



Cacti from Botanical Gardens and Greenhouses – a Romanian Philatelic Retrospective

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Authors' contributions

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

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ABSTRACT

Preserving the heritage of cacti from various botanical gardens and greenhouses, it has been and continues to be a topic of interest to the community. We are entitled to rally such concerns in the light of various collaborations over time with entities aimed at promoting and conserving cacti and succulents. From the promotion in profile events (such as workshops, conferences, and symposia, exhibition halls, etc.) to the conservation of various species of cacti is still a long way. In this context, through this paper, we want to emphasize, which were and are still the implications of the Romanian thematic philately in the promotion of cactus species. Through the rich philatelic material indexed and analyzed, we want to (re) bring to the memory of the community what Romanian philately has managed to record, in recent years, regarding the promotion and preservation of cacti (postage

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stamps, first-day covers - FDCs, postcard maxims, illustrated and semi-illustrated postcards, and various other philatelic effects and circulations). Given their exposure, we would like to sound the alarm on how these plant species are managed and how they are perceived at the Romanian community level.

Keywords: Natural heritage; philately; Romanian botanical gardens; succulent plants.

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper has its roots in the many collaborations we have had, over time, with various local entities, which have had and still care for different species of cacti. Within the respective collaborations, most often finalized through round tables, workshops, and other forms of debate, which also involved pupils and students from the specializations of environmental protection, a series of preoccupations were outlined. Of these, one appeared and frequently adapted to meetings. It is about the way we relate to cacti, the way we take care of such plant species, the way we know them, and we manage to protect them. This aspect is also summarized in the working meetings (see Fig. 1) - "preserving the heritage of cacti".

It is also about preserving the culture of cacti in Romania, although the bioclimatic conditions are not favourable for the development of this species in this country. As such, we present the experience and know-how of Romanian farmers in the culture of this species, as well as the close collaboration between the entities for the in-situ conservation of this species. This paper must also be a historical overview of the domestication of this species in Romania, as well as the cultivation techniques.

As it is known, cacti are part of the *Cactaceae* family, which contains over 4000 species. The word "káktos" comes from the Greek and means thorny plant. Due to the storage of water in the tissues, cacti are also known as "green camels" [1]. Their origin is found in the deserts of America (especially Nevada, Arizona, California, and Mexico), where the specific vegetation consists only of cacti. They have spread over time in all deserts of the Earth, precisely because of their adaptability. Even if they are ordinary plants in drought, cacti impress with their beautiful, large, and variously colored flowers, which charm us with their simplicity.

In our country, cacti can be found only at the level of botanical gardens and/or greenhouses

(as forms of artificial habitat), where they are offered protection. Due to the climate specific to the area, the cacti failed to adapt to be left in a vegetative state outdoors. However, to correspond from the point of view of the habitat, they were put in a "regime", in specially arranged spaces, where the environmental conditions are presented in the form of a controlled microclimate. Thus, typical arrangements were made as "desert simulators".

The promotion of the cactus heritage is in these conditions a desideratum, which has not been discounted in recent years. The northern region of Romania (especially the communities of Baia Mare and Satu Mare) is recognized for such concerns in the field of conservation of natural values. For example, the active members of the Aztekium Cactus Collectors Association (Satu Mare, Romania) do a remarkable job - as an effort and promotion for various species of cacti and succulents [2]. To ally with the current trends of promotion and protection of cactus species, we have chosen to quantify the appearance of these species in the Romanian thematic philately, as we pointed out in the case of other topics, and implicitly similar works. We have thus tried to emphasize the idea that philately can add value in terms of ecological education (young people are eager to see, know, and feel other types of habitats) [3], and that we must preserve heritage values (even that consisting of cacti and succulents) in the community and for the community. The services provided to the community through such collections must be seen as complementary to those implicitly provided by natural ecosystems [4].

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The basis of this paper are the philatelic pieces in various forms of presentation (stamps, FDCs, maximum postcards, illustrated and semiillustrated postcards and covers), which we managed to identify in dedicated catalogs [5,6], and platforms with philatelic content (such as Allnumis, Colnect, Delcampe, eBay, Okazii, PicClick, StampWorld, wopa-plus). The information provided also came to us from

discussions and working meetings with other philatelist and collectors, including cactus lovers. The analysis of the philatelic pieces was carried out following closely the chronological line of the appearance of the various issues, which sometimes made only tangentially, sometimes entirely, a reference to cacti and other succulent plants. The pieces from the private collections of those we came in contact with were of real use, as well as the opinions of those approved from a philatelic, but especially an ecological perspective.

Our work and contribution to the "preserving the heritage of cacti" are limited exclusively to the indexing, analysis and presentation of different philatelic appearances, which have seen the light of day since 1961. Of these, as will be seen along the way, we gave special emphasis to postage stamps, first day envelopes, and maximum postcards. However, we will not omit the other philatelic effects.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The Centenary of the Botanical Garden in Bucharest, 1961

The first philatelic issue (LP RO#524) that presents cacti appears on September 15, 1961, under the title "Centenary of the Botanical Garden of Bucharest" [7, 8]. In the issue consisting of 9 stamps, they are caught in a particular plant species protected by law or endangered. Along with these, such as the primrose (*Primula minima*) - on the stamp with a face value of 10 bani, Piatra Craiului carnation (*Dianthus callizonus*) - 20 bani, the Romanian peony (*Paeonia romana*) - 25 bani, the spuria iris (*Iris brandzae*) - 40 bani, the foot of the turkey or buttercup (*Ranunculus carpaticus*) - 55 bani, the cross of the warrior (*Hepatica transsilvanica*) - 1 leu, the mountain poppy (*Papaver pyrenaicum*) - 1.20 lei and the gentian (*Gentiana frigida*) - 1.55 lei, a species of cactus, on the 35 bani stamp, popularly called the mother-in-law's tongue (*Opuntia vulgaris Mill*). The marks were printed in 4 colors.

