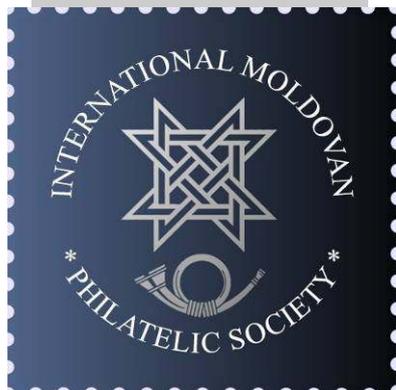


# IMPS Partners with New Virtual Association in Brazil: FILABRAS



THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

## IMPS Newsletter

*Traditionally, philatelic clubs and societies are physically grounded organizations with a fixed address where meetings and exhibitions take place. Membership is often restricted to invitation or referral and to local or national residents. In the majority of cases, annual subscriptions are payable.*

In many countries where there is a high population density and where philately is enthusiastically supported, this traditional model for philatelic organization has been successful. But in smaller countries, or where population density is low, this model is much less suitable. In such cases. There will be small numbers of enthusiasts, widely disbursed over large areas. In the case of Moldova, the enthusiasts are spread all over the world and have few realistic chances of ever meeting in person or of forming relationships with other collectors.

In recent years, we have seen a decline in the popularity of philately and a continuous thinning of the ranks and geographical population density of collectors. This is making the traditional model of clubs and societies are and more



Virtual National Philatelic Association



obsolete because there are fewer and fewer opportunities for members to participate in person at meetings, events and exhibitions.

In March 2018, IMPS was founded as a philatelic society meeting and operating “virtually”, using the available internet technologies to enable member participation but without the need for their physical presence.

Up until recently, we believed that we were the only such philatelic organization, but we were delighted to discover, at the beginning of April, the an almost identical organization had been formed in Brazil, “FILABRAS”.

FILABRAS is the brainchild of Paulo Ananias Silva, a serious and enthusiastic philatelist from the city of Belém in the northern Brazilian state of Pará. Paulo Ananias is the

founder of the Filatelia Ananias internet site and for the creation of the country’s first virtual philatelic exhibition platform “Exposição Virtual Filatelia Ananias” which this year is in it’s second edition.

Paulo Ananias says “I had the idea of creating a virtual philatelic club to meet the needs of philatelists who do not have a physical club in their cities and where most of them do not have philatelic assistance from the Post Office .”

I had no idea whether or not this type of association existed in philately, I knew of the Facebook groups but none of them with a proposal for a de facto association, with jobs, projects, regulations, and activities aimed at serving their members, so I decided create FILABRAS.”

Continued...

### Inside this month’s issue...

**COVID-19:**  
**An Excuse for a Moratorium?**



**Expo News:**  
**LONDON 2020 Literature Exhibition:**



**Expo News:**  
**NOTOS 2021 News**



Continued...

## IMPS Partners with New Virtual Association: FILABRAS



Paulo Ananias Silva

*“The idea came at the time that the second virtual exhibition was being set up, and why not a virtual club?”*

*I initially invited friends José Baffê Rodrigues and José Paulo Braidá Lopes, who had already worked with me on the virtual exhibition, and I presented the idea, they immediately agreed. Baffê suggested that we invite two more philatelists to have five founding members.”*

Publicity for FILABRAS says: *“In new times in philately, in a great integration in social networks, we came up with the idea of founding FILABRAS - Brazilian Philatelists Association, an association that brings together Brazilian philatelists via the internet spread throughout the territory, nationally and in other countries. If we have a good reach, we will also have a census of Brazilian philatelists.*

*Our goal is to propagate and encourage philately, bringing information and news, and to have a club of national reach, as we observe that in Brazil there are few cities that have a philatelic club for integration and activities aimed at philatelists.*

*The foundation date of FILABRAS is 04/04/2020, coinciding with the II Virtual Exhibition Filatelia Ananias, a philatelic event on the internet-Facebook in its 2nd edition, whose objective is to promote philately to the general public, as a promotion of friendship and culture.*

*Our first activity is the launch of the FILABRAS Newsletter, a bimonthly publication with philatelic content, aiming to serve our members and other*

