of the Canal and the evacuation of the Canal Zone made the preservation of the community still more difficult. The Community dwindled to only a few members, yet the church, the school buildings, the cemetery, the newspapers, and its archives continue to bear witness to its former prosperity.



Hotel New Morandi, Port Said – 1966

Commercial cover on bilingual Arabic–English–Greek stationery of the **Hotel New Morandi**, managed by Jean Mavrikos, reflecting the Greek commercial presence in Port Said. Posted locally on **14 February 1966**, it bears a 40-millième franking formed by a strip of four 10m UAR–Iraq Union Agreement commemoratives, tied by Port Said datestamps. An attractive combination of postal and social history.

History Through Postal Documents

A philatelic presentation of the Greek community requires one fundamental distinction: no Greek post office ever operated in Port Said. The Greek consular post office in Egypt was located in Alexandria and closed at the end of 1881. The correspondence of the Greeks of Port Said was therefore carried mainly through the Egyptian postal service and, during certain periods, through the foreign post offices in the city. The French post office occupies a special place: from 1899 it used stamps inscribed 'PORT-SAID' and remained in operation until 1931.

A historical-philatelic collection can highlight letters to and from Greece, commercial covers from Greek firms, correspondence of the Community, the Consulate, the church, and the schools, as well as printed matter issued by the Greek newspapers. Private handstamps of merchants and agents are particularly valuable because they link a postal item to a specific person, occupation, and street in the city. Arrival and transit cancellations, 'Paquebot' markings, travelling sea post offices, and letters posted from ships reveal Port Said's role as a hub connecting the Mediterranean, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.

Wartime correspondence adds another dimension: military and naval markings, censored letters, mail from Greek crews, and documents from the two world wars or the 1956 crisis. The philatelic narrative should not, therefore, be confined to describing stamps and cancellations. Each cover can serve as a miniature biography of a migrant and, at the same time, as evidence of the networks that connected Port Said with Kasos, Piraeus, Alexandria, and the wider world. Through these humble objects survives the history of a community that was born with the Canal and transformed a desert construction site into a Greek centre in the eastern Mediterranean.

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Ferdinand de Lesseps Monument, Port Said

The statue of Ferdinand de Lesseps, erected in 1899 on the western breakwater at the Mediterranean entrance to the Suez Canal. Facing the approaching ships, the monument became one of Port Said's principal landmarks and symbolised the city's inseparable connection with the Canal. The statue was removed following the 1956 Suez Crisis.

AYVALIK DURING THE OTTOMAN PERIOD

by Serdar Yazgan

The city of Ayvalık is located on the coastline of the **Eolis** region between the Mysia in the north, Lydia and Ionia in the south, as it was then called on the Aegean coast of Anatolia. Greek, Ion, Lydia in the 6th century BC and after 192, there were Roman and Byzantine ages. There are different opinions about the establishment of Ayvalık. According to one view, at the beginning of the 16th century, the people in the surrounding islands escaped from the oppression and attacks of the pirates and settled first in Kabakum and then in Küçükköy and Ayvalık. According to another view, the town was founded by the Turks and they continued their livelihoods with olives. Another view, **Kydonia** which means wild quince or “the place of quince [= *Ayva* in Turkish] trees”, that is **Ayvalık**, is the most powerful view that comes from. There is also the opinion that Ayvalık is named after the village of Mytilene's **Kydonia** or from the Kidonies Region of Crete. It is also stated that Ayvalık is the result of the change of the name of Eolis region over time. According to a different view, Ayvalık is named after **ayvada**, which is a kind of sea mussel.



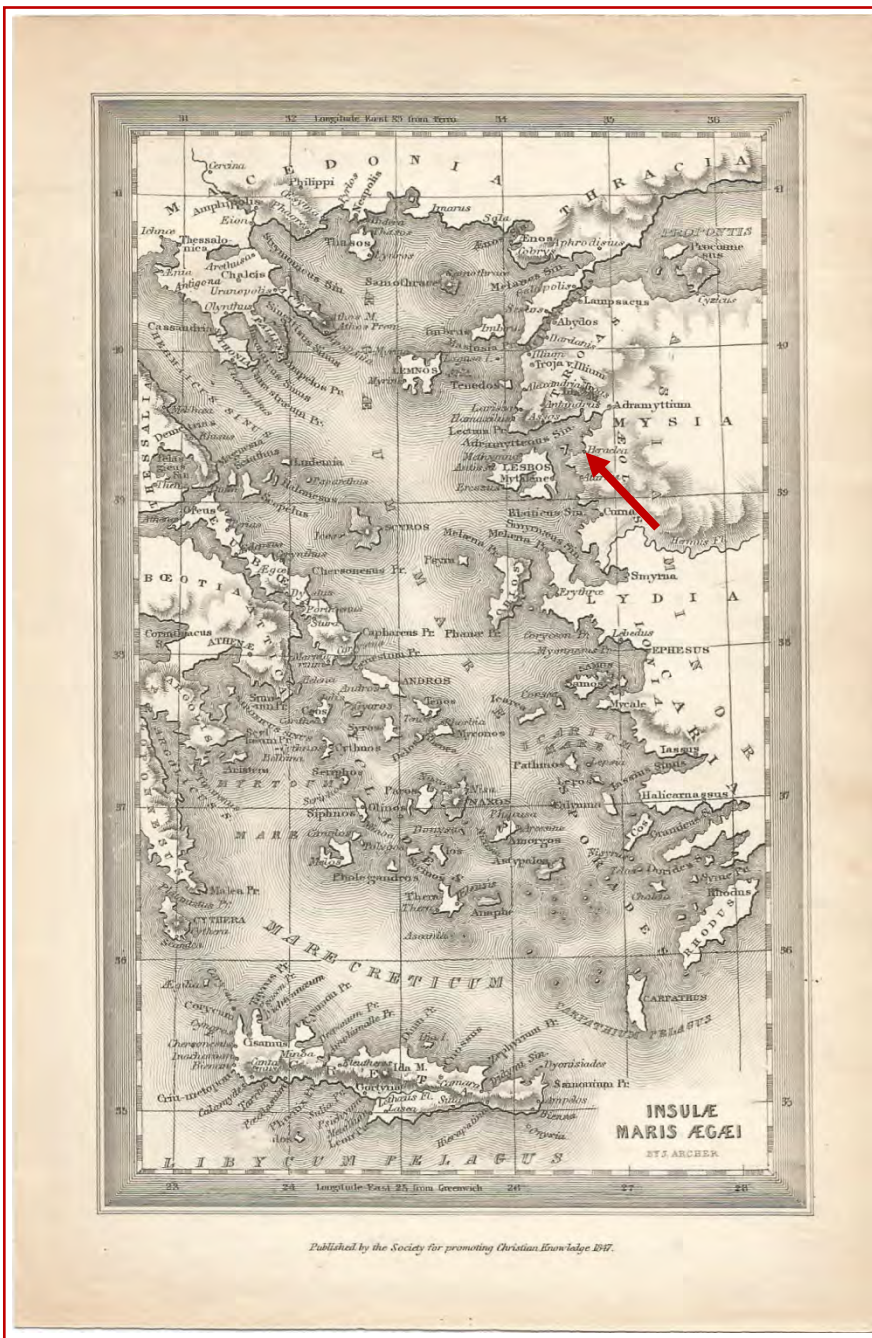
The photo was taken in front of the old Public Hospital. The garden is full of with olive trees and than Ayvalık Harbour with small- big sailing boats, vessels, finally Prophete Elias Churc on the top of the hill.