On the background of the issue, there is also a sketch of the old greenhouses of the Botanical Garden in Bucharest. The postage stamp with a face value of 35 bani (indexed by Yv RO#1821, Mi RO#2023, Sg RO#2869, Sn RO#1462), as well as others, was made on coated paper, in 38x27 mm format, laced (comb 13½ x 14½) and

non-laced, according to a model created by N. Grant and I. Drugă. For the laced version, the circulation was 2,000,000 series (Fig. 2a), and for the non-laced version, it was 50,000 series (Fig. 2b). In both cases, the emission was accompanied by 3 FDCs (see Fig. 2c-d) [9,10].

The postage stamp also served to achieve other philatelic effects, respectively some maximum postcards (see Fig. 3a,c-d) [11-13], and of an external registered letter, sent on March 17, 1962, to Bucharest (Romania) - Sarajevo (Yugoslavia) route [14]. As can be seen, the illustrated postcards, which are the support for maxims, present aspects both from the outside and from inside the Botanical Garden in Cluj-Napoca. The vast majority of the plants presented are from various species of cacti, respectively, and other species of succulents. What can be easily noticed are the plant organisms themselves, which form groups of vegetation on either side of the alleys that ensure the access of tourists.

Although the value of 35 bani was specific to a loco letter weighing up to 20 grams, it was also used successfully in the composition of mixed postage for registered and external letters (see the example in Fig. 3b, mentioned above) [14]. Furthermore, the postal stamp was used in the creation of two semiillustrated anniversary postcards on March 24, 2006, in Cluj-Napoca (see Fig. 3e-f) [15].

3.2 Botanical Garden of Cluj-Napoca, 1965

The second philatelic issue, dated 25.10.1965, refers, this time, to the "Botanical Garden of Cluj-Napoca" (LP RO#615). The issue was made on coated paper, in 28x48 mm format (and implicitly 48x28 mm), laced 12x12½, according to a model created by Aida T. Constantinescu. The circulation of 500,000 complete series was accompanied by 3 FDCs. The piece we are particularly interested in appears on the postage stamp with a face value of 40 bani, under the name *Ferocactus glaucescens* (LP RO#615e, Yv RO#2160, Mi RO#2446, Sg RO#3318, Sn RO#1783), on which we chose to reproduce in Fig. 4a [16, 17]. Along with this, we decided to present the envelope "the first day of the issue", in Fig. 4b [18, 19], which includes the stamp with a face value of 1 lei (*Hibiscus rosa sinensis*) and the one with a face value of 1.75 lei (*Victoria amazonica*).

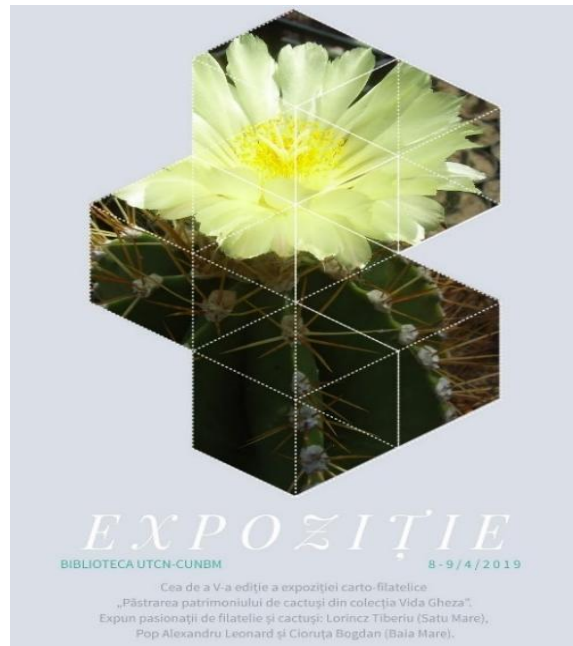


Fig. 1. Poster of the last exhibition dedicated to "preserving the cacti heritage", 08-09.04.2019, Baia Mare (Maramureș County, Romania)



Fig. 2. Postage stamp and related FDCs from the philatelic issue "Centenary of the botanical garden of Bucharest", 15.09.1961, Bucharest (Romania)



Fig. 3. Examples of philatelic effects made with the considered postage stamp

Equally, the postage stamp illustrating the cactus also entered the stamping of other pieces, respectively, in the realization of a maxim postcard with the special stamp “60 years since the inauguration of the Botanical Garden of Cluj-Napoca”, 18.12.1985, Cluj-Napoca (see Fig. 5a) [20], as well as an occasional envelope made on the occasion of “75 years since the visit to the Botanical Garden of Cluj-Napoca” (see Fig. 5b) [21]. Also, regarding the circulation of the considered postage stamp, only three pieces have been identified so far, which have been reproduced in Fig. 5c-e. The first of these refers

to the FDC circulated, in the recommended regime, with the relationship Jimbolia (Timiș, Romania) - Kleinmachnow (Germany) [22]. The second piece represents the letter "other localities", which was sent recommended by Sadu P.O. (Brașov) to Sibiu [23], and the third represents an illustrated postcard franked with the stamp of 40 bani, as shown in Fig. 5e [24].

3.3 Flowers from Botanical Gardens, 1971

The 3rd issue in the series who illustrated over time the species of cacti appeared on 20.06.1971

(LP RO#767). Made on chrome paper, in 34x44 mm format (default 44x34 mm), laced 13¼, also after a model made by Aida T. Constantinescu, the issue is based on 6 postage stamps.

Of these, only the 2.40 lei stamp is dedicated to cacti, respectively to the species *Phyllocactus phyllanthoides* (Fig. 6) [25, 26]. The circulation was 500,000 series. The mark appears on one of the 3 FDCs (see Fig. 6b) [27, 28].

Even though the first day of the issue was June 20, 1971, the issue itself was distributed to philatelic subscribers through the I.C.S. Philately only on September 25, 1971 [29]. However, it was used for posting various parts. Of these, we can mention the maximum postcard dated 15.06.1972, issued from Sibiu 1 P.O. (see Fig. 7a) [30], the maximum postcards issued from Cluj-Napoca 1 P.O. (see Fig. 7b-c) [31, 32], and the one issued by Craiova P.O. on 23.07.1974 (see Fig. 7d) [33].