*philatelists.*

*Our editorial team comprises philatelists Guilherme Rocha (São Paulo/SP), José Américo Zila (Santo André/SP), José Baffê Rodrigues (Santos/SP), José Paulo Braidá Lopes (Juiz de Fora/MG) and Paulo Ananias Silva (Belém/PA), and in the issue 1 of the FILABRAS Newsletter we will address several topics and the releases in Brazilian philately. We count on everyone's participation, send suggestions and criticisms, and we will try to make a quality newsletter for our philatelists.”*

Upon learning of the forming of FILABRAS, IMPS immediately contacted them and asked all the relevant questions. We got an extremely open and friendly reception. The more messages we exchanged, the clearer it became that FILABRAS and IMPS shared a common philosophy, common objectives and a common vision for the future of philatelic development. The principles of a cooperative partnership agreement were laid down in just a few days.

FILABRAS has extended a cordial invitation to all members of IMPS to become their members too. If you don't speak Portuguese, simply use your web browser's translation tools and all will become clear. You can apply for membership at the FILABRAS Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/186831782584284>

This is certainly an enthusiastic group. In just the few days since their foundation, they have already accumulated more than 130 members.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced a large percentage of the world's population into a state of social isolation and the effects will be felt for many months and years to come. The detrimental effects on philately cannot be underestimated. Traditional meetings, gatherings and exhibitions are not options in the foreseeable future. This fact adds an additional and powerful impetus for philatelic organizations to start thinking about entirely new operational models where internet technology takes a leading role rather than a supporting role.

Whilst IMPS is very interested in philatelic exhibitions in all their forms, we have a special interest in websites as a

form of philatelic literature and the use of websites to host virtual competitive exhibitions.

In 2019, we started to see many traditional philatelic exhibitions starting to accept digital materials and websites into competition. We also occasionally see virtual stamp exhibitions on the internet. However, the concept of competitive philatelic exhibitions as an alternative to physical exhibitions has yet to receive any widespread acceptance.

As soon as IMPS started discussions with FILABRAS, we started to think about the possibilities for competitive virtual exhibitions and also the possibilities for international exhibitions of this type. IMPS and FILABRAS are now exchanging ideas and concepts around this topic.

In addition to this, we are also exploring the possibilities for forming a loose alliance or confederation of philatelic societies (both traditional and virtual), who would participate in virtual competitive exhibitions, through the development of a shared online exhibition system where participating members would be able to configure their own exhibitions, set the rules, classes, juries and accept participant applications. The possibilities are almost limitless. The objective of such a system would be to encourage interest in philately in general, and in exhibitions in particular, but without all the rigid rules and regulations that are applied by traditional philatelic organizations. The exhibition system would be developed on a multi-language basis and would accommodate collectors at all levels, from absolute beginners to serious philatelists. Mostly, we would try to foster the spirit of inclusion and to make the philatelic experience an enjoyable one for all concerned.

If any readers of this article are members of a traditional philatelic society or are thinking about forming a virtual society and are interested in becoming involved in such a confederation with its possibilities for developing a multilateral, shared virtual exhibition system, then please contact IMPS. It should be noted that we do not envisage the shared exhibition system or membership of the confederation as having any associated costs and the services would be free. This would be a 100% non-profit project.

# COVID-19: An Excuse for a Moratorium?

*Four months into the year 2020, only one postage stamp has been issued by the Republic of Moldova. You could be forgiven for thinking that the COVID-19 crisis has been entirely responsible for this but that is not correct.*

The current special administration regime in Moldova to combat COVID-19 was only introduced in March. Additionally, the current restrictions on the sending and receiving of international mail only came into effect in the middle of March. Yet, the last postage stamp (International Holocaust Remembrance Day) was issued on January 27, well before the current regime was implemented.

The Philatelic Plan of issues for 2020 was approved by the Ministry at the end of 2019 and its preparation, in which many parties were involved, including IMPS, required a great deal of time and research.

2020 began well, with the release of the stamp “International Holocaust Remembrance Day” on January 27. Thereafter, and without explanation, no new stamps have been issued. The Plan for 2020 seems to have been torn up.

