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2 **Reflections and implications of philately in the**  
3 **promotion of mining and mineral samples,**  
4 **fossils and gems in Romania (I): 1945-1960**

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16 **ABSTRACT**  
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The natural heritage is defined and accepted as the set of physico-geographic and biocenotic (floristic, faunistic) components and structures of the natural environment, whose ecological, economic, scientific, biogenic, sanogenic, landscape, recreational and cultural-historic significance and value has a relevant significance for present and future generations. Constantly promoting philatelic themes that address the natural heritage, different philatelic associations and post office entities performs a series of postage elements in whose pictures we also find the Romanian industrial preoccupations over time. In this paper we propose an insight into the history of mining-philately and bring into discussion the first significant concerns in promoting mining activity and mineral samples, fossils and gems in Romania. In this context, the main objective of this paper is to identify, index and describe the main philatelic pieces issued in Romania (postal stamps, FDCs, occasional envelopes, postcards and maxicards etc), from the beginning of issuing in this field, namely the period 1945-1960.

18  
19 *Keywords: natural heritage, mining activities, philatelic appearances, mineral samples.*  
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21 **1. INTRODUCTION**  
22

23 Philately can be defined as the activity of collecting and studying philatelic products,  
24 especially stamps. However, philately signifies more than a concern for beauty; challenge,  
25 information, education, friendship and fun are some of the characteristics of one of the most  
26 popular hobbies in the world [4].  
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28 By closely scrutinizing the etymology of philately, beyond the franchise business, in the  
29 broad sense of the word, we realize that this is more than a preoccupation, a pleasant and  
30 instructive means of recreation, which consists in collecting and studying postage stamps  
31 and other philatelic-postal items [4]; practically, the two parts of philately - collecting and  
32 studying philatelic parts - are very closely linked, constituting an organic entity.  
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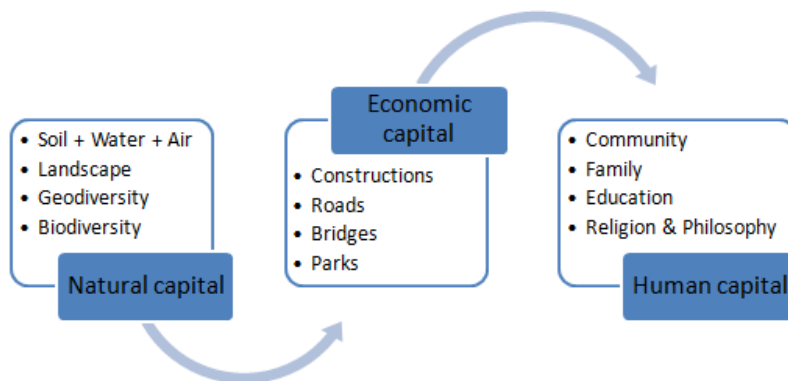
34 In fact, we think that the mistaken idea that philately represents only gathering, brand  
35 collection, without careful, thorough and multilateral study of them, makes one lose from the  
36 beginning the opportunity to to enrich themselves in a pleasant and surprising way, the  
37 knowledge of general culture, which is equivalent to emptying philately from its instructive-  
38 educational content.

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Today, after over 160 years of philately in Romania [4], our preoccupations for this extremely vast field is to study not only of the postage stamps of various kinds and types, but also other categories of philatelic- postage envelopes (first day envelopes, homage envelopes, postcards, postcards and maximum postcards, etc.), summarize and focus on everything intimate to mining and mineral, fossil and gemstones.

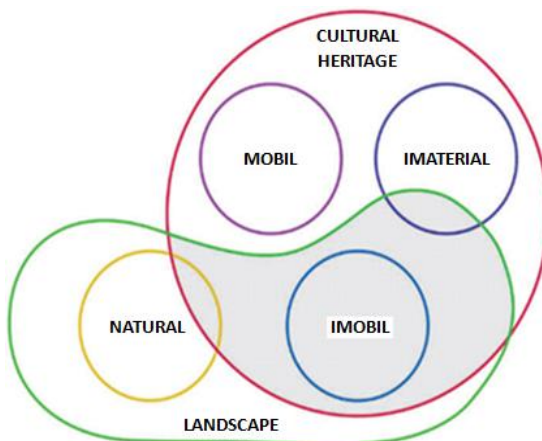
By constantly promoting philatelic themes that deal with the natural beauties and richness of our country [3], the administrative entity responsible for issuing philatelic-postal items, currently Romfilatelia, produces a series of programs in which images of the elements of the mining activity are found, especially minerals, fossils and gemstones that we consider to be part of natural capital (see Fig. 1).



