

ROMANIA

1856 - 1947



ROMANIA

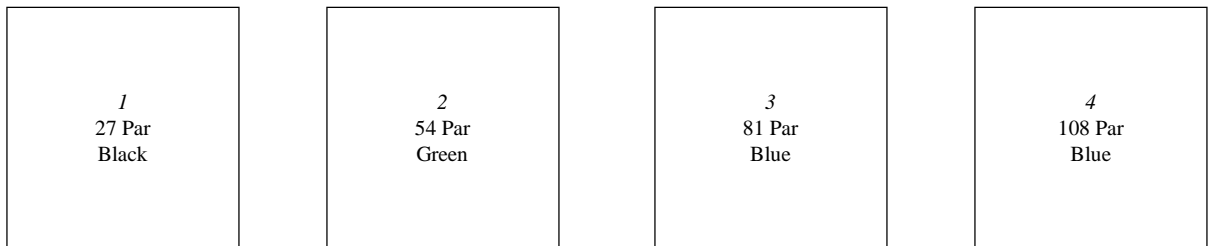
Principality of Moldavia

The Crimean war 1853-56 ended more than 100 years of conflicts over Romanian territories between Russia, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman empire. Russia invaded the Romanian principalities in an attempt to gain territories from the weakening Ottoman empire, but the European powers wanted to preserve the power balance in the region. Both Great Britain, France and Austria-Hungary supported the Turks. At the Paris peace conference in 1856 it was concluded that Walachia and Moldavia should remain under Turkish supremacy, although with a mutual European guaranty for their autonomy.

During the Crimean war Moldavia was occupied by Austria-Hungary which established a field postal service. Two series of stamps issued after the war in the autonomous principality of Moldavia in 1858 are counted as the first stamps of Romania.

1858

Coat of arms of Moldavia

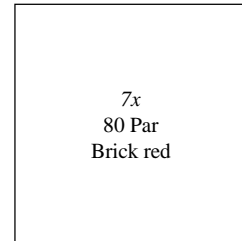
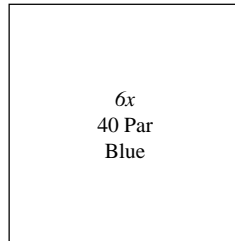
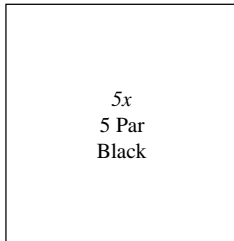


ROMANIA

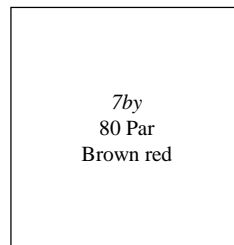
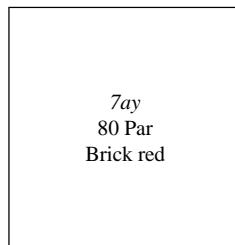
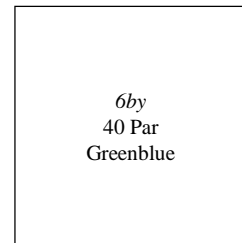
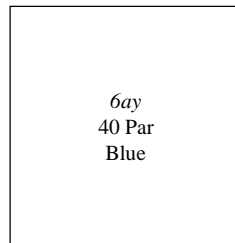
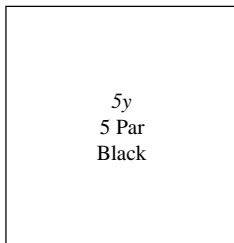
Principality of Moldavia

1858

Coat of arms of Moldavia



Bluish paper



White paper

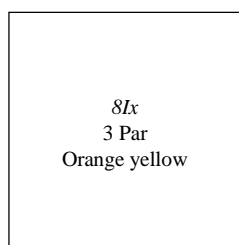
ROMANIA

Principality of Romania

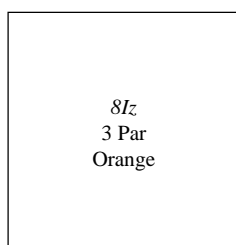
In spite of the considerable efforts of the Romanian nationalists, the great powers did not support a union of the principalities. In a conference in Paris in 1858 it was concluded that Walachia and Moldavia should remain separate principalities under loose Turkish control. The unionists then made the clever move of electing the same man as the leader in both principalities. **Alexandru Ioan Cuza** was first elected as Prince of Moldavia 17 January 1859, then of Walachia a few weeks later (5 February). The great powers disapproved of this development but finally accepted the elections since they did not directly violate the terms of the Paris conference. 11 December 1861 the united principalities got the name of **Romania**.

1862/64

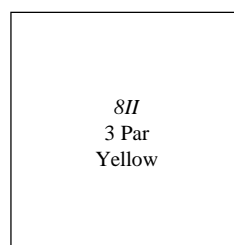
Coat of arms of Walachia and Moldavia



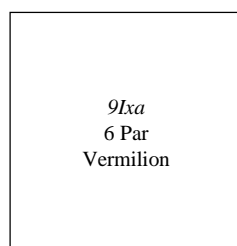
1862
Wove paper



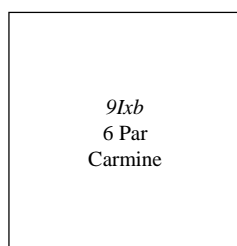
1862
Laid paper



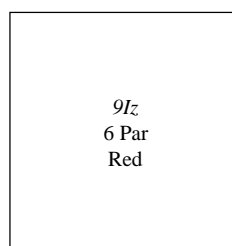
1864
Typographed



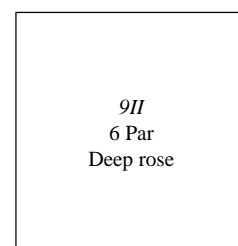
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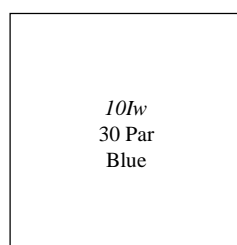
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Wove paper



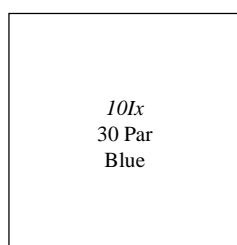
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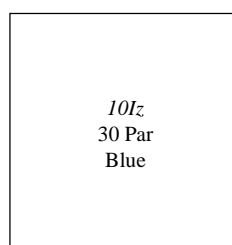
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Typographed



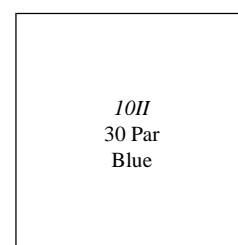
1862
Bluish paper



1862
Wove paper



1862
Laid paper

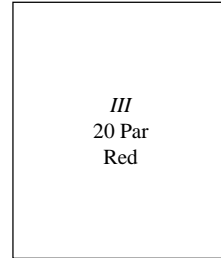
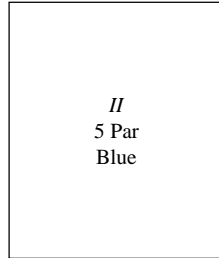
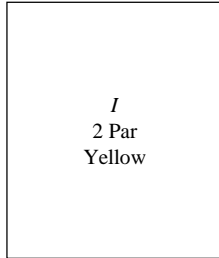