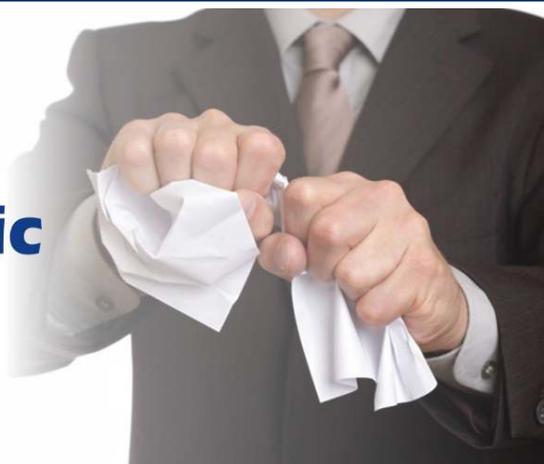
We delayed the publication of this April newsletter as long as possible, to see if there would be any late news about releases in May but nothing has been indicated. At the time of writing (April 30) the following issues were planned for 2020 but not released:

1. Traditional Cuisine: Desserts
2. Monasteries of Moldova (I)
3. Public Parks and Gardens
4. EUROPA 2020: Ancient postal routes
5. Easter: Pictures from the Patrimony of the National Museum of Art of Moldova
6. UNO: International Year of Plant Health
7. Coat of Arms and the State Flag of the Republic of Moldova - 30th Anniversary

The philatelic bureau of Posta Moldovei, “TIMBROFIL”, have prepared the designs for all material in accordance with the 2020 Plan but nothing has been approved for release. Naturally, employ-



## Philatelic Plan 2020



ees of Posta Moldovei are not at liberty to discuss internal decisions of the organization and they refer us to the leadership. The Leadership of Posta Moldovei comprises the Board of Directors, headed by interim Director-General, Vitalie Zaharia,

Zaharia was appointed to the role in December 2019. He has a background in the promotion of Moldovan exports and on this basis, IMPS was hopeful that he would be supportive of marketing initiatives for the promotion of Moldovan postage stamps on an international basis. However, this de facto moratorium on the issuance of new stamps has the exact opposite effect and makes IMPS’ attempts to promote Moldovan philately exceptionally difficult.

If the COVID-19 crisis is used as an excuse to justify the moratorium, it is not a valid reason. The moratorium came into effect before the COVID-19 regime. The staff of Posta Moldovei

continue to work at their jobs and are not under stay at home orders. Posta Moldovei continues to advertise the personalized postage stamps services on social media. Although demand for postage stamps may have diminished slightly due to the reduction in the number of countries currently being served for international mail,

this does not justify the callous disregard for the Philatelic Plan, the efforts of many people in using this media for the promotion of Moldova internationally or for the social/cultural obligations of Posta Moldovei, as the national postal operator, to issue postal material reflecting the hopes, aspirations and history of the nation.



**Vitalie Zaharia, Interim Director-General of Posta Moldovei**  
Photo: Facebook

It seems that elements of the leadership of Posta Moldovei have little regard for philately as a hugely important aspect of the national patrimony. In the history of Posta Moldovei, there have certainly been directors with similar indifferent attitudes but never have there been directors who completely abandoned the national philatelic program. It is truly remarkable that this Director-General is so empowered to act in this way and apparently, without consequence or impunity.



**“International Holocaust Remembrance Day” released on January 27. Will this be the last postage stamp from Moldova in 2020?**

## New Envelope & Cancellation Discovery: Hanukkah 1993



*During the month, I was informed about this very curious piece by a philatelist friend in Moldova, Arthur Palyan. The Hebrew script refers to "Hanukkah", the Jewish "Festival of Lights".*

Hanukkah is the festival commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at

the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire. The festival is observed over eight days and nights, beginning on various dates each year according to the Hebrew calendar, but always in December.

Yet, there are no references to this envelope or to the cancellation in any of the official philatelic catalogues.

The envelope was designed and printed in 1993 by two well-known philatelists in Chisinau, Daniil Balakirsky and my old friend, Evgheni Brik, both of whom were lead-

ing members of the Jewish Community of Moldova and members of an early philatelic club, the Chisinau City Society of Philatelists, in whose name the piece was made.

The special cancellation can be considered a private release and has no validity in the postal system. Such material is quite permissible so long as it is not used to cancel any official postage stamps. The cancellation has now been included in the MoldovaStamps catalogue.