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**Fig. 1. The environment has the structure of the natural - economic - human capital**

Starting from the idea that Romania is, especially from the point of view of the natural heritage (see Fig. 2), a place blessed with extremely well-rounded biodiversity and geodiversity, of a rare beauty [3], we chose to present a series of philatelic-postal issues that come to refine the individual's need for aesthetics and cultural-educational development.



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**Fig. 2. Natural heritage as part of cultural heritage**

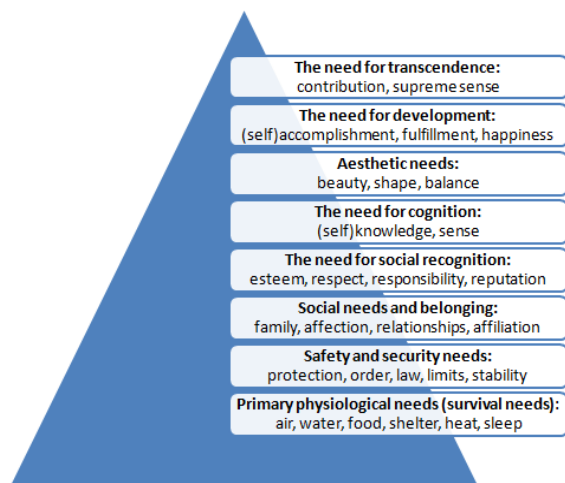
The study is conducting in order to present the real history of thematic philately, especially the one dedicated to industrial activities in general, and the exploration and exploitation of resources in particular. At the same time, during the study we tried to emphasize the cultural importance of philately in society and to give the public a part of the forgotten history of mining in Romania, which has been the basis of the national economy for a good time.

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## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The working methodology for this study comes as an accessible concern from all points of view of the current generation. As with the practice of philately, no special, long-term training is required, as in the present study, no innovative methodology, expensive equipment and / or instruments is required, but creativity is needed for the conduct of research, stamp. As we mention before no innovative methodology is required, but we used a huge numbers of pictorial data (postal stamps, FDCs, occasional envelopes, postcards and maxicards etc) from different international open-source philatelic databases, as well as from specialized philatelic catalogs. We analyzed and interpreted this kind of pictorial data based on the descriptions made by other philatelists and collectors, respectively by consulting and comparing with other sources and specialized catalogs.

Objectively speaking, beyond the passion of the authors for philately - as satisfaction for the aesthetic need and as a cultural-educational development [3], the working methodology consisted in identifying, indexing and describing the main philatelic pieces issued in Romania (postal stamps, FDCs, occasional envelopes, postcards and maxicards), which in the meantime remain to promote mining and mineral, fossil and gem samples from 1945-1960 closely (see Fig. 3).



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**Fig. 3. The Pyramid of Maslow's needs - adapted and redefined in the current context**

In our research period both author collections and international open-source philatelic databases have been thoroughly consulted, including Delcampe ([www.delcampe.net](http://www.delcampe.net)), Colnect ([colnect.com](http://colnect.com)), StampWorld ([www.stampworld.com](http://www.stampworld.com)), PicClick ([picclick.com](http://picclick.com)) and RomaniaStamps ([www.romaniastamps.com](http://www.romaniastamps.com)) as well as specialized international philatelic catalogs: Yvert (Yv), Michael (Mi), Gibson (G) and Scott (S) [9].

The above mentioned bibliographic resources added, for the fullness of the study, a series of specialized catalogs on philatelic errors, curiosities and varieties [1, 2] as well as an important series of Romanian specialty papers with general character on Romanian postal stamps, which offer valuable information and authenticity to clarify the following parameters: *date of issue* [1, 2, 5-8], *layout and indexing of the pieces* [1, 2, 5-7, 10], respectively *their description* (name, format, lace, etc) [1, 2, 5-8]. At the same time, the open-source philatelic content platforms, especially the discussion forums, have been of great use, where, as a result of the online meetings of philately enthusiasts, valuable information has been found that guarantees the correctness of the data presented in this study.

