1856 - 1947



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



Principality of Moldavia

1858 Coat of arms of Moldavia

5x 5 Par Black 6x 40 Par Blue

7x 80 Par Brick red

Bluish paper

5y 5 Par Black 6ay 40 Par Blue 6by 40 Par Greenblue

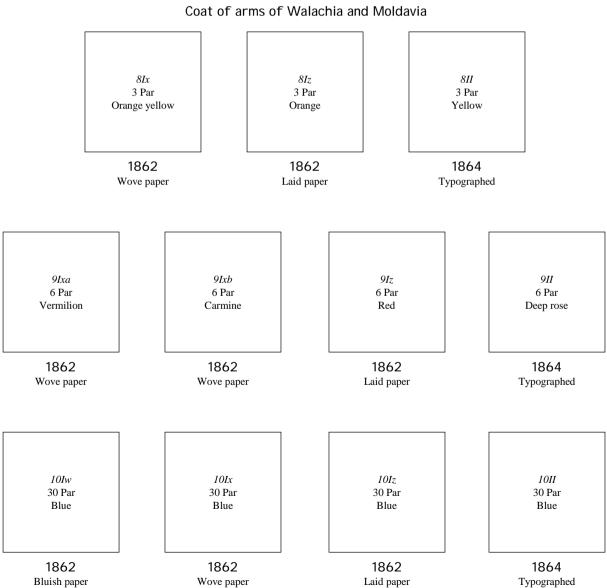
7ay 80 Par Brick red 7by 80 Par Brown red

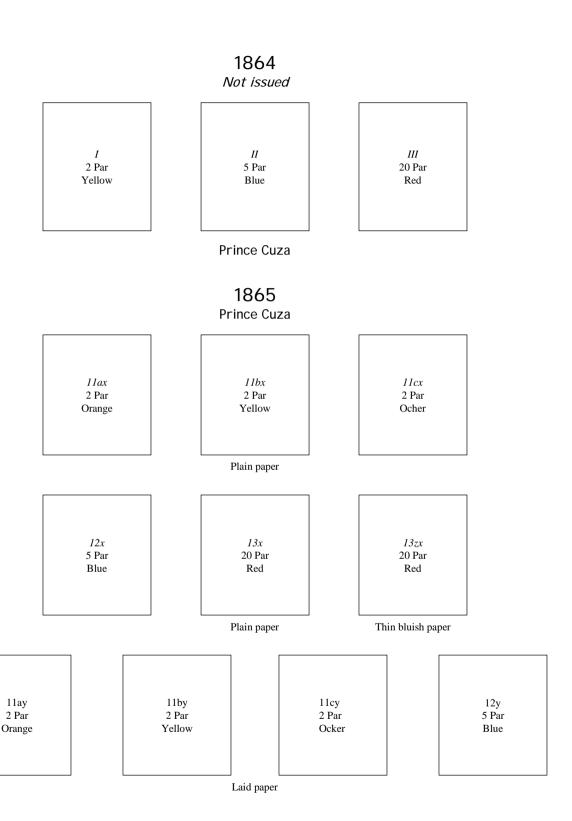
White paper

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 is 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





Alexandru I oan Cuza (1820-73) came from a Moldavian boyar family. Educated in I asi and Paris, he participated in the revolutionary parliament in I asi 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.

1866/67

Prince Carol

14x 2 Par Black Yellow paper 15x 5 Par Black Blue paper

16xI 20 Par Black Rose paper

16xII 20 Par Black Rose paper

Thick coloured paper

14y 2 Par Black Yellow paper 15ay 5 Par Black Blue paper

15by 5 Par Black Indigo paper

Type I:



16yI 20 Par Black Rose paper

16yII 20 Par Black Rose paper Type II:



Thin coloured paper

New currency: 1 Leu = 100 Bani

1868/70 Prince Carol

17 2 B Orange 18 3 B Violet

19 4 B Blue

20 18 B Scarlet

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.

 $\begin{array}{c} 1869 \\ \text{Prince Carol with whiskers} \\ \\ \text{Imperf.} \end{array}$

21 5 B Orange yellow

22a 10 B Blue

22b 10 B Ultramarine

22c 10 B Indigo

23 15 B Vermilion 24 25 B Orange/Blue 25a 50 B Blue/Red

25b 50 B Indigo/ Red

1871 Prince Carol with beard Imperf.

26a 5 B Rose

26b 5 B Vermilion

27 10 B Orange 27x 10 B Orange 28 25 B Olive brown

Laid paper

1871/72

Prince Carol

Imperf.

