

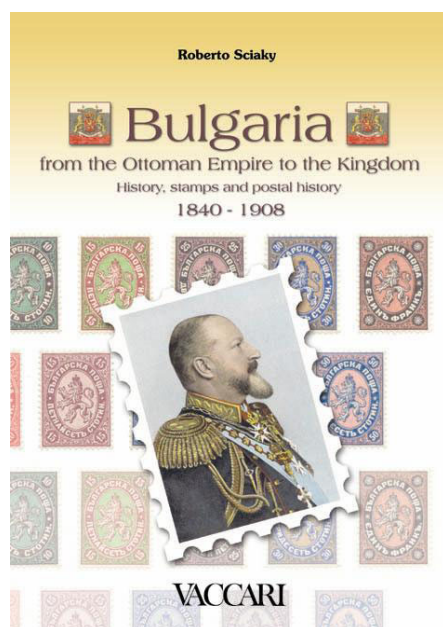
Roberto Sciaky

BULGARIA
FROM THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE TO THE KINGDOM
History, stamps and postal history
1840 - 1908

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This work represents last contribution to the study of philately and postal history given by a great collector-pioneer and friend. It has been published just a few days after the death of the author who wanted, till the end, his book to be published (the publisher).

This new book is intended for the average collector who would like to have some more information on the history and on the postal history of Bulgaria. Therefore, it is more concerned with those topics rather than on varieties of stamps, watermarks and perforations, and other specialized varieties. More emphasis is given to the postal history, the cancellations, the postal rates and other topics generally less known.

A short historical background helps in understanding the complexity of the history of this country and the transition from the Ottoman Empire to the modern Bulgaria.

Bulgaria is an independent country situated in Europe in the Balkan region. Notwithstanding its position in Europe, its philately is rather neglected by foreign collectors for many reasons.

Among the reasons contributing to this negligence are: the extreme scarcity or practically the absence of documentation in a language other than Cyrillic; the limited number of local collectors and scholars of high level due to the economic situation of the country; the limited offer of material by dealers and auctions due to the limited interest of collectors and to the still modest level of prices of the postal material, a fact that should push some new collectors to face the collection of this interesting country; the relative scarcity of material mainly of the first period (1879-1908) which does not encourage collectors to start this very interesting collection.

However, now the situation is changing. Whereas stamps are relatively easy to get (beware of fakes), postal material is much scarcer and information on the postal rates, on the rarity of cancellations and so on are even scarcer.



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CONTENTS

Foreword
Introduction
The Cyrillic alphabet

History of the Ottoman period (1400-1877)
Philately and Postal History of the Ottoman period (1840-1877)
History of the Russian period (1877-1878)
Philately and Postal History of the Russian period (1877-1878)
The Alexander period (April 1879 - August 9th 1886)
The organization of the Bulgarian post and the first issue of Bulgarian stamps in centimes and francs (1879). The first "Large Lions" issue
The issues in stotinki and leva (1881-1887)
The provisional issues (1884-1885)
Merging of Eastern Rumelia and Bulgaria (September 1885)
Ferdinand Prince of Bulgaria (August 1887 - September 22nd 1908)
The "Small Lion" issue (1889-1898)
The definitive Ferdinand I issue (1901-1911)
The surcharged issues (1892-1908)
The commemorative issues (1896-1907)
The issues of postage dues (1884-1901)

Appendix I - The pre-philately of Bulgaria. The Ottoman cancellers (1840-1879)
Appendix II - The Bulgarian cancellers (1878-1908)
Appendix III - The Village postmarks
Appendix IV - The development of communications in Bulgaria. The Travelling Post Offices
Appendix V - The postal rates
Appendix VI - The transport of mail on the Danube river
Appendix VII - The registration postmarks

Bibliography

THE AUTHOR

1929-2006. Born in Milan, after the war he took the Ph.D. in Industrial Chemistry and worked with Nobel laureate prof. G. Natta.

Afterwards, he worked in the pharmaceutical industry and for some years he was professor of organic chemistry at the University of Milan.

After retirement, he worked with many international companies in Europe and USA and with UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) contributing to the development of some less developed countries.

Since his youth, he was interested in stamps collecting, his main interests being stamps and postal history of Ethiopia, Romania and Bulgaria.

He obtained gold medals for his postal history pre UPU (1867-1908) collection of Ethiopia at London 2000, Madrid 2000, Bruxelles 2001 and Japan 2001 world exhibitions.

His postal history collection of the UPU period (1909-1936) was awarded with large gold and special prize, and with large gold and special prize for the most beautiful collection of the postal history section at the Italian National exhibitions of S. Colombano (2002) and Sestri Levante (2003).

His Bulgaria collections were awarded the large vermeil at Ravenna (2004) and gold medal at Villa Manin (2005).

His passion for philately led him to really detailed studies, which he made available to all collectors. Four are his volumes published about Ethiopia and one about Bulgaria, unfortunately appeared posthumously.

Other interests include modern graphics, classic and jazz music and sailing, making cruises in the Mediterranean sea.



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