1864
Typographed

ROMANIA

1864

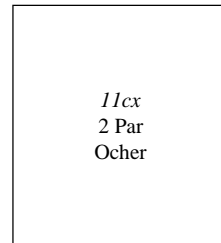
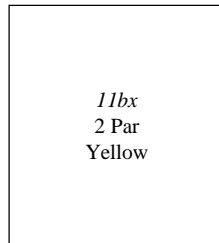
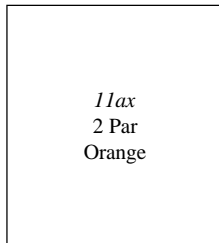
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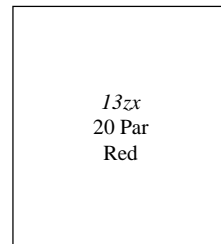
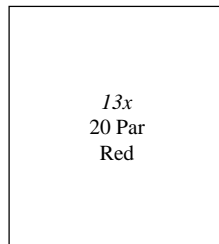
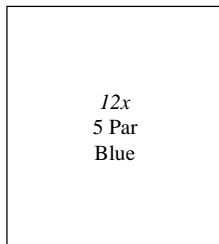
Prince Cuza

1865

Prince Cuza

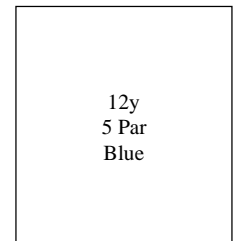
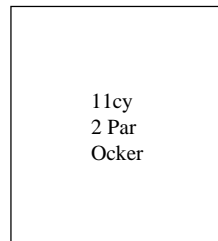
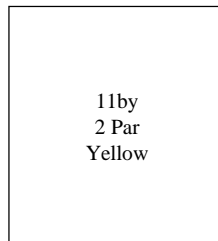
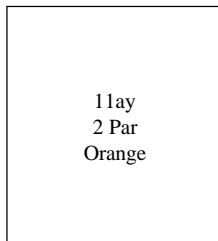


Plain paper



Plain paper

Thin bluish paper



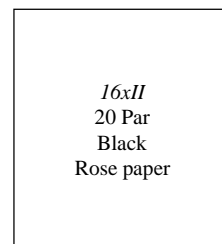
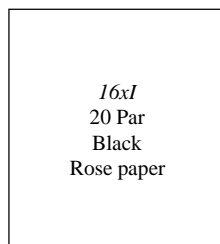
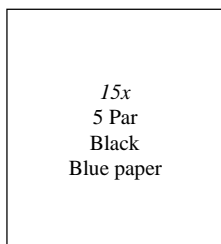
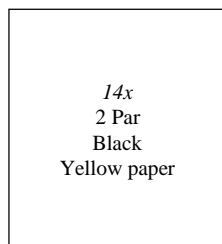
Laid paper

Alexandru Ioan Cuza (1820-73) came from a Moldavian boyar family. Educated in Iasi and Paris, he participated in the revolutionary parliament in Iasi in 1848. Through several administrative positions he later developed a reputation as an efficient and honest administrator. 17 January 1859 he was elected as Prince of Moldavia, then of Walachia 5 February the same year. His gradually more and more authoritarian leadership, however, gave him many enemies and in 1866 he was forced to abdicate. Cuza died in exile in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1873.

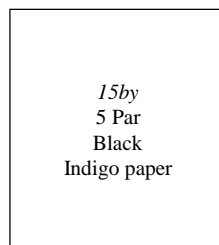
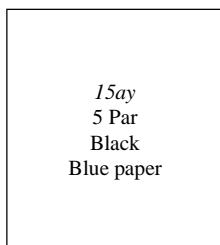
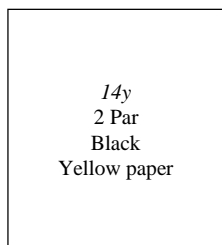
ROMANIA

1866/67

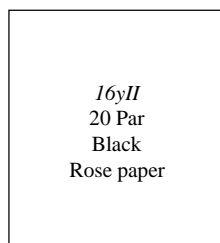
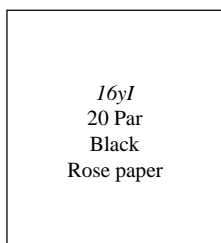
Prince Carol



Thick coloured paper



Type I:



Type II:

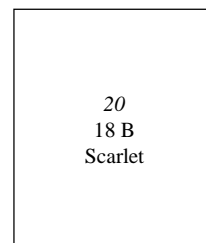
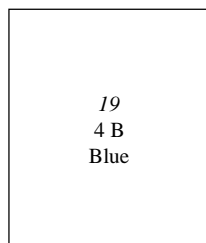
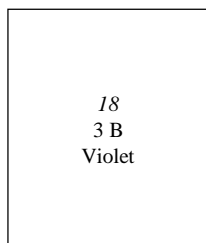
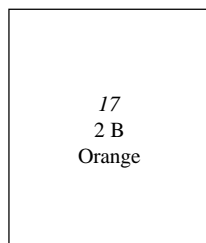


Thin coloured paper

New currency: 1 Leu = 100 Bani

1868/70

Prince Carol



1870

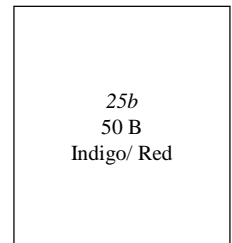
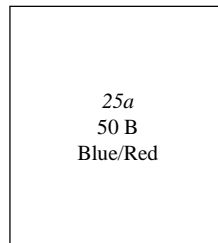
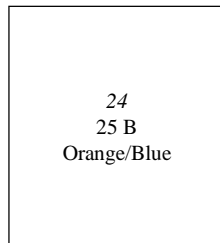
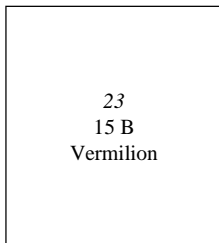
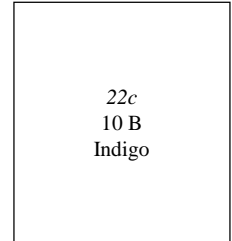
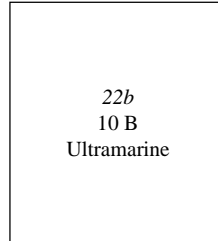
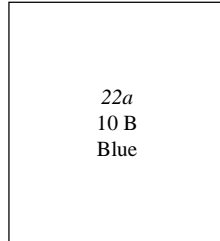
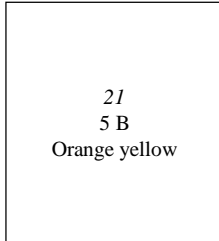
Carol I (1839-1914), younger son of Karl Anton, Duke of Hohenzollern. Was in 1866 elected as Prince of Romania after the abdication of A. I. Cuza. In 1877 Carol joined Russia in the Russian-Turkish war 1877-78, and commanded the Romanian army during the operations. When Romania became fully independent from the Turks in 1881 Carol was chosen through a referendum as the country's first king.