In philately, the complete cover must be classified as having souvenir status but remains a very interesting and valid item for collection and study.

This piece was produced in a quantity of 300 and was distributed without cost as gifts to interested persons in December 1993.

*Niall Murphy  
Sao Paulo  
April 22, 2020*

## Exhibition News:

# LONDON 2020 Literature Class Stays in 2020

*Despite the big, red headline on the LONDON 2020 website, telling us that the exhibition has been moved to 2022, those of us who are participating in the Literature Class get a nice surprise.*

The "LONDON 2020" World Philately Exhibition, was due to take place next month, but like all other public events in the UK, this had to be postponed or cancelled. The Organizing Committee, having invested an enormous amount of time and money, over four years of planning, moved Heaven and Earth to avoid its complete cancellation. The announcement came through in March that the exhibition was successfully postponed and rescheduled, but not until 2022!

Naturally, this has been a great disappointment to philatelists all over the world. However, what is not well known is that there were other changes to the schedule which were notified to the National Commission-

ers for dissemination to the participants.

This exhibition had a large component of philatelic literature and it was the first world FIP where digital literature and websites was accepted. This subclass is already participating in national and international exhibitions where the regulations allow it, but in a major international or world exhibition it had yet to occur.

The news about the schedule change is this: The Organizing Committee has decided to separate the Philatelic Literature Class from the rest of the exhibition so that, depending on prevailing COVID-19 restrictions in the UK at the time, it can be shown at either the London "STAMPEX" exhibition in September of this year or at the Royal Philatelic Society in December.

IMPS will participate in the Literature Class with two entries; the IMPS website and the IMPS Newsletters for

2 2  
LONDON

2019. We were promptly informed about the new Literature Class arrangements in an email from our National Commissioner.

The information about the change in the Philatelic Literature exhibition dates was later confirmed in an article by Mário Paiva (Portugal) on his respected blog site "O Filatelista" <https://o-filatelista.blogspot.com>. The article quoted President of the AIJP, Mr. Wolfgang Maassen, which was published in Briefmarken Spiegel. <https://www.briefmarkenspiegel.de/>

So it's some good news for the philatelic literature people and we wish the OC great success in this innovative project.

# NOTOS 2021: A Next Generation Stamp Exhibition

*It's time to look forward to some good news and to the NOTOS 2021 exhibition in Athens which, on April 1 launched its online applications and registrations software.*

We quote the words from the excellent NOTOS 2021 website:

*"1 April: We are opening the entry forms and a window of optimism.*

*These days we are tormented by an invisible enemy, which has derailed our habits and our priorities, and which has forced us to question our future plans. But we are optimistic that this threat will soon be eliminated. In a few months today's nightmare will be a thing of the past.*

*We are therefore pushing ahead with the same passion in our preparations of NOTOS 2021. The online software for the submission of the entry forms will open on 1 April, exactly as planned. The relevant link is:*  
<https://cometonotos.hps.gr>

*All pertinent details and regulations have been posted on the pages of the exhibition's website. Exhibitors from Europe can consult their National Commissioner. Exhibitors from other parts of the world are welcome to contact the General Commissioner.*

*Our thoughts are with those who have lost loved ones and with those fighting daily, and nightly, on the front line in hospitals.*

*Let us be cautious, patient and optimistic!"*

These are excellent words and we could not write better ones. We have already entered the registration system and we were glad to contribute to the fixing of a tiny technical problem. The system is completely intuitive and compared to most other physical exhibitions, it is positively next-generation.

Speaking to the head of the Organizing Committee, Costas Chazapis, he told us that he was not expecting too many applications in the early days because



people are nervous about the future but it was essential that all the infrastructure was in place and ready to go, to instill a sense of confidence.

IMPS is very impressed with the organization of this exhibition with its progressive and inclusive rules. Since most exhibitions in 2020 are cancelled, NOTOS 2021 will become one of the most important philatelic events of the year and IMPS will be participating with an extensive range of exhibits.

## A New Collecting Theme: "COVID-19" Stamps

*Just in the last few weeks, we have seen the emergence of a new stamp collecting theme for COVID-19. It's very interesting but of course this is one theme we would like to be consigned to the history books as soon as possible.*

Whilst Moldova has stopped releasing stamps until further notice, for other postal administrations it's business as usual. Just looking at a new Facebook group dedicated to COVID-19 stamps, we can see new releases from Viet Nam, Switzerland, China and Iran. No doubt there will be many more in the near future.