Small cover with AIVALI POSTMARK, was sent to Anvers, Belgium on 30.12.1896

According to a census of 1891 by Vital Cuinet, the population of the city was 21,666. Of this, 21,486 were Greeks and 180 were Turks. In 1909 the Chamber of Commerce Yearbook the city had a population of 25,000. At that time the number of houses in the city was 6,000 and there are 3 military outposts and a government building. The number of neighborhoods in the city was 11. Taxiarchis, Agia Triada, Agios Georgios, Agios Ioannis, Agios Nikolaos, Agios Dimitrios, Agios Basileos, Prophet Elias, Messi Panagia and Kato Panagia neighborhoods. The only mosque in Ayvalık was called “Hamidiye” or “Kışlalı” at that time. According to the records of 1899, there were 11 churches, 1 monastery and a lot of chapels in Ayvalık. All the churches were managed by the metropolitan Gregoire Orologas.

3 important islands in Ayvalık waters are documented with the names Maden (Pyrgos), Çıplak Island (Chalkis) and Cunda (Nesos). Nesos, Hellenic, Roman and Byzantine periods have maintained its importance. There were 8 monasteries in the Cunda archipelago. Taxiarchis Ta Tsamia, Panagias Tis Lekai, Agios Dimitrios Ta Selina, Agios Apostolos Monastery, Prodomos Monastery, Agios Georgios Monastery, Prophet Eli Monastery, Evagelisteria Monastery.



In the 1870s, postal service from Ayvalık to Cunda Island or from Island to Ayvalık were carried by Greek maritime transport companies. It can be said that the Ottoman Postal Administration started to operate in Cunda Island in 1884. We know that 3 different postmarks were used in the period from that date to the Republic. The name CUNDA has changed over the years and we see that it was first YONDA, then YUNDA and finally CUNDA.

The original map of Aegean Sea was printed in 1847. Ayvalık is not mentioned. **Heraclea** also transliterated as Heracleia, was a town of ancient Aeolis. It was opposite to Hecatonnesi. This town and the neighbouring Coryphantis are called villages of the Mytilenaeans. The town may also have carried the names Elateia, Idale, and Itale during Roman times. Its site is located near Ayvalık, Asiatic Turkey.



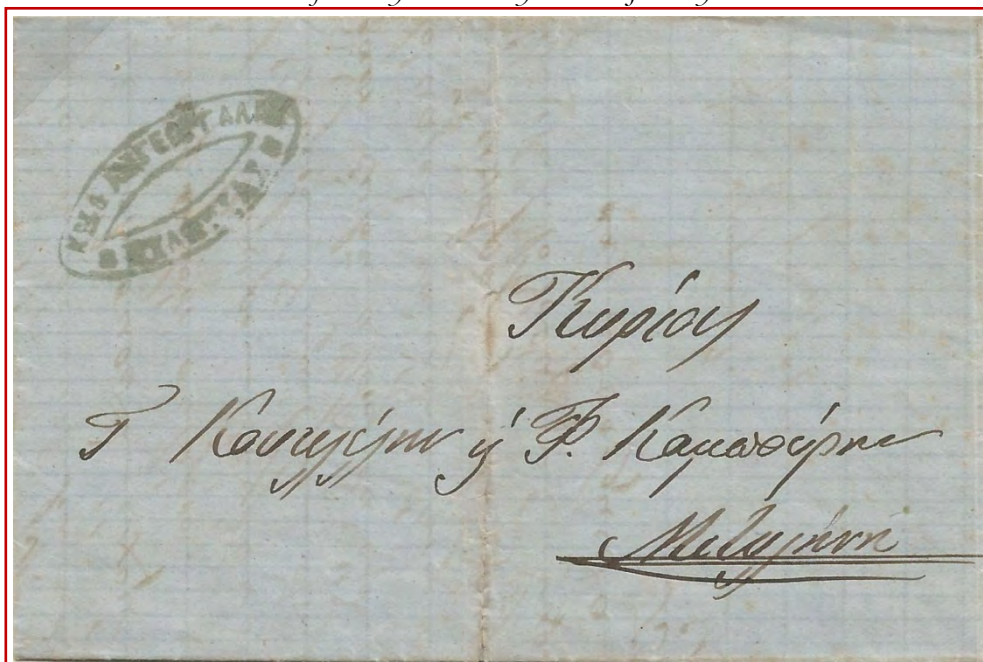
View of Cunda from the Prodomos Monastery island. At the beginning of 20th Century, Cunda was a township with 5 neighborhood and nearly 8.000 inhabitants. In 1861, Municipality was founded under the name "Belediye-i Cezire-i Yunda / Dimarçya Mosxonision.

The Greek ferry companies operating in Ayvalık in the 1800s competed with the Ottoman Postal Administration in postal transportation. According to the 1909 Chamber of Commerce Directory (Annuaire Oriental Commerce 1909), there were 6 ferry companies at that time. These were **Egee, Hadji Daout Farkouh, Sapoundjoglou, Hamidie, Lonienne, Pantaleon & G.O. and Jolly Victoria & C.O.**

Increase in the production at the end of 19th and beginning of the 20th century, loading and unloading of 600 vessels in average per year, development in education and training activities, naturally change the social-economic structure of the city in positive way. People interest of culture and art has increased.

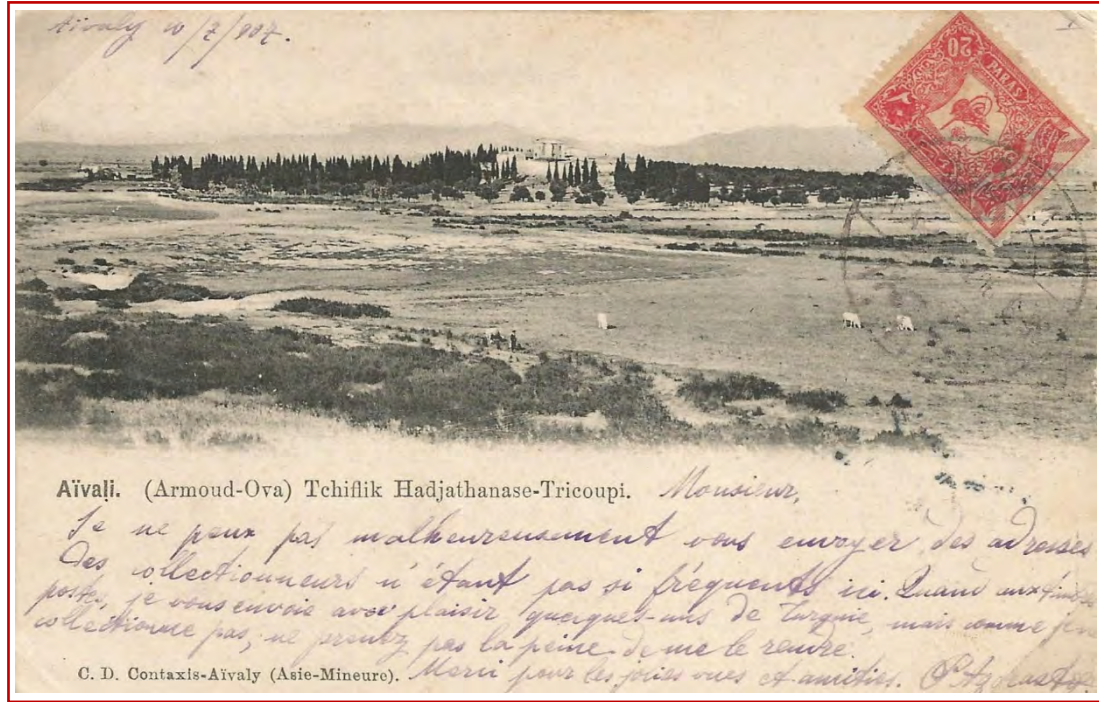
In the 19th century, the northern region of Izmir, including Ayvalık, was declared an 'olive region'. Thereupon, an English olive oil producer named R. Hadkinson purchased refineries in Ayvalık. According to the Karesi Yearbook; the total area of olive cultivation in Ayvalık was 22,000 acres. An average of 12,400,000 oka (15,872,000 kg) of olives were produced annually. There were 22 olive oil refineries, 1 pomace mill and 30 soap shops for processing the grown olives. In the 1909 Trade Guide records, there are 23 of olive and olive oil producers and 6 soap producers only.

