



# Stamp Exhibiting in the Digital Age

*Since the late 1990s, the internet has been universally available. As a medium, it is the perfect platform for the propagation of philately and for the selling of philatelic materials.*

In the 20 years since, the internet has all but replaced the traditional high street stamp dealers and, to a very large extent, has replaced printed books, catalogues and magazines too.

However, the aging and conservative philatelic establishment, embodied by the venerable Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP), seemingly plagued by techno-fear and total inertia, has utterly failed to come to terms with the realities of the digital age. Even in 2019, the FIP does not recognise any form of digital literature (including websites) as having value or validity in philately and there are no provisions in the current FIP regulations regarding entries for such material into competitions.

National and local societies, taking their lead from the FIP, in general, have a similar dim view of web-



International stamp exhibition, May 2020

sites. Certainly, in our experiences in Moldova, the local establishment has absolutely no regard for the internet and, even having been offered free design services, the leadership simply could not conceive of the value or purpose of such a thing.

By persisting with this attitude, the FIP and local establishments are running a huge risk of a steady descent into total obscurity and dragging the science of philately down with them, along with the hobby of stamp collecting in general.

In fact, the vast majority of stamp collectors are not even aware of the existence of an organisation called the "FIP" and their proclamations are a matter of sheer indifference to them.

Fortunately, there are now some progressive exhibition organizers who have the good sense to bypass the FIP dinosaur and who are inviting applications from website developers and digital media authors.

In the USA, we find there is a healthy attitude from the American Philatelic Society (APS) who have been accepting websites into competition for years.



In August 2019, the IMPS website will participate at "StampShow 2019", the annual American national exhibition, in Omaha, Nebraska.

In 2018, the IMPS website won a large vermeil medal at the "ITALIA 2018" literature exhibition. Next year, we will participate at the "London 2020" international exhibition, and in 2021, we will participate in the "NOTOS 2021" European exhibition in Athens.

After the completion of the annual set of IMPS newsletters for 2018 and 2019, we will be submitting them into all competitions which accept digital literature.



European philatelic exhibition, November 2021, Athens

## Inside this month's issue...

**New Stamp Issues in March:**



**Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part IX**



**2018 Stamps Poll Results**



# Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part IX

The ninth part of a series of articles about the rare and valuable stamps of Moldova

*This month we look at the multitude of varieties that exist for the 1993 issue "Princes of Moldavia".*

This series of stamps was originally issued on December 29, 1993. According to the official philatelic catalogue, they were printed in Spain by "Graficas Jorcar" in Barcelona. However, this may be incorrect since the earlier stamps issue, "Endangered Snake Species - World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)", issued in July, was actually printed in Spain by "Servicios Graficos Jamsa SA" in Barcelona. It is unlikely that two different printing houses, both in the same city, were used.

The series consisted of 6 stamps. The artist was Ion Daniliuc, but we know nothing about this man.



No 88 (6.00). No 89 (25.00). No 90 (50.00). No 91 (100.00). No 92 (10.00). No 93 (200.00).



Booklet Pane No 88-93 Hb

The six individual stamps were issued in sheets of 32 values (8x4), and in a booklet pane consisting of a pair of tete beche, se-tenant blocks. From this booklet pane, it is possible to extract all kinds of se-tenant pairs, strips and blocks. However, these items are all standard issues and in this article, we will concern ourselves only with the unreleased, rare varieties that have not been previously documented.

The sheets were originally printed on two, very large sheets, separated by gutters and then, cut into separate sheets of 32 values, at the printing works.

However, some of these large print sheets escaped the cutting process and, in some cases, they escaped the perforating process too. We have not observed any examples of complete print sheets and it seems that none survived. Only fragments of the large print sheets exist.

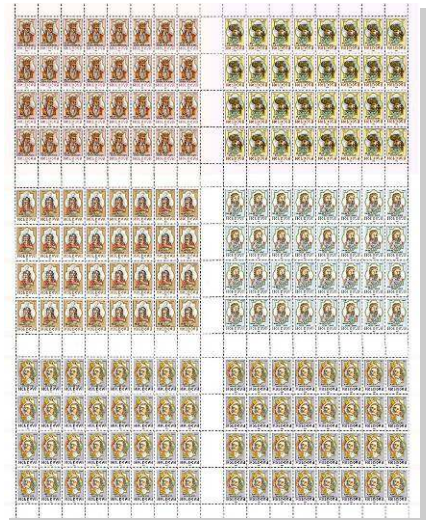
The sheet images below are mock-ups (accurate). Sheets that escaped the cutting/perforating process at the printing works, were later cut up into fragments, to produce every possible combination of gutter pair, mixed gutter pair and mixed gutter block. Whilst all stamps in the series are known to exist in imperforate form, not all gutter combinations have been seen, imperforate.

