

# OHRID

CITY OF



U N E S C O



We would like to draw your attention to one of Macedonia's greatest truths, the truth of Ohrid, an immortal town, a magical hill whose primordial pulsation links ancient and modern times forever. Ohrid has been a living town for two thousand and four hundred years. It is the legitimate descendant of the shining Lychida, a town whose achievements were woven into the tapestry of a powerful ancient civilisation. The town of Ohrid is indeed the cultural history of the Republic of Macedonia in miniature. As an episcopal centre in ancient times, and likewise through the widely renowned Ohrid archbishopric, the town has likewise through the centuries represented the entire ecclesiastical history of Macedonia. It bears the name "The Balkan Jerusalem". Through the activity of St. Clement of Ohrid, the first pan-Slavonic university in Europe was situated here. Ohrid was the most important official capital of the first Slav Macedonian state, of Samuel's empire. And Ohrid was the centre of Macedonia's nineteenth century revival. Today Ohrid became a modern city and is a cultural, spiritual, sport and tourist centre of Macedonia. And finally, as the crowning glory of its values, Ohrid and Lake Ohrid have been named a world cultural and natural heritage listed city under the protection of UNESCO since 1980.



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# 1. Apostoles to the Slavs

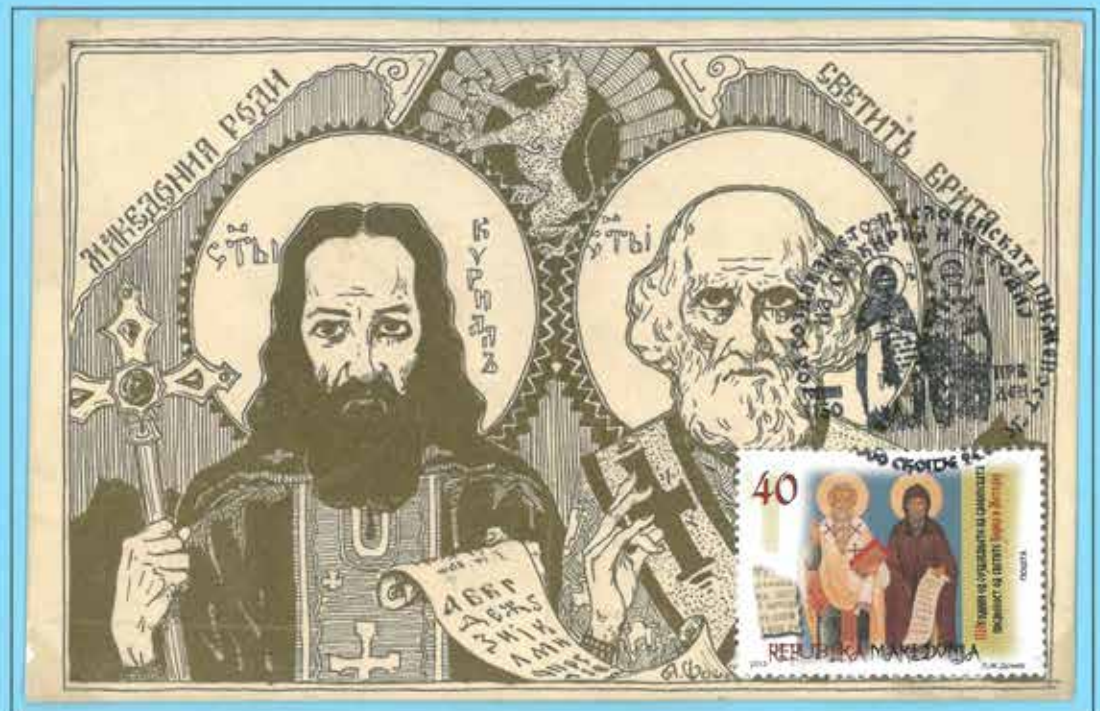
## 1.1. Sts. Cyril and Methodius brothers

The brothers Sts. Cyril and Methodius, who created the Slavic alphabet (Glagolitic), are preachers of Christianity and founders of Slavic literacy among the Slavic people. Thanks to their activity, the language of the Slavs from Macedonia, after Greek, Latin and Hebrew, becomes the fourth official language in which Christianity would spread in Europe. St. Cyril and his brother St. Methodius are the founders of the Slavic literacy, literature and culture. They were born in the first half of the 9th century in Thessaloniki to father Leon and mother Maria in a family with many children. Ever since their childhood they were directed to the Christianity by their parents. Constantine-Cyril the Philosopher was educated in Constantinople where he distinguished himself as theologian and thinker. Due to the extraordinary success that he achieved in his education, he acquired the name Constantine the Philosopher. In 800-8001, the brothers Cyril and Methodius were sent on a mission by the Byzantine court to the Khazars on the Crimea where they discovered the relics of one of the Roman popes St. Clement. Through their work they influenced the cultural development of all Slavs, for which they received the title "Apostoles to the Slavs". Both brothers are venerated in the Orthodox Church as saints with the title of "equal-to-apostles". Their legacy was carried on by numerous disciples among other Slavs.

\* Issued: 24.6.2013

\* Cancelled: 24.6.2013

\* Card: M MO - Sofia, Bulgaria



The Brothers Saints Cyril and Methodius - Christian missionaries



\* Issued: 6.4.1985

\* Cancelled: 6.4.1985

\* Card: ZZS - Ohrid-MK

Inside the walls of St. Naum's monastery there is a composition of artwork referred to as Cedmochislenitsi and in the center is St. Methodius cradling a depiction of the monastery in the palm of his hand 1799-1800.

## 1.2. St. Clement of Ohrid and the church

St. Clement one of the two best-known disciples of the missionary brothers Cyril and Methodius, came to Ohrid after the failure of their mission and their banishment from Moravia. Clement was first to come (886) and Naum joined him fourteen years later in (900) in the district of Kutmičevica, which borders on present-day Macédonia, Albania and Greece and wich comprises Ohrid and the now vanished towns of Devol and Glavenica. With their arrival, Ohrid developed into a leading centre of Slavonic cultural and literary activity.

