

Within this volume dates, up to 1/14 April 1919 are indicated by ‘’/’’, meaning the old and new calendar (Julian and Gregorian). In Romania the Post had adopted the Gregorian Calendar in 1865, but the other bodies of the State, including the Army, used the Julian old style till 1/14 April 1919.

This volume could not have been issued had it not been for the work of other researchers, in this field. This explains why in the chapter VII. Philatelic Bibliography are mentioned, as in previous volumes, all articles in this field, which were found, even though some do not contribute by quality and frequency to the contents of the present volume.

Special merit is due to Mircea Teleguț and Horst Thielk for their two editions of Censorship Catalogues and the research of dr. Dan Grecu and dr. Dan Traian Demeter, in their multiple articles on civil mail censorship during the first World-War which stimulated investigations in this field.

This volume does not solve or decipher all problems concerning the civil mail censorship in Romania and in the Romanian areas during the 1914-1940, but attempts to supply many informations in this field. It is possible also that some ideas and assumptions of the author (as a whole introduced by the words “it can be assumed” or “probably”) do not coincide with the ideas of other researchers or even with the real state of affairs, but one should not forget that “only who does not work (or write) does not go ever wrong!”.

2. Sassower, Gabriel *An Ardent Philatelist: King Carol II of Romania KG FRPSL* by, London Philatelist, 113:55 March 2004. The article gives details of King Carol’s application for admission to the Royal Society and other dealings with T. Allen who was a British stamp dealer.

Past issues of the Romanian Postal History Bulletin are available at \$5.00 US per issue including postage.

TWO FORGOTTEN ROMANIAN POSTAL STATIONERIES

Dinu G. Matei, Toronto, Canada

Following King Mihai I abdication on December 30, 1947, postal stationeries depicting the King’s portrait and the Royal Coat of Arms were replaced in 1948 with new ones depicting the People’s Republic of Romania Coat of Arms. Old military post cards, reply post cards, postal money orders, and telegram forms were overprinted, but will not be discussed here.

On May 1948 the postal rate for sending a letter up to 20 grams within Romania was set-up to 11 Lei and the postal rate for sending a post card was set-up to 6 Lei. Post cards with 6 lei imprinted stamp issued between 1948 and 1952 are quite common, however the situation is somehow different for the covers with 11 lei imprinted stamp. Why? Simply because the post cards were cheap and sold at their face value, while the covers were sold at a higher price, that is the cost of the envelope being included in the selling price. This seems normal, however it made the covers relatively unpopular, people preferring to use blank envelopes and to affix the required postage in postage stamps. Thus, the 1948 issued covers bearing an imprinted 11 Lei stamp saw much less usage than expected by the Romanian Postal Administration. As a result, they are relatively difficult to find, both in unused and used condition. Figure 1 depicts such a cover, sent by airmail in December 1951 from Simeria to Windsor,

Canada. The cover bears a nice additional franking totaling 52 lei. At that time the postal rate for sending an airmail letter up to 20 grams to Canada was set-up to 48 lei, thus one can assume this letter was weighting more than 20 grams and was charged accordingly.

Following the 1952 Monetary Reform both post cards and covers with imprinted stamps issued between 1948 and 1952 were overprinted with new face values. While the various types of overprints applied on the 6 lei post cards indicate the new postal rate for mailing such items within Romania, respectively 30 Bani (0.30 lei), the overprints applied on the 11 lei covers indicate a face value of 70 bani (0.70 lei) versus a postal rate of 55 bani (0.55 lei). 70 bani was actually the selling price for such a cover and not the postal rate! Again, for this reason, people did not use many of these overprinted covers. The ones that survived nowadays are indeed difficult to find. Figure 2 depicts such an overprinted cover, sent in June 1952 from Bucharest to Orasul Stalin (Brasov nowadays).

Both types of covers (without and with overprint) are mentioned in the *Michel Osteuropa Ganzachen Katalog* 2001 edition, however, in my opinion, they are both heavily underpriced.



Fig. 1.