ROMANIA

1869

Prince Carol with whiskers

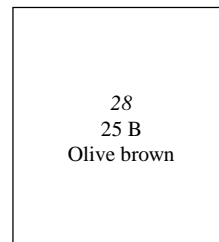
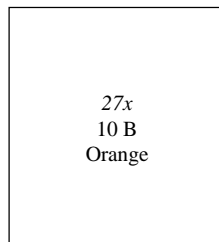
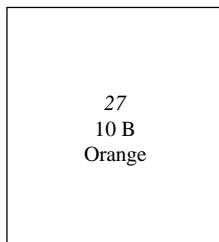
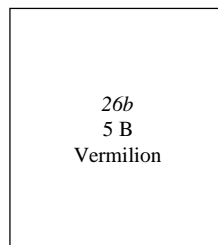
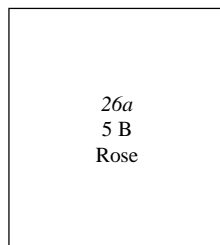
Imperf.



1871

Prince Carol with beard

Imperf.



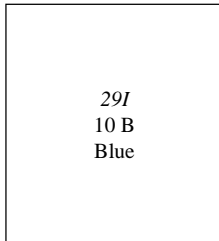
Laid paper

ROMANIA

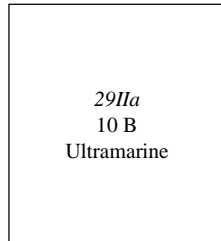
1871/72

Prince Carol

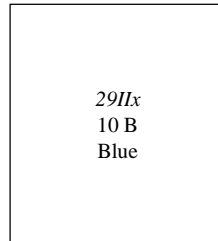
Imperf.



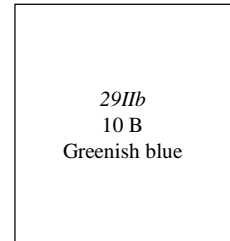
1871
Type I



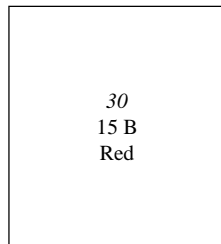
1872
Type II



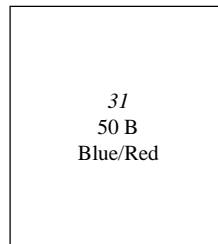
1872
Type II, Laid paper



1872
Type II



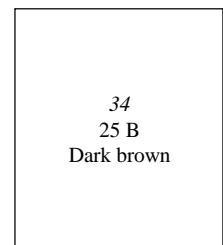
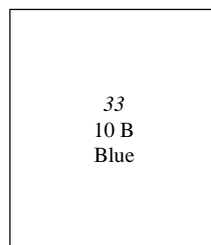
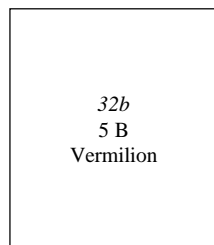
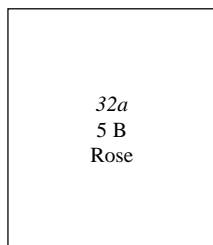
1872



1872

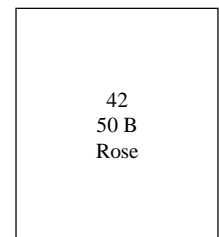
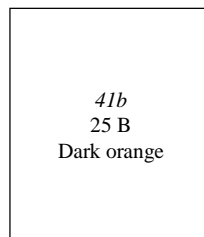
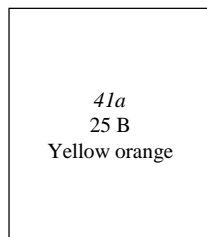
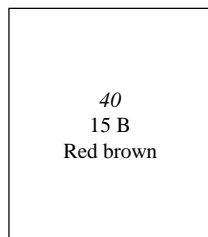
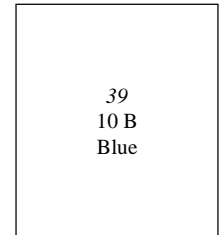
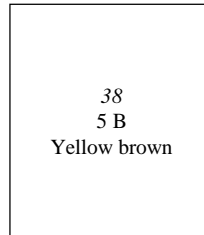
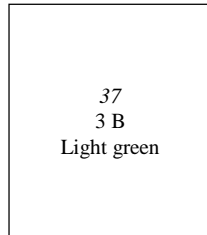
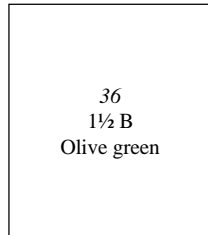
1872

Perf. 12½

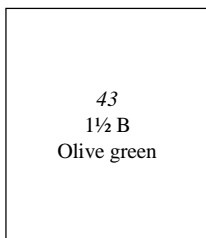


ROMANIA

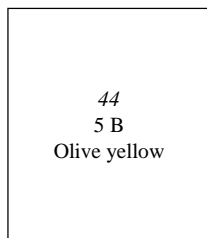
1872
Prince Carol
Perf. 14:13½



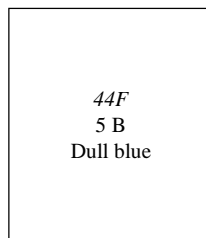
1876/79
Perf. 11-13½



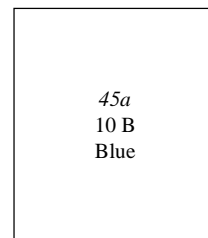
1876



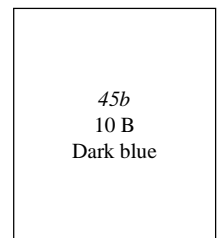
1876



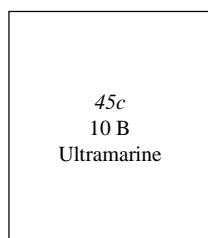
1879



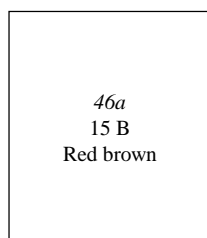
1877



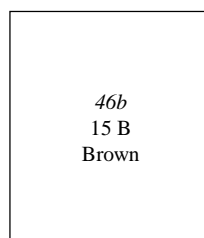
1877



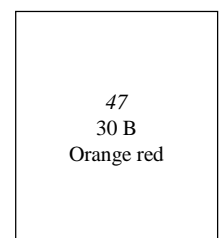
1877



1876



1876



1878

ROMANIA

24 April 1877 Russia declared war on the Ottoman empire "to protect orthodox Christians in the Balkans." In advance, Russia had signed an agreement to allow the transportation of troops through Romania. In return Russia promised to recognise and defend the territorial integrity and rights of Romania. Simultaneously, Romania also initiated full mobilisation and declared war on the Ottoman Empire. Then, on 21 May 1877 Romania officially declared its independence.

