

THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

# IMPS Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 2

February 2019



# Article: Judaica in Philately of Moldova

*A very interesting article appears this month in the website of the Russian Academy of Philately, entitled “Judaica in Philately of Moldova”. We are reproducing the article here, freely translated into English.*

The team of foreign members of the Academy was supplemented by the representative of the State of Israel, Vladimir Bernshtam, who provided an interesting overview of post-Soviet Judaism, which we present to your attention.

After the collapse of the USSR, the new independent states began to issue their own stamps, stamped cards and envelopes, reflecting their national identity and the policies of their governments. Among the issues of the postal service of the Republic of Moldova there are several that no doubt expanded the collections of philatelists collecting Judaica.

This article describes several items of philately that can be attributed to “Judaica in the narrow sense”, i.e. with emphatic Jewish themes. Stamps dedicated to people of Jewish nationality who have manifested themselves in areas not related to Jewry or Israel are not included in our consideration. The article material is presented in chronological order.



Fig. 1

The first in our list is the special cancellation (Fig. 1), which was produced by Moldova’s mail at the World Philatelic Exhibition “ISRAEL 98” - held in Tel Aviv in 1998. At the exhibition, the Post of Moldova opened a temporary post office in which the cancellation was carried out.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, a wave of Jewish pogroms swept across Russia, the most famous of which was the Kishinev pogrom of 1903. On the afternoon of April 6, 1903, on the first day of Orthodox Easter, and on the penultimate day of the Jewish holiday of Pesach, the bells in Chisinau rang and the pogrom immediately began. In the pogrom, which, with the connivance of the authorities, lasted 2 days, about 50 people died and about 500 were injured. The memory of the victims of the terrible events of 1903 is still alive. By the century, the Post of



Fig. 2

the Republic of Moldova issued with a circulation of 5000 copies a single-sided postcard with original stamp (Fig. 2). On the day of issue (April 7, 2003), the card was extinguished in Chisinau with a special postmark. The stamp depicts the Menorah, and on a postcard and a postmark – the Monument to the victims of the pogrom of 1903 in Chisinau, the work of the architect Semen Shoikhet. Postcard Designer - Efim Goldschmidt.



Fig. 3

The postmark issued by the Post of Israel is also dedicated to the memory of the victims of the pogrom. This stamp (Fig. 3) was used in Jerusalem on April 6, 2003.

The lessons of the Kishinev pogrom were learned by many Jews of the Russian Empire. Detachments of Jewish self-defense appeared in some cities with a significant Jewish population, and emigration and Zionist sentiments increased. When

at the end of the summer of 1903 in Gomel, pogroms of pogroms occurred for the first time, organized armed resistance was rendered, which made it possible to minimize the number of victims among the Jewish population. For the first time, the pogromists suffered such serious losses that, as a result, in Gomel until 1917 no pogrom riots were noted.

The envelope with the original stamp depicted in Figure 4 is dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the Joint organization. Joint (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) American Joint

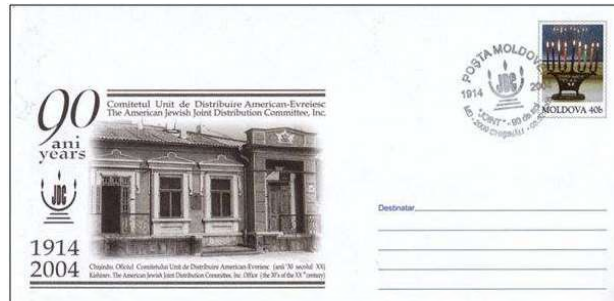


Fig. 4

Jewish Committee for the Distribution of Funds (until 1931 - Committee for the Distribution of Funds for Assistance to Jews Affected by the War) is a Jewish charitable organization. The Joint was founded on November 27, 1914 on the initiative of F. M. Warburg, J. G. Schiff and L. Marshall on the basis of three organizations: the American Jewish Aid Committee (founded by influential Jewish leaders, mainly of German origin), the Central Aid Committee (created leaders of American orthodoxy) and the People’s Assistance Committee (founded by Jewish workers’ organizations). The Joint stood at the cradle of the Union of Jewish Cooperatives (SEC) of Bessarabia, one of the largest and most influential Jewish organizations in the province. The envelope depicts the offices of the American-Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Chisinau (1930). The designer of the envelope, as well as the postcard described above, is Yefim Goldschmidt. A special stamp was prepared for the anniversary.