Fig. 4. Postage stamp and related FDC from the philatelic issue "Botanical garden of Cluj-Napoca", 25.10.1965, Bucharest (Romania)





Fig. 5. Examples of philatelic effects and circulations made with the considered stamp

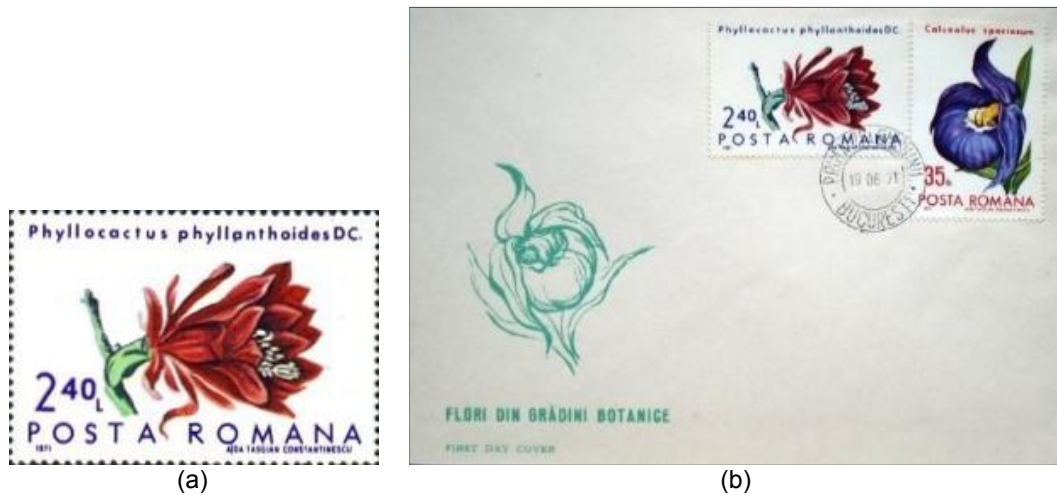
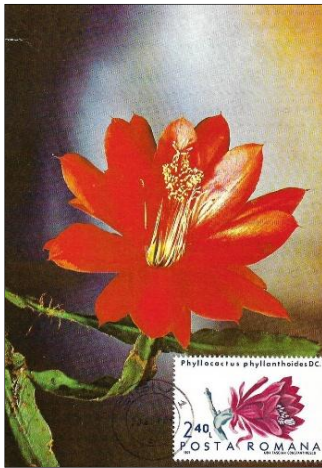
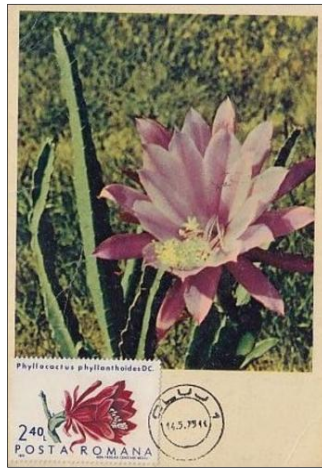


Fig. 6. Postage stamp and related FDC from the philatelic issue "Flowers from botanical gardens", 20.06.1971, Bucharest (Romania)



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)



(g)

Fig. 7. Examples of maxims and circulations made with the considered postage stamp

As for postage stamp circulation, they were very difficult to identify. However, in Fig. 7e we reproduced a recommended external letter, sent on 03.04.1972, from Arad 1 P.O. (Romania) to Budapest (Hungary) [34]. To correspond in terms of pricing, the piece was stamped on both sides with stamps representing species from the flora of the botanical garden. Another letter in "by air mail" mode, this time, was sent on 01.09.1976, on the route Satu Mare (Romania) - Livorno (Italy), as shown in Fig. 7f [35], and the last piece was shipped to federal Germany (Fig. 7g) [36].

3.4 Cacti, 1997

The 4th issue taken into account, suggestively titled "Cacti", appeared on June 27, 1997. It was made by the technique of photogravure, in 49x34 mm format, laced 13¾, being composed exclusively of postage stamps illustrating cacti. The 6 postage stamps (Yv RO#4389..94, Mi RO#5256..61, Sg RO#5882..87, Sn RO#4160..65) were issued with a circulation

between 80,000 series (stamp with a face value of 6150 lei) and 800,000 series (stamp with a face value of 100 lei) [37, 38].

As shown in Fig. 8a-f, the postage stamps illustrate various species of cactus, respectively, *Dolichothele uberiformis* (stamp with a face value of 100 lei), *Rebutia* sp. (250 lei), *Echinofossulocactus lamellosus* (450 lei), *Ferocactus glaucescens* (500 lei), *Thelocactus* sp. (650 lei), and *Echinofossulocactus albatius* (6150 lei) [37, 38]. They also appear in the structure of 2 FDCs (see Fig. 8g-h) [39].

A series of maximum postcards were also made with the considered postage stamps, some bearing the stamp "the first day of the issue" (see Fig. 9a-f) [40-45], and others with the stamp "75 years - Visiting the Botanical Garden, 30.06.1997, Cluj-Napoca" (see Fig. 16a-f from the Appendix section) [46-51]. As can be seen, the maxims faithfully capture the same image that the postage stamps used for postage represent.



Fig. 8. Stamps and related FDCs of "Cacti", 27.06.1997, Bucharest (Romania)



Fig. 9. The maxims related to the philatelic issue "Cacti", 27.06.1997, Bucharest (Romania)

In addition to these, in the period 1997-2010, we also found some illustrated and semiillustrated postcards - see Fig. 17 [52-57], Fig. 18 [58-60], Fig. 19 [61-68], Fig. 20 [69-71], Fig. 21 [72-77] and Fig. 22 [78-80], some of which are stamped, but only for convenience, as can be seen in the reproductions presented in the Appendix section. The pieces have served over time as tools for promoting succulent plants (implicitly cacti) in greenhouses and botanical gardens, most of which have a direct link to the activity carried out in Cluj-Napoca. At the same time, some circulating pieces were identified and reproduced in Fig. 23 [81-95].

3.5 Desert Flowers, 2014

Published on 29.10.2014, the philatelic issue "Desert flowers" contains the four stamps that compose it and a reference value for the present study, respectively, the stamp with a face value of 1 leu. On it is illustrated, by the technique of offset lithography, the flower of the species *Echinocereus triglochidiatus* (Mi RO#6777, Sg RO#7407, WAD #006.14) [96-98], in 36x36 mm format, comb laced 13.