\* Issued: 14.2.2000

\* Cancelled: 14.2.2000

\* Card: ZZS - Ohrid, MK

St. Clement, icon, XIVth century



The Mother of God Perivlepta church had been erected in 1295 by the Byzantine emperor Andronik II Paleolog. When the Turks converted the church St. Clement into a mosque his remains were first moved to the small church of St. Clement, and later on to the church St. Bogorodica Perivlepta, after which the people simply renamed the church into St. Clement. In the period after the conversion of the church St. Sophia in to a mosque, the church St. Clement became the cathedral church of the Ohrid Archiepiscopate.



\* Issued: 19.12.1995

\* Cancelled: 19.12.1995

\* Card: "Rotofot" A.D. Berlin, Ger.

St. Climent's church of The Holy Mother of God Most Glorious (Peribletos) 13th c.

### 1.3. St. Clement of Ohrid and fresco

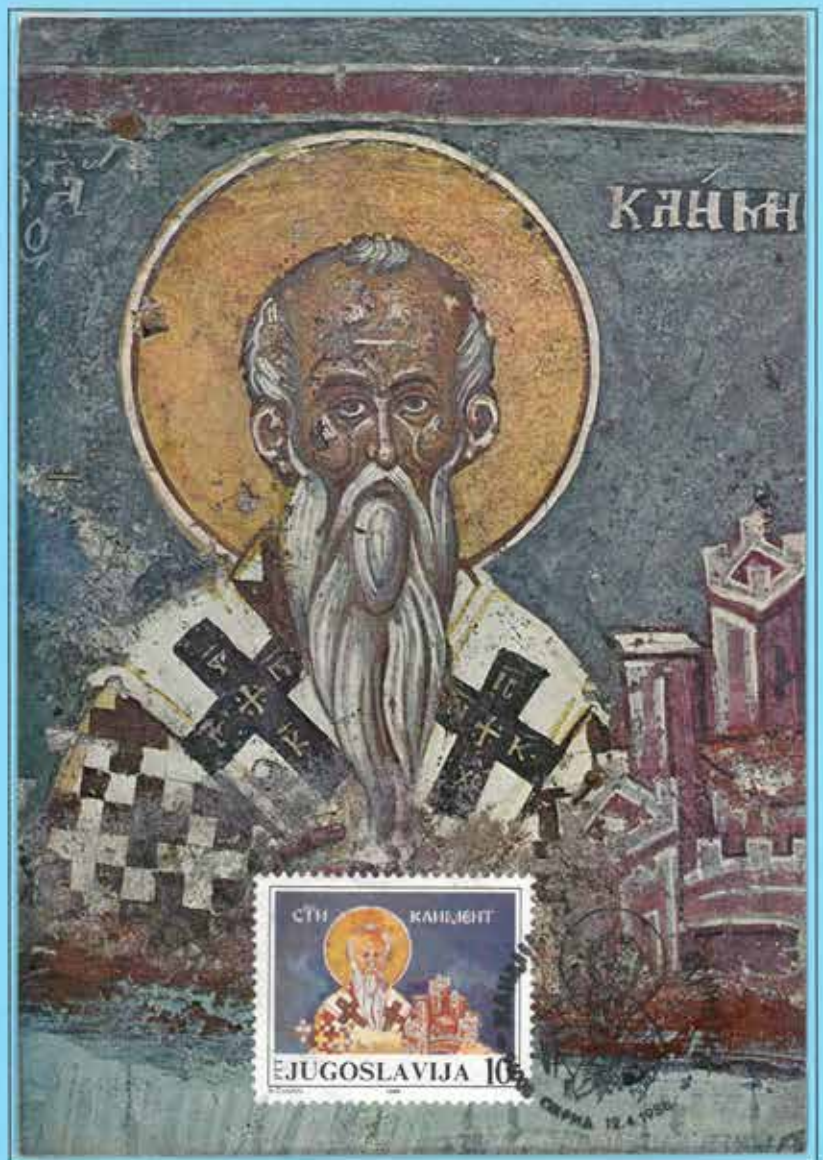
St. Clement spent thirty years among the macedonian slavs. The first ohrid literary school was founded at his monastery church of St. Panteleimon in Ohrid, (built in 893). The 3.500 pupils who came out of this school spread the slavonic script, culture, art and church singing across several slav lands as far as Kiev in Russia.

\* Issued: 12.4.1986

\* Cancelled: 12.4.1986

\* Card: Tutun - Skopje-MK

Saint Clement, fresco 1426, church The Holy Saviour in Leskoc - Ohrid. The commemorative postmark denotes the 1100th anniversary of the first Ohrid literary school.



The Mother of God Perivlepta church represents beautiful and holy fullness, with beautiful structure and rich fresco paintings.



\* Issued: 19.11.2003

\* Cancelled: 19.11.2003

\* Card: List Ltd - Skopje, MK

Nativity Hymn, in the Church of the Holy Mother of God Perivlepta (St. Clement) built and decorated with frescoes in 1295