29I 10 B

Blue

1871 Type I

29IIa 10 B Ultramarine

> 1872 Type II

29IIx 10 B Blue

1872 Type II, Laid paper

29*IIb* 10 B Greenish blue

> 1872 Type II

30 15 B Red

1872

31 50 B Blue/Red

1872

1872

Perf. 121/2

32a5 B Rose

32b5 B Vermilion

33 10 B Blue

34 25 B Dark brown

1872 Prince Carol Perf. 14:13½

36 1½ B Olive green 37 3 B Light green 38 5 B Yellow brown

39 10 B Blue

40 15 B Red brown 41a 25 B Yellow orange 41b 25 B Dark orange

42 50 B Rose

1876/79

Perf. 11-131/2

43 1½ B Olive green 44 5 B Olive yellow 44F 5 B Dull blue

45a 10 B Blue 45b 10 B Dark blue

1876

1876

1879

1877

1877

45c 10 B Ultramarine 46a 15 B Red brown 46b 15 B Brown 47 30 B Orange red

1877

1876

1876

1878

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 allowed 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 it's independence.

In July 1877, however, the Russian offensive came to a halt at the strongly fortified town of Pleven 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 Pleven 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 a equivalent participant and was allowed to speak only under one of the sessions. The Berlin treaty awarded Dobrudja 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.



1879

Prince Carol Perf. 11-131/2

48 1½ B Black 49 3 B Olive green 50a 5 B Green 50b 5 B Russian green

50F 5 B Vermilion

51 10 B Rose 52aI 15 B Rose red

Type I

52bI 15 B Orange red

Type I

52bII 15 B Orange red

Type II

52cI 15 B Pale rose

Type I

Type I:

52cII 15 B Pale rose

Type II

53 25 B Blue 54 50 B Olive yellow Type II:

28 (15 B)

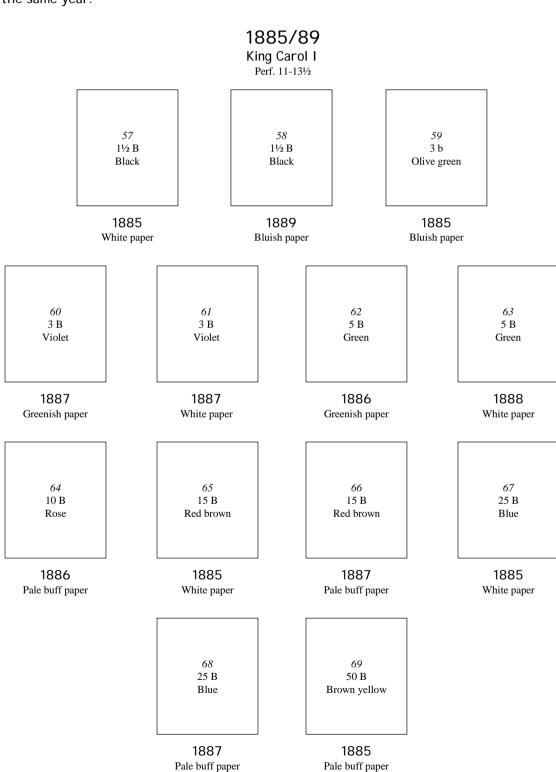
1880

Perf. 11-131/2

55 15 B Brown 56 25 B Blue

Kingdom

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



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

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

1893/98

King Carol I

Wide wm.

100X 1½ B Black 101X 3 B Chocolate

102X 5 B Blue 103X 10 B Emerald

104X 15 B Rose 105X 25 B Violet 107X 50 B Orange 108X 1 L Lt brown/Rose 109X 2 L Orange/Brown

Tall wm.

99Y 1 B Pale brown 100Y 1½ B Black

101Y 3 B Chocolate

102Y 5 B Blue 103Y 10 B Emerald 104Y 15 B Rose 105Y 25 B Violet

106Y 40 B Grey green 107Y 50 B Orange 108Y 1 L Lt brown/Rose 109Y 2 L Orange/Brown

1898 New colours Tall wm.

113 5 B Emerald

114 10 B Rose

115 15 B Black

116 25 B Indigo

Test prints, not issued

101P 3 B Orange 103P 10 B Pale Brown

104P 15 B Rose 105P 25 B Bright green

1898 King Carol I

wm. "Large coat of arms" over 25 stamps

117 1 B Pale brown 118 3 B Red brown 119 5 B Emerald 120 10 B Rose

121 15 B Black

122 25 B Blue 123 40 B Gray green 124 50 B Orange

125 1 L Brown/Rose 126 2 L Orange/Brown

1900/11 King Carol I

No wm.