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### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS: MINERAL EXPLOITATIONS IN ROMANIA REFLECTED IN FILATELY**

Mining is an old occupation that has not escaped the attention and sphere of philatelic interest [11], besides the collecting of stamps and other postal material [12]. This theme also includes the present work, besides the numerous specialized exhibitions and anniversaries (dedicated to the Day of Labor and the Day of the Miner) which we mention, which come as a crowning of the prestigious activity carried out persistently by the philatelic associations.

We are talking about philatelic associations and clubs, which appeared in the full communist period, with the propagation of mass philately [12]. Through them, philately has gained momentum and new valences, including mining and metallurgy, through the appearance of philatelic (industrial) thematic issues.

By consulting open-source philatelic platforms and browsing an important series of specialized works, as presented in reference area, of general character, on Romanian postage stamps, I had the pleasant surprise of having a handy readable material, even in its gross form, captivating us with interesting and well-thought-out things in the history of the industrial preoccupations of the time.

The history of mining and metallurgy in Romania can indeed be easily pursued by studying postage stamps and other philatelic products, using a scientific method of exposure and research similar to that presented in [13].

Presenting a history of philatelic implications in promoting mining in Romania, starting with writing about an industrial objective (some mining) or about a major event (an exhibition or an anniversary) is not too easy for information is broad, heterogeneous, sometimes even contradictory [17], and as such it must be selected, ordered as chronologically as possible or after other subjective aspects, and rendered in the most convincing way possible.

So I found out a number of interesting things about mining and miners trying to take out the natural riches of the homeland and especially about the involvement of philatelic circles in exploiting and capitalizing on the Romanian activities of the time.

Today, we find that the members of these philatelic associations have, over time, made the phenomenon of mass culturalization through philatelic education, through correspondence (thematic movements), exhibitions and anniversaries, a true act of culture, as the information they bear on postal items - philatelic self-help and will help the specialist, the researcher, the cultured man and the general public to better understand the Romanians' industrial history as well as the evolution of one of the most important mining operations in Europe.

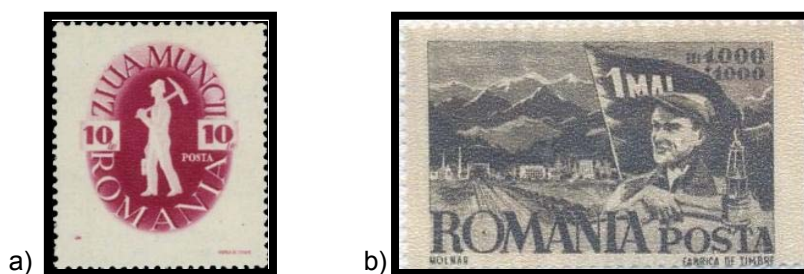
Through the philatelic pieces, the creative and innovative spirit of the mining specialists is emphasized, reflecting the evolution over time with original elements of the methods of exploiting the resources. The philatelicists address in their daily concerns both the technical and economic problems related to the mining production and the correlation between them and the social and historical events which marked the evolution of the exploitation and, implicitly, of the mining localities as a whole.

Throughout the paper, we have attempted to show the involvement of science and technology in solving the problems faced by the communities in their industrial work, also emphasizing the outstanding achievements. In order to give the Romanian mining the best possible picture of the development of Romanian mining in time, we have proposed that the

160 work should contain a rich illustrative material, addressed both to the general public and to  
161 the philately and/or mining enthusiasts, the researchers and the specialists deals with issues  
162 of technical development in general and mining in particular. Each of them will be able to find  
163 in this first work devoted to mining philately rich information chronologically structured.  
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### 165 **3.1 Period 1950-1954**

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167 Although it may seem slightly exaggerated, the involvement and reflection of philately in  
168 promoting the intrinsic values of mining activity in Romania is felt, for the first time, in the  
169 period preceding the 1950s, when a series of postage stamps appear to celebrate the  
170 "Labor Day" later, "Miner's Day". Of those marks, we mention the stamps representing "a  
171 miner" from the "Labor Day - 1 May 1946" (RO #1122, LP #195) appeared on May 1, 1946  
172 (see Fig. 4a) [6, 18], respectively that of 1947 (RO #1193, LP #217) appeared only on June  
173 15, 1947 (see Fig. 4b) [6, 19].  
174