Folded letter was sent from Ayvalik to Mytilene on January 28th 1875.



The Macaronia Farm was located in Kabakum region, at the south of Ayvalık, on the way to Dikili. The owner was Spridone Baltazzi, who moved from Venecia to settle down to İzmir. This farm is still existing today as “Nimet Hanım Çiftliği”. German researcher Alfred Philippson made researches about geographical, geological, animal population and archaeological issues in Ayvalık at the beginning of 1900’s. He determined settlement of Malena from bronze age.

Tricoupi Farm was located in Armutova region which is called Gömeç at the present time. The farm is still famous as “Girls Farm”. It is also tumulus. “Kisthene” settlement in ancient period said to be the the same place. Greeks were living there and the owner was “Trikopis” who worked at Ayvalık Academy.



At the end of 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, Ayvalık became popular in leather work. At that time 32 tanneries were manufacturing leather in Ayvalık. At the records of the Chamber of Commerce, 8 companies-people were dealing with leather business. They were; -Greg. A lexiou – (D.Nicolas Babalis) -D.Condi - Const.D.Lendoudes -D.Papuk -Nic. Parissis -Athanasios Patrikas -Dem. G. Dimides.

Apart from olive, olive oil productions and soap manufacturing, one of the most important sources of income of Chios was silkworm business. Since Ayvalık had a say in this matter, there was significant cooperation between the two centers. Grape was also one of the important fruit of Ayvalık to consume as a food, also for a good quality wine production.



There were Ziraat Bank, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Telegraph and Post Office Administration, Ottoman Public Debt Administration, Régie (Monopoly) administration, Port and Quarantine Administration and Municipality buildings in Ayvalık. All the officers in Ayvalık were Turkish. The states of England, France, Greece, Russia and Italy were represented at the consular level in Ayvalık. In 1880, the port of Ayvalık was expanded by a company with a capital of 20,000 liras and the ferries were able to dock. An average of 600 ships entered the port per year.

With the development of social and economic structure, the level of education and culture started to rise. According to the 1909 records, there were 7 schools in Ayvalık: 3 boys, 3 girls and one mixed secondary school. In secondary school there were 300 boys and 150 female students. 1,950 students were educated in primary school. 1100 students were males and 850 students were females. At the beginning of the 20th century, there was a primary school in Ayvalık with 11 Turkish students.

In 1914 statistics, the population of Ayvalık reached 31,445. The number of Turks was 454. The number of students reached 2,400. Educational expenses were provided by the Greeks from church income. The Greeks of Ayvalık had a newspaper called "Krikis" and a magazine called "Aiolikos Astir" published that appeared fortnightly.



Aivaly Gymnasium main entrance gate. At the Aivaly Academy education started in 1803. The founder was Yorgo Sarraf, young teacher, wearing priest's robe. The plot of the school was donated by the public. Also the construction expenses of the building was donated by custom and harbour revenues and public.

According to the records of 1899, there were 11 church, 2 monasteries and a lot of chapels in Ayvalık and 8 monasteries in Cunda Island. The buildings that make up the historical urban texture of Ayvalık are grouped into two main groups. These are works of religious architecture (churches, monasteries, chapels) and civil architecture (residences, commercial and public buildings). Ayvalık urban texture bears the characteristics of Mediterranean urban architecture.

The Agia Paraskevi Abbey was known for the holly therapy of ocular and psychological problems.



At the end of the First World War, on October 30, 1918, the “Mondros Armistice” was signed in the Agamemnon Dreadnought moored in the port of Mondros of Lemnos Island between the Ottoman Empire and the Allies. Rauf Bey, Minister of the Navy, signed the treaty on behalf of the Ottoman Empire. **With this treaty, the Ottoman Empire was actually ending.** And on May 29, 1919, Ayvalık was occupied. In 1914, there were 31.445 Greeks and 454 Turks. After World War, the Greek people started to return to Ayvalık. During the armistice days, the population was recorded as 18.025 Greek and 3.125 Turks.



Letterhead cover of “D.G. Dimidis” was sent from Ayvalık with “KYDONIA” postmark to Marseille – France via Izmir on 22.03.1922.

(This is 1st type of Greek occupation postmark used in Ayvalık Post Office.)

GREEK CONTRIBUTIONS

to METEORITICS (19th c.) and ASTRONAUTICS (20th c.)

and RELATED COLLECTIBLES

by ELIAS TEMPELIS

Greece has never had a space programme, nor has it ever had nuclear energy or nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, nothing has prevented certain Greek scientists from keeping pace with the space age from an advanced scientific standpoint. In 1836 and 1965 there were two notable contributions by Greeks, which played a part in this endeavour to decipher space and have been of direct or indirect interest to collectors even today. The first concerned the publication of a book on meteoritics by Philippos Ioannou in Munich in 1836, whilst the second concerned the Greek Aeronautical Society, which organized the XVI Astronautical Congress in Athens in 1965. Elias N. Petropoulos, the Secretary General of this Society, played a vital role in this Congress, which was attended by 1,100 Soviet, American, British, French and other scientists from various countries.

To start with the Greek contribution to meteoritics, we need to introduce Philippos Ioannou (Zagora 1796/1800 – Athens 1880). His own father was Ioannis Pantos, and his whole family fought bravely during the Greek Revolution. In 1829, Ioannou was appointed secretary to Andreas Miaoulis, a well-known Greek revolutionary, admiral, and politician. Ioannou subsequently went to Munich as a tutor to Miaoulis's sons. There he became an expert on classical literature and natural sciences and was awarded a doctorate in 1836 for his studies of stone and dust fallout and related meteors. Whilst there, he also taught at the Greek School. Among his pupils were Otto, the first King of Greece, and his then fiancée, Amalia (*fig. 1*). There Ioannou acquired a profound knowledge of the ancient Greek language and classical literature in general. In 1836 he was also awarded a doctorate in natural sciences for his studies of stone and dust fallout and related meteors (*fig. 2*). In 1837 he returned to Greece.