The Swiss stamp is especially interesting and seems to be the only one, so far, that is a semi-postal stamp with a charity element. The stamp can only be bought in a sheet of 10 and for a price of 50 Swiss Francs. The stamps can be used to send letters, the tariff being 1 Franc and the Swiss Post absorbs this cost, donating the remaining 5 Francs to the Red Cross. This is a really good incentive for people to

make donations to the fight against COVID-19 and could be an excellent model for other postal administrations.



# The Most Beautiful Stamps of Moldova Series: Part II: Christmas 2001

*In our second instalment of this series, we look at the delightful stamps from the series "Christmas", released on November 10, 2001.*

This series was designed by Moldovan artist and illustrator, Lică Sainciuc, who is particularly well known for his work in illustrating popular children's educational story books.

The designs are especially appealing for their use of rich, deep-blue colours and gold foil in the text which creates a very vivid impression of peace, silence and reverence.

The stamps were printed at the Federal printing works, Bundesdruckerei, in Germany.

**№ 416** (40b) The Holy Trinity Church, (1821) at Saharna Monastery: 46.00mm x 27.32mm, Perforated 14. Printed 200,000.

**№ 417** (1.00L) The Church of the Assumption (1841) at Hâncu Monastery: 27.32mm x 46.00mm, Perforated 14. Printed 200,000.

**№ 418** (3.00L) The Church of St .Dumitru (1636) at Orhei: 46.00mm x 27.32mm, Perforated 14. Printed 200,000.

**№ 419** (3.90L) The Metropolitan Nativity Cathedral (1836) in Chişinău: 46.00mm x 27.32mm, Perforated 14. Printed 100,000.

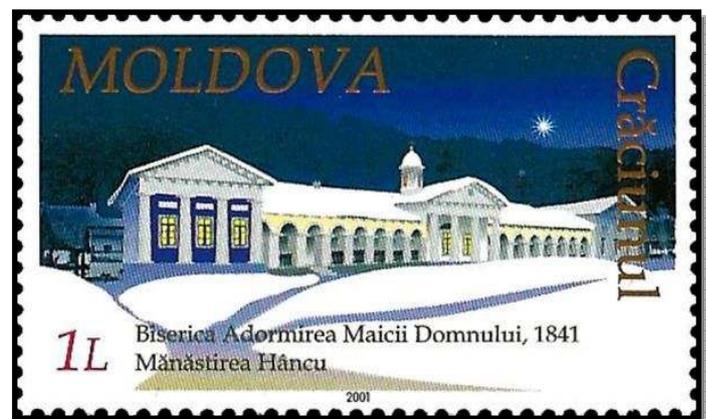
All stamps were printed on minisheets of 10v with decorated margins.

The official FDC was printed in a quantity of 1,000 pieces. The cachet features the Holy Trinity Church, (1821) at Saharna Monastery.



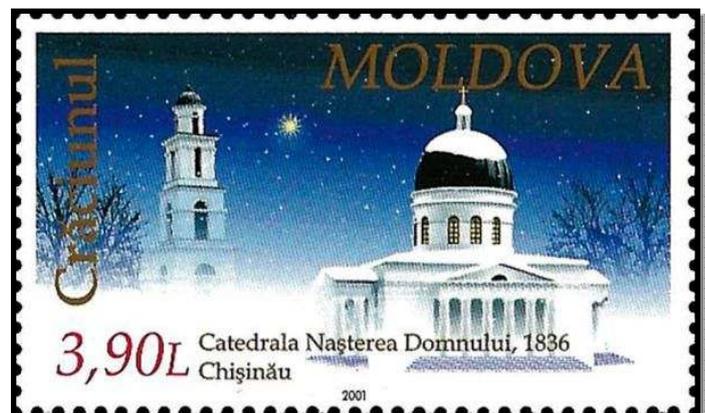
№ 416

№ 417



№ 418

№ 419



№ 416-419 FDC

From the Blog Site of Eric Contesse:  
**A tribute to singer Mihai Dolgan in Moldova**

Originally published 20.04.2012

Eric Contesse (Lyon, France) has written over 300 blog articles about philatelic material from Moldova since 2011. Each month, we will present one (or more) of his articles.

