



The Romanian Philatelic issue "Hunting", Appeared in 1956

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Author BVC designed the study and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Authors ALP, MC and ANH managed the analyses of the study. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Because Romania is placing an increasing emphasis on biodiversity conservation, it is appropriate to bring into discussion a series of aspects that alter the idea of conservation. One of the activities in question is hunting. Therefore, continuing the extensive project to promote protected natural heritage and biodiversity, we decided to focus this time on the hunting act and its pure artistic interpretations, introducing the idea of hunting associated with philately. In this sense, the first topic addressed is the first issue of Romanian postage stamps dedicated exclusively to hunting, which appeared at the beginning of 1956. Since then and until now, at the beginning of 2021, philately has

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been constantly enriched with issues between the most interesting and unique at the same time. The aim of this paper is to make known to the public and to promote nationally and internationally the term sustainable hunting, as an alarm signal for the deplorable state in which game species are treated, some of which even reach endangered. The results of the research undertaken emphasize the mass character of thematic philately and the fundamental role - as an ambassador of knowledge promotion - that it has had over time. Regarding the first philatelic issue that addresses this issue, we can say that it was a welcome one among the collectors of philatelic effects, as well as among those who used the postal service of the time. At the same time, from the large mass of pieces identified as belonging to the issue in question, the key findings are that the hunt was fully felt and known, at least locally and regionally, through the philatelic circulations exposed.

Keywords: Biodiversity; endangered species; hunting education; thematic philately.

ABBREVIATIONS

A.F.R. : Romanian Philatelists Association
CMPR : Catalog of Romanian postage stamps, 1984
CMR : Catalog of Romanian postage stamps, 1974
LP : Romfilatelia philatelic list
Mi : Michel Catalog
Sc : Scott Catalog
Sg : Stanley Gibbons Catalog
Sw : StampWorld Catalog
Yt : Yvert et Tellier Catalog
Zm : Zumstein Catalog

1. INTRODUCTION

From time immemorial, for humans, hunting has been a way of survival. The need for food, but also the defense against possible animal attacks developed the first instinctive forms of conservation [1]. Hunting is not exclusively a human action, there are of course other living beings that hunt. This occupation occurred before man cultivated plants or raised animals, examples being some populations (the islands of Polynesia, Africa, or North Asia) for which even today it is of paramount importance.

Over time, however, hunting has evolved, adding various cultural and symbolic connotations that will preserve the primitive origins of human existence [2]. An important element of hunting was and is the hunter's connection with nature. Through the mode of action, the hunter proves power through spectacular forms, but also cruel, preserved in mythology or legends of all peoples.

The passion for hunting is based on a traditional heritage that is passed from father to son, respecting the appropriate rituals and language [1,2]. Hunting has become a royal passion since the first kingdoms and empires, and later a privilege of the aristocracy. This becomes a symbolic function associated with the figure of

the sovereign, who is considered an almost divine character, shrouded in a mythical, religious aura and superior to his subjects. Due to the geographical positioning, the various existing landforms, and climatic influences in the area, Romania benefits from the great biodiversity of animal and plant species. The country's natural habitats are recognized reserves in Europe, housing in considerable densities, large and medium-sized predatory species, aquatic species, as well as many species of migratory birds, which elsewhere are rare or threatened with extinction [3,4].

The conservation of faunal biodiversity and the perpetuation of a healthy balance between different species, as well as between them and their living environment, is the object and purpose of many and various professions, specialties, and activities, including sport hunting. This is defined as a rational action, carried out to maintain the balance in nature, sustainably exploiting a renewable natural resource. Sport hunting, carried out to maintain the agro-forestry-hunting balance, within the limits of the population increase, sustainable, is subject to the approval and control of the central public authorities responsible for hunting and the environment [4]. Hunting requires multiple knowledge of the nature, game, and technique of hunting, but also qualities such as reason and inspiration, physical endowment and passion, self-education and self-control, talent, and experience. That is why we looked down and focused all our attention on the philatelic issue in question. Because hunting in general, even as an activity to the detriment of biodiversity conservation and habitat protection, promises to be an informational resource from which the community can learn. To learn to manage hunting funds more efficiently, to respect the ecological corridors traversed by hunting species, and to be more balanced in relation to their consumption. We consider that in this sense

philately has something to say, and that all these teachings can be formed through thematic philately.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The documentation for this paper started from our concerns for environmental philosophy and applied ecology [5], for the management of protected areas [6], and because we love the implications of thematic philately in ecosystem promotion and biodiversity conservation strategies [7-12]. Having at hand a series of relevant publications, in terms of management of protected areas and biodiversity [13-15], and some relevant philatelic publications [16-19], we decided to extrapolate these approaches to the limited space of Romanian ecosystems, where hunting is a well-defined activity, still in the foreground. Thematic philately reaches our country, where few studies make direct reference to the management of terrestrial areas, in general, or protected biodiversity (including game species), in particular. The collection, analysis, and interpretation of philatelic data (mostly postage stamps, first-day covers, maximum postcards, and other post-philatelic effects), were done by consulting specialized catalogs. We also discovered valuable information researching various philatelic trade platforms (such as Allumis, Colnect, Delcampe, eBay, Okazii, StampWorld). Equally useful were the discussions with collectors and philatelists. Thus, we managed to index, correlate, and debate the pieces studied.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Postage Stamps of the Philatelic Issue "Hunting", 1956

The first philatelic issue in Romania dedicated exclusively to hunting, entitled as suggestive as possible - "Hunting - lacy" (LP RO#404, CMR #1632..1643, CMPR #1735..1746, Mi RO#1565..1576, Sc RO#1082..1093, Yt RO#1438..1449, Sg RO#2423..2434, Sw Ro#1571..1582, Zm RO#1688..1699) appeared in a circulation of 70,000 series on March 28, 1956. It is composed of 12 stamps (see Fig. 1) [20,21], representing various species of game animals, made by heliogravure on white paper with watermark XVI gummed (Fig. 4a).