Fig. 1 Greek stamps depicting Admiral A. Miaoulis (1930), King Otto and Queen Amalia (1956)

He initially worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was subsequently appointed, in 1839, as a full Professor of Philosophy at the Ottonian University of Athens, a post he held until his death. He served as president of the Archaeological Society (1850–79), as a member of the University Council in 1846, and subsequently as a senator; he was also Director of the University Library (1867–68), Rector of the University (1848–49 and 1857–58) (*fig. 3*) and, for many years, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy at the University. The collection of the General State Archives in Athens contains 394 documents including the letters from and to Ioannou's numerous recipients all over the world (File No. PRI054.01 K25), which are still in need of a careful study.

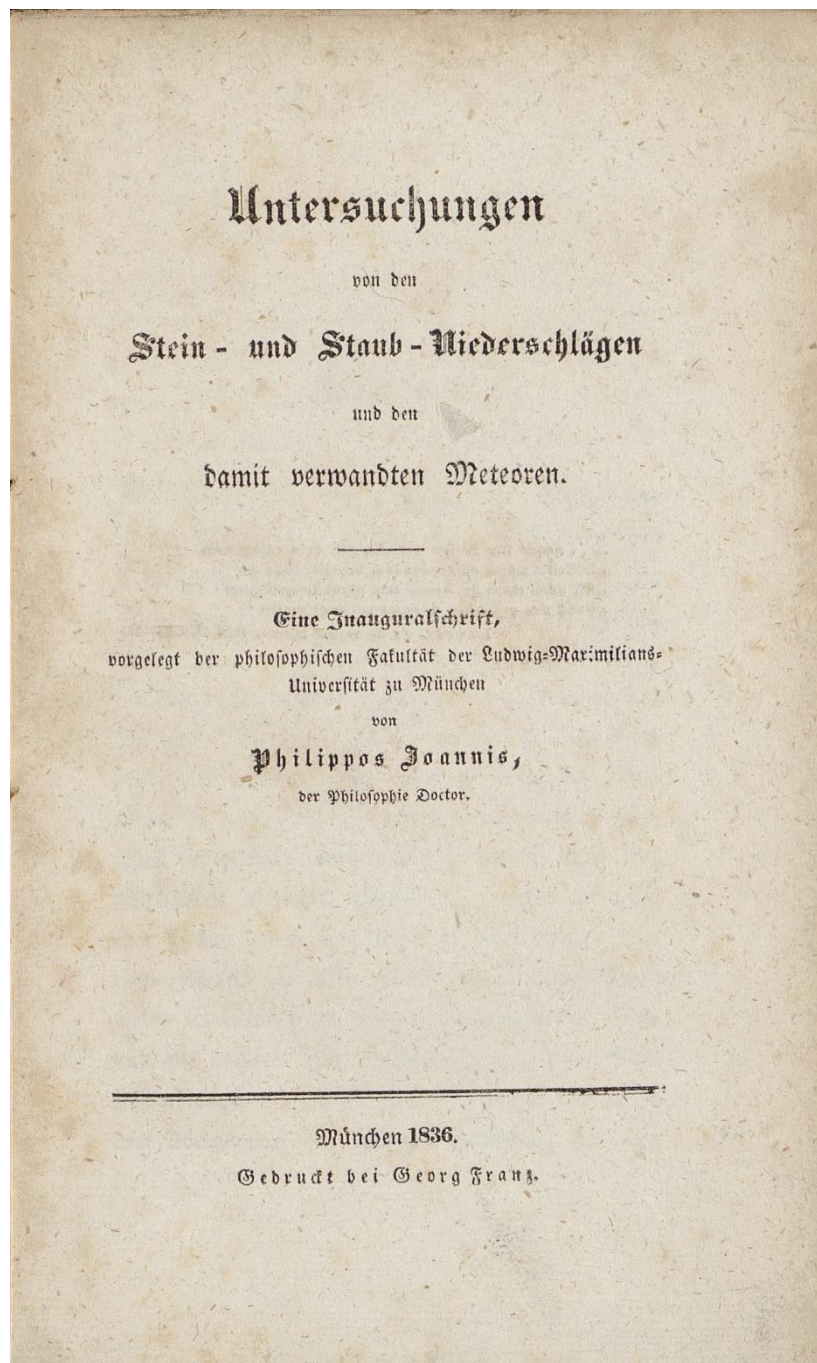


Fig. 2 : Title page of Philippos Ioannou's doctoral dissertation (1836)

Ioannou's doctoral dissertation as a book was published in a very few copies for the needs of its oral examination at the University of Munich. Its contents are as follows:

- Introduction (pp. 5–10).
- Ch. 1: Historical exposition of aerolith and dust falls (pp. 11–20).
- Ch. 2: The physical properties and chemical composition of aeroliths (pp. 21–26).
- Ch. 3: Various theories regarding the natural source of aerolith and dust falls (pp. 26–28).
- Ch. 4: The Moon as source of aeroliths and their dust (pp. 28–50).
- Ch. 5: The Planets as source of aeroliths and their dust (pp. 51–53).
- Ch. 6: Cosmic mass as source of aeroliths and their dust (pp. 54–63).
- Ch. 7: Water falling as source of aeroliths and their dust (pp. 63–71).
- Ch. 8: Other, less widely held views (pp. 72–74).
- Ch. 9: Aerolith and dust falls are mainly caused by the gaseous components of minerals that are released during the decomposition of the earth and rise into the upper layers of the atmosphere (pp. 75–100).

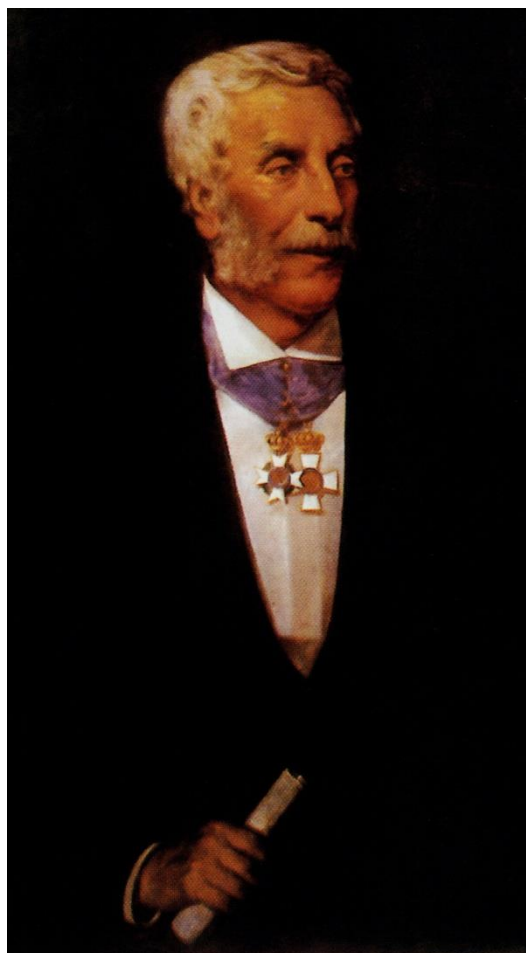


Fig. 3 : Philippos Ioannou

Nowadays, the collection of meteorites is a well-organised hobby. For instance, the International Meteorite Collectors Association (IMCA) aims at helping meteorite collectors in their search for authentic meteorites for their collections and assisting others in helping

to learn more about them. Takis Theodossiou, a member of this Association, is also the founder of the Hellenic Meteorite Museum in Athens, where Ioannou's doctoral dissertation was presented by the author on 1st February 2026. The presentation of Ioannou's book could not but take place in this museum, which houses a collection of more than 550 authentic meteorites, known and recognized, subject to official classification.