Echinocereus triglochidiatus, belonging to the family *Cactaceae*, grows in the southwestern

United States and northern Mexico, is found most often in rocky desert regions, but also in shady areas, at altitudes up to 3,500 meters [98].

The plant is richly sprouted, forming hundreds of spherical and cylindrical stems with dense thorns, as can be seen in Fig. 11a [99] and in Fig. 11b [100]. The flowers are red-orange, with a diameter of 8-9 cm. They are also open at night, blooming between April and June. The fruits of this plant are also red and edible.

3.6 Cactus Flowers, 2017

Issued on 15.09.2017, the philatelic issue entitled "Cactus flowers" (indexed by Mi RO#7270..73, Yv RO#6196..99, Rom RO#2160 (1), WAD RO#121.17) contains 4 stamps in 36x36 mm format, laced 13¼, made by offset lithography . Postage stamps refer to *Lophocereus schottii* in the *Monstruosus* form (stamp with a face value of 3.50 lei), *Opuntia aciculata* (4 lei), *Mammillaria sulcata* (4.5 lei), and *Echinocactus*

horizonthalonius (15 lei), as shown in Fig. 12a-d [101-103], respectively in Fig. 12e [104], where the FDC is reproduced, or Fig. 13 [101], where the blocks of 4 stamps were reproduced.

Lophocereus schottii in *Monstruosus* form, illustrated on the stamp with a face value of 3.50 lei (Fig. 12a), is a genetically stable mutation, naturally occurring, which, although sterile, continues to survive in the wild. It appears in the form of small populations, in a small area in the northeast of El Arco, between Mexico and the Baja Peninsula, on fine sands or gravel. Additionally, small populations appear in the southern tip of Arizona, where they form numerous tall stems and columns that collapse at the base in a chandelier arrangement. In these locations, the plants continue to survive, multiplying vegetatively, by rooting the fragments of branches that fall to the ground. The stems have a wax flower on the surface and reach a height of 3-4 meters. The flowers, little known, are pink.



Fig. 10. Stamp and related FDC of "Desert flowers", 29.10.2014, Bucharest (Romania)

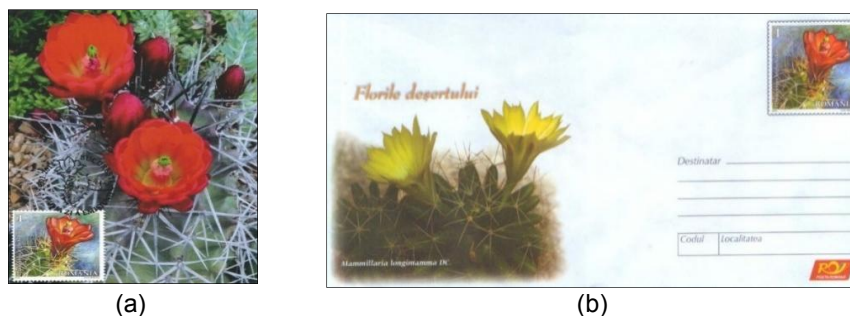


Fig. 11. Maximum and philatelic envelope of the philatelic issue "Desert flowers"



Fig. 12. Postage stamps and related FDC from the philatelic issue "Cactus flowers", 15.09.2017, Bucharest

Opuntia aciculata, also known as the "mother-in-law's tongue" (see Fig. 12b), is illustrated on the stamp with a face value of 4 lei. Another member of the family *Cactaceae*, which is a very widespread species is in our country, in a greenhouse or apartment. It is native to northwestern Mexico, southwestern USA, practically in areas with high aridity. The symbol of the sun to the ancient Indians, *Opuntia* species grow on dry hills, mainly on stony outcrops, often in small colonies. This plant develops numerous stems covered with thorns. The stems have partially rounded segments at the top. Spring flowers are usually large, with approx. 10 cm in diameter, and pretty colored red/orange or yellowish, while the fruits are reddish-purple. The latter, similar to small pears, are edible.

Mammillariasulcata, or pineapple cactus, is a small, globular species (Fig. 12c). The thorns, usually 9-10, white-yellow, are displayed in the shape of a star so that the plant appears covered with white lace. The flowers of this cactus have a bright yellow color with a medium orange, sweet

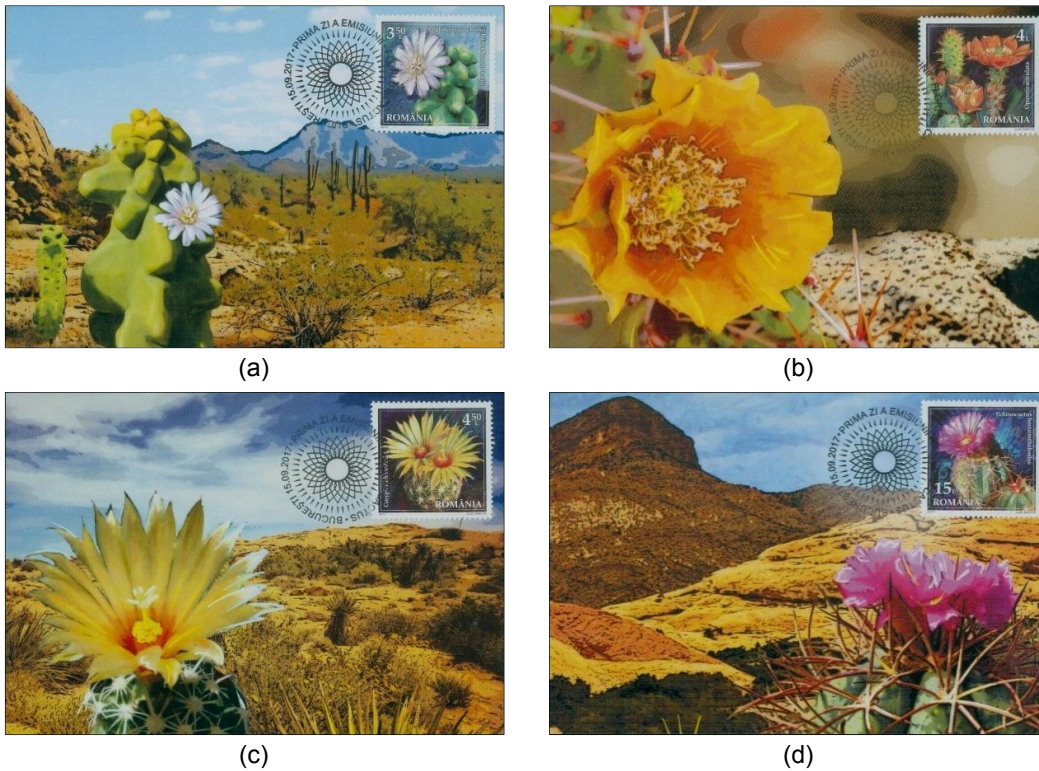
smell, can reach 6-7.5 cm in diameter, and appear towards the top of the stem during the summer. Like most cactus species, illustrated on the stamp with a face value of 4.50 lei, it changes its appearance during life.