175 **Fig. 4. Various postage stamps representing miners that appeared before 1950**

176 *a) „Labor Day - 1 Mai 1946”, 01.05.1946 - postage stamp RO #1122*

177 *b) „Labor Day - 1 Mai 1947”, 15.06.1947 - postage stamp RO #1193*

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179 The postage stamp shown in Fig. 4a, appearing on white paper with M1 filigree, lace-shaped  
180 28×33 mm, and in a series of 86,000 pieces, is indexed by Yv #906, Mi #987, G #1803 and  
181 S #605 [6, 18], while the postmark of Fig. 4b, appeared in 225,000 series on white MM  
182 filigree paper in 42×26 mm lace format, is indexed by Yv #971 and Mi #1057 [6, 19].  
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184 In the 1950-1954 period, when the first carto-philatelic and maxifilatelic parts appeared, as a  
185 laudation for the exploration and exploitation of minerals [6, 7], we identified a series of  
186 issues that were not neglected. Thus, the oldest identified piece, which opens the way for  
187 philately to promote mining is the "Day of the Miner", which appeared in the form of "first day  
188 cover" (FDC) on 12.08.1951, under the Ministry of Postal and Telecommunications - the  
189 Philatelic Office in Bucharest (Fig. 5a) [20, 21]. Some sources, however, mention the date of  
190 issue is on August the 21<sup>st</sup>, 1951 [2, 6-8, 10]. The graphic theme of this envelope was used  
191 in the making of a homage envelope on the occasion of the philatelic exhibition from 07-  
192 17.11.1951 which took place in Baia Mare. In this sense, the color of the printing ink, as well  
193 as the legend accompanying the image (see Fig. 5b), was changed [22].  
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195 The two stamps shown met in a special composition, as part of a franchise "par airplane". As  
196 can be seen in Fig. 5c, this piece has never circulated, and we tend to believe, according to  
197 the arrangement of the stamps, that it was strictly philatelic [27].  
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199 The philatelic part of Fig. 5a [20], which appears as a 9×16.5 cm white envelope in a print of  
200 1,460 pieces, has the semicircle stamp, filled with laurel leaves and miner's markings [7],  
201 over the francature made of stamps of the "Mining Day" show, dated August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1951 (LP  
202 #285). It also reproduces in the background, by drawing in black, the second applied stamp,  
203 representing "a miner and mining installations" [7].  
204

205 In terms of the stamps used to frank the piece, symbolizing "a miner in uniform" (RO #1433)  
 206 and "a miner in working clothes" (RO #1434) [23, 24], they are indexed by Yv #1162...3, Mi  
 207 #1272...3, G #2121..2 and S #792..3, and are presented in lace-shaped 26×42 mm,  
 208 according to O. Adler's mosaics, in a print run of 800,000 series arranged in finite sheets of  
 209 100 pieces [2, 5, 6].  
 210



211 **Fig. 5. Variations and editions of the "Mining Day", 21.08.1951 (LP #285)**  
 212 a) first day envelope, 12.08.1951, București; b) ocazional envelope - „Filatelic Exhibition”, 07-  
 213 17.11.1951, Baia Mare; c) uncirculated envelope marked „par avion”; d) overprint on postage  
 214 stamp "a miner in uniform" (RO #1433); e) variety of the postage stamp "a miner in work clothes"  
 215 (RO #1434); f)-k) various editions marked with postage stamps of the emission  
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217 The philatelic part of Fig. 5b [22] holds the graphic element of Fig. 5a, the difference being  
 218 the color of the pattern. On the occasion of the 1951 philatelic exhibition, the piece was  
 219 made in a print of 1,200 pieces and was franked, besides the stamps of 1951 Mining Day,  
 220 with the stamp "Coal Extraction" (RO #1444) from the "Plan cincinal" (LP #292).  
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222 It is worth noting that even in 1951, with the monetary reform (1 new leu = 20 lei old),  
 223 overprinting with new values appeared, including for "a miner in uniform" (indexed RO  
 224 #1510), reindexed by Yv #1251 , Mi #1433, G #2204 and S #854, and renominated with 55  
 225 bani, in a circulation of 187,800 pieces (see Fig.5d) [1, 2, 6, 7, 25].