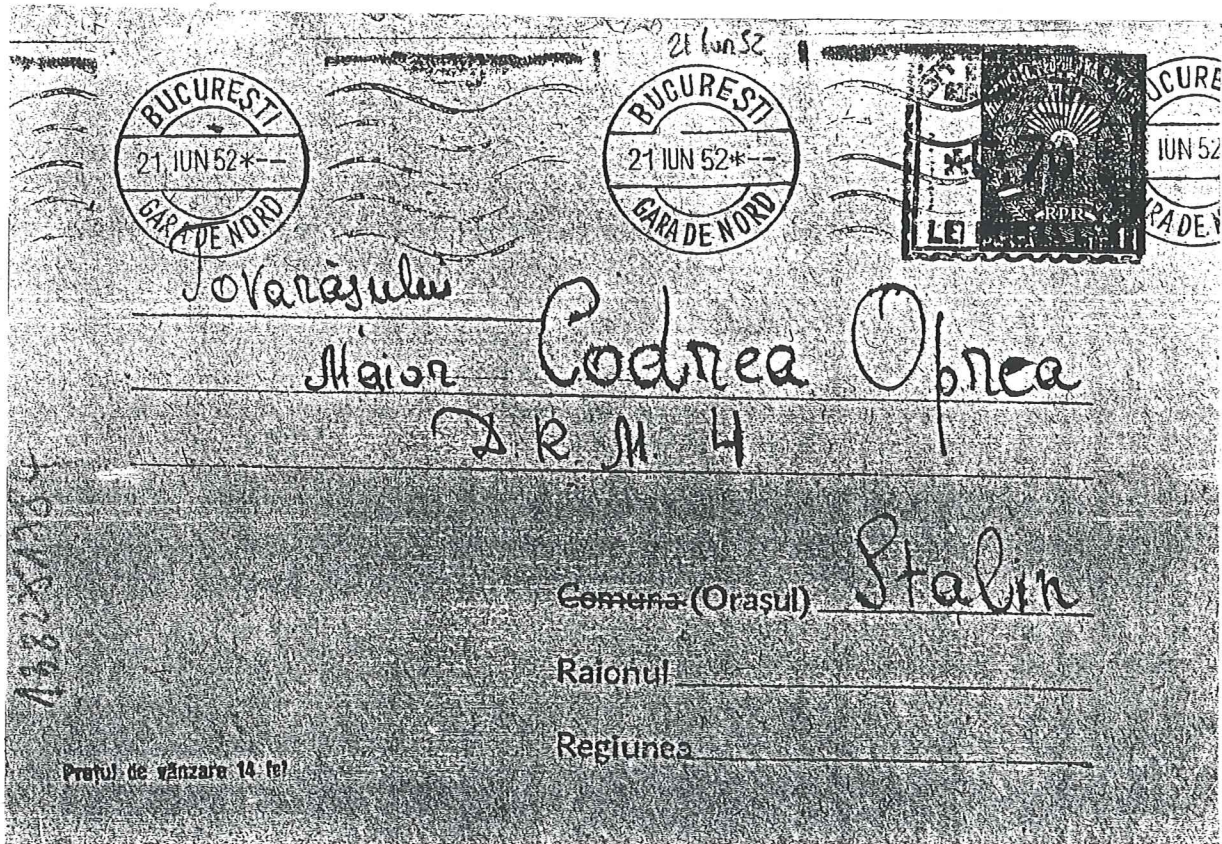


Fig. 2.

AN INTERESTING UNKNOWN POSTMARK “MIHĂILENI”

By Dipl. Ing. Calin Marinescu, Bucharest, Romania

MIHĂILENI is a little town in the former Judet Dorohoi. Before 1918 it was the northern passing point from Old Romania in Austrian-Hungarian Empire. A first Romanian post office was established in Mihaileni before 1850.

In his memorable book about Romanian postmarks (1), the philatelic researcher Kiriac Dragomir presented postmarks of this little town. On page 106 in the figures No.471 and 473 two postmarks “MIHAILENI / DIM” (DIM. from Dimineata = Morning) there are, differentiated, mainly by the letter “H”. These postmarks were named by Kiriac Dragomir “Postmarks of Time” (T69). In Figure No.1 a similar postmark of K.Dragomir’s figure No.473 of Mihaileni is presented.

In the Figures Nos. 2 - 5 an interesting postmark of Mihaileni is presented. This postmark was not included in Kiriac Dragomir’s book. In place of the word “DIM” there are 2 figures (the year). There is a very great similarity between the postmark of K.Dragomir’s figure No.473 and a close analysis shows that the cancel has been re-engraved and the word DIM replaced by the last two figures of the year.