From a philatelic point of view, more and more sets of stamps internationally depict meteorites. Related to the topic of Ioannou's dissertation is the special stamp issued by Austria Post in March 2006 with an out of the world rock; this stamp contained 0.03 grams of meteorite dust (*fig. 4*). The dust came from a 19 kilogram stony meteorite found in Morocco in 2004. The meteorite is composed of Olivine, a mineral chemically defined as magnesium iron silicate. The gemstone known as Peridot is an example of gem-quality Olivine. The meteorite was crushed into a very fine dust, which was then hand-affixed to the circular stamp using a special adhesive. The stamp issue is called "Mail from a different world". 600,000 copies were printed for 3.75 euros each. Part of the meteor's tail extends onto the border area of this sheet. According to Austria Post, the unused portion of the meteorite is on display at the Vienna Natural History Museum, which houses one of the world's largest collections of meteorites.



*Fig. 4 : Special Austrian stamp (2006)
"Post aus einer anderen Welt"*

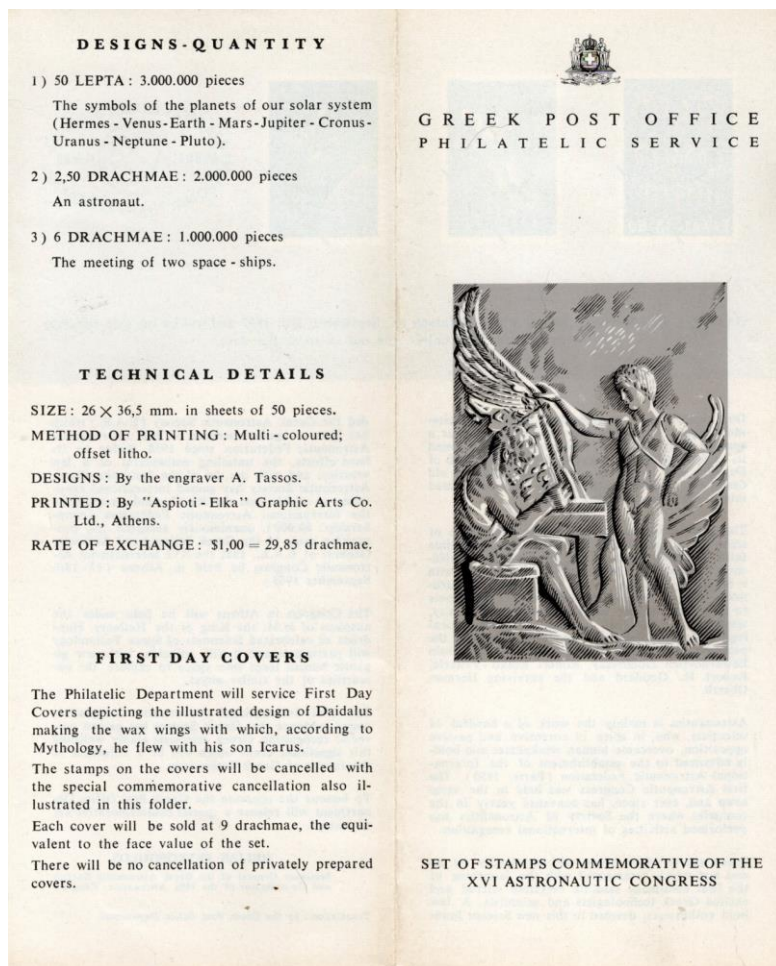
The Greek contribution to astronautics in the 20th century is attributed to the Greek Astronautical Society (Ελληνική Αεροναυτική Εταιρεία), which was a scientific organization, active from the 1950's till the 1970's. It was based in the historic building of the School of Physics and Mathematics at the University of Athens and its aim was to promote astronautical science and space law and research in Greece.

A number of events with reference to the astronautical science took place in the 1960's in Greece, but also in countries of the Warsaw Pact. In February 1962 the Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin¹, as part of a world tour, visited Athens, ten months after his own space mission in April 1961. The first human in space had expressed the wish to visit the Acropolis, the foremost monument of Greek civilization. Gagarin's presence at the Acropolis symbolically connected Greece's glorious past with the great achievements of the modern era, making this visit feel like a unique moment in history. In 1964 the Russian Post issued a stamp depicting Gagarin (*fig. 5*). During the same year, the XV General Assembly of the International Astronautical Federation in Warsaw accepted the Greek proposal that the following International Astronautical Congress be held in Athens. It is worth noting that the Polish Astronautical Society warmly supported the Greek candidacy.