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 227 Over time, philatelic researchers for this area have identified a philatelic error [1], two  
 228 curiosities and a few varieties. Thus, in Fig. 5e the "scar on the miner's cheek" error [26] can  
 229 be noticed, and as a diversity. In Fig. 5f-k we present a series of circulation with the issue  
 230 stamps [28-33].

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 232 The second piece on which we stopped is also entitled "Miner's Day", Fig. 6b, appeared on  
 233 August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1952, but stamped on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1952 and franked by the stamps of the  
 234 "Mining Day" show of 15.08.1952 (LP #328) [34-37]. The FDC presents itself as a 9×16.5 cm  
 235 white envelope and a black drawing that reproduces the 20-pound stamp (RO #1570) of the  
 236 show, which, along with the 55 bani, comes stamped with the "miner badge" and circulated  
 237 in a circulation of 1,400 pieces [7].  
 238



239 **Fig. 6. Variations and editions of the "Mining Day", 11.08.1952 (LP #328)**  
 240 **a)** maximal postal card - „Expoziția Filatelică”, 06-20.11.1952, Baia Mare  
 241 **b)** first day cover (FDC), 10.08.1952, București; **c)** ocazional envelope - „Ziua Minerului”,  
 242 24.10.1952, Tg. Mureș; **d)-e)** various editions marked with postage stamps of the emission

243 The stamps, laced, indexed by Yv #1274...5, Mi #1402...3, G #2258...9 and S #902...3, are  
 244 28×33 mm in size. They were painted by N. Popescu, in a very generous circulation  
 245 (1,000,000 series), in finished sheets of 100 pieces. The graphic representation of the FDC  
 246 reproduces the stamp model with a face value of 20 bani [34, 35]. Along with the  
 247 aforementioned FDC, in our searches we identified a series of movements that were not  
 248 neglected. Thus, in Fig. 6 we have a maximum postcard made on the occasion of the  
 249 philatelic exhibition in Baia Mare that took place between 06-20.11.1952. In the illustration of  
 250 the postal support we can find the miner statue and the building of the Baia Mare Technical  
 251 School. The circulation of this edition, comprising both the stamps of the show, was 500  
 252 copies [38]. In Fig. 6c-e we present a series marked with the 55 bani issue mark [39-42].  
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254 The list of identified philatelic pieces continues with "1953 Miner's Day" (Fig. 7a) [43, 44].  
 255 The FDC with the stamp of the issue (LP #350) is stamped on the first day of the issue,  
 256 dated September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1953, Bucharest. The occasional envelope shown in Fig. 7b, is  
 257 stamped with the stamp of the philatelic exhibition organized in Hunedoara, between 13-  
 258 22.06.1954 [45].  
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Fig. 7. Variations and editions of the "Mining Day", 03.09.1953 (LP #350)

- 260  
 261 a) first day cover (FDC) - „Minierul 1953”, 03.09.1953, București  
 262 b) ocazional envelope - „Expoziția filatelică”, 13-22.06.1954, Hunedoara  
 263 c-f) various editions marked with postage stamps of the emission  
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265 Both pieces are marked with the stamp of the issue, a "mining worker", indexed by odds Yv  
 266 #1316, Mi #1443, G #2301 and S #945, stamped in 42×26 mm lace format, made by L.



267 Kuşçenco, in a circulation of 2,000,000 copies, disposed in finite sheets of 100 pieces [46,  
 268 47]. They are further exposed, according to our research method, and the circulation with the  
 269 mark of the issue, in Fig. 7c-f [48-51].  
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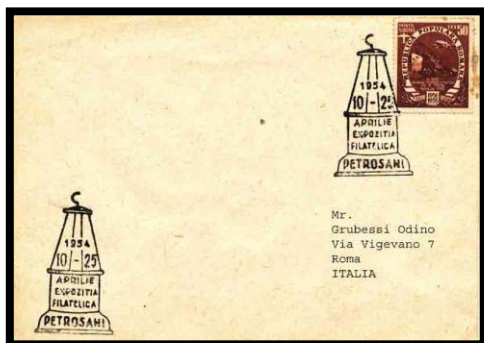
271 The next piece analyzed is the FDC issued on 08.08.1954, "Miner's Day 1954" (Fig 8a) [52,  
 272 55, 56]. The issues denomination of 1.75 lei (LP #365) was used to reproduce Fig. 8b [54].  
 273 In Fig. 8c-g we encounter more freed traffic with postage stamp of the issue [53, 57-60].  
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275 **Fig. 8. Variations and editions of the "Mining Day", 08.08.1954 (LP #365)**