#### 1.4. St. Nahum of Ohrid, icons

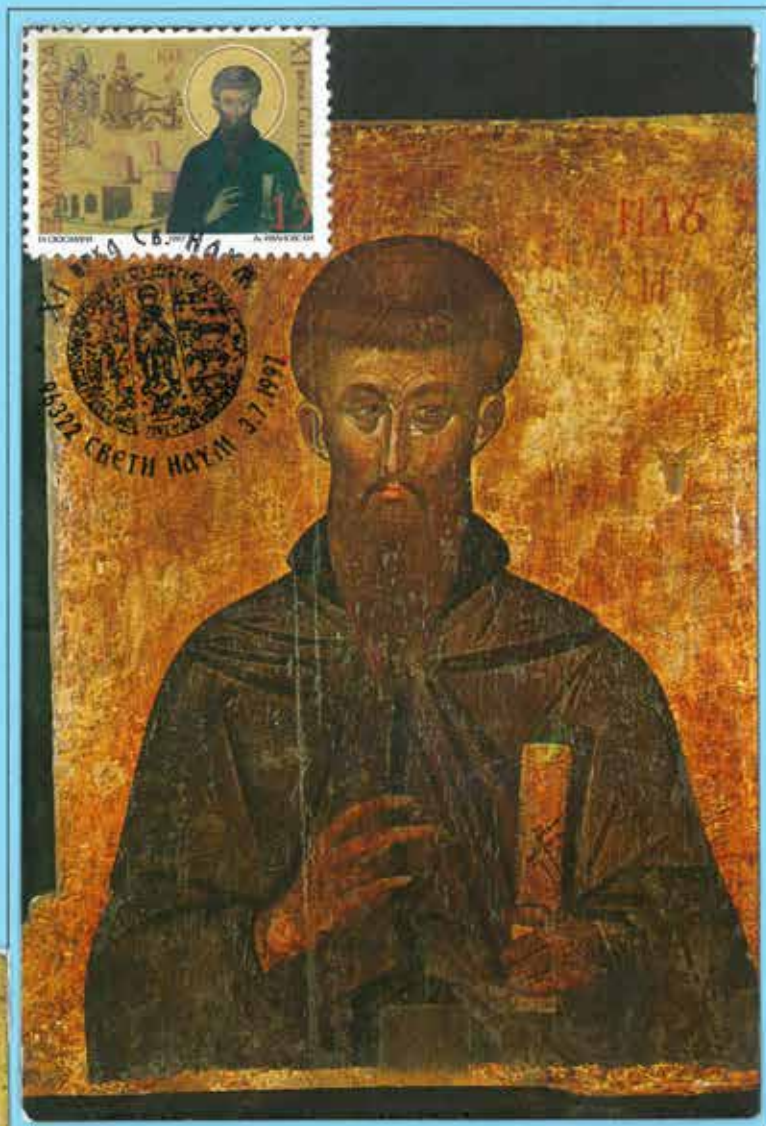
St. Nahum of Ohrid was born around 835 A.D somewhere in Macedonia. With his arrival in Ohrid in 900 A.D as a disciple of St. Cyril and Methodies together with St. Clement they built up Ohrid into a leading center of Slavic cultural and literary activity. He became a teacher, thus fulfilling his life's dream. And working together with St. Clement in the school of Ohrid, they spread Orthodox Christianity and Slavic literacy educating hundreds of slavic priests and teachers.

\* Issued: 3.7.1997

\* Cancelled: 3.7.1997

\* Card: Turistkomerc - Zagreb-YU

Saint Nahum, Church St. Climent (14th-15th c.)



Long after the death of Nahum in 910, the Ohrid literary school continued to be a source of manuscripts invaluable for Slavonic studies and the history of art. This school began work on Macedonian soil in the 9th century and was a loyal adherent of the Glagolitic alphabet. Some of the most valuable Slavonic manuscripts dating from the period up to the 12th century, when the Glagolitic alphabet was supplanted by the Cyrillic are attributed to it.

\* Issued: 5.11.2010

\* Cancelled: 5.11.2010

\* Card: Turist komerc-Zagreb-YU

Saint Nahum, icon, (18th-19th c.)



## 1.5. St. Nahum church and fresco

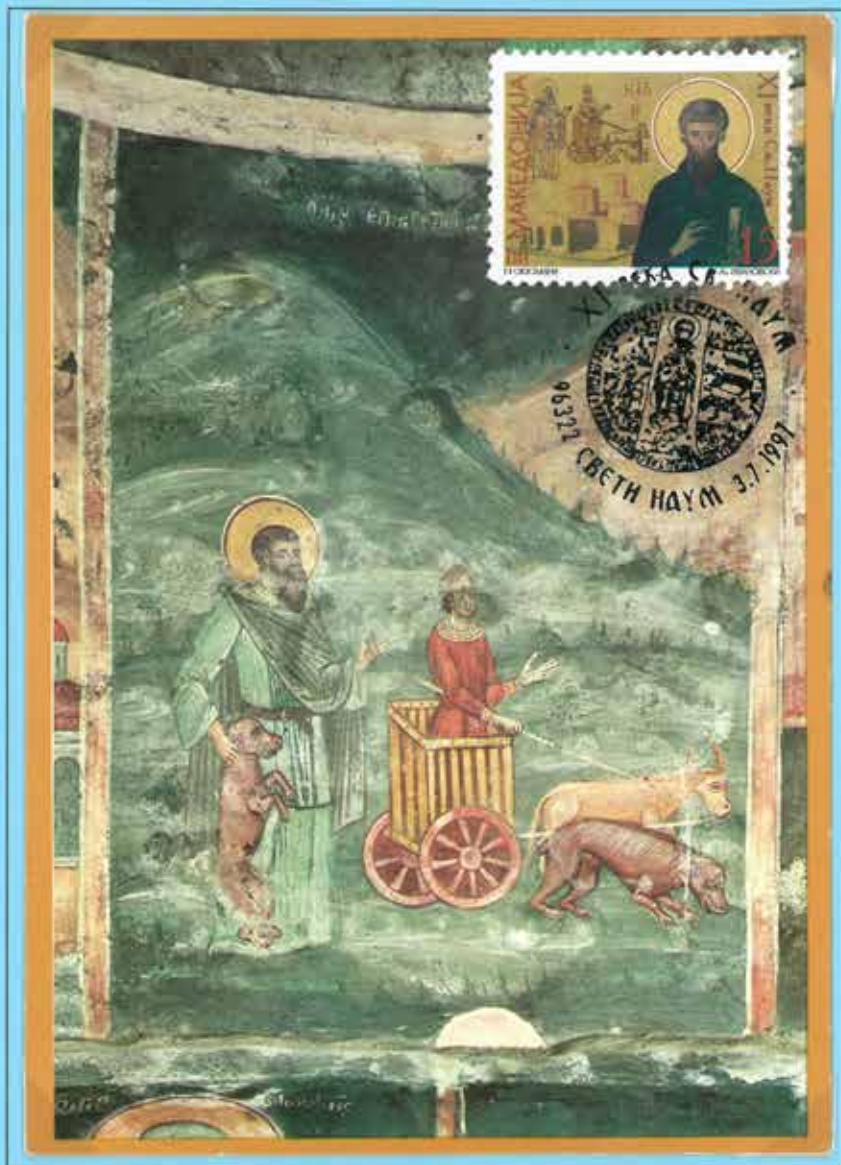
The monastery complex with the church dedicated to the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel is located on the south coast of Lake Ohrid and once was one of the wealthiest and most powerful spiritual centers in the Balkans. The original triconch church was erected by St. Nahum towards the end of the 9th century; he was buried there in the 10th century. The present day church underwent several restorations during the period of Ottoman rule. It is well known for the impressive wood carved iconostasis from 1711, the despotic icons by the painter Constantine, the royal doors by the painter Michael, and the frescos with the miracles of St. Nahum in the funerary chapel painted by the artist Trpo in 1799-1806. The wooden gate is presumed to be 1100 years old and a part of the old monastery complex. Above the gate there is a mosaic presenting a bear harnessed to a plough.