<https://timbredujura.blogspot.com>



On March 14, 2012, the Post of Moldova has issued a special souvenir sheet (composed of a L 4.50 stamp, designed by Vitaliu Pogolșa) dedicated to the singer and composer Mihai Dolgan (1942-2008) at the occasion of the 70th anniversary of his birth.

This sheet appears on the nice official FDC (Figure 1) (print run: 500, also designed by Vitaliu Pogolșa) with cancellations from Chișinău, the capital. Thank you very much Sergio :-)

Mihai Dolgan is a music legend in Moldova as well as in the countries of former USSR in particular through the rock band "Noroc" that he founded in 1967.

The phenomenon "Noroc" ("good luck" in English) was compared with the Beatles mania in the West, with many songs that marked an entire generation of young people in Eastern countries (and even in Germany), the most famous one being "De ce plâng chitarele" ("Why do the guitars cry", music by Mihai Dolgan, lyrics by Efim Crimerman).

This is beside a score of that song that is included in the top margin on this sheet. A 1970's photo of the music group "Noroc" is reproduced in the left margin.



Figure 1

To note that the Post of Moldova had already issued the postal stationery (Figure 2) in 2007 (on October 15th) to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the creation of the group "Noroc".

Before being reformed in 1985, "Noroc" was banned from 1970 by the communist authorities of the former Soviet Republic of Moldova, officially due to lack of discipline or promotion of artistic values of poor quality...



Figure 2

**10 Years Ago...**

April 8, 2010 saw the release of the lovely and highly popular series "Birds (III)".



Full technical details at [https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue\\_stamps\\_issue.asp?issueID=234](https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=234)

**20 Years Ago...**

April 12, 2000 saw the release of the millennium series "Great Events of the Twentieth Century".



Full technical details at [https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue\\_stamps\\_issue.asp?issueID=107](https://www.moldovastamps.org/catalogue_stamps_issue.asp?issueID=107)



**THE INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN  
PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

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

## The IMPS Newsletter Needs Your Help

### **CALLING ALL MEMBERS TO WRITE FOR THE NEWSLET- TER!**

*Although we have received many messages of praise for the IMPS Newsletter since its first edition in May 2018, one comment which is frequently made is that there are very few articles and contributions from members and that most articles are written by only three or four people.*



These days, many of us are stuck at home, in lock down, in social isolation and with much time on our hands. All through this terrible pandemic, IMPS will try to continue its normal activities, if for no other reason than to offer our members a small distraction from the constant worry about the world outside. Members of IMPS can certainly help us with this.

IMPS currently has 295 members in 62 countries. These numbers are very impressive and IMPS is definitely the biggest group of collectors of Moldovan stamps in the world. Our membership includes people at all levels of the hobby, from casual collectors to some of the most accomplished philatelists.

But like most clubs, groups, societies, we do not hear from the majority of you. We would like to fix this by sending every IMPS member an open invitation to write to us and/or to write articles for the newsletter.

You all have stories to tell and wonderful collections you would like to talk about. We want to hear it all. Any kind of text is welcome, a simple question about stamps, a single paragraph comment, a story about how you got interested in stamps, a big article about your collection... anything is welcome.

You can write to us in any language. We will do all the translation work. Don't worry about perfect "journalistic" grammar either. We will take care of all these small details. Just send us your emails and/or attachments to [info@moldovastamps.org](mailto:info@moldovastamps.org). We wish all the members of IMPS safety and good health during this difficult time.

## Next Month...

As we have said earlier, the leadership of Posta Moldovei placed a moratorium of the issuance of new postage stamps, which came into effect on February 1 2020, well before the beginning of the current COVID-19 crisis. There are no official indications from Posta Moldovei when any new philatelic material will be issued by RM again.

On this basis, we cannot forecast the content of the May 2020 Newsletter. We will continue to monitor this situation on a weekly basis.

In the meantime. Our valuable time resources will be spent on research and development work on a virtual exhibition system.

## Newsletters Archive...

INTERNATIONAL MOLDOVAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
www.moldovastamps.org

International Moldovan Philatelic Society | IMPS  
& Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the Republic of Moldova

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