127X "1 BANI" Pale brown

128X "1 BAN" Pale brown 129X "1 BAN" Grey black

130X 1½ B Straw

1900

1901

1903

1911

131X 3 B Red brown 132X 5 B Emerald 133aX 10 B Rose 133bX 10 B Orange red 134X 10 B Aniline rose

1900

1900

1900

1900

1903

135X 15 B Black 136X 15 B Lilac grey 137X 15 B Dull violet 138X 25 B Black 139X 40 B Gray green

1900

1901

1903

1900

1900

140X 50 B Orange 141X 1 L Bister/Rose

142X 1 L Blue green/Black 143X 2 L Orange/Brown 144X 2 L Brown red/ Grey black

1900

1901

1903

1901

1903

1900/11

King Carol I

w/ wm.

127Y "1 BANI" Pale brown

128Y "1 BAN" Pale brown

129Y "1 BAN" Grey black

130Y 1½ B Straw

1900

1901

1903

1911

131Y 3 B Red brown 132Y 5 B Emerald 133aY 10 B Rose 133bY 10 B Orange red 134Y 10 B Aniline rose

1900

1900

1900

1900

1903

135Y 15 B Black 136Y 15 B Lilac grey 137Y 15 B Dull violet 138Y 25 B Black 139Y 40 B Gray green

1900

1901

1903

1900

1900

140Y 50 B Orange 141Y 1 L Bister/Rose

142Y 1 L Blue green/Black 143Y 2 L Orange/Brown 144Y 2 L Brown red/ Grey black

1900

1901

1903

1901

1903

 $\begin{tabular}{l} 1903 \\ \end{tabular} \begin{tabular}{l} Opening of the new post office in Bucharest - I \\ \end{tabular}$

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

1903
Opening of the new post office in Bucharest - II

Opening of the new post office in Bucharest - II		
154	155	156
15 B	25 B	40 B
Black	Blue	Gray green
157	158	159
50 B	1 L	2 L
Orange	Dark brown	Dull red
159F	160a	160b
2 L	5 L	5 L
Orange	Dull violet	Red violet

King Carol I and the new post office

1906 Charity issues

161 3 (+7) B Red brown 162 5 (+10) B Yellow green 163 10 (+10) B Red

164 15 (+10) B Violet

Queen Elisabeth spinning

165 3 (+7) B Red brown 166 5 (+10) B Blue green 167 10 (+10) B Carmine

168 15 (+10) B Violet

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.

1906 Charity I ssues

169 3 (+7) B Red brown 170 5 (+10) B Blue green

171 10 (+10) B Carmine 172 15 (+10) B Violet

Queen Elisabeth as war nurse

173 3 (+7) B Brown/Orange 174 5 (+10) B Green/Rose 175 10 (+10) B Rose/Orange 176 15 (+10) B Violet/Orange

Angel with ornament

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

1906 40 years anniversary of Kong Carol's regency

187 1 B Bister/Black

188 3 B Brown/Black 189 5 B Green/Black

Prince Carol taking Oath of Allegiance 1866 Fyrst Carol i sin vogn

Prince Carol initiates the liberation war in 1877

190 10 B Carmine/Black 191 15 B Violet/Black

192 25 B Blue/Black

Osman Pascha surrenders at Pleven As Prince and King (1866-1906)

The Romanian army crossing the Danube 1877

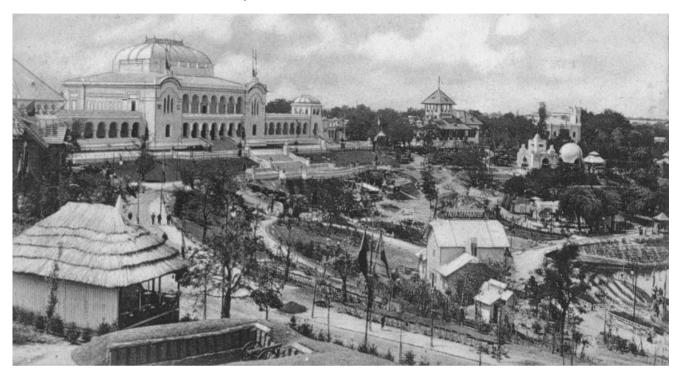
192F 25 B Olive green/Black 193 40 B Dark brown/Black 194 50 B Bister brown/Black

Romanian troops return to Bucharest 1878 Prince Carol at head of his command

195 1 L Vermilion/Black 196 2 L Orange/Black

King Carol at the Cathedral of Curtea de Arges 1896 King Carol at the Shrine of St. Nicholas in Lasi 1904

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

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

197 5 B Yellow green/Black 198 10 B Carmine/Black

Plowman and angel

205 1.50 L Red lilac/Black 206 2.50 L Yellow/Brown 207 3 L Orange brown/ Black brown

King Carol I

Queen Elisabeth

1907 Charity issues

208 3 (+7) B Brown/Dark brown 209 5 (+10) B Green/Dark brown

210 10 (+10) B Carmine/Dark brown 211 15 (+15) B Blue violet/Dark brown

Guardian angel bringing poor to Crown Princess Marie