Echinocactus horizonthalonius, popularly called the "mother-in-law's chair", is a cactus with a globular, waxy, and green-gray stem, with rounded and slightly spiraled ribs. It is illustrated on the stamp with a face value of 15 lei (see Fig. 12d). Dark red spines, strong and slightly bent, approx. 4 cm long, are grouped 6-9, at the level of the areola. The plant can reach sizes of 40-50 cm and will begin to bloom in late spring, only when it reaches maturity (usually after the age of 10 years). Its dark pink flowers can exceed 3 cm in length.

From a purely philatelic perspective, stamps also became part of maximum postcards, officially made by Romfilatelia (Fig. 14a-d) [105], as well as privately, by various passionate collectors (Fig. 14e-h) [106].



Fig. 13. The 4-stamps blocks of "cactus flowers", 15.09.2017, bucharest



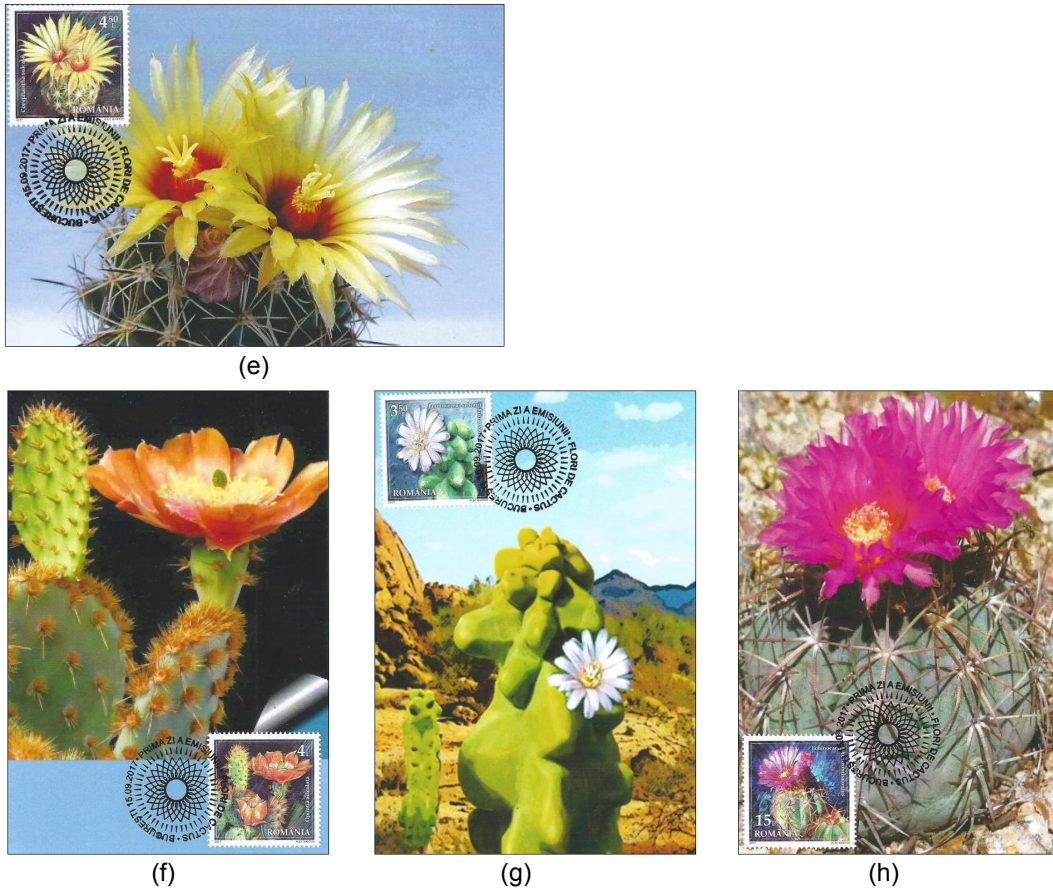


Fig. 14. The maximums related to the philatelic issue "Cactus flowers", 15.09.2017, Bucharest (Romania)

3.7 160 Years Since the Inauguration of the "Dimitrie Brândză" Botanical Garden of the University of Bucharest, 2020

The last thematic issue we focused on appeared relatively recently (in post-philatelic terms), more precisely on 03.03.2020, to commemorate 160 years since the Inauguration of the Botanical Garden "Dimitrie Brândză" of the University of Bucharest [107].

Established as an institution in 1860 by Dr. Carol Davila on a land of 7 ha, by Decree signed by Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza, the Botanical Garden of Bucharest was arranged, starting with 1884, under the leadership of Professor Dr. Dimitrie Brândză. Together with the landscape

architect Louis Fuchs, he made a complex arrangement that included the greenhouses, the building of the Botanical Institute, all located in a space where the first plantations of trees and shrubs were made. The project for arranging and organizing the Botanical Garden in Bucharest was completed only in 1891 [107].

Today, at the end of 2020, the Botanical Garden of Bucharest is an important center for the conservation of plant diversity, a center for scientific research and education, as well as a true center of ecological education. That is why Romfilatelia put into circulation the issue in question, consisting of four postage stamps and an FDC, which presents, in a beautiful color palette, representative plants found in the patrimony of the emblematic institution [108].