150.00 (x32)	Gutter	25.00 (x32)
Gutter	Gutter	Gutter
50.00 (x32)	Gutter	100.00 (x32)
Gutter	Gutter	Gutter
6.00 (x32)	Gutter	6.00 (x32)

Print sheet 1, containing values 6.00 to 150.00.

200.00 (x32)	Gutter	Flora No. 86 (x32)
Gutter	Gutter	Gutter
Flora No. 85 (x32)	Gutter	Flora No. 85 (x32)

Print sheet 2, containing value 200.00 and Nos. 85 & 86 from the previous issue "Flora-Flowers".



Mock-up of Print sheet 1, containing values 6.00, 25.00, 50.00, 100.00 & 150.00.



Mock-up of Print sheet 2, containing value 200.00 and Nos. 85 & 86 (from the previous issue "Flora-Flowers")

## Unreleased Se-tenant Combinations:

When you examine the large print sheet fragments, it is possible to see the following se-tenant combinations:

Gutter Pairs-Horizontal: 1

Mixed Gutter Pairs-Horizontal: 3

Mixed Gutter Pairs-Vertical: 5

Mixed Gutter Blocks: 3

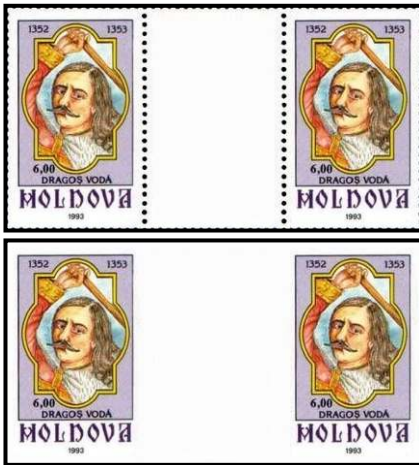
Only two examples of the possible Mixed Gutter Blocks have been physically observed. These are included in the study. Not all gutter varieties are known to exist in both perforate and imperforate form. Imperforate examples are printed on the same paper and with gum. Imperforate examples of gutter pairs and mixed gutter pairs represent extreme rarities.

**Continued...**

# Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part IX

Continued...

## Gutter Pairs (Horizontal):



No 88GP and No 88BG

## Mixed Gutter Pairs (Horizontal):



Top: No 89-92 MGP. Bottom: No 90-91 MGP.  
Imperforate examples not observed.



No 86-93 MGP and No 86B-93B MGP

## Mixed Gutter Pairs (Vertical):



No 88-90 MGP. Imperforate examples not observed.



No 89-91 MGP and No 89B-91B MGP



No 88-91 MGP and No 88B-91B MGP



No 90-92 MGP and No 90B-92B MGP

The material illustrated in this article almost certainly originates from the personal collection of Michael Mittelstrass, the official philatelic agent/broker for the Moldovan postal authorities, at that time, and whose name has been mentioned in previous articles.

Continued...

# Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part IX

Continued...