This type of watermark (R.P.R.) appeared in 1995, the letters in the composition being darker in color than the background of the paper, being connected and arranged straight, their height is

15 mm. This makes it more difficult to detect watermark positions [22]. The size of the stamps in the horizontal position is 38x27,5 mm value with the lace of 14:14 units, and in the vertical position 27.5x38 mm with the lace of 14:14½ units [23-25]. The models of the stamps were made by the team formed by the employees of the Bucharest Stamp Factory, led by Ion Dumitrana [26], this being their first philatelic issue modeled in this formula [27,28]. The stamps were paged in finished sheets of 100 pieces.

At the end of that year, on December 12, 1956, the postage stamps saw the light of day even in an unlacy form, as part of the philatelic issue "Hunting - unlacy" (LP #404a, CMR #1683..1694, CMPR #1785..1796, Mi RO#1614..1625, Yt RO#1488..1499, Sg RO#2474..2485, Sw RO#1620..1631, Zm RO#1688A..1699A).

The non-laced variants meet the same images, with changing colors (see Fig. 2). The circulation of this impression was slightly smaller-52,000 complete series [23]. The stamps were paginated in finished sheets of 25 pieces.

The first stamp in the series, the 20 Romanian bani, is dedicated to the rabbit. This animal plays a special role from a sport-hunting point of view, knowing that almost every hunter starts his job hunting rabbits. The stamp depicts a rabbit running across the plain. The colors used are dark green for the background and black for the rabbit in the lacy version, while in the nonlaced version the rabbit has a shade of brown. In addition, with a face value of 20, bani is the stamp that illustrates a plain view (with a light yellow background for the lacy version, respectively, blue for the nonlaced one) over which is a superimposed bustard (in shades of black-gray), the largest bird. land in our country. The bustard hunt had a special charm in the past, both in terms of the weight with which the hunter could approach this very vigilant game and due to the specifics of his living environment (steppe). Due to its rarity (currently in Romania there are less than 50 specimens in the area of Salonta in Bihor County, respectively, Beba Veche commune in Timiș County), this beautiful bird has a faunal value, losing its hunting value in the early 1980s. From a conservationist point of view, such a population is at a critical stage and conservation measures are needed to ensure its stabilization.

The association of fishing with hunting is not purely coincidental. The stamp with a face value

of 35 bani shows the delicate trout, the silverfish with red stars that lives in the cold and fast waters of our mountains. The aquatic picture (blue-steel color at the lacy mark, respectively, green at the nonlaced one) highlights the gracefulness of the trout (black-olive color, respectively, sepia). On the 50 bani stamp, at the edge of a forest (the background of the blue stamp on the lacy mark, respectively, brown on the non-laced one), scrutinizing the distances, suggesting strength and vigor, there is a wild boar (steel-gray color, respectively sepia). This is a hunting game much appreciated by connoisseurs, both for the pleasure of its search and for the economic value it represents.

The first stamp with a face value of 55 bani is dedicated to an animal that is, unfortunately, less and less hunted nowadays - the bear. The green background depicts a corner of a mountain forest, the landscape being dominated by the massive presence of a beautiful specimen of the species. The tone of the colors used differs between the two variants of the brand. The second brand with a face value of 55 bani is dedicated to a tender bird, once was an opportunity for hunting monarchs - the common pheasant. Rarely encountered in our forests, the pheasant enjoys special protection today. The stamp depicts the edge of a forest (olive-brown, respectively purple), and in the foreground a pheasant (brown, respectively, sepia) stepping with great gravity.

Any mountain hunter can tell how dangerous it is to be unarmed face to face with a lynx. The stamp with a face value of 1 Romanian leu represents a lynx lurking on a trouser leg. The animal is reddish-brown in color, and the forest background in the background, dark green and blue, respectively, in the unlaced version of the mark.

The first thing noticed when examining the 1.55 lei stamp is undoubtedly the squirrel's eyes (brown), about which we believe that lives only to walk his bushy tail from tree to tree. The background of the stamp is blue at the lacy mark and ocher at the non-laced mark. If you happen to spend the night in the forest, maybe before dawn you will be lucky to hear the proud singing of the capercaillie. The stamp with a face value of 1.75 lei shows it at such a moment. The colors are olive green for the lace mark, respectively, a light green for the nonlaced one for the background, and brown, respectively, purple, for the rooster. If you reach the lofty heights of Făgăraș, you might see in the distance, with

another peak, a proud and beautiful animal, smelling the air carefully. It is a black goat, one of the ornaments of our mountains. The 2 lei stamp depicts her on a mountain ridge, admiring the view that unfolds before her eyes. The animal appears in its natural color brown/black, on a blue background (in different shades for each variant of the mark).

The 3.25 lei stamp brings to the fore a bird (brown to black) flying with outstretched wings. It is about the wild duck, a game very sought after by pond hunters. In the background, with light green and yellowish colors, a puddle painting is suggestively painted. The last stamps of the issue we submitted to the study are dedicated to the most important species from a hunting point of view in our country, namely, the deer. The image highlighted by these marks represents in the foreground a deer with its rich ornament of horns (the color of the animal is brown on the lacy mark and sepia on the nonlaced one) and in the background a mountain landscape on an orange or purple background.

The philatelic issue is accompanied by three envelopes marked "the first day of issue" (see Fig. 3) [29], each with a specific semiillustration depending on the stamps applied - the terrestrial ecosystem (with alpine hollows and forests), the mixed ecosystem (forests and meadows), and the aquatic ecosystem (swamp and delta).