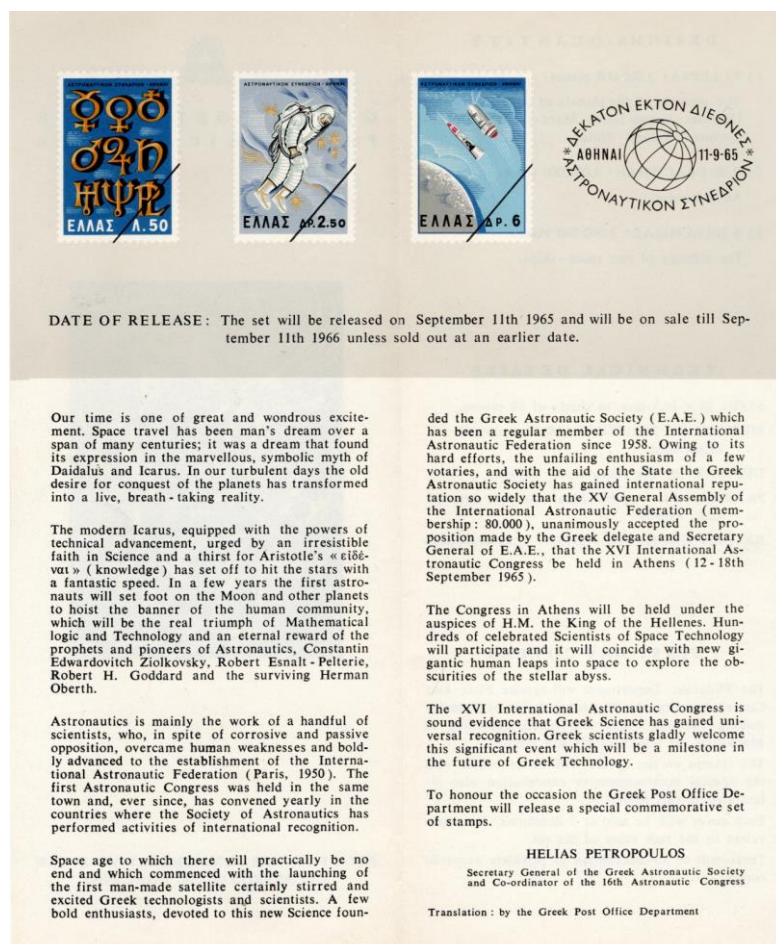


Fig. 5 : Russian stamp (1964) depicting Yuri Gagarin

In 1965 the Astronautical Congress in Athens was of immense significance, as it brought leading scientists of the time to Greece during the Cold War and the “space race”. Its highlight was Werner von Braun's² prophetic presentation, while explaining the Apollo programme, that man would set foot on the Moon before 1970. The Congress received extensive coverage in the press of the time with front-page stories and interviews, while a commemorative set of stamps was also issued (figs. 6a–b, 7, 8). Two exhibitions in Athens and Thessaloniki emphasized on space technology, while another exhibition of Greek academic and popular literature on the contribution of both ancient and modern Greece to advances in space research was also planned in Athens. The voluminous acts of the Congress were published in 1966 by three publishing houses, namely, Gauthier Villars (Paris), Gordon & Breach (N. York) and PWN – Polish Scientific Publishers (Warsaw).



6a



6b

Figs. 6 a-b: The Greek Post's folder in English (1965)



Fig. 7 : The commemorative set of the Greek stamps (1965)



Fig. 8 : The First Day Cover (11th September 1965)

On 11th September 1965 the Greek Post accompanied the issue of the commemorative set of three stamps (*Hellas stamps catalogue Nos. 1000–1002*) with four separate folders in Greek, English, French and German. The inspiring text in them was authored by Elias N. Petropoulos, who thus informed the buyers of the set of stamps about the Astronautical Congress itself and the whole idea behind it. The text in its English version is as follows:

Our time is one of great and wondrous excitement. Space travel has been man's dream over a span of many centuries; it was a dream that found its expression in the marvellous, symbolic myth of Daidalus and Icarus. In our turbulent days the old desire for conquest of the planets has transformed into a live, breath-taking reality.

The modern Icarus, equipped with the powers of technical advancement, urged by an irresistible faith in Science and a thirst for Aristotle's «εἰδέναι» (knowledge), has set off to hit the stars with a fantastic speed. In a few years the first astronauts will set foot on the

Moon and other planets to hoist the banner of the human community, which will be the real triumph of Mathematical logic and Technology and an eternal reward of the prophets and pioneers of Astronautics, Constantin Edwardovitch Ziolkovsky³, Robert Esnalt – Pelterie⁴, Robert H. Goddard⁵ and the surviving Herman Oberth⁶.

Astronautics is mainly the work of a handful of scientists, who, in spite of corrosive and passive opposition, overcame human weakness and boldly advanced to the establishment of the International Astronautic Federation (Paris, 1950). The first Astronautic Congress was held in the same town and, ever since, has convened yearly in the countries where the Society of Astronautics has performed activities of international recognition.

Space age, to which there will practically be no end and which commenced with the launching of the first man-made satellite, certainly stirred and excited Greek technologists and scientists. A few bold enthusiasts, devoted to this new Science, founded the Greek Astronautic Society (E.A.E.), which has been a regular member of the International Astronautic Federation since 1958. Owing to its hard efforts, the unfailing enthusiasm of a few votaries, and with the aid of the State, the Greek Astronautic Society has gained international reputation so widely that the XV General Assembly of the International Aeronautic Federation (membership: 80,000) unanimously accepted the proposition made by the Greek delegate and Secretary General of E.A.E. that the XVI International Astronautic Congress be held in Athens (12–18th September 1965).

The Congress in Athens will be held under the auspices of H.M. the King of the Hellenes. Hundreds of celebrated Scientists of Space Technology will participate and it will coincide with new gigantic human leaps to explore the obscurities of the stellar abyss.

The XVI International Astronautic Congress is sound evidence that Greek Science has gained universal recognition. Greek scientists gladly welcome this significant event, which will be a milestone in the future of Greek Technology.

To honour the occasion the Greek Post Office Department will release a special commemorative set of stamps.

ELIAS PETROPOULOS

*Secretary General of the Greek Astronautic Society
and Co-ordinator of the 16th Astronautic Congress*

From a philatelic point of view, the above-mentioned International Aeronautical Federation appears on a Russian stamp (1971), which illustrates the Federation's medal depicting Yuri Gagarin (*fig. 9*).



Fig. 9 : Russian stamp (1971) illustrating the medal of the International Aeronautical Federation depicting Yuri Gagarin

Interestingly enough, in 1978 the Greek Post issued a stamp to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the first powered flight (*Hellas No. 1441*). On that stamp (*fig. 10*) one sees exactly the same drawing, which had depicted Daedalus and Icarus on the folders and the First Day Cover for the 1965 International Astronautical Congress commemorative set.



Fig. 10 : The Greek stamp (1978) to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the first powered flight

Last but not least, one should mention that space food packages for cosmonauts are displayed in space museums, but also form part of private collections. Fig. 11 shows a box of authentic Russian space food (dried fruits compote) in a tube, which the author won during a lottery at the Hellenic Meteorite Museum in January 2026.



Fig. 11 : Authentic Russian space food in a tube

¹ Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin (1934–1968): Soviet pilot and cosmonaut, who became the first person to journey into outer space during the first successful crewed spaceflight.

² Wernher Magnus Maximilian Freiherr von Braun (1912–1977): German–American aerospace engineer and space architect.

³ Konstantin Eduardovich Tsiolkovsky (1857–1935): Russian rocket scientist.

⁴ Robert Albert Charles Esnault–Peltrie (1881–1957): French aircraft designer and spaceflight theorist.

⁵ Robert Hutchings Goddard (1882–1945): American physicist, inventor, and engineer.

⁶ Hermann Julius Oberth (1894–1989): Austro–Hungarian–born German physicist and rocket pioneer.

Is open-air Philately an innovative approach to “Philately Forward” ?

The Principality Liechtenstein is Europe's fourth-smallest country –after Vatican City , Monaco and San Marino– covering an area of just over 160 square kilometres with around 40.000 citizen. Liechtenstein is also a place that Philately has been a major business sector. It is worth mentioning that up until about 1970s stamp sales were contributing to more than 20% of its annual national income.



A self-adhesive embroidered stamp in the shape of the Princely Hat was issued in 2019 for the anniversary of “300 years Principality of Liechtenstein”.

Since May 31st, for tourism promotion purposes was devised a Picture Walk at Rathausplatz that takes the pedestrians through the old town to the Liechtenstein Center. This year's theme for the Picture Walk is “Nature” and were used large prints of Liechtenstein's issued postage stamps –that were affixed to the ground– to publicly display Liechtenstein's impressive mountain scenery and its diverse landscape. This special stroll to the historic centre of Vaduz with 31 oversized stamps was a collaboration of Liechtenstein Marketing and Philatelie Liechtenstein.



According to Ulrike Charles, Head of Tourism at Liechtenstein Marketing, “The Picture Walk uniquely combines nature with culture and brings two central elements of Liechtenstein to life in public spaces”.



This initiative of Liechtenstein might set an example on how Philately should be displayed to broader audiences by using both the stamp images and narratives in order to convey a simple, still crucial message that “Philately matters to all”.