\* Issued: 3.7.1997

\* Cancelled: 3.7.1997

\* Card: Turistička štampa, BG-YU

Fresco from the interior wall decoration painted in 1806 by Master Trpo, from Korcha.



The original church, endowed in the year 900, was built by St. Nahum of Ohrid, and he himself was buried there in 910. The tomb of St. Nahum is located on the southern side, in a separate chamber.



\* Issued: 3.5.1978

\* Cancelled: 3.5.1978

\* Card: Turistička štampa,  
Beograd-YU

The church St. Nahum  
(10th-14th c.)

## 2. Famous persons, events and sport

### 2.1. Czar Samoil and Grigor Prichev



Samuel's Empire, the first state of the Macedonian Slavs, had its genesis in the Ohrid region. Around the middle of the 10th century, a Slav prince, Nikola, and his sons David, Aaron, Moses and Samuel rose first against Bulgarian rule in 976. Samuel emerged at the helm of the mediaeval Macedonian state Macedonia was the heart of this empire, whose limits were constantly extended during the Emperor Samuel's reign which lasted for nearly four decades, until they reached as far as the rivers Danube and Sava, the Bay of Corinth and the Adriatic Sea.

During the Reign of Samuel (976-1014) and his successors, Gavrilko Radomir and Jovan Vladislav up to 1018, first Prespa and then Ohrid was the imperial capitals.

\* Issued: 19.7.1996

\* Cancelled: 19.7.1996

\* Card: Vizant - YU

Czar Samoil

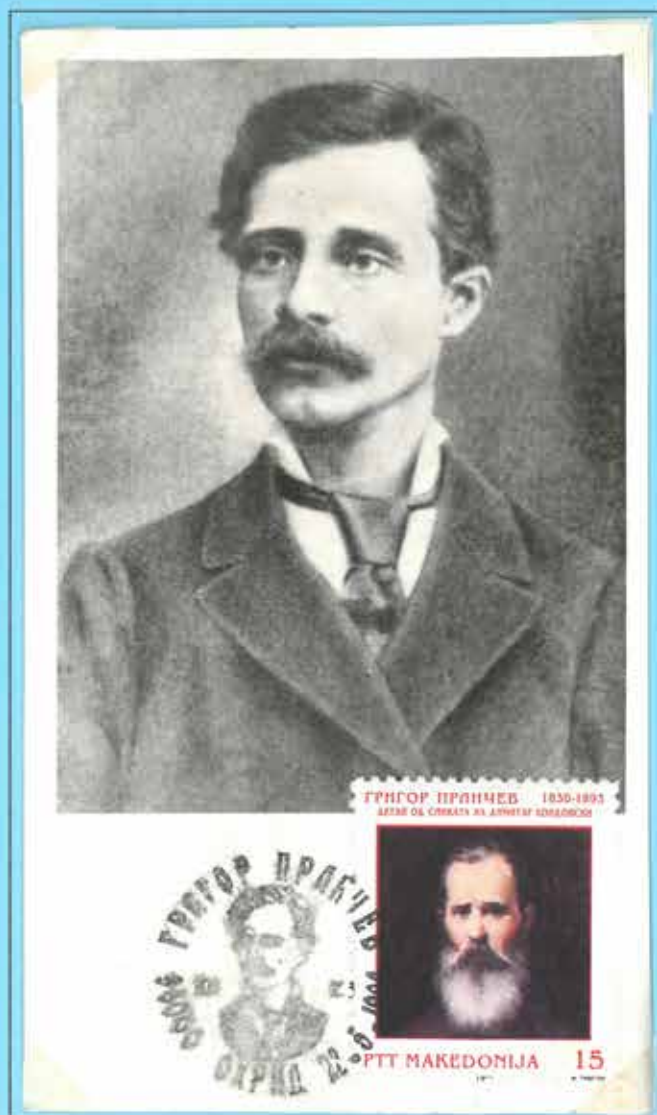
Grigor Prichev is probably the biggest Macedonian author from the XIXth century. He was born in Ohrid in 1830. He studied in the Greek school in Ohrid and then went to a medical school in Athens. In Athens, in 1860, he took part of the contest for the best poem in Greek language and he won the best prize "The Iovorov venec" for his poem *Serdarot*, the poem talks about the Macedonian national hero Kuzman and his fights against the Gecis. In Ohrid he was fighting against the Greek propaganda in the churches and the schools, because of which he was arrested and put in the prison in Debar. Apart from the poem *Serdarot*, Prichev has also written his own autobiography, where he talks about his hard life and the suffering of the Macedonian people under the Ottoman occupator. His poem *Skenderbeg* was left unpublished when he died in Ohrid in 1893.