The „hunting” is considered by Romanian philatelists one of the most successful issues of 1956. At most values, the connection between the elements in the foreground, which illustrates the subject, and those in the background, was well resolved. This is how the values of wild boar, chamois, deer, bear, rabbit, wild duck, bustard, pheasant, and trout are presented. Instead, the laughter, the squirrel, and the capercaillie appear torn from the environment in which they live. Unfortunately, the quality of the print and lace have left room for the appearance of errors and philatelic varieties, which we will present below.

3.2 Errors and Philatelic Varieties

Concerned with the issue of philatelic errors and varieties, the famous philatelic researcher Prof. Sergiu Găbureac, putting together the two variants of the show, managed to identify no less than 13 errors and 54 philatelic varieties [19].

The philatelist Victor Iordache from Săcele signaled the existence of a nonlaced variant for each value in the lace series. However, there are

rumors that these brands, existing on the market, are in fact essays (test images made to choose and control, in advance, the different characteristics of the original piece - pattern, color, paper) [28]. To avoid constructions such as the "lacy version of the lace brand", in the present study, we will exemplify these pieces as "essays". For those who carefully studied the watermark of the postage stamps, for this value, the watermark was identified in positions 1, 2, 3, and 4 for the lacy mark, and 2 and 4 for the nonlaced version. The appearance of these watermark positions was generated by the way paper packages were placed in the bed of the printing machine [28].

Fig. 4 shows the eight possible positions of the watermark found in our study. Theoretically, for horizontally paged postcards, positions 1-4 are frequent, position 1 is standard, and for vertically paged positions, positions 5-8 are common, position 5 being the standard one.

For the value of 20 bani (European hare), three varieties were reported for the nonlaced version and two for the lace version. The most common is that of the accentuated shift of the black color (see Fig. 5a), an effect that appeared when the printing sheet was reintroduced for the application of the second color when the sheet was not positioned correctly [30]. This movement has been signaled in various positions. In Fig. 5a it is easy to observe the right rear foot, that touches the bushes, and the text "POSTA R.P.ROMÎNĂ" is pasted on the lower frame of the brand.

Regarding the stamp with the great bustard, reproduced on the 20 bani postage stamp, five varieties were reported (three for the lacy stamp and two for the nonlaced version). Accentuated color shifts (black) in various positions can also be seen in the examples in Fig. 5b-d [31,32], where we have:

- moving down the text being placed on the lower frame of the drawing;
- a slight movement to the left, where the tail of the great bustard is observed, which covers most of the clouds in the background, and the tip of the right wing slightly cut the frame of the mark, and
- a piece in which the black color was much shifted to the left and down, the elements of the drawing passing over the border of the mark (the stamp comes from the first row of the finished sheet, being cut even

with the graphic elements on the edge of the sheet).

Sergiu Găbureac identified the watermark in positions 5,6,7, and 8 for the lacy mark, respectively, 6 and 8 for the non-laced one. The same positions of the watermark are found in the brand with a face value of 35 bani. The late philatelist Costin Merișca from Iași was the first person to signal the shift of the black color (to the lacy mark) and the sepia one (to the nonlaced mark) for the stamp with the nominal value of 35 bani. In Fig. 5e you can see the movement to the left of the trout and the text that comes to rest on the frame of the mark [33], and in Fig. 5f we have an accentuated the color shift to the right [34]. Philatelist Paul-Dan Cioacă pointed out the existence of an error in the unlaced version of the brand. It is a dorsal "wing" in addition to the trout that swims in green waters. Until the moment of writing this article, we did not manage to identify the piece with the mentioned error.

For the unlaced postage stamp with a face value of 50 bani (wild boar), the philatelist Lungu Anton from Bucharest signaled for the first time the lack of a dot after R in R.P. ROMÎNĂ. In Fig. 5g can be seen a dot after the letter Ă, from the word /ROMÎNĂ/, positioned at the top, an error that was reported for the first time by Paul-Dan Cioacă from Bucharest. Another error we consider, which is not yet certified by a specialized catalog, would be the tick under the letter A from /BANII/, image reproduced in Fig. 5h. Accentuated color shifts can be seen in Fig. 5g, h and j, where we have: a movement to the right and at the top of the frame so that the wild boar's rat enters the letters NI and /BANII/, as well as a movement , the text bordering the postage stamp frame [35,36]. For the lace mark, we have identified a shift towards the top of the postmark. For both variants of this value, the watermark position was identified in positions 1, 2, 3, and 4.

For the nominal 55 money (bear), the existence of the watermark in positions 1, 2, 3, and 4 is known for the lacy mark, respectively, positions 2 and 4 for the non-laced mark. Accentuated color shifts (brown-lilac for the lacy mark, respectively, brown for the nonlaced one) are known in various positions. Costin Merișca and Victor lordache are just two of the philatelists who have studied carefully and pointed out such varieties. In Fig. 5k-r we reproduced some varieties encountered [37-39]:

- an accentuated movement of the color to the left, the letter P exceeding the frame of the mark, and the bear's head entering the letter I from /BANJ/;
- an accentuated shift of the color towards the lower part of the mark, between the nominal value and the bear remains an exaggerated gap;
- an accentuated movement of the color to the right, the last letter (Ă) of the text touches the edge from the right to a mark coming from the last row of the finished sheet;
- towards the upper part of the mark, the text written in brown reaches close to the text written in green;
- on the right, the text exceeding the frame of the mark and the back of the bear hitting the tree;
- an accentuated movement of the color towards the right-upper part of the stamp behind the animal exceeding the frame of the mark and its posterior penetrating in the branches of the tree;
- a very pronounced shift of the color towards the lower part of the mark, the text written in brown, exceeding by half the frame of the stamp;
- the essay of the lace mark.