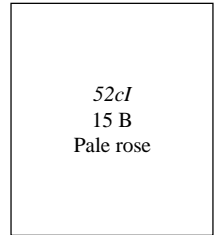
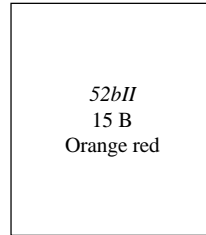
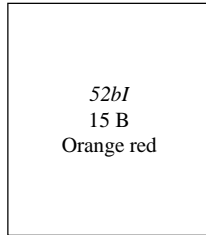
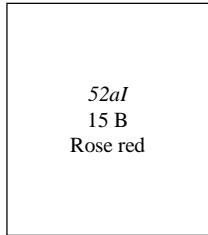
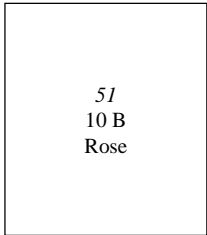
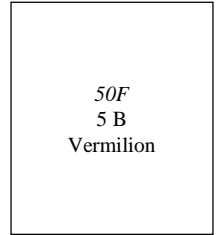
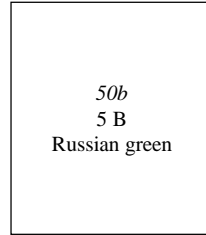
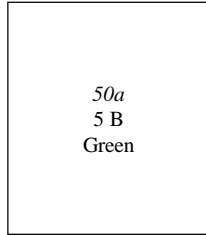
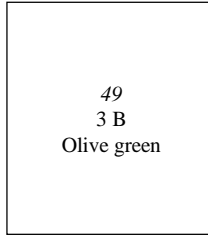
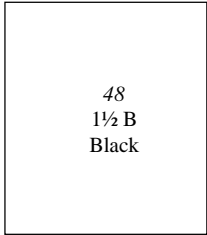
In July 1877, however, the Russian offensive came to a halt at the strongly fortified town of Plevna in Bulgaria. The Russian supreme commander, Grand Duke Nicholas, asked the Romanians for help. A Romanian army of 50,000 men under the command of Carol himself, relieved the Russian forces and the attacks on Plevna were resumed. Finally, 10 December the Turkish commander Osman Pasha capitulated with all his forces, and the Russian offensive could continue south. Within a few months the Ottoman empire was forced to sue for peace.

At the following peace conference in San Stefano in February 1878 Russia totally ignored their former allies. The final treaty did recognise the independence of Romania, but Russia used the opportunity to annex South-Bessarabia. The other great powers were concerned by the Russian ambitions, and a new conference was gathered in Berlin in June the same year. Again, Romania was denied the status as an equivalent participant and was allowed to speak only under one of the sessions. The Berlin treaty awarded Dobruja with the sea port of Constanta and the Danube delta to Romania, but accepted the Russian annexation of South-Bessarabia and only partly recognised the independence of Romania.



ROMANIA

1879
Prince Carol
Perf. 11-13½



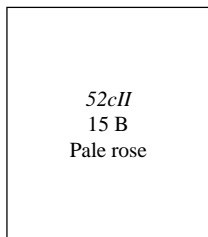
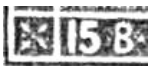
Type I

Type I

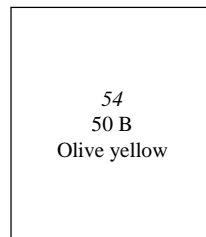
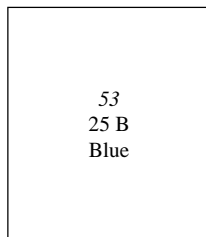
Type II

Type I

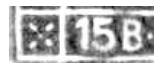
Type I:



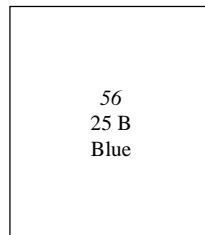
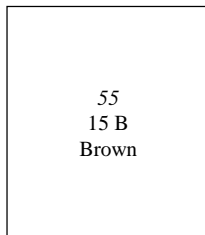
Type II



Type II:



1880
Perf. 11-13½



ROMANIA

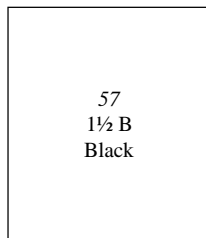
Kingdom

26 March 1881 Romania is officially declared as kingdom. Carol I is crowned as King of Romania 22 May the same year.

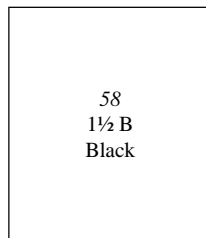
1885/89

King Carol I

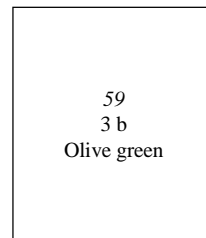
Perf. 11-13½



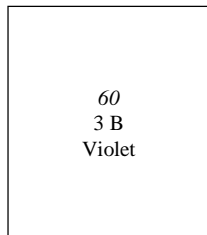
1885
White paper



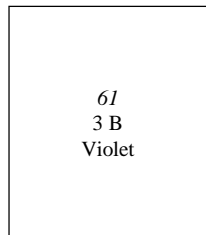
1889
Bluish paper



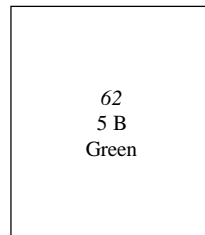
1885
Bluish paper



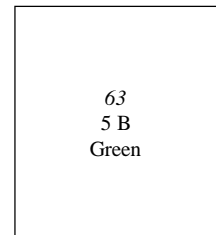
1887
Greenish paper



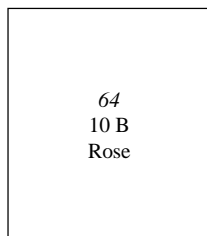
1887
White paper



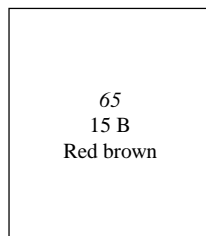
1886
Greenish paper



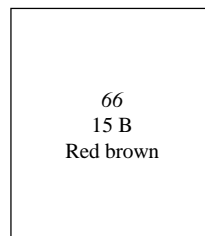
1888
White paper



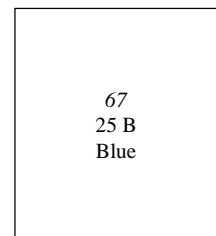
1886
Pale buff paper



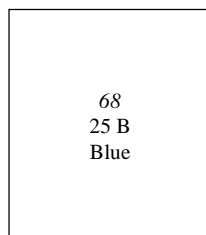
1885
White paper



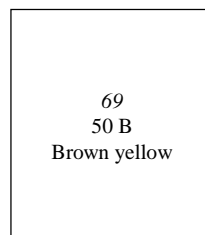
1887
Pale buff paper



1885
White paper



1887
Pale buff paper



1885
Pale buff paper

ROMANIA

1889

King Carol

Coat of arms imprint

70
1½ B
Black

71
3 B
Violet

72
5 B
Light green

73
10 B
Rose

74
15 B
Red brown

75
25 B
Blue

1890

King Carol

Coat of arms imprint

76
1½ B
Maroon

77
3 B
Violet

78
5 B
Emerald

79a
10 B
Brick red

79b
10 B
Rose

80
15 B
Dark brown

81
25 B
Ultramarine

82
50 B
Orange

ROMANIA

1890/91

King Carol

No imprint

83
1½ B
Lilac Rose

84a
3 B
Violet

84b
3 B
Lilac

85
5 B
Emerald

86
10 B
Pale red

87
15 B
Olive brown

88
25 B
Ultramarine

89
50 B
Yellow orange

1891

25th anniversary of the reign of King Carol

90
1½ B
Claret

91
3 B
Lilac

92
5 B
Emerald

93
10 B
Red

94
15 B
Olive brown

1894

King Carol

Wide wm.