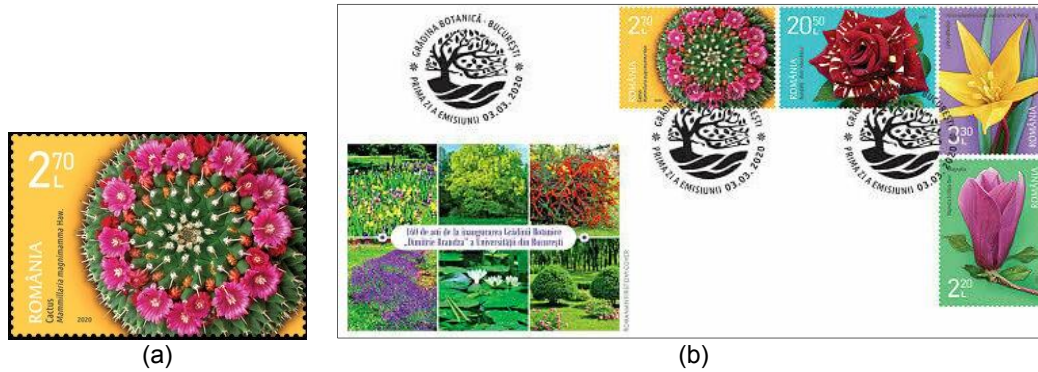


Fig. 15. The postage stamp and the related FDC from the philatelic issue "160 years since the inauguration of the Dimitrie Brândză botanical garden of the University of Bucharest", 03.03.2020, Bucharest (Romania)

Of interest, however, for this study, is the only the postage stamp with a face value of 2.70 lei. It reproduces the Mexican Pincushion (*Mammillaria magnimamma*) species, after a 4-color model made by George Ursachi. The postage stamp in 48x33 mm format, laced, completes the series of plants found in the "Dimitrie Brândză" Botanical Garden, being also first applied on the envelope with the mention "the first day of the issue", as can be seen in Fig. 15 [108-110]. The impressive chromaticism of the pieces, as well as the vividness that bothers the viewer's eye, come to certify the potential that the "Dimitrie Brândză" Botanical Garden hosts, as well as to promote its image in the country and abroad.

4. CONCLUSION

Through this paper, starting from a series of well-defined philatelic issues in time and space, about the analyzed subject, we tried to bring to the attention of the general public a less common theme in Romanian philately, namely cacti and succulents. Although this subject is somehow unnatural, for a country like Romania, which does not have specific conditions for the acclimatization of cacti, Romanian philately has approached this subject.

On various occasions (about 7 according to our calculations), Romanian philately wanted to immortalize succulent plant species, to probably even sound the alarm on the unfavorable conditions in which they are managed, in greenhouses and botanical gardens.

We were also deeply impressed by the color palette, truly unique of the pieces of the various philatelic issues analyzed. Although they are not

as spectacular as the number of circulations, the pieces themselves denote a depth in the current artistic, in the act of creation. Of course, the implications of thematic philately are even noticeable in the promotion of some species known to the general public, as well as its manifestation in capitalizing on the image of botanical gardens, in this case, those of Cluj-Napoca and Bucharest. However, what the public probably doesn't know is that with these issues, which inevitably come as part of local marketing and branding, part of the community's history is repeated. The idea of a community in the process of cultivating ecological values, but also of spiritual ones, is rewritten in a much more circulable form, and this in the conditions in which the cacti capture the creative spirit through their own harmony of proportions.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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42. Available: www.delcampe.net/en_US/collectibles/stamps/plants/cactusses/cactusses-cactus-1997-cm-maxicard-cartes-maximum-obliteration-fdc-premier-jour-romania-150948029.html
43. Available: www.delcampe.net/en_US/collectibles/stamps/plants/cactusses/cactusses-cactus-1997-cm-maxicard-cartes-maximum-obliteration-fdc-premier-jour-romania-150947773.html
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46. Available: www.delcampe.net/en_US/collectibles/stamps/plants/cactusses/cactus-flowers-botanical-garden-cluj-1997-cm-maxi-card-cartes-maximum-romania-162457705.html
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57. Available:www.delcampe.net/en_US/collectibles/postcards/romania/romania-03-cactus-echinocereus-berlandieri-cod-024-97-421120338.html
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61. Available:www.delcampe.net/en_US/collectibles/stamps/plants/cactusses/rumaenien-2005-7-postkarten-mit-sstpl-zudruck-kaktus-romania-2005-7-postcards-with-special-postmark-cachet-cactus-474363089.html
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66. Available:www.delcampe.net/en_US/collectibles/postcards/flowers-plants-trees/unclassified/cactus-from-botanical-gardens-cluj-napoca-rebutia-card-101-264091244.html
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100. Available:www.delcampe.net/en_US/collectibles/stamps/plants/other/romania-stationery-cover-unused-2014-001-flowers-desert-flowers-cactus-953907389.html
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108. Available: https://colnect.com/ro/stamps/stamp/945766Mexican_Pincushion_Mammilla
109. Available: www.stampworld.com/stamps/Romania/Postage-stamps/g7661
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APPENDIX