The pheasant is illustrated on the postage stamp with a face value of 55 bani, in the colors green-black with olive-brown for the lacy version and purple with sepia for the nonlaced version. Sergiu-Marian Găbureac and Gheorghe Domșa determined the watermark in positions 1, 2, 3, and 4 for the lacy mark, respectively 4 for the non-laced one. A possible philatelic error, which we reproduced in Fig. 5s, consists of a purple dot, positioned above the letters BA in /BANJ/, close to the upper frame [40]. Regarding the accentuated color movements, the philatelist Marius Jianu from Bucharest was the one who mentioned them for the first time. In Fig. 5t we have accentuated the movement of color towards the upper part of the mark, the head of the bird reaching the letters ZA from /FAZAN/ and the tip to the tail loop of the first 5 of the nominal value [41].

The lynx is reproduced on the stamp with a face value of 1 leu (reddish-brown with green in the lacy version, respectively reddish-brown with blue in the nonlaced version). Philatelic researchers have reported no less than three errors for this stamp. Costel Sumănaru from Bucharest mentioned for the first time the existence of a loop line between the letters P and

R from /P. ROMÎNĂ/ (see Fig. 5u). The existence of a white stripe after the number 1 of the nominal value was first mentioned by the Bucharest philatelist Filip Alexandru, and the white dot after ROMINA, at the bottom, by the late Marcel Șapira. Regarding the varieties, Sergiu-Marian Găbureac identified the watermark in positions 1, 2, 3, and 4 for the lacy mark, respectively, 2 and 4 for the nonlaced one.

For the postage stamp with a face value of 1.55 lei, only one error reported by Paul-Dan Ciocă is known and cataloged. It is a point located in the middle of the first foot of the letter Ă in the word /ROMÎNĂ/. The lacy mark shows the watermark in positions 5, 6, 7, and 8, while the nonlaced one in positions 6 and 8. Various positions of the accentuated color movements are also known for this stamp, both for the laced and nonlaced marks (see Fig. 5v-y) [42-44]. In Fig. 5v we have an accentuated the shift of color to the left of the color brown, being able to observe the penetration over the frame of the mark of the letter R (bottom left) and the tail losing its stubbornness, and in Fig. 5w the movement to the left is much more accentuated, the letter R exceeding the frame by half. For the non-toothed stamp shown in Fig. 5x we have an accentuated color shift to the bottom right where the last leg of the letter Ă slightly cuts the frame of the mark. An accentuated color shift to the upper right of the reddish-brown color can also be observed in Fig. 5y. And this time the last leg of the letter Ă slightly cuts the frame of the mark on the right side, and in the upper part, it is cut by the tip of the tree rodent's tail.

Marcel Șapira mentioned the existence of a point after the tail of the mountain rooster on the lacy version of the brand with a nominal value of 1.75 lei, and on the nonlaced version, Sergiu Găbureac mentioned the existence of "flakes" above the tail. Mats Blücker reported on his website the existence, at the lacy stamp, of a gray stripe near the beak, which cut the mark diagonally (top left) from left to right. In Fig. 5z-ddEroare! Fără sursă de referință. we have identified several postage stamps, which could be new philatelic errors, for which we are still waiting for confirmation: a purple dot behind the neck at 11 o'clock, and an unidentified flying object (due to the interaction of very fluid inks with the small roughness of the mold) below the point after the letter R₂ in /R₂P./, at 6 o'clock. The non-laced mark presents the watermark in positions 5, 6, 7, and 8, while the laced one in positions 6 and 8, these were identified by Gheorghe Domșa and Sergiu Găbureac. Various

positions of accentuated color movements are also known for this stamp, some of which are reproduced in Fig. 5z-dd [45-48]:

- a slight accentuated movement of color towards the upper part of the mark in which the penetration of the tip of the tail in the letter E from /LEI/ is observed;
- a slight accentuated movement of color towards the lower part of the mark in which a foot and a spruce branch cut the delimiting white line;
- an accentuated movement of pronounced color towards the upper part and the right brown color penetrating in several elements of the background color (olive green).

Sergiu-Marian Găbureac mentions the existence of a dot after the black goat's ear on the undamaged stamp with a face value of 2 lei, and Mats Blücker brings to the readers' attention a shift of the black color towards the upper part of the mark. In Fig. 5ee we present a shading of the text written in black. For both variants of the stamp, the position of the watermark was identified in positions 2 and 4 [49]. The philatelist Cezar Vasilescu mentioned the fact that the first leg of the letter N from /ROMÎNĂ/ is interrupted at a series of marks from the lacy version of the value of 3.25 lei (wild duck), and Sergiu Găbureac also showed the existence of specimens that present a vertical under the letter I from /SĂLBĂȚICĂ/. And for this nominal value, there are various positions of the color shifts, and the watermark is found in positions 2 and 4 for both variants.

For the last face value in the series, that of 4.25 lei (deer), Cezar Vasilescu mentioned that the letters CB in /CERB/ are damaged at the top. Similarly, in Fig. 5ff [50] we identified the letter B in /CERB/ broken at the top. Color shifts have been encountered in various positions. In Fig. 5gg we wanted to reproduce an accentuated displacement of color towards the lower part of the mark and in Fig. 5hh and the accentuated the movement of color towards the upper part [51]. The watermark was determined in positions 6 and 8 by Sergiu Găbureac for both variants of the brand.

3.3 Maximum Postcards

In addition, the postage stamps were included in the maximum postcard structure. These are the philatelist's results, who managed to make this passion a mission to leave a beautiful memory to

the descendants. Some of them, the ones we managed to identify, we reproduce in the following. In Fig. 6a-n we selected a series of maxims made with the lacy version of postage stamps. The way in which the piece was made, either in an organized setting (exhibition, philatelic group), or individually by the passionate philatelist, is also revealed by the stamp that obliterates the maximum postcards.

For the brand with the rabbit, we managed to identify two maxims: one in a vertical position (see Fig. 6a) and one in a horizontal position Fig. 6d. The first of them was made using the day stamp of the P.O. no. 1 from Bacău on October 29, 1959 [52], and the second one (see Fig. 6b) [53] bearing the stamp of O.P. from Strehăia on 14.04.1970. The month of nature protection held in Sovata in April 1980 gave the possibility to achieve the maximum presented in the position Fig. 6e with the stamp illustrating the great bustard [54].