95
3 B
Lilac

96
5 B
Green

97
25 B
Ultramarine

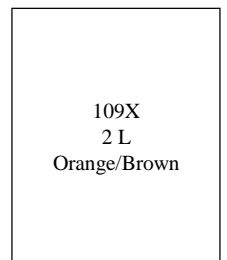
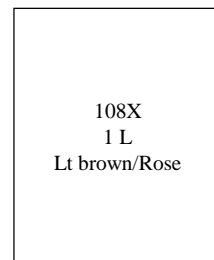
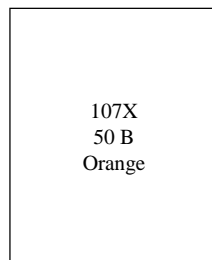
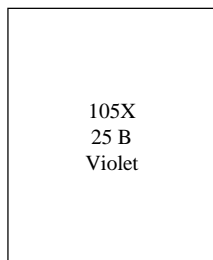
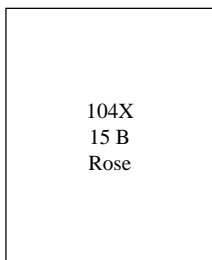
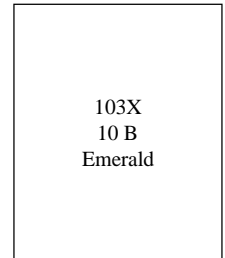
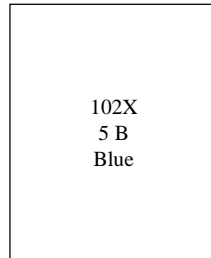
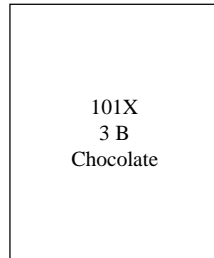
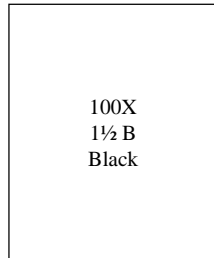
98
50 B
Orange

ROMANIA

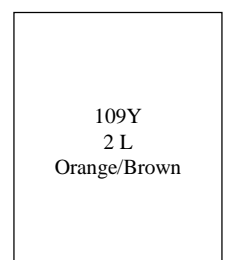
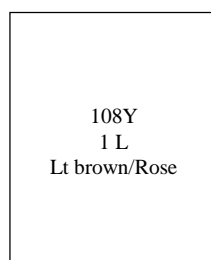
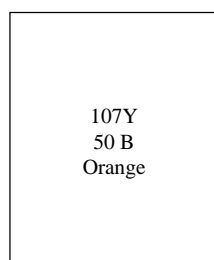
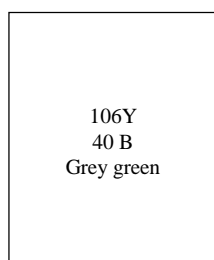
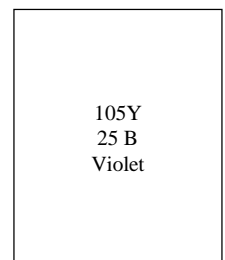
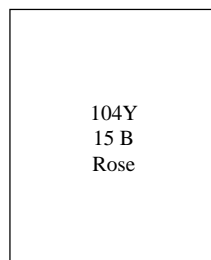
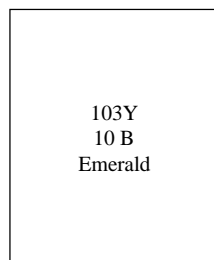
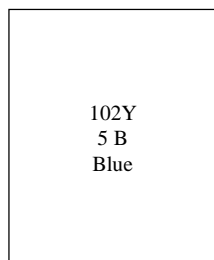
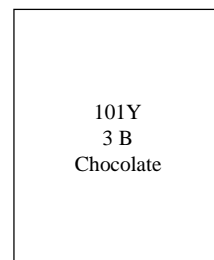
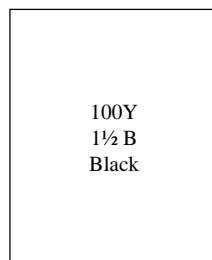
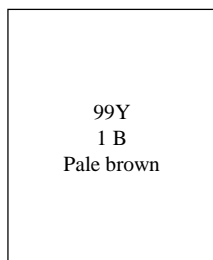
1893/98

King Carol I

Wide wm.



Tall wm.

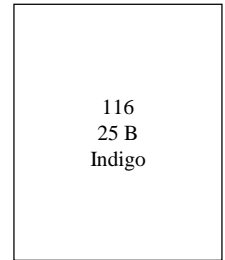
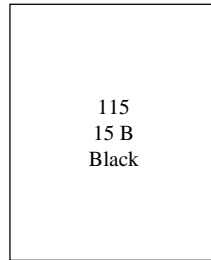
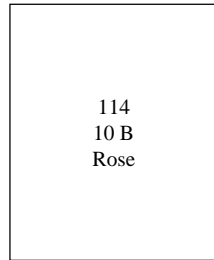
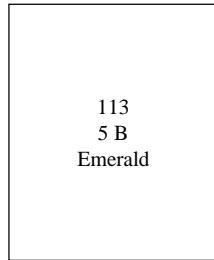


ROMANIA

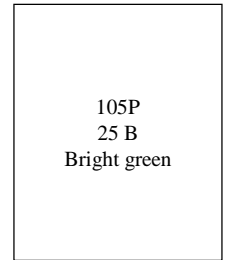
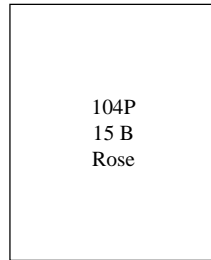
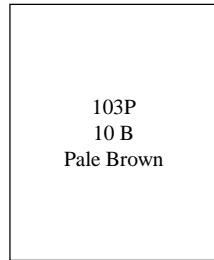
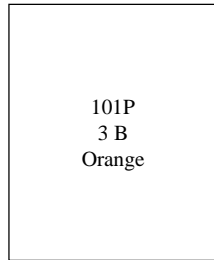
1898

New colours

Tall wm.