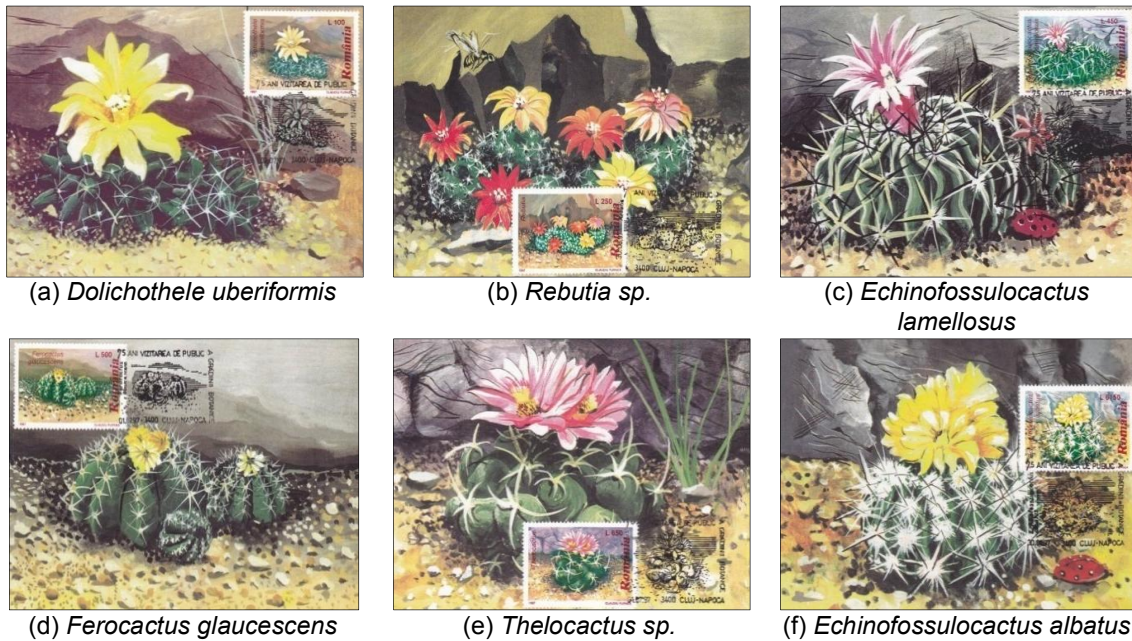


Fig. 16. Maximums related to the philatelic issue "Cacti", 27.06.1997, Bucharest, having applied the special stamps representing the cacti illustrated on the stamps used in postage [46-51]

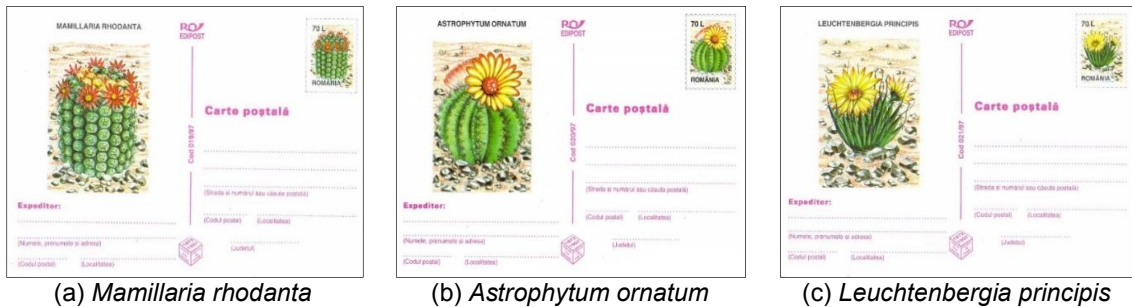




Fig. 17. Semi-illustrated postcards with indirect reference to the philatelic issue "Cacti", 1997, Bucharest (Romania) [52-57]

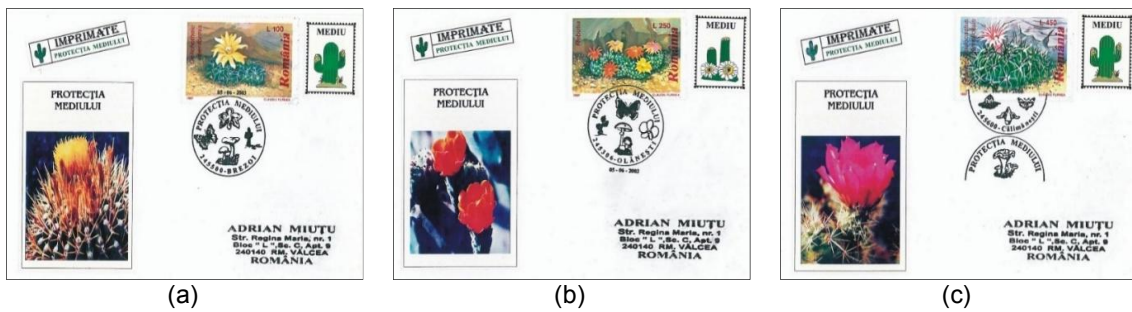
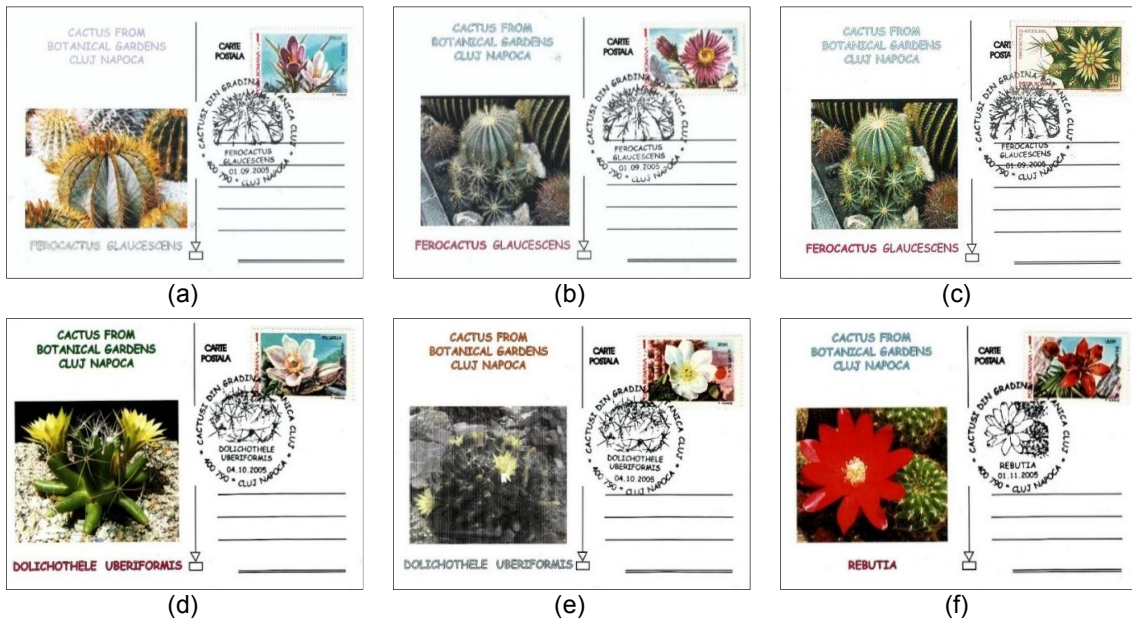