On the occasion of the Sibiu Philatelic Exhibition held between December 20-30, 1956, the maxims were made with the wild boar (see Fig. 6f) [55], the bear (Fig. 6g,h) [56-58] and the deer (Fig. 6n) [59]. To achieve the second maxim with the stamp illustrating Santa Martin (see Fig. 6h) [58] was used as a support, a view edited in Hungary, which illustrates a family of bears in the Budapest Zoo, being obliterated with the P.O. day stamp from 24.04.1971. Unfortunately, we were not able to discern the town from the stamp.

Even the pheasant benefited from two wonderful achievements. For the first of these (see Fig. 6i) an illustrated postcard, printed in the Netherlands, after a photograph by Pierre Ramaekers, was used as support. The maxim was made by the philatelist from Timișoara Gunther Makamul with the day stamp of Sarmizegetusa P.O., on June 29, 1973 [60]. The second maxim (see Fig. 6j) was made on an old postcard, edited by D.K. & Co P.K. van Holl pins, and obliterated with the day stamp of Bârlad P.O. on March 13, 1958 [61].

Unfortunately, we failed to identify many of the stamps on which the maxim of laughter was reproduced in Fig. 6b. The only thing that was hard to decipher was the day stamp of an P.O. from Bucharest [62]. However, we identified a similar maxim, this time one approved by the A.F.R. with the number 36305 (see Fig. 6c) [63], which was part of the collection of the philatelist

Coriolan Ghițesu Mureș. The maximum illustration was obliterated with the day stamp of P.O. no. 1 from Bucharest on 25.06.1960.

The only maxim of the squirrel that we managed to identify in the online environment was reproduced in Fig. 6k [64]. Unfortunately, the quality of the image found leaves much to be desired, the only elements on the stamp that we managed to discern were O.P. Poiana Brașov and the year 1966.

With the help of the advertising stamp "Hunters! Protect and protect the game" applied in Petroșani on 18.11.1981, the maxim of the black goat is presented in Fig. 6 m [65]. Using as a support, an illustrated book edited by Hans Schmidt, Gerns, Wiechmann Verlag, Starnberg von München (no. VII/329), the maxim

belonging to the Belgian maximaphilist M. de Wergifosse Fig. 6n [66].

In Fig. 7 we selected a series of maxims made with the undamaged version of the postage stamps that we managed to identify during the documentation period for our article. What drew our attention to the maxim made with the undated mark representing the great bustard (Fig. 7g) was the fact that a closer look shows that the stamp used was stamped with complacency, dated 10.4.9x(!), Bucharest (bottom left corner). Over this stamp was applied the day stamp of P.O. no. 1 Botoșani from 22.(?).1978. The medium used is an old illustrated postcard edited by the C.P.C.S., without relevant identification data [67]. Our opinion is that this piece is a fake in the field of maximafilia.



Fig. 1. The philatelic issue "Hunting - lacy", March 28, 1956, Bucharest
 (a) European hare (*Lepus europaeus*); (b) great bustard (*Otis tarda*); (c) brown trout (*Salmo trutta morpha fario*); (d) wild boar (*Sus scrofa*); (e) brown bear (*Ursus arctos*); (f) common pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*); (g) Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*);
 (h) red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*); (i) western capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*);
 (j) chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*); (k) northern pintail (*Anas acuta*);
 (l) red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) [23-25]



Fig. 2. The philatelic issue "Hunting - unlacy", March 28, 1956, Bucharest
(a) European hare (*Lepus europaeus*); (b) great bustard (*Otis tarda*); (c) brown trout (*Salmo trutta morpha fario*); (d) wild boar (*Sus scrofa*); (e) brown bear (*Ursus arctos*); (f) common pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*); (g) Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*); (h) red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*); (i) western capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*); (j) chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*); (k) northern pintail (*Anas acuta*); (l) red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) [23]



(a)



(b)



(c)

Fig. 3. The FDCs of the philatelic issue “Hunting”, March 28, 1956, Bucharest [29]