## Mixed Gutter Pairs (Vertical): Continued..



№ 85-93 MGP and № 85B-93B MGP

## Colour & Text Errors:



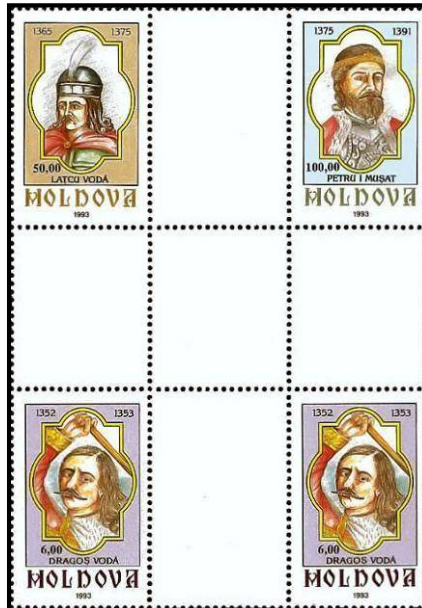
№ 85Xi - Missing face value



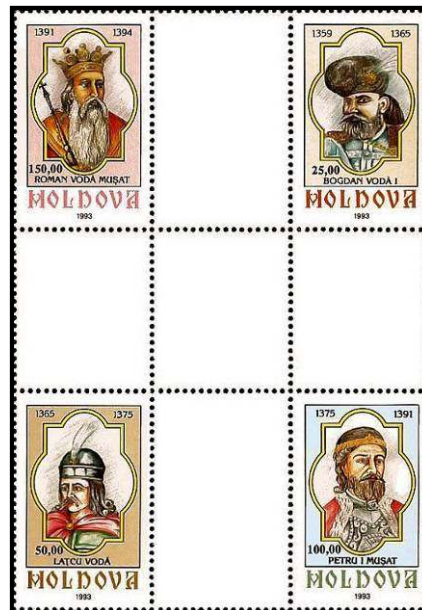
Left: № 85Xii - Years, title & frame: grey

Right № 85Xiii - Years, title & frame: grey & missing face value

## Mixed Gutter Blocks:



№ 88-91 MGP4. Imperforate examples not observed.



№ 89-92 MGP4. Imperforate examples not observed.

Continued...

## Mixed Perforation Errors:

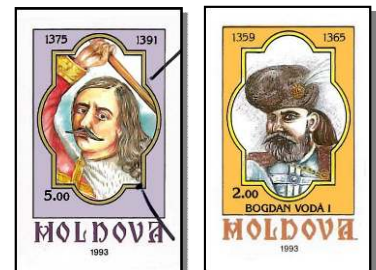


№ 88-88Bx



№ 89-89Bx

## Proofs (on card, no gum)



# Treasures of Moldovan Philately: Part IX

Continued...

## Booklet Panes:

In addition to the standard version, two varieties of the booklet pane are known, half imperforate and fully imperforate. Both varieties are equally rare. Although the existence of these booklet pane varieties creates the theoretical existence of many other imperforate se-tenants, in fact, the panes have never been observed, cut into those individual components.



No 88-93 Hb as issued



No 88-93 Hb Bx. Half imperforate



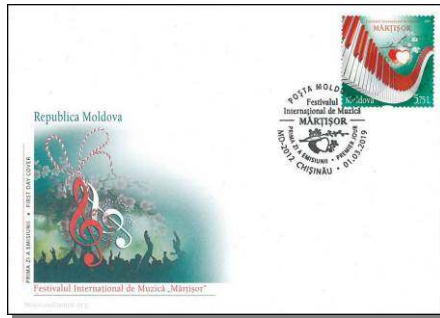
No 88B-93B Hb B. Fully imperforate

# New Stamp Issue: International Music Festival «Mărțișor»

March 1 2019:

Full catalogue details at [MoldovaStamps.org](http://MoldovaStamps.org)

“Mărțișor” is the traditional festival marking the beginning of Spring. Every year, the first days of Spring are marked by opening of the Mărțișor Music Festival. The 54th edition was held in 2019. During the first ten days of March, the best concert halls in Chisinau and other localities hosted over 40 concerts. It is not clear why this issue was originally scheduled for release in June 2019,



**№ 1087 FDC official First Day Cover. Only 250 pieces were released.**

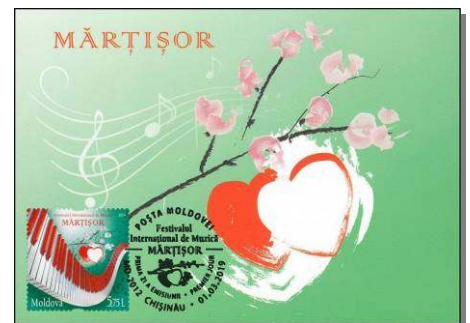
The postage stamp and FDC were designed by well-known Moldovan artist, Vitaliu Pogolșa. The postcard, from which local philatelists in Chisinau realized maximum cards, was designed by Lilian Iațco and 2,400 pieces were printed.

Stamp № 1087 (5.75L) features a stylized piano keyboard with a “Mărțișor” talisman in the background. The stamp was printed in a quantity of 100,000 pieces and on a minisheet of 6v (3x2).

Although the minisheet appears to have



se-tenant labels, these are in fact, part of the sheet selvage (margins), as they are not perforated on the left.