\* Issued: 23.5.1994

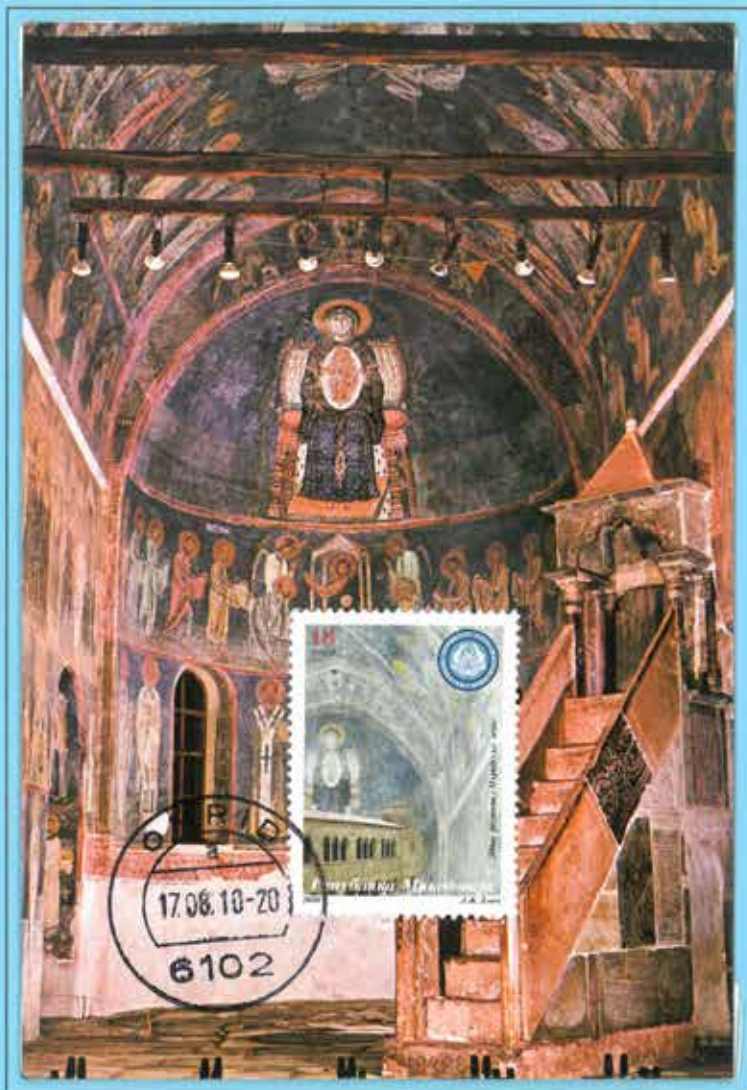
\* Cancelled: 23.5.1994

\* Card: Unknow-MK

Grigor Prichev (1830-1893)



## 2.2. Ohrid Summer Festival and Nato's Forum



In the cathedral temple of St. Sophia on 8.4.1961 was the birth of the musical manifestation Ohrid Summer Festival. The cathedral church of St. Sophia is one of the most important mediaeval monuments in Ohrid and indeed in the whole of Macedonia. The fresco painting comprise a gallery of medieval art from the first half of the 11th century up to the 14th century. On that day Ana Lipcha-Tofovich from the Opera of MNT Skopje, performed Handel, Stradella, Mozart, Beethoven... In the past five decades, the participants from 60 countries performed at Ohrid Summer Festival for 1.200,000 spectators.

\* Issued: 13.4.2012

\* Cancelled: 17.8.2013

\* Card: Vizant-MK

The church of St. Sophia - Gallery of Gligorije (14th c.), St. Pigeleje

The second Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council Security Forum with the participation of Foreign and other ministers of The NATO partner countries was held in the city of Ohrid on 28-29 June 2007.



\* Issued: 28.6.2007

\* Cancelled: 28.6.2007

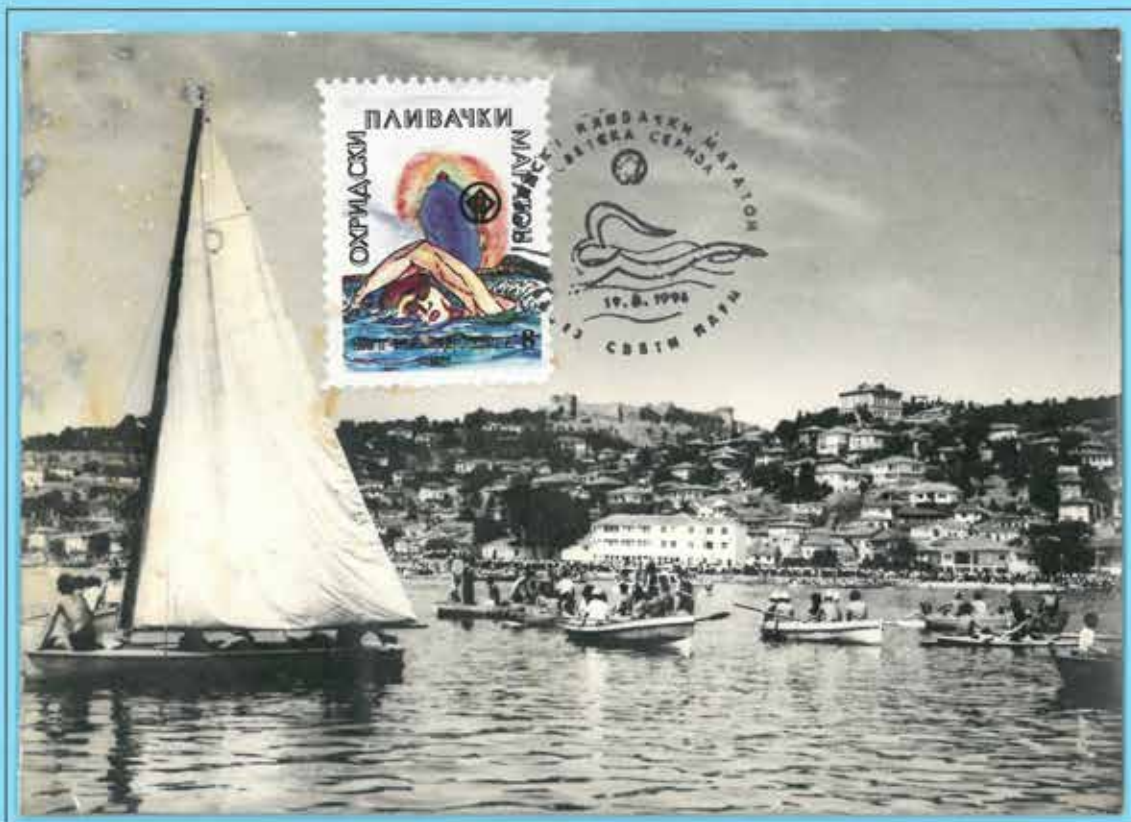
\* Card: photo, Visit-Ohrid - MK

Representative of 49 countries took part at the Forum



### 2.3. The swimming marathon and the chess Championship

The first swimming competitions in Ohrid had been held in 1924. Similar events were organized in 1927 and 1928. It is noted that in 1932 the first association for nautical sports was formed - The Swimming-rowing Club Ohrid. The first marathon Peshtani-Struga-Ohrid (36km) was held in 1962. In it 22 swimmers from 12 countries competed. The name of Ohrid shines world wide as a city of a world known event - "The international Ohrid swimming marathon", which dates back from 1962.