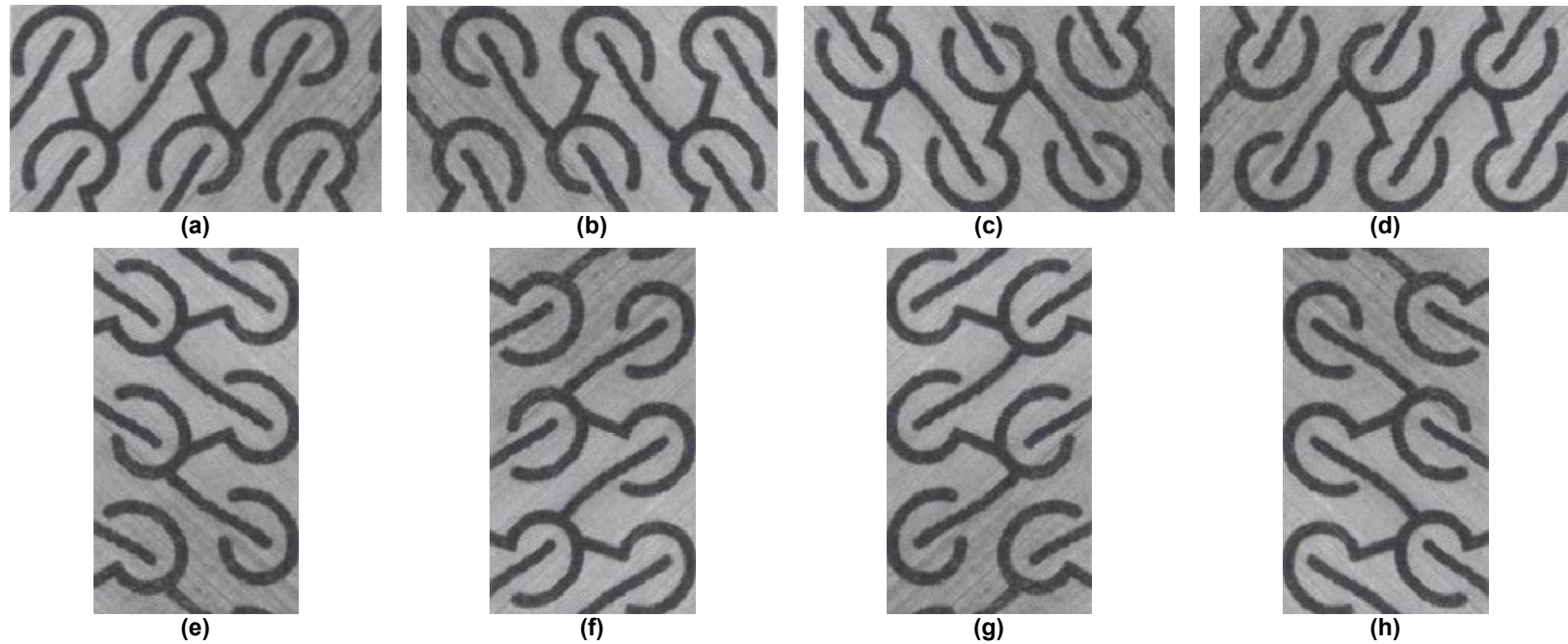


Fig. 4. Possible watermark positions: a) position 1 (normal), b) position 2, c) position 3, d) position 4, e) position 5, f) position 6, g) position 7, h) position 8



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)



(g)



(h)



(i)



(j)



(k)



(l)



(m)



(n)



(o)



(p)



(q)



(r)



(s)



(t)



(u)



(v)



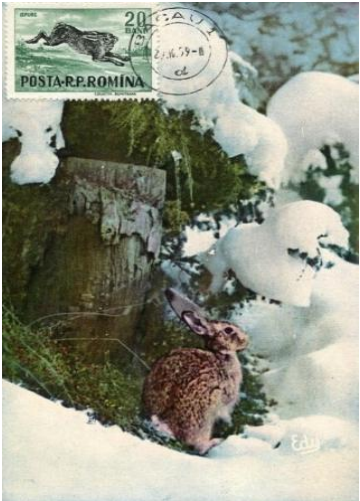
(w)



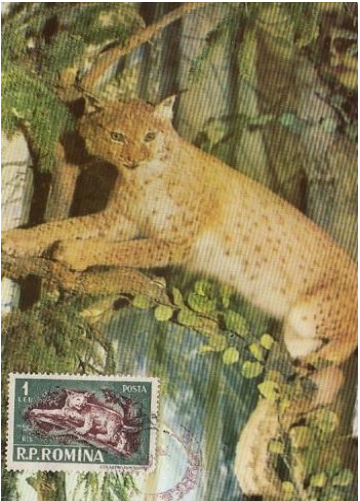
(x)



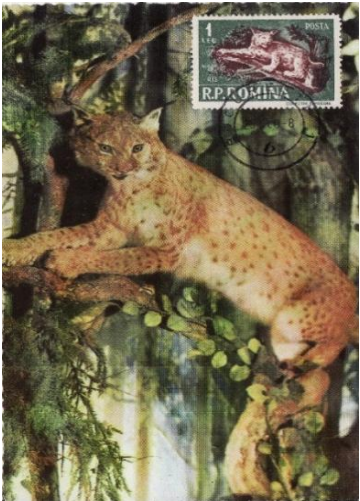
Fig. 5. Errors and philatelic varieties of the considered philatelic issue



(a)



(b)



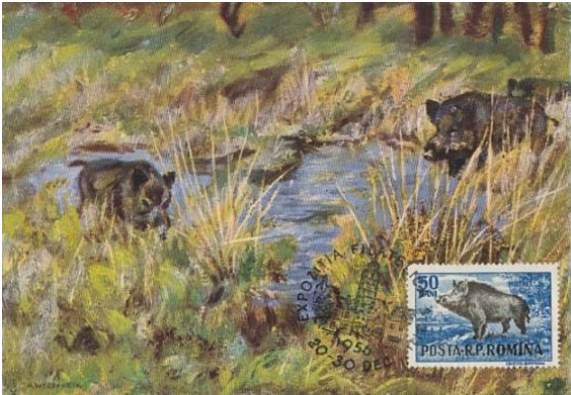
(c)



(d)



(e)



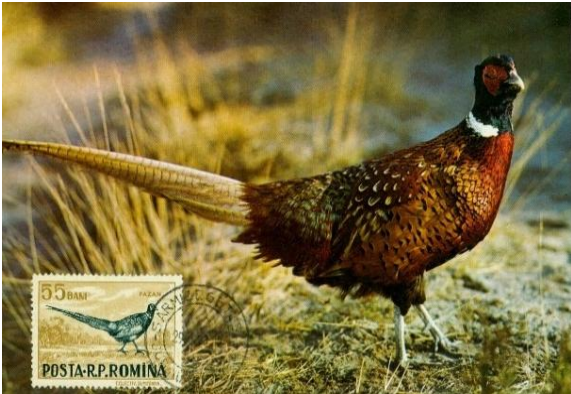
(f)



(g)



(h)



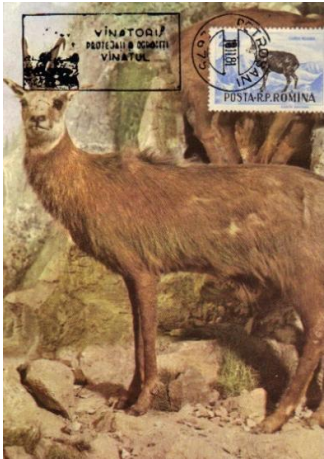
(i)