**№ 1087 MC private (unofficial) maximum card, realized by local philatelists.**

# New Envelope Issue: NATO Partnership for Peace - 25 Years

March 16 2019:

Full catalogue details at [MoldovaStamps.org](http://MoldovaStamps.org)

The Partnership for Peace (PfP) is a NATO program aimed at creating trust between NATO and other states in Europe and the former Soviet Union. 21 states are members. Moldova joined the program on March 16, 1994.

Twenty five years later, to the day, the Post of Moldova issued a prepaid postal stationery envelope to commemorate the anniversary. Previously, in November 1994, a set of two postage stamps had been issued.

The envelope was designed by well-known Moldovan artist, Vitaliu Pogolșa. The nominal value was 1.75L and the purchase price was 3.00L.

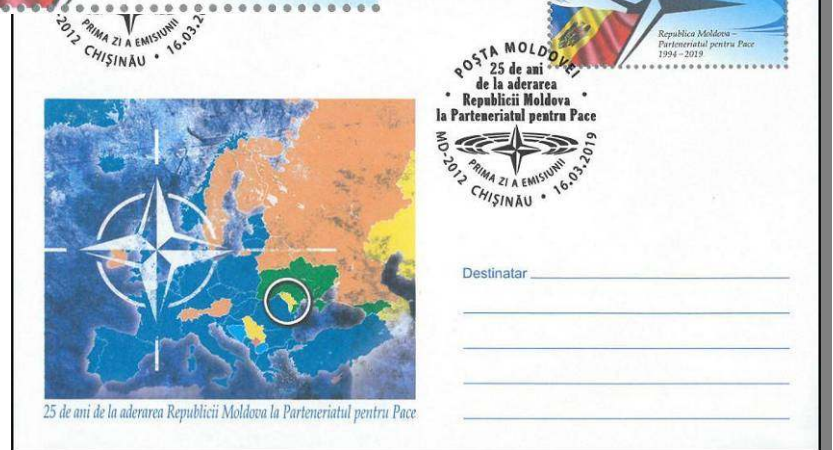
The fixed stamp for № U409 (1.75L) features a stylized NATO emblem and the State flag of Moldova. The cachet for the envelope also features the NATO emblem, plus a map of Europe, showing the member states of the program.

The envelope was printed in a quantity

of 10,000 pieces and a first day cancellation was issued, from which, local philatelists created private first day covers.



**№ 128 & 129 (08.11.1994). Signing of the “Partnership for Peace” treaty.**



# New Stamps Issue: “Flowering Shrubs”

March 14 2019:

Full catalogue details at [MoldovaStamps.org](http://MoldovaStamps.org)

Keeping with the seasonal theme of Spring and following the “Marțișor” issue of March 1, the Post of Moldova released a beautiful set of four stamps on March 14, celebrating the beauty of flowering shrubs.

The postage stamps and FDC were designed by well-known Moldovan artist, Elena Karacenteva, who has been responsible for many stamp designs in the past 25 years.

**№ 1088 (1.20L) features the Guelder-rose or Snowball Tree (*Viburnum opulus roseum*).** Printed 135,000 copies in minisheets of 8v



**№ 1089 (2.00L) features the Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*).** Printed 135,000 copies in minisheets of 8v



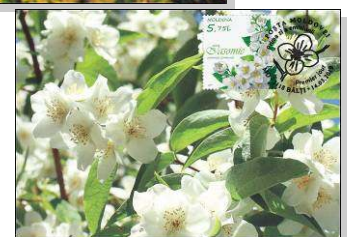
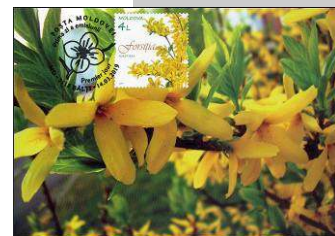
**№ 1090 (4.00L) features the Forsythia.** Printed 135,000 copies in minisheets of 8v



**№ 1091 (5.75L) features the Jasmine (*Jasminus communis*).** Printed 135,000 copies in minisheets of 8v



Additionally, the Post of Moldova prepared a set of four special postcards, designed by Lilian Iațco and printed in 750 copies (each), from which, local philatelists in Chisinau realized private (non-official) maximum cards.



The official FDC features a bouquet with each of the flowers from the four stamps. It was printed in a very small quantity of only 200 pieces.