Fig. 18. Semi-illustrated prints related to the philatelic issue "Cacti", 2003 [58-60]



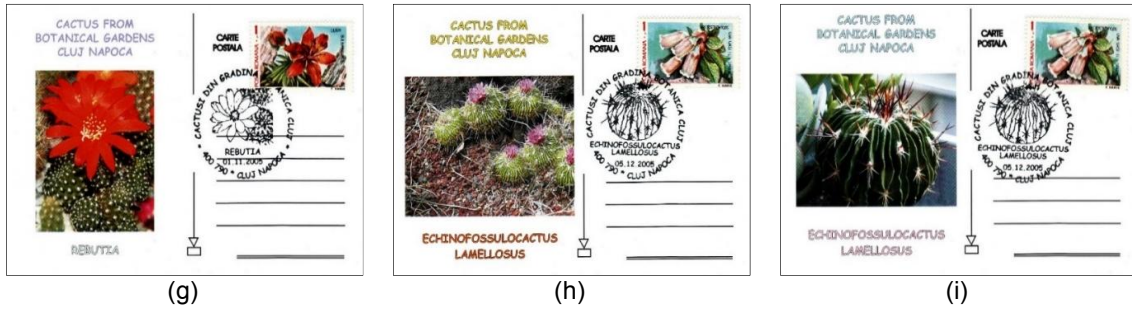


Fig. 19. Semi-illustrated postcards related to the philatelic issue "Cacti", 04.10-05.12.2005, Cluj-Napoca (Romania) [61-68]

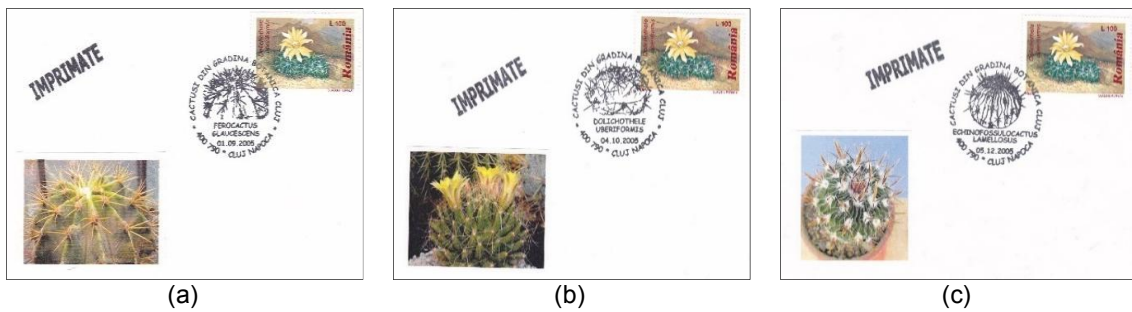


Fig. 20. The semi-illustrated cards bearing the special stamp "Cacti from the Cluj-Napoca botanical garden", 01.09-05.12.2005, Cluj-Napoca (Romania) [69-71]



Fig. 21. Semi-illustrated postcards related to the philatelic issue "Cacti", 25-26.01.2006, Cluj-Napoca (Romania) [72-77]

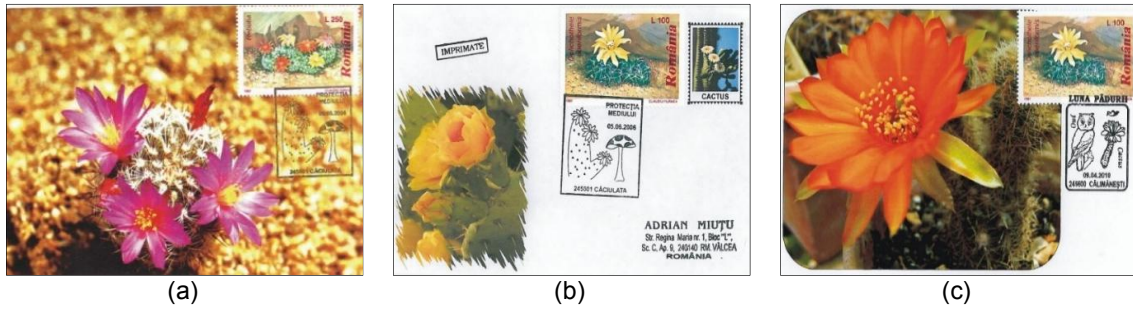


Fig. 22. Other philatelic effects related to the philatelic issue "Cacti", 2006-2010 [78-80]



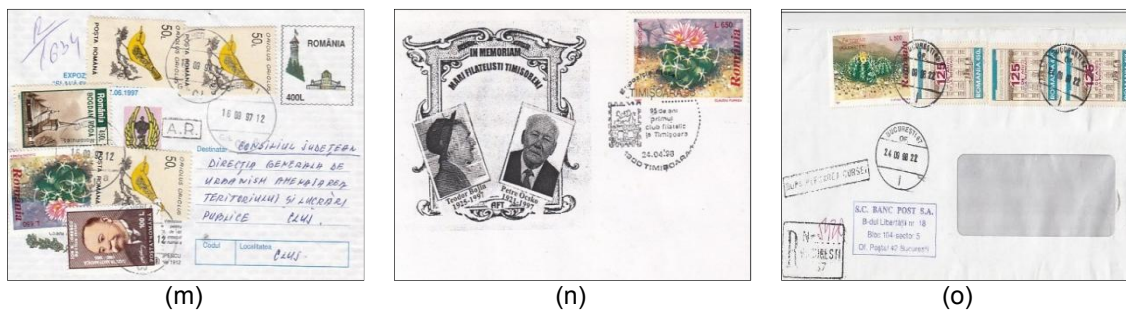


Fig. 23. Various circulated pieces, with postage stamps related to the philatelic issue "Cacti", 27.06.1997, Bucharest (Romania) [81-95]

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