(j)



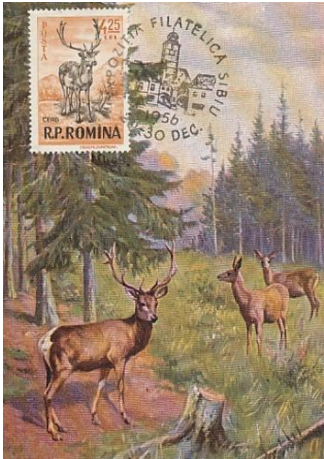
(k)



(l)



(m)



(n)

Fig. 6. Maximum postcards with the laced version of the stamps

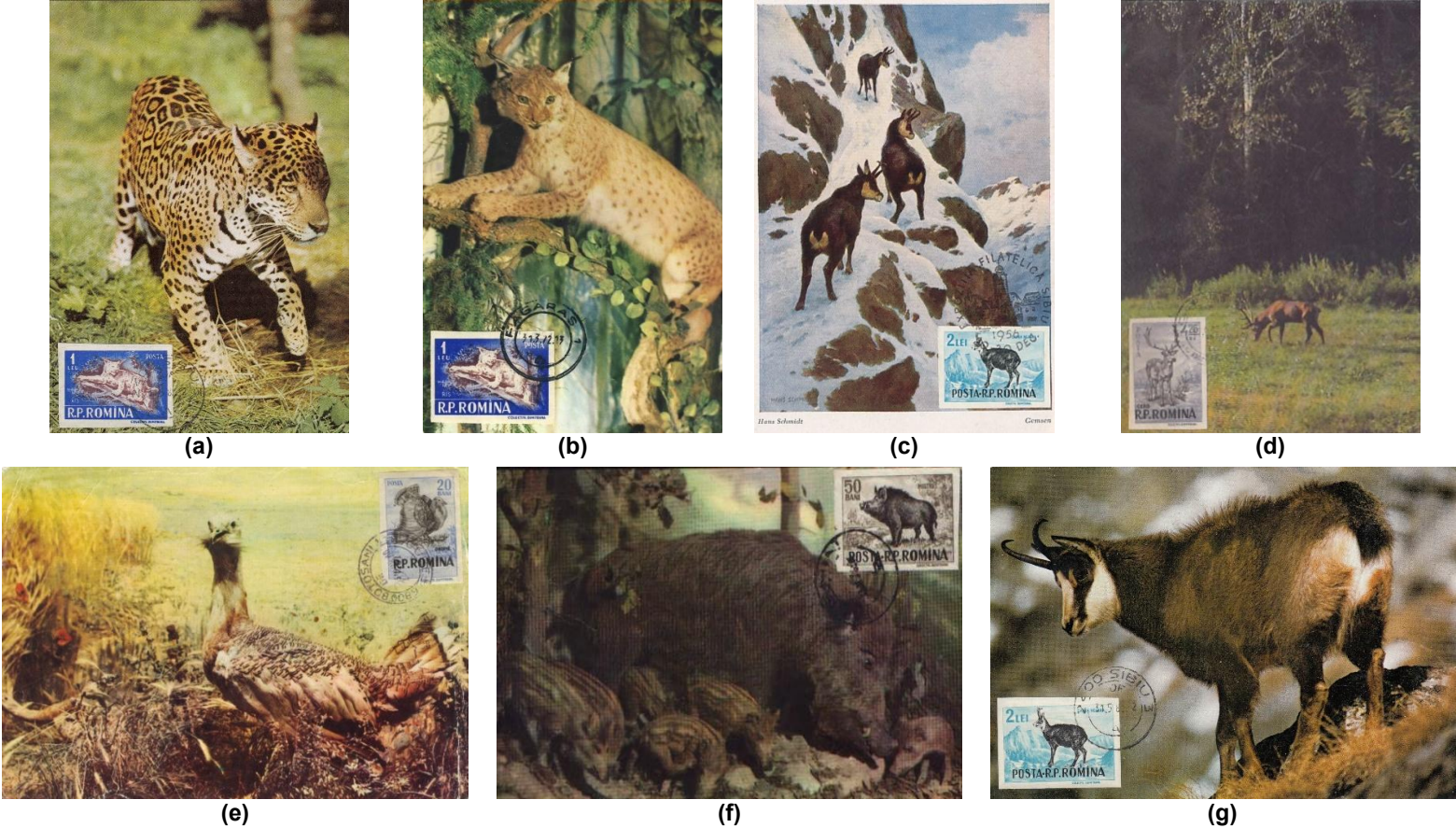


Fig. 7. Maximum postcards with the unlaced version of the stamps



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)



(g)



(h)



(i)

Fig. 8. Various circulations with the brands of the philatelic issue "Hunting"

For the part reproduced in Fig. 7h we failed to decipher the imprint of the stamp with which the piece with the wild boar was obliterated [68]. In Fig. 7a we have a maxim achieved with the help of the day stamp of O.P. no. 3 from Sibiu on 31.05.1987 [69]. The second maxim made with the toothless mark represents laughter, which we managed to identify and reproduce in Fig. 7b was made on March 31, 1972, with the stamp P.O. no. 1 from Făgăraș [70]. For the latter was used as a support view for a the set of 21 different pieces, set issued by the C.P.C.S., dedicated to Maximafilia.

The first of the maxims bearing the unlaced stamp of 2 lei (chamois) was made on the occasion of the philatelic exhibition in Sibiu in 1956 (Fig. 7c) [71], using as support a German sight used intensely in that period. The second maximum (see Fig. 7i) was achieved using the day stamp of O.P. no. 3 from Sibiu to 31.05.198(?) [72]. The non-toothed stamp of the deer allowed in 1968 the achievement of the maximum presented in Fig. 7d. Unfortunately, the poor image quality did not allow us to identify other elements on the stamp [73].