- \* Issued: 24.8.1994
- \* Cancelled: 19.8.1995
- \* Card: Yugoturist, Beograd-YU

The most important thing is to keep up to the finish in top condition

The European Individual Chess Championship is a chess tournament organized by the European Chess Union. It was established in 2000 and has since then taken place on a yearly basis. In Ohrid from June 1 to June 15, 2001 a II Individual European Championship in Chess is being held.



- \* Issued: 1.6.2001
- \* Cancelled: 1.6.2001
- \* Card: "Filatelen pregled" Sofia, BG

The game can begin

### 3. Fauna, transportation and vacation

#### 3.1. Endemic snails and Ohrid trout

The lake of Ohrid, one of the oldest and largest lakes in the world, lies 695 meters above the sea level, maximum depth is 289m. and it covers an area of 358,2 sq.km.. It has in abundance rare and various natural beauties, high quality water and specific living world. From the reach and various living world we show the relict species of snails existing in the lake of Ohrid that are the only living representatives of their genus. Out of 76 species that have been discovered so far, 58 are endemic and relict.

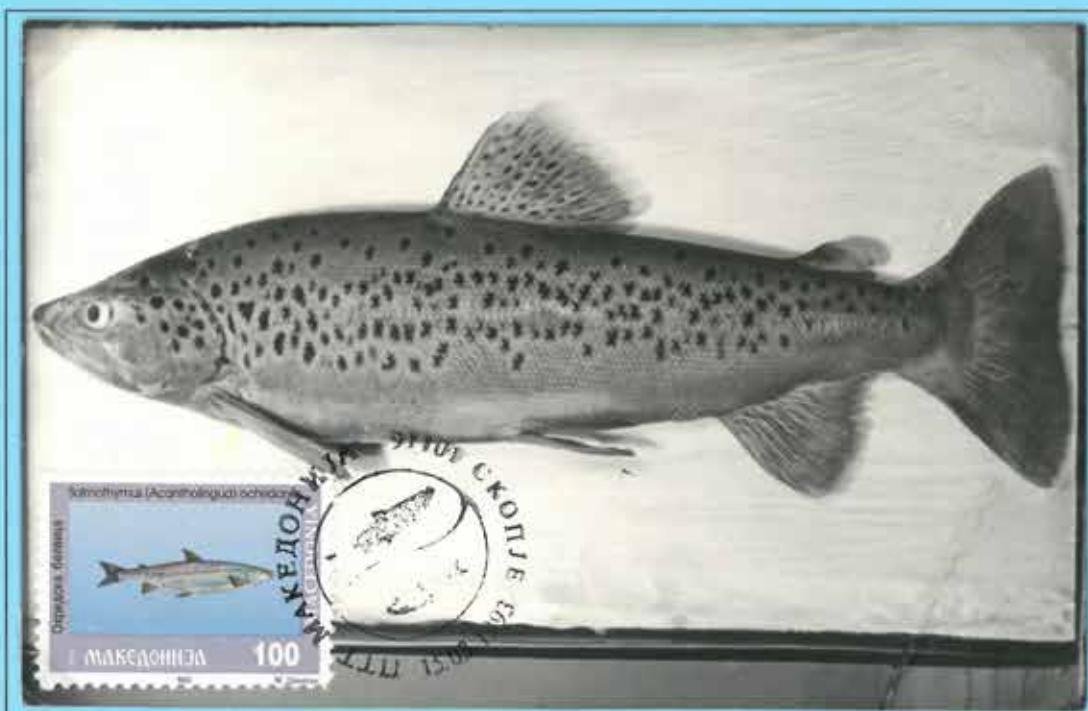
Macedonian Ochridopyrgula- The living species have a whitish shell and their length ranges from 1,9 to 4,5 m.m. They inhabit the littoral region in the zone of Chara alga. These snails exist a depth of 5-20m.

- \* Issued: 6.9.2006
- \* Cancelled: 6.9.2006
- \* Card: Official post card

Macedonia's ochridopyrgula  
*Ochridopyrgula macedonica*, (Brusina), 1896



*Salmothymus ochridanus*, also known by the local name as the *belvica*, is a species of freshwater salmonid fish, endemic to Lake Ohrid in Macedonia and in Albania. *Salmo ohridanus* is a relatively small fish, usually shorter than 30 cm and less than 0.5 kg weight. It is a commercially exploited species subject to heavy fishing, and has been bred in fish farms for over 50 years. It has also been intentionally hybridized with another endemic species, the Ohrid trout (*Salmo letnica*). It is threatened by the hybridization, degradation of water quality and overfishing; but the stock remains abundant.



- \* Issued: 15.3.1993
- \* Cancelled: 15.3.1993
- \* Card: Unknow-MK

Ohrid trout  
*Salmothymus ochridanus*,  
(Karaman, 1924)

Note: The exemplars of animals shown on the MC's exist in the Macedonian Natural History Museum in Skopje

### 3.2. Vessels of Ohrid

In the modern world the transportation plays important role in everyday life, it develops the economy, connects people and brings them together. The transportation is the blood circulation of the city, country, etc. Transport by water is cheaper from transport by air. The ships are generally distinguished from boats based on size, shape and cargo or passenger capacity. Ship transport can be over any distance by boat, ship, seilboat or barge, over lakes, through canals or along rivers. Shipping may be for commerce, recreation or the military purpose.



\* Issued: 24.6.2009

\* Cancelled: 24.6.2009

\* Card: T.P. Tutun -  
Skopje - MK

The port of Ohrid

Ohrid as a tourist destination has various transportation: on the land has good road connection, there is an airport close to the city, and boat traffic connects the cities and places on the coast. The ships and yachts make tourist trips on the lake.



\* Issued: 31.7.2007

\* Cancelled: 31.7.2007

\* Card: Print Grafikomerce  
Ohrid - MK

The white adornment of the Lake

### 3.3. The beaches of Ohrid and Balkan festival

A vacation or holiday is a specific trip or journey, usually for the purpose of recreation or tourism. People often take a vacation during specific holiday observances, or for specific festivals or celebrations. Vacations are often spent with friends or family. A person may take a longer break from work, such as a sabbatical, gap year, or career break. The active rest contributes to the regeneration of the human organism simulating completely physical and mental potential of the people.

\* Issued: 7.5.2004

\* Cancelled: 7.5.2004

\* Card: NIP, "Nova Makedonija", MK

The beaches on Ohrid Lake offers a unique beach experience.