## New Cancellation Issues in March

March 21 2019:

[Full catalogue details at MoldovaStamps.org](http://MoldovaStamps.org)

On March 21, 2019, the Post of Moldova put into circulation two special cancellations: World Poetry Day and International Day of Forests. Both cancellations were designed by Lilian Iațco.

**World Poetry Day** is celebrated on 21 March, and was declared by UNESCO in 1999. Its purpose is to promote the reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry throughout the world.

**The International Day of Forests** was



№ CS2016/6 issued at MD-2012 Chisinau

established by the UNO. Each year, various events celebrate and raise awareness of all types of forests, and



№ CS2016/7 issued at MD-3721 Strasenii

trees outside forests, for the benefit of current and future generations.

## New Envelope Issue: Gheorghe Vrabie (1939-2016)

March 21 2019:

[Full catalogue details at MoldovaStamps.org](http://MoldovaStamps.org)

Gheorghe Vrabie, born March 21, 1939 at Calinesti, Balti and died March 31, 2016, at Chisinau, artist, author of the State Arms of the Republic of Moldova and of the national currency, and was called the "Father of the Moldovan leu". He was also the author of the Arms of the City of Chisinau.

He studied at the Academy of Painting, Architecture and Sculpture "I. Repin " in St Peterburg from 1962 to 1967. The artist's interest turned to such writers as Mihai Eminescu, Ion Druță, Grigore Vieru, Dante, Longos and Paul Valery. The works of Gheorghe Vrabie are distinguished by the accuracy of the subject and the refinement of the execution.

Gheorghe Vrabie made a cycle of works called "Hipism" and together with his wife, Dorina Cojocaru, made several mosaic works.

He hosted personal exhibitions in Moldova and abroad. In 2000 he was awarded the Eminescu medal.

In 2010, Gheorghe Vrabie was decorated with the highest state honour of the Republic of Moldova, "Knight of the Order of the Republic".

On March 23, 2019, the Post of Moldova released the postal stationery envelope № U410 (1.75L), commemorating the 80th anniversary of Vrabie's birth. The envelope fea-

tures a cachet with a portrait of Vrabie on a background of the State flag.

The envelope was designed by Vitaliu Pogolșa and was issued in 10,000 pieces.





# “Eminent Personalities” Postcards: January 2019

In the January 2019 IMPS Newsletter, in the article “Recent Issue: “Eminent Personalities - Anniversaries & Commemorations” on page 5, we did not mention that a set of six matching postcards had also been released on the day of issue of the stamps (15.01.2019). We were simply not aware of their issuance.

The postcards were all designed by Elena Karacănțeva, the artist responsible for the postage stamps. Each postcard was printed in a quantity of 500 pieces and are 105mm x 148mm in size.

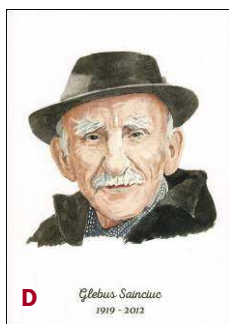
During 2019, the Post of Moldova plans to issue special cancellations on the actual anniversary dates of each personality. Local philatelists in Moldova then have the opportunity to realize maximum cards using each of the special cancellations.



(A) 15.01.2019  
Domnica Darienco  
100th birth  
anniversary (missed)

(B) 16.02.2019:  
Alexei Stârcea 100th  
birth anniversary  
(issued - see  
“Correction”)

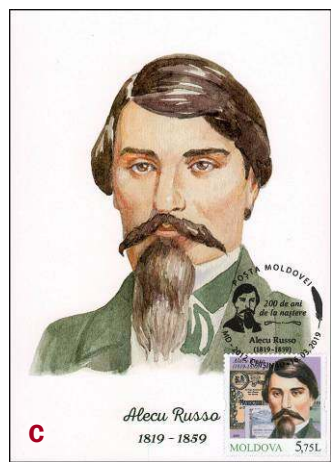
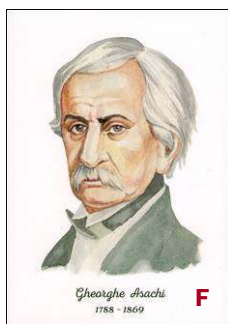
(C) 16.03.2019:  
Alecu Russo 200th  
birth anniversary  
(issued)



(D) 19.07.2019: Gle-  
bus Sainciuc 100th  
birth anniversary

(E) 12.09.2019: Con-  
stantin Stamati 150th  
death anniversary

(F) 12.11.2019:  
Gheorghe Asa-  
chi 150th death anni-  
versary



Special cancellation №  
CS2019/5 was issued on  
March 16. The postcard for  
the maximum card was re-  
leased on January 15, 2019.