As could be seen, in the case of the maximum postcards, reproduced in Fig. 6 and Fig. 7, they have a special effect on those who come to know them. Often such pieces bring additional information on the subject itself, especially information that emphasizes the idea of the natural habitat in which various species make their century. In addition, there are frequent cases in which the maximum postcard highlights various other characteristics of the represented species, for example, the behavior within the area of which they are part.

3.4 Occasional Envelopes and Other Philatelic Effects

Until the submission of this study for publication, we failed to identify occasional envelopes or other philatelic effects bearing the stamps of the issue presented. If any readers have such materials, please send us a scan of them via e-mail, at a resolution of at least 200 dpi.

3.5 The Postal Role of Stamps. Different Circulations

The role of postage stamps is to prove the advance payment of the postal service to be performed. Proof of this is the application of one

stamp (or more) so that the face value is equivalent to the postal rate charged on the date of shipment.

At the time of release, the issuance ratings corresponded to the following categories of service and postal charges for home mail:

- 20 bani - weight stages of 20 bani each and the minimum fee for postage insufficiency;
- 35 bani - the equivalent of a "loco" letter of up to 20 grams;
- 50 bani - transport of business papers or samples of goods weighing up to 250 grams, as well as poste-Restante tax;
- 55 bani - the equivalent of a letter "other locality" weighing up to 20 grams;
- 1 leu - the recommendation fee charged to the state institutions as well as the receipt certificate;
- 1.55 lei - the equivalent value of a recommended "loco" of up to 20 grams;
- 1.75 lei - the equivalent value of a recommended "locality" of up to 20 grams;
- 2 lei - complaint fee for simple objects.

For the values of 3.25 lei and 4.25 lei, no current tariffs and postage were identified.

Depending on the stock of marks available to the post office officer and the weight of the item of correspondence presented or the service requested, the various combinations (or not) are presented in Fig. 8:

- a) Semi-illustrated postcards circulated on the Bucharest - Lyon route. The rate of 80 bani is obtained by combining the fixed mark (30 bani) of the postcard with that of the stamp with the wild boar (50 bani). The message on the back of the correspondence was completed on 12, VII, 1956 but, for unknown reasons, was processed by the postal service much later [74].
- b) For the recommended 3952 sent from Bucharest to Resita, the sender paid in 1956 the amount of 1.75 lei [75]. The stamps were fastened on the back of the envelope and came from the shows: "Hunting" (50 bani), "Harmful Insects" (55 bani), and "Activities" (those of 30 and 40 bani).
- c) For the recommended 616 sent from the Post Office no. 36 from Bucharest (Reșița), the fee of 1.75 lei was paid by applying the stamp to the mountain rooster. Besides, by

- posting the 50 money stamp with the wild boar, the Poste-Restante tax was paid [76].
- d) Recommended shipped from Cluj to Sibiu stamped with the stamp of 1.75 lei (mountain rooster) presented on September 17, 1956 [77].
 - e) Letter "other localities" sent on September 12, 1956, stamped with the stamp of 55 bani (pheasant) [78].
 - f) Simple letter sent from Cluj to Mediaș on November 23, 1956, and stamped on the back with stamps with the nominal value of 35 bani (trout) and 20 bani (miners from the usual "Activities" show put into circulation on March 29, 1955) [79].
 - g) Recommended letter from the state institution (Hospital no. 9 Bucharest) sent from the Alexandria department to the headquarters in the capital and charged as such with 1.55 lei [80]. The postage is composed of a stamp of 1 leu with laughter (recommendation fee for state institutions) and one of 55 bani with "Centenary of the birth of the sculptor I. Grigorescu 1856-1891" was put into circulation on July 25, 1956 (the value of an "other locality" letter, weighing up to 20 grams). Correspondence was submitted for dispatch on August 29, 1956.
 - h) An express letter sent from Cluj to Sighișoara presented on October 10, 1956, and stamped with three of the stamps of the analyzed issue (wild boar, pheasant, and squirrel).
 - i) Recommended shipped from Galați to Bucharest on July 18, 1956, stamped with "mountain rooster" [80].

As can be seen, we can say that the philatelic issue was a great success at that time, due to the large number of circulations identified. The pieces themselves bear the imprint of the envelopes and the entire postcard, having as franking a part of the stamps of the issue, mainly those with low nominal values (up to 1.75 lei). Also, they were rarely independent, most often being applied in various combinations, to meet traffic conditions to various destinations. Mainly the destinations were only at the national level, the exceptions being very few, almost not found in our philatelic research.

4. CONCLUSION

Through this study, we tried to capture and emphasize the importance of the first philatelic

publication dedicated exclusively to hunting. As we managed to show, the philatelic issue was a success. The 12 postage stamps, both in the lacy and the nonlaced version, enjoyed great sympathy and passage among the general public and collectors. Although there were several important errors and philatelic varieties, to which we paid special attention, the issue was not prejudiced as an image. Moreover, it was frequently researched. Philatelists, as well as more or less passionate collectors, often took a critical look at postage stamps, but especially at errors. Moreover, where possible, they created maximum postcards, having as the foundation for postage pieces of the considered issue.

The present study, the first one that we dedicated to hunting from a philatelic perspective, was a difficult one. The multitude of pieces we came in contact with (for example, over 1100 at first searched on the Delcampe platform), as well as the poorly defined indexing, made the documentation difficult to follow. However, the objective of the paper was achieved. We managed to index the material, according to our philatelic principles, and even to reconstruct the idea of postal circulation from that time. The entire period (from 1956 to the beginning of 2021) has been carefully analyzed, many philatelic pieces appearing even in years when we did not expect it to have circulated. Ultimately, we recommend carrying out similar studies, in the case of other hunting-based issues, to expressly point out and outline as closely as possible the reality of the evolution of the hunting activity from a philatelic perspective.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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