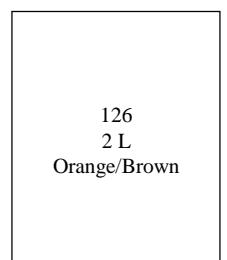
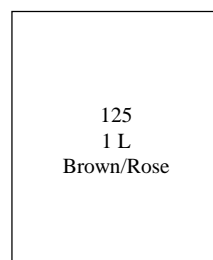
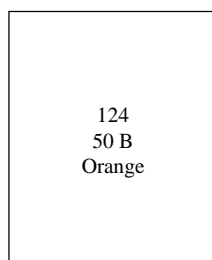
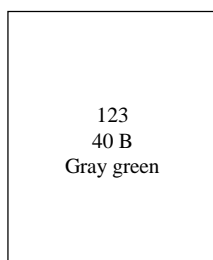
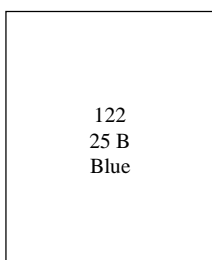
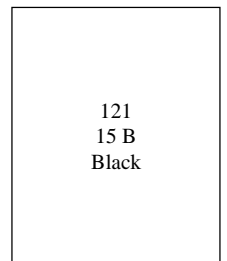
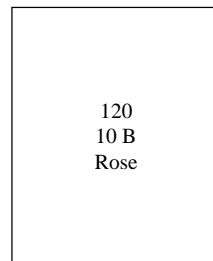
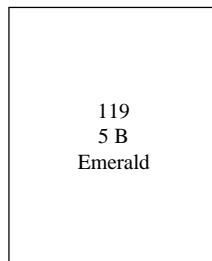
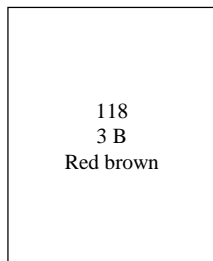
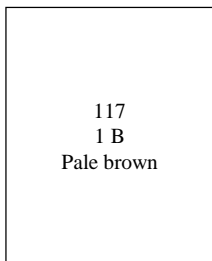
Test prints, not issued



1898

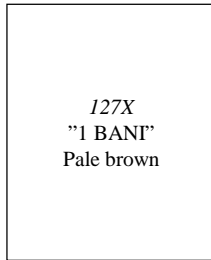
King Carol I

wm. "Large coat of arms" over 25 stamps

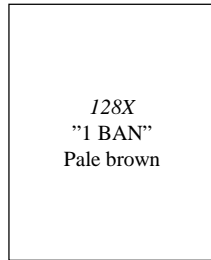


ROMANIA

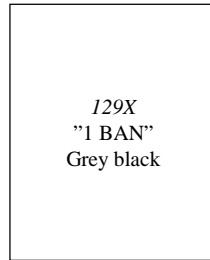
1900/11
King Carol I
No wm.



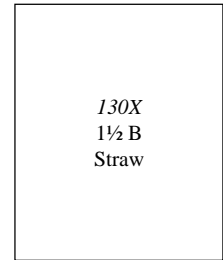
1900



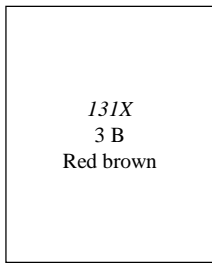
1901



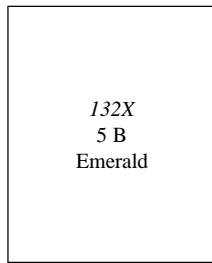
1903



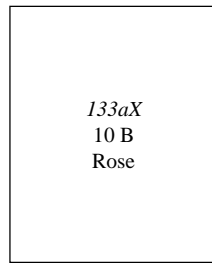
1911



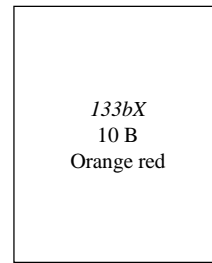
1900



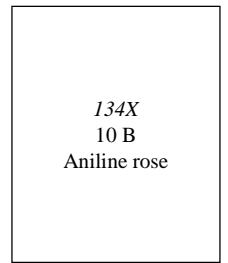
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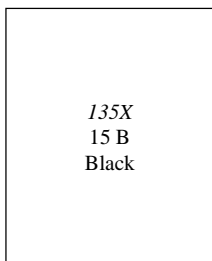
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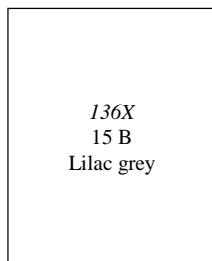
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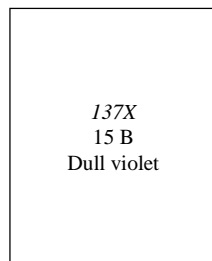
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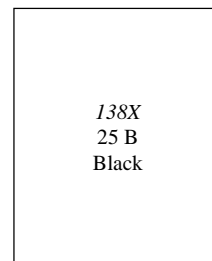
1900



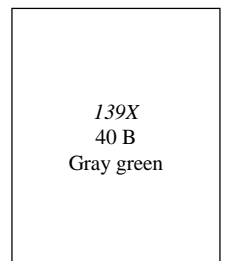
1901



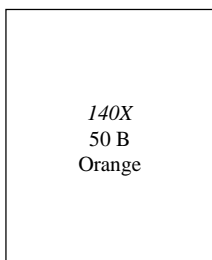
1903



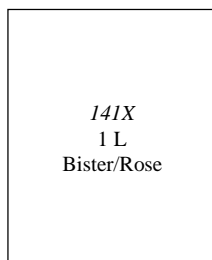
1900



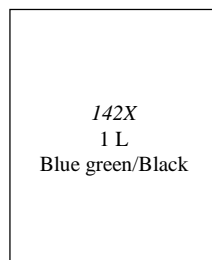
1900



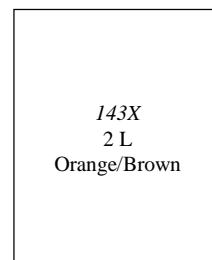
1900



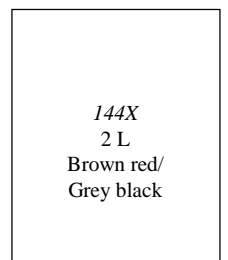
1901



1903



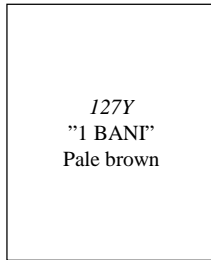
1901



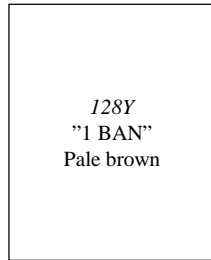
1903

ROMANIA

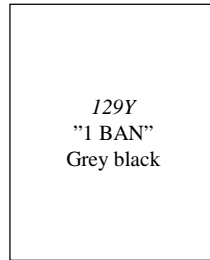
1900/11
King Carol I
w/ wm.