- 276 **a)** envelope for the first day (FDC) - „Minerul 1953” - 03.09.1953, Bucureşti  
 277 **b)** maximum postcard, unmarked and uncirculated  
 278 **c)-g)** various editions marked with postage stamps of the emission

279 The year 1954 brings additions to the philatelic pieces with interest manifested for the mining  
 280 activity through the occasional envelope with the stamp "Philatelic Exhibition", dated 10-  
 281 25.08.1954, Petroșani (Fig. 9) [61].  
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283  
 284 **Fig. 9. Occasional envelope - "Philatelic Exhibition", 10-25.04.1954, Petroșani**  
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286 **3.2 Period 1955-1959**

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 288 The 1955-1959 period is poor in graphical representations to propagate various mining  
 289 activities or riches of the earth. However, in the relatively extended research framework we  
 290 have identified a circulation that we consider to be very interesting (Fig. 10a) [62] and, of  
 291 course, a series of errors and varieties thereof (Fig. 10b-d) [1, 2, 64-66] for the postage  
 292 stamp "a miner" (RO #1673) [63] of the usual "Activities" (LP #381) issue dated 29.03.1955.  
 293 As it was natural, an impressive series of franchised traffic follows the postage stamp of the  
 294 issue, during 5-6 years, as shown in Fig. 10e-f [67, 68], Fig. 11 [69-78], Fig. 12 [79-88], Fig.  
 295 13 [89-98], Fig. 14 [99-108], Fig. 15 [109-118] and Fig. 16, from annexes, [119-124].  
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297 **Fig. 10 Various editions of postage stamps for "miner" (RO #1673)**  
 298 a) postal service postmark bearing the "miner" (RO #1673), 30.12.1960, București;  
 299 b) UFO in front of the stamp; c) white vertical stripe over the nose; d) UFO (interruption) at the  
 300 neck level; e)-f) various editions marked with postage stamps of the emission



301 Fig. 11. Various editions of postage stamps for "miner" (I)



302 Fig. 12. Various editions of postage stamps for "miner" (II)



303 Fig. 13. Various editions of postage stamps for "miner" (III)



304 Fig. 14. Various editions of postage stamps for "miner" (IV)



305 Fig. 15. Various editions of postage stamps for "miner" (V)

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#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

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Lately, in Romania at least, the philatelic research is almost completely missing. The novelty of this study is that we try to bring, to the current and future generations, a hint of the mining history. Through the philatelic pieces, in a very large number of pictorial data (in the form of postal stamps, FDCs, occasional envelopes, postcards, maxicards etc), we expose, something that has not been included in Romanian philatelic studies so far.

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By publishing this study we hope that we will make available to all those interested a useful tool of information, education and philatelic orientation in what was the mining activity in Romania over time. We would like the work to be the first light to guide through the intricate philatelic galleries of Romanian mining.

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Also, to somewhat revive the sober style, proper corrections and catalogs, and of course to remove the monotony specific to a purely philatelic study, we sought to present the material in the form of not so analytical, but descriptive, notes . And that is to make it easier to fully understand the evolution of mining in philately, as well as the dynamics of the preoccupations for the promotion of mineral, fossil and gemstone samples that we often find as museum pieces or as collections of exhibitors.

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This study is mainly addressed to passionate philatelists, but can also be of interest to other professional categories that can develop similar studies, from geodiversity to biodiversity and beyond. It can be highlighted once again that philately has a special beauty - it is capable of being a true embassy of culture and a post of human history passage.

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#### COMPETING INTERESTS

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Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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#### AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

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Ci oruț a B. designed the study, performed the cronological and desciptive analysis and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Pop A.L. and Coman M. managed the analyses of the study and complete it with valuable philatelic details. Ci oruț a B. and Pop A. L. managed the philatelic literature searches. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Fig. 16. Various editions of postage stamps for "miner" (VI)