The Balkan Festival of folksongs and dances is an international manifestation, created in 1962. Ensembles and soloists who represent the authentic folk creation and the traditional culture have been participating since 1976. The festival is organized at the beginning of July. Balkan and Balkan surrounding countries participate in it. In the past 30 years, 40,000 or so singers, folk dancers and instrumentalists took part.

\* Issued: 1.3.2001

\* Cancelled: 10.7.2001

\* Card: Printed in Italy

The magnificent Ohrid coast makes everybody holiday maker unforgettable.



#### 4. Ohrid city of UNESCO

##### 4.1. Famous objects: Church of John - Caneo and Samoil's Fortress



The church dedicated to St. John the Theologian is located on a high hill overlooking Lake Ohrid. It was erected in the 13th century and has the layout of an inscribed cross covered by a dome, with distinct terracotta decoration on the facade. From the original fresco painting remains are preserved in the sanctuary and the dome.

\* Issued: 23.12.2016

\* Cancelled: 23.12.2016

\* Card: "Turistkomerc-Zagreb-YU

Church of St. John the Theologian-Caneo, Ohrid

The location and significance of Samoil's Fortress make it the symbol of the city of Ohrid and of its entire history. The fortress was first constructed on the western hill of the city. Throughout its history, from the 3rd century B. C. to the 19th century, it has been embracing all the significant Macedonian, Balkan and Euro – Asian cultural values and events.



\* Issued: 8.5.2017

\* Cancelled: 8.5.2017

\* Card: Grafokomerc  
- Ohrid - MK

Samoil's Fortress

## 4.2. St. Sophia church and Church of St. Panteleimon

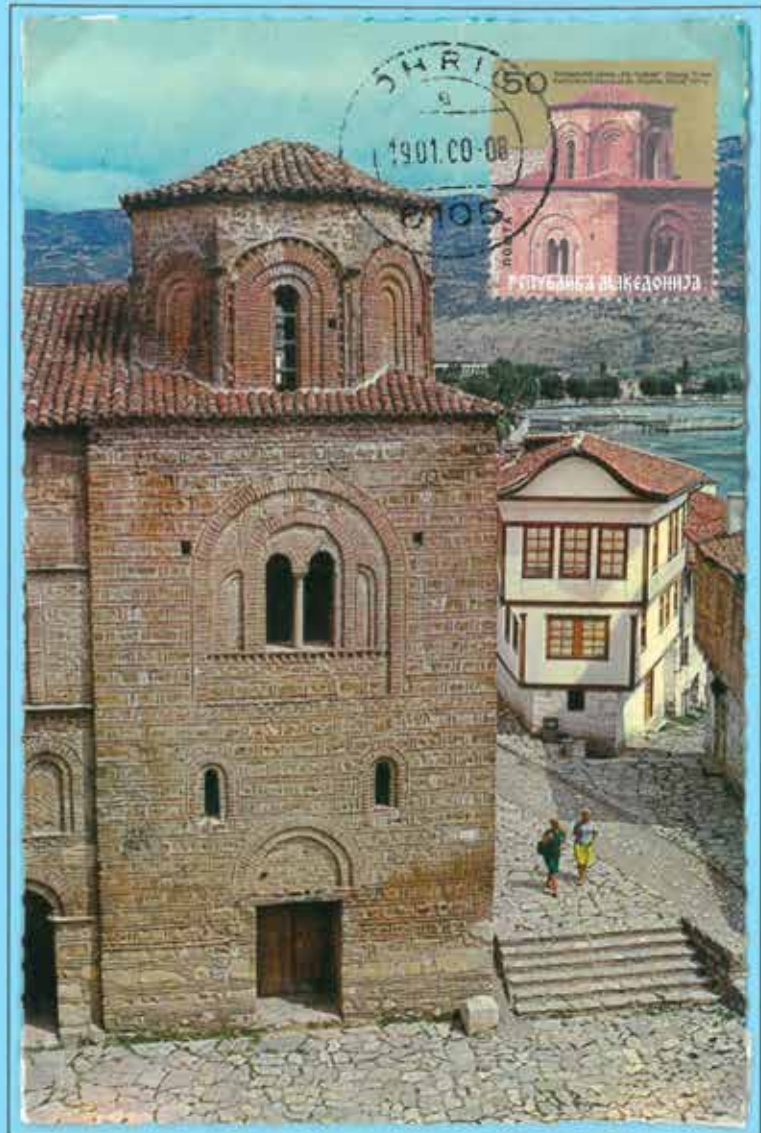
The church of St. Sophia is the cathedral church of the Ohrid archbishops. Here is promulgated a resurrection of the Ohrid Archbishopric in 1958. The interior of the church has been preserved with frescoes from the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century, which represent some of the most significant achievements in Byzantine painting of the time. The church is dedicated to the St. Sophia (the wisdom of god); built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century on a foundation of an early-Christian basilica. The church was probably used as a cathedral way back in the past, in the period of the Czar Samuel who, in the late 10<sup>th</sup> century, moved his throne from Prespa to Ohrid. In this church were enthroned the Ohrid archbishopric. Here are enthing the chieftains of the Macedonian Orthodox Church. Today's church was either built or restored during the period of the Archbishop Leo who was on the trone of the Church (1037-1056).