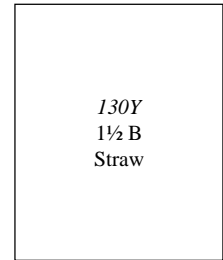
1900



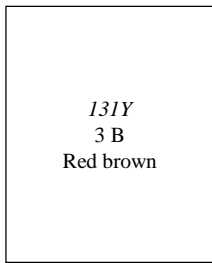
1901



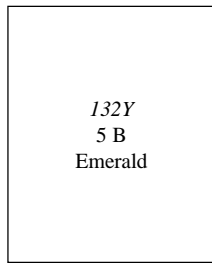
1903



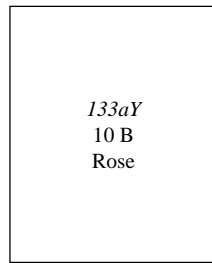
1911



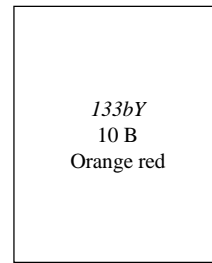
1900



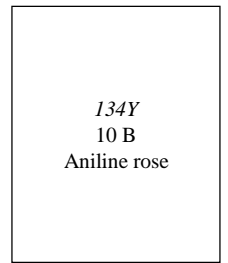
1900



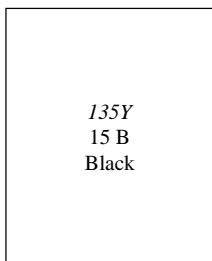
1900



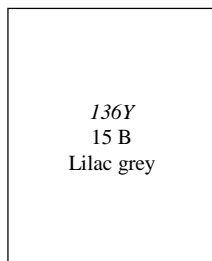
1900



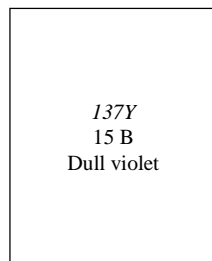
1903



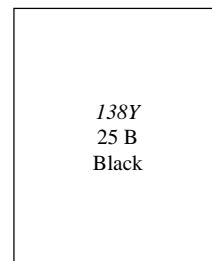
1900



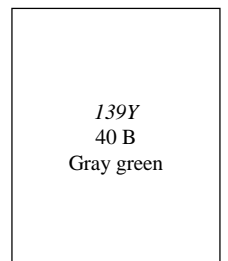
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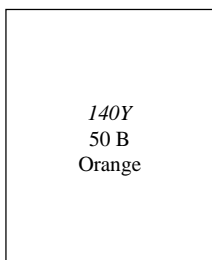
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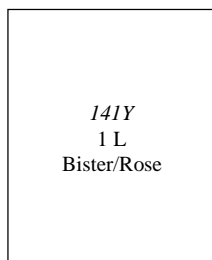
1900



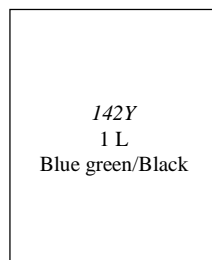
1900



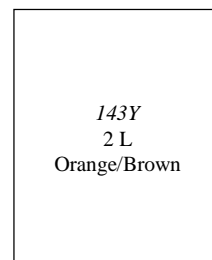
1900



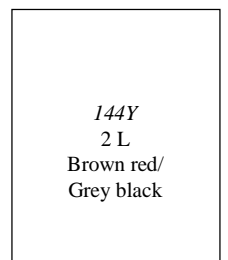
1901



1903



1901



1903

ROMANIA

1903

Opening of the new post office in Bucharest - I

146
1 B
Brown

147
3 B
Brown violet

148
5 B
Pale green

149
10 B
Rose

150
15 B
Black

151
25 B
Blue

152
40 B
Dull green

153
50 B
Orange

Old mail coach leaving relay station

ROMANIA

1903

Opening of the new post office in Bucharest - II

154
15 B
Black

155
25 B
Blue

156
40 B
Gray green

157
50 B
Orange

158
1 L
Dark brown

159
2 L
Dull red

159F
2 L
Orange

160a
5 L
Dull violet

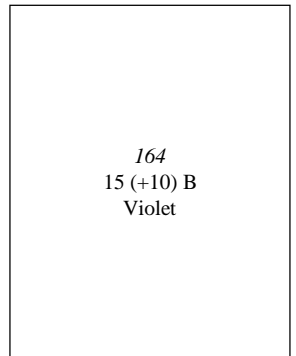
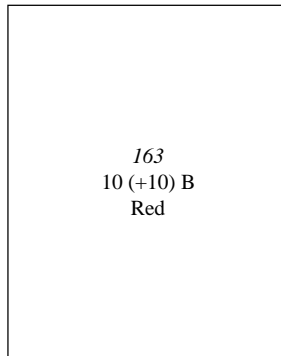
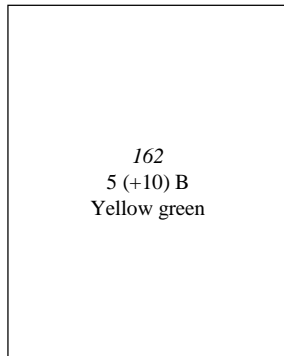
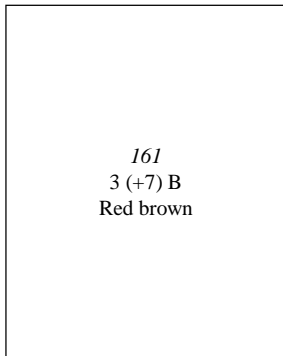
160b
5 L
Red violet

King Carol I and the new post office

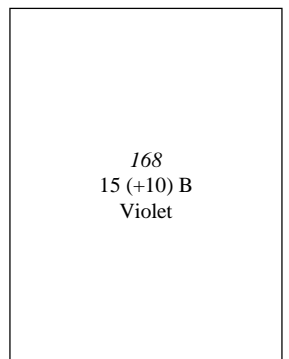
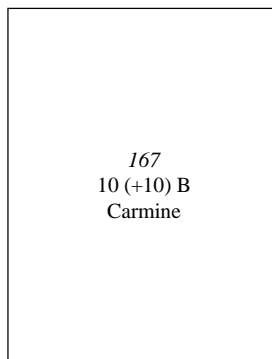
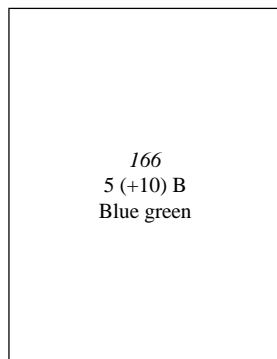
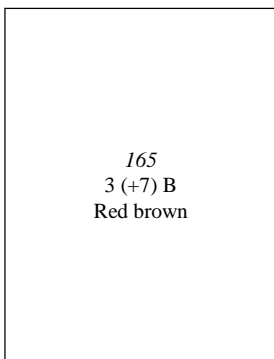
ROMANIA

1906

Charity issues



Queen Elisabeth spinning



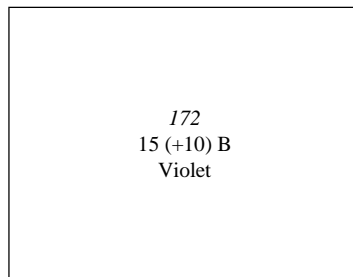
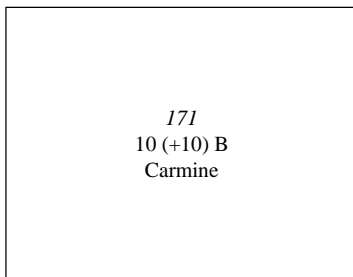
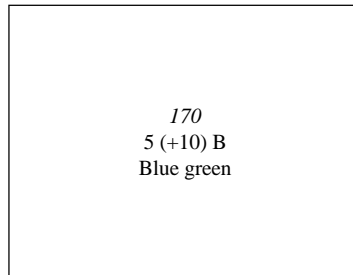
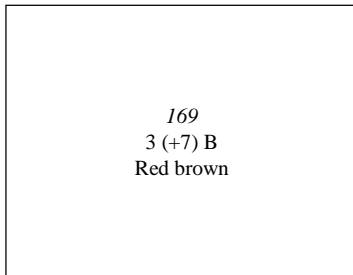
Queen Elisabeth weaving

Queen Elisabeth (1843-1919) was born in 1843 in Neuwied in Germany as daughter of Prince Hermann of Wied. She married Karl of Hohenzollern in 1869, who was then Prince of Romania. She became Queen of Romania when Karl after a referendum was proclaimed King Carol I in 1881. Queen Elisabeth collected folklore and wrote poems and novels under the pseudonym of "Carmen Sylva". She died in Bucharest in 1919.