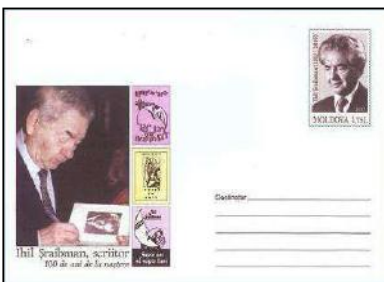


Fig. 5

By the centenary of the writer Itzikovitch Shribman, who wrote in Yiddish, an envelope with original stamp was released (Fig. 5). Shribman was born on March 12, 1913, in the town of Rashkov, Bessarabian province. Ichil studied at the heder and at the state school in Rash-

kov. From 1930, he was a student at the Chernivtsi teacher’s seminary where Hebrew teachers were trained, participated in the underground “Shkarul roshu” (“Red student”) pro-communist movement. In 1938, the first collection of short stories by Shreibman “Meine Eftn” (“My Notebooks”) was published in Bucharest. After Bessarabia joined the Soviet Union, Shreibman joined the Union of Soviet Writers. He was a member of the editorial board of the journals Sovetish Heimland (Sovetskaya Rodina, Moscow, 1961-1991), Di Idishe Gus (Jewish Street, Moscow, 1991-1993), Afh Schwel New York, 1992-2005). Shreibman died on December 9, 2005 in Chisinau. Like the previously described postal stationery, the design of this envelope was developed by Efim Goldschmidt.

# Article: Judaica in Philately of Moldova

Continued...



Fig. 6

In 2017, the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Moldova and the State of Israel was celebrated. This event was dedicated to the special cancellation (Fig. 6), dated June 22, 2017.



Fig. 7

As early as the beginning of 2017, the Moldova Post issued an unmarked envelope (Fig. 7), dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Moldova and a number of states. These envelopes were subsequently used during special speeches for the anniversaries of establishing diplomatic relations. The photo above shows an envelope with a special letter marked with

a personalized postage stamp, which is issued in abundance by the Post of the Republic of Moldova.

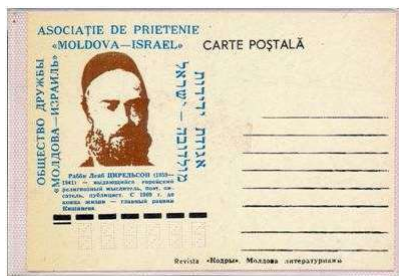


Fig. 8

During the preparation of this note, the author found a private postcard (Fig. 8), published in Chisinau and related to Judaica.

The postcard with the menorah, published by Ilya Marias on the Jewish news portal Moldova in 2003, shed

light on the origin of this postcard.

In his article, Maryash wrote: "in the early 90s collector and philatelist writer Y.F. Grekov issued a post card dedicated to Rabbi Tsirelson. On it his portrait is framed with inscriptions in Hebrew, Russian and Moldavian. ... Leib Tsirelson (Cyrilson) - an outstanding Jewish religious thinker, writer, publicist, chief rabbi of Chisinau from 1909 to the last days of his life (1859-1941). Rabbi Tsirelson was one of the senators of pre-war Romania. He died under the bombs in the early days (of the war). ... In the encyclopedia of Y.Grekov "Motherland" (publishing house "Prut International", 2001) the same postcard is reproduced in miniature. The publication of this postcard, as Yury Fedorovich told me, was a kind of gift to a colleague - poet and translator Alik Brodsky, who had just been actively involved in the Jewish public life of Chisinau. ... As for Grekov, who in those troubled days already composed his philatelic encyclopedia of famous and not so famous Jews, he, as usual, "grossly abused his official position". Being ..... the chief editor of the magazine "Codri. Moldova Literary ", he then sent to the printing house along the way and stamped a postcard there."

In conclusion, the author is grateful to Niall Murphy for his help in selecting the material and useful information.

Information sources:

- 1.Ilya MARYASH, Postcards with Menorah, Jewish News Portal of Moldova DORLEDOR.INFO, [www.dorledor.md](http://www.dorledor.md)
- 2.Catalog of the Postage Stamps of the Republic of Moldova by Niall Murphy, [www.moldovastamps.org](http://www.moldovastamps.org)
- 3.Kopansky Ya. M., Joint in Bessarabia. Pages of history. Chisinau, Liga, 1994. 124 p.
- 4.Blog Timbré de ma philatélie by Eric Contesse, <http://timbredujura.blogspot.com>

Author: Vladimir Bernshtam (Israel) - [www.berncollect.com](http://www.berncollect.com)

Original article published in the Russian language at [www.rusacademfilately.ru/philately\\_announcement/](http://www.rusacademfilately.ru/philately_announcement/)

## 10 Years Ago...

February 24, 2009 saw the release of the issue "Ancient Weapons from the Moldovan Territories".



Full technical details at [https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue\\_stamps\\_issue.asp?issueID=214](https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=214)

## 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. But in February, we had the set of two aerogrammes. The first and last time such items were released in Moldova.



Full technical details at [https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue\\_envelopes\\_issue.asp?issueID=579](https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_envelopes_issue.asp?issueID=579)