## Correction

In the February 2019 IMPS Newsletter, in the article “New Cancellation Issue: Alexei Stârcea 100th Birth Anniversary” on page 5, we stated the following: “Additionally, on this occasion, the Post of Moldova prepared a special postcard, from which, local philatelists in Chisinau realized a maximum card. Unfortunately, since the postcard was released after the postage stamps, the maximum card is not compliant with FIP maximaphily rules.”.



Since we have since received information from the Post of Moldova that the postcard for Alexei Stârcea was in fact issued on the same day as the postage stamp (15.01.2019) therefore maximum cards, realized from the postcard, are indeed compliant with FIP maximaphily rules. We apologize for any confusion.

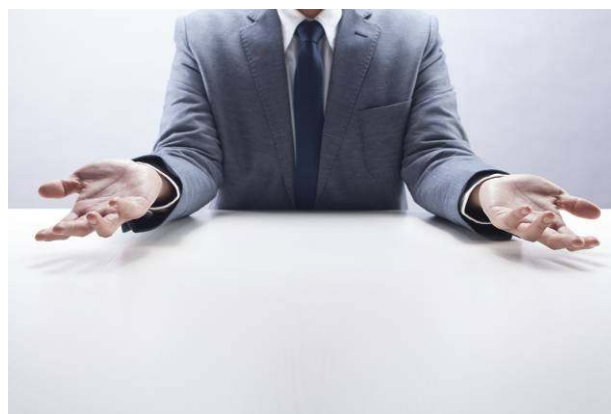
## 10 Years Ago...

March 18, 2009 saw the release of the issue “Protection of Polar Regions and Glaciers”, with the unusual sight of Polar Bears and Penguins on Moldovan stamps.



## 20 Years Ago...

1999 got off to a very slow start for the philatelic department of Posta Moldovei. The first stamp issue was not until April 9. In March 1999, there were no philatelic releases of any kind.



Full technical details at  
[https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue\\_stamps\\_issue.asp?issueID=215](https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=215)



# Poll: Favourite Stamps 2018

Since December 29, 2018, two days after the last stamps were issued for 2018, IMPS has been running a poll on our Facebook Group. We asked our members "What were your favourite postage stamp issues from Moldova in 2018?" Voters could select from multiple options. Below are the rankings...



1	EUROPA 2018: Bridges	12	Personalities I: Anniversaries & Commemorations
2	Church Bells (Joint Issue with Ukraine)	13	Inventions and Discoveries that Changed the World
3	POSTCROSSING	14	2018: Moldova - World Capital of Wine Tourism
4	Personalities: King Mihai I of Romania. In Memoriam	15	Fauna from the «Pădurea Domnească» Nature Reserve
5	Happy New Year!	16	The Lărguța Treasure
6	Months of the Year by Their Traditional Folk Names	17	Ethnicities of Moldova (II): The Romani People
7	Trees	18	Personalities: Alexandru Moșanu. In Memoriam
8	Moldovan Postage Stamp Day	19	«Bring Back Hope» Organ Donation and Transplantation Program
9	Discover Moldova	20	Clocks of Chișinău
10	Centenary of the Union of Bessarabia with Romania	21	Personalities: Vladimir Curbet. In Memoriam
11	Domestic Poultry	22	State Enterprise «Poșta Moldovei» - 25th Anniversary

THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

CHIȘINĂU |  
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All articles and news should be sent to the Editor at the email address above.

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**IMPS is founded on Friendship,  
Equality and Passion.**

## Next Month...

**New Stamp Issue:**

Domestic Animals

**New Stamp Issue:**

EUROPA 2019: National Birds

**New Cancellations Issues**

**Article:**

Treasures of Moldovan Philately Part X:  
Europa 1993

**And lots more...**

## Newsletters Archive...

The archive of previous IMPS newsletters is now on the site.

[www.moldovastamps.org/info-newsletters.asp](http://www.moldovastamps.org/info-newsletters.asp)