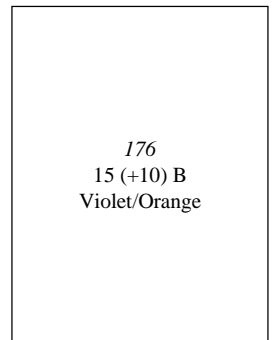
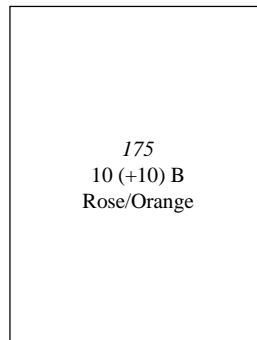
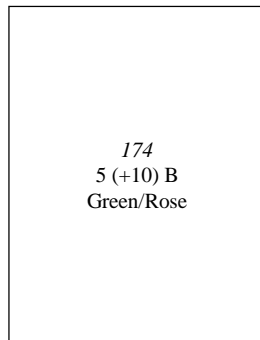
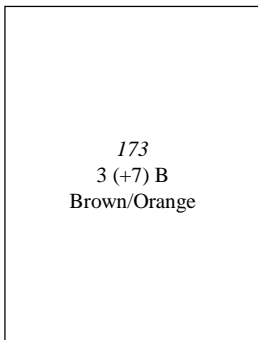
ROMANIA

1906

Charity Issues



Queen Elisabeth as war nurse



Angel with ornament

ROMANIA

1906

25th anniversary of the Kingdom of Romania

177
1 B
Bister/Black

178
3 B
Brown/Black

179
5 B
Green/Black

180
10 B
Carmine/Black

181
15 B
Violet/Black

182
25 B
Blue/Black

183
40 B
Dark brown/Black

184
50 B
Bister brown/Black

185
1 L
Red/Black

186
2 L
Orange/Black

King Carol I

ROMANIA

1906

40 years anniversary of Kong Carol's regency

187
1 B
Bister/Black

Prince Carol taking
Oath of Allegiance
1866

188
3 B
Brown/Black

Fyrst Carol i sin vogn

189
5 B
Green/Black

Prince Carol initiates
the liberation war in
1877

190
10 B
Carmine/Black

Osman Pascha
surrenders at Pleven

191
15 B
Violet/Black

As Prince and King
(1866-1906)

192
25 B
Blue/Black

The Romanian army
crossing the Danube
1877

192F
25 B
Olive green/Black

Osman Pascha
surrenders at Pleven

193
40 B
Dark brown/Black

Romanian troops
return to Bucharest
1878

194
50 B
Bister brown/Black

Prince Carol at head
of his command

195
1 L
Vermilion/Black

King Carol at the
Cathedral of Curtea
de Arges 1896

196
2 L
Orange/Black

King Carol at the
Shrine of St. Nicholas
in Iasi 1904

ROMANIA

1906

General exposition in Bucharest 29-31 October 1906



199
15 B
Violet/Black

200
25 B
Blue/Black

The exposition palace

201
30 B
Red/Black brown

202
40 B
Green/Black brown

203
50 B
Orange/Black

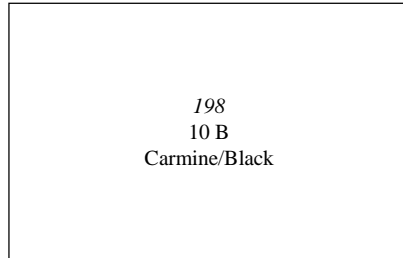
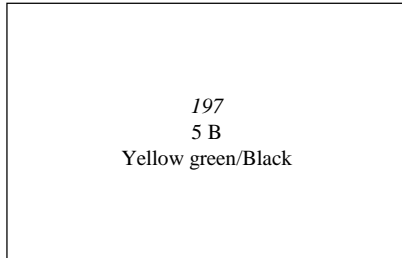
204
75 B
Brown/Black brown

Romanian farmhouse

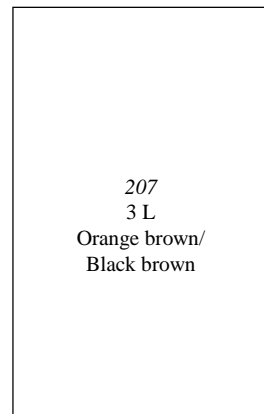
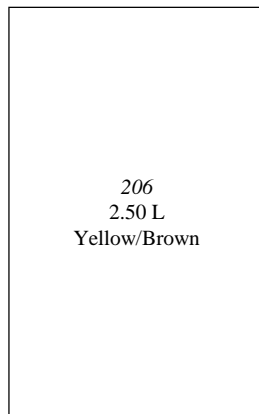
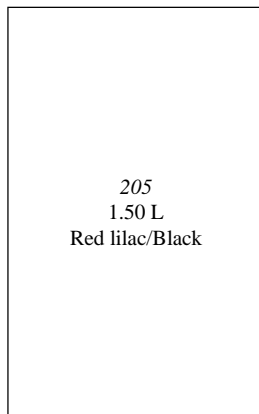
The pavilion of the Royal Family

ROMANIA

General exposition in Bucharest 29-31 October 1906, cont.



Plowman and angel

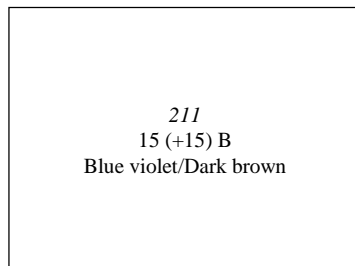
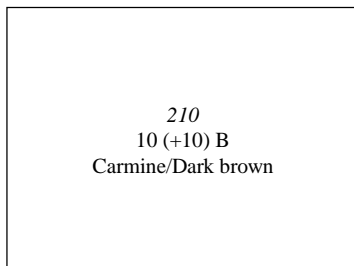
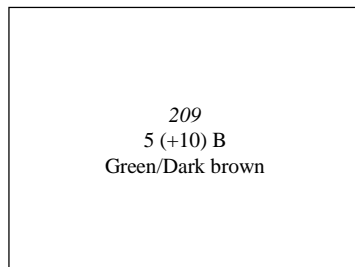
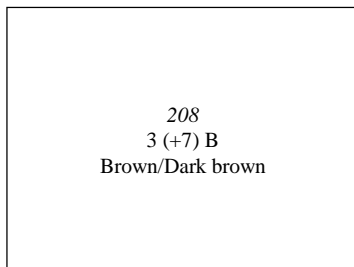


King Carol I

Queen Elisabeth

1907

Charity issues



Guardian angel bringing poor to Crown Princess Marie