The “Nature” Picture Walk will be open to the public until November and this a philatelic walk that should not be missed...

A philatelic breeze inside a metro station

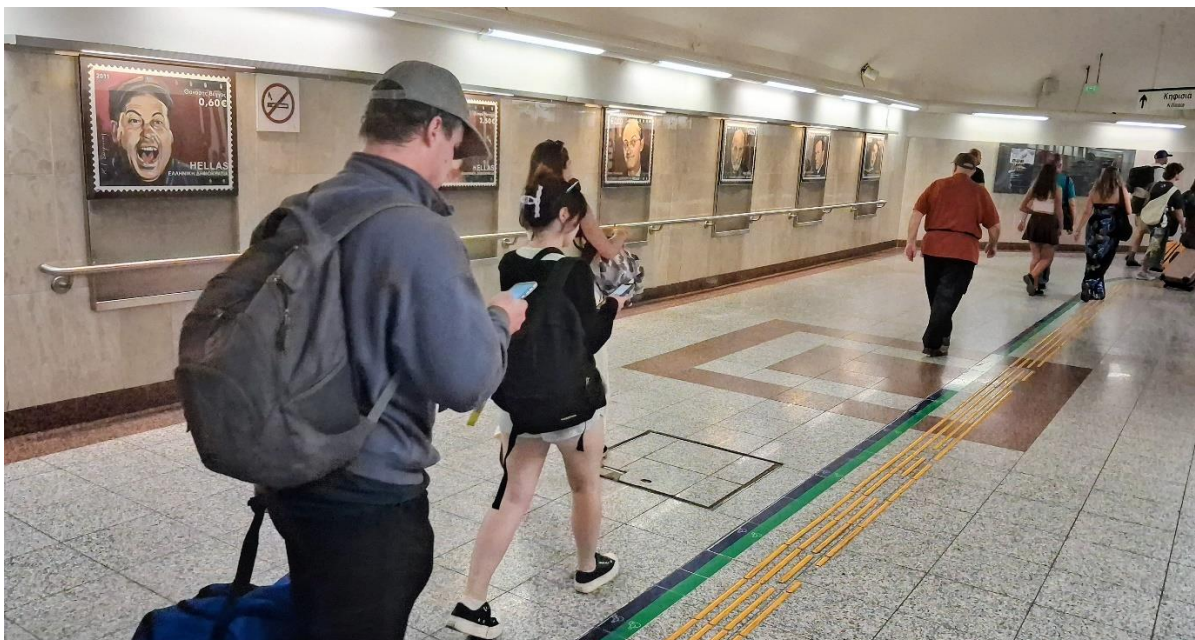
Monastiraki metro station is located at downtown Athens and is the best starting point for most visitors both for a sort walk to nearby monuments as well as to get a taste of local everyday life.



At the interior of the station, one can see the bed and vaulted brick chamber of the ancient Eridanos stream as well as a number of pottery produced at the nearby ancient agora of Athens.

Around Monastiraki one can get to nearby to traditional Plaka neighbourhood, the Roman Forum, Ancient Agora of Athens, Thesseeion Temple (of Hephaestus–Vulcan), Monastiraki Flea Market, the ancient cemetery of Kerameikos as well as the Benaki Museum of Islamic Art.

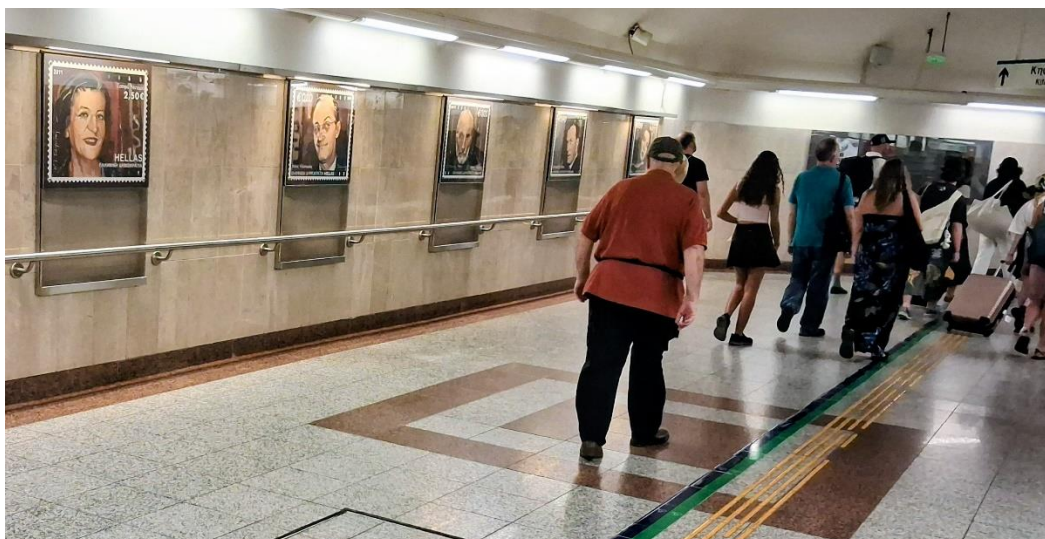
The Monastiraki metro station corridor walls have an impressive philatelic “decoration” displaying popular film actors and singers on stamps. These images of popular actors and singers on Stamps bring back pleasant memories of the hurried commuters of this station.



Modern metro stations are functional and “neutral” with strong lighting and wide spaces usually decorated with advertising posters. In this station the stamp display make a difference as it focuses on culture and familiarity of the images that are connected to visual and acoustic memories of songs and the well-known of film catchphrases. In that way through the stamp display a faceless place of everyday life transforms to a place that magic comes back.



After all, it is through philately that the images and the national and international narratives could reach and connect to a broader audience.

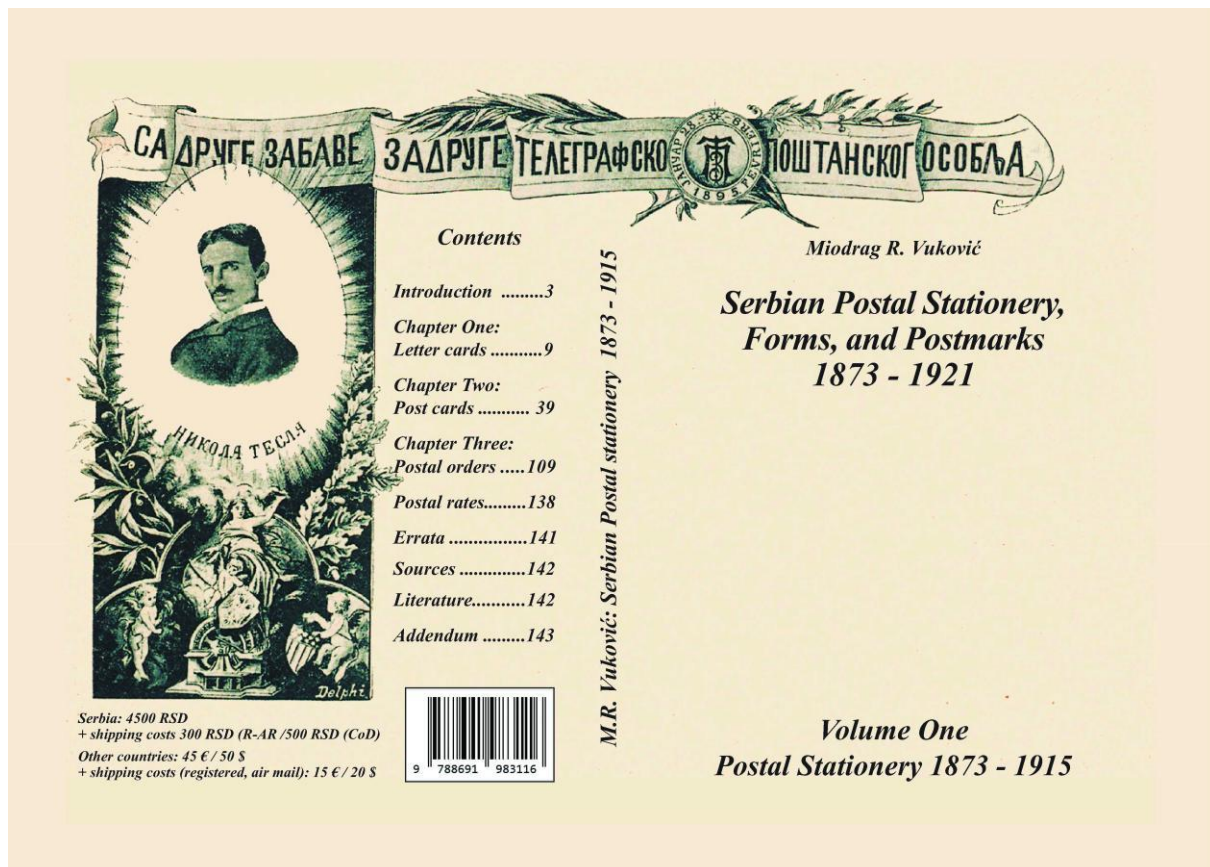


New Monograph on Serbian Postal Stationery

Serbian Postal Stationery, Forms, and Postmarks 1873–1921

In May 2026, the monograph **Serbian Postal Stationery, Forms, and Postmarks 1873–1921 – Volume One: Postal Stationery 1873–1915** by Miodrag R. Vuković was published. It represents the latest and one of the most comprehensive specialized works dedicated to Serbian postal stationery.

The hardbound book comprises 144 pages and contains approximately 700 colour illustrations. The first volume systematically examines Serbian postal stationery issued between 1873 and 1915, including letter cards, postcards, and postal money orders, together with an overview of postal rates, corrections, and the literature consulted.



Front and back cover of the new monograph

What distinguishes this publication from traditional catalogues is its exceptionally detailed analytical approach. In addition to the basic catalogue listing, the author has systematically studied types, subtypes, and varieties, supported by numerous enlarged details, graphic illustrations, and precise measurements that enable the reliable differentiation and identification of otherwise very similar issues. Particular attention has been devoted to printing characteristics, plate flaws, differences in lettering types, ornamental elements, and other production features.

Instead of assigning catalogue values, the author has deliberately adopted a rarity rating system (C–RRR). As he explains, market prices are subject to frequent fluctuations, whereas the relative rarity



of individual postal stationery items represents a far more stable category. The rarity scales are based on many years of studying the material, the author's own research, and consultations with experienced collectors and dealers.

Serbian postal stationery 1873 - 1915

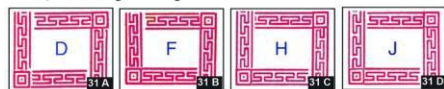


1891. Post cards for domestic mail; like the previous edition, only decorative frame is again from "T" elements printed in red; printed in Belgrade by State printery; bicolor typography on pinkish cardstock measuring 140x97 mm.

31) 5 (mapa), green/red

- A) frame in type D
B) frame in type F
C) frame in type H
D) frame in type J
a) white rectangle above right numeral "5"

G V
G V
M G
M G
V R



Since this is not commercial catalogue, I opted for grades of rarity.

I am aware that many collectors would prefer market prices over rarity scales; however, this book does not aspire to be a commercial catalog. Furthermore, market prices fluctuate—often annually or depending on the specific market—whereas the relative rarity established over the 150-year history of Serbian postal stationery is far less subject to change.

Although he personally leaned toward current market valuations, Dragojib Jovanović significantly aided me in finalizing the rarity scales with his vast experience, for which I am deeply grateful.

69

Serbian postal stationery 1873 - 1915



1898. Second printing of post-cards and post cards with reply for domestic mail: same as the first one, but the filling in the corners of the frame is in the form of a dot in a circle (Type B); printed in typography by the State Printery in Belgrade on grayish-yellow cardstock measuring cca 138x90 mm.

44 II) 5 IIAPA, red, cardstock machine smooth to rough

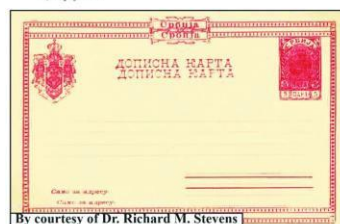
- a) distance CoA - left side of frame 3.5 mm
b) distance CoA - left side of frame 4.5 mm

M C
M C

46 II) 5+5 IIAPA, red

- A) reply card same as PC 44 II a
a) message card
b) reply card

G G
G G



By courtesy of Dr. Richard M. Stevens

Double prints of PC #44 I are known, originating from printers waste.

85

Equally valuable is the author's approach in emphasizing that he does not regard this book as the final word on the subject. On the contrary, he encourages collectors and researchers to publish new findings and contribute to future additions and corrections, thereby promoting the continued development and refinement of this field of Serbian philately.

Thanks to its extensive illustrative material, clear systematic organization, and detailed analysis of numerous varieties that have previously received insufficient scholarly attention, Serbian Postal Stationery, Forms, and Postmarks 1873–1921 constitutes an invaluable reference work for collectors, philatelic exhibitors, and all researchers engaged in the study of Serbian postal stationery and its history. The forthcoming second volume, devoted to postal markings and postal forms, is expected to further complete this significant publishing project.

EuroMED 2026 "Traditional Mosaics in the Mediterranean"

The EuroMED 2026 Special Set of Stamps, with the theme "*Traditional Mosaics in the Mediterranean*", was released simultaneously by all Postal Services – members of EuroMED Postal on July 13, 2026.



The set of four stamps depict the following :

Face value €0,50

Dionysus riding a panther – Mosaic floor depicting Dionysus riding a panther late 4th century BC, from the banqueting hall of the House of Dionysus Ancient Pella.

Face value €1,20

Orpheus playing the lyre – Mosaic pavement with the depiction of Orpheus playing the lyre and charming the animals (mammals, birds and reptiles) Roman period (early 4th century AD) House of Mosaics.

Face value €2

Nereid riding hippocampus – Mosaic with Nereid riding hippocampus, framed by decorative bands with a double meander and an ivy tendril, from Kos 2nd half of 3rd c. AD Palace of the Grand Master, Rhodes.

Face value €3

Aphrodite looking herself in a mirror – Detail of mosaic floor representing goddess Aphrodite looking herself in a mirror 2nd–3rd century AD, from a Roman villa in Patras.



Summer Holidays are over...



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