\* Issued: 19.01.2000

\* Cancelled: 19.1.2000

\* Card: Printed in YU

The cathedral church of St. Sophia

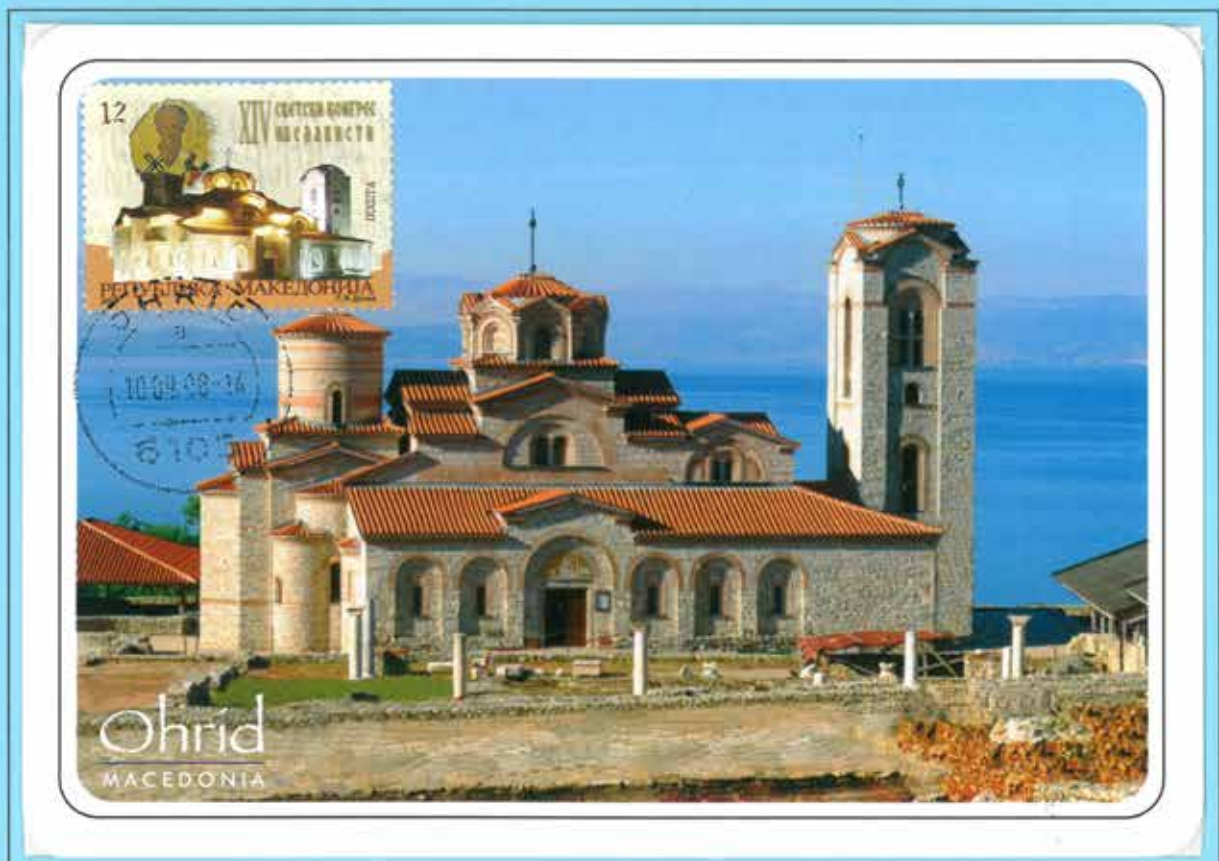


The church of St. Panteleimon at Plaoshnik, also known as St. Clement, is one of the most important temples built in the Byzantine style. Plaoshnik is a site located within the old city of Ohrid. It is a unique place of religious character which was recently meticulously renovated by precisely following the Byzantine style of architecture.

\* Issued: 10.9.2008

\* Cancelled: 10.9.2008

\* Card: Visit - Ohrid - MK



Church of St. Panteleimon  
at Plaoshnik

### 4.3. The old architecture

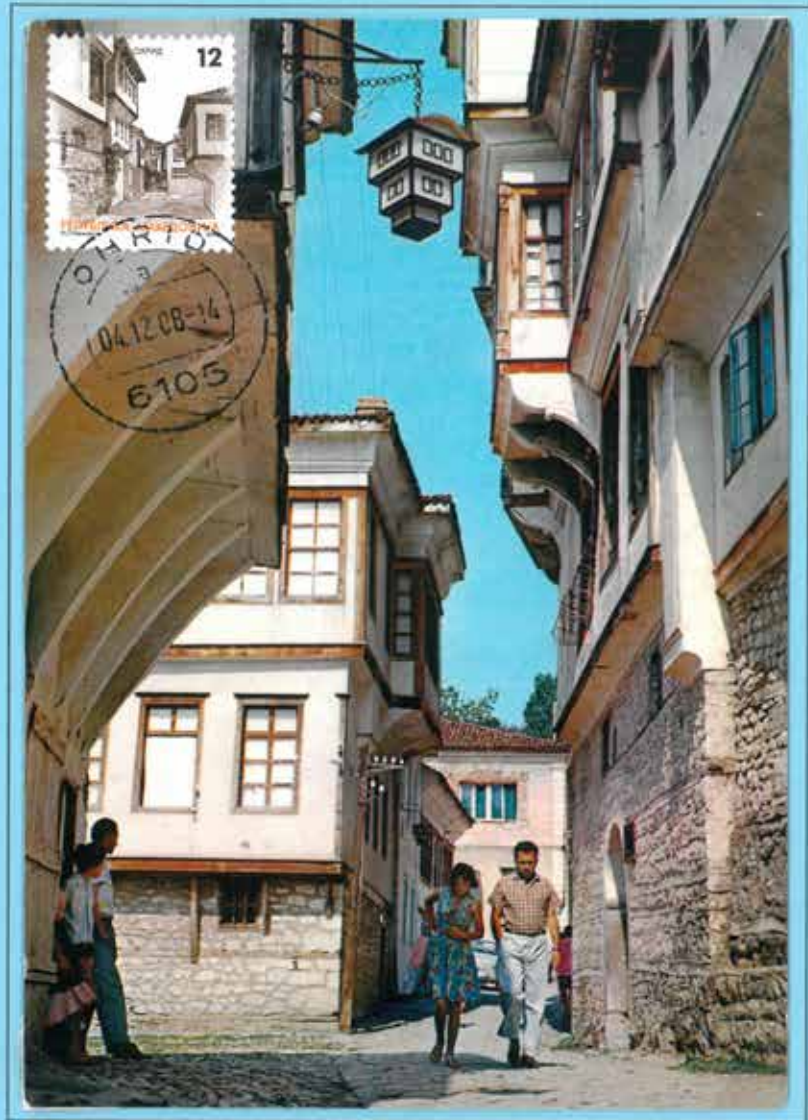
Archeological findings of ancient Ohrid can be dated back to the neolithic period [6000 b.c] and its architecture had very distinct characteristics that are known worldwide. The architecture developed continuously and reached its golden era in the 9th century with the arrival St. Nahum and St. Clement to this region. The period of bourgeois advancement in Ohrid found its fullest expression, however, in the building of houses of a distinctive type, in the style of the macedonian urban architecture. This architecture is imbued with a profound humanity and has been maintained in the region even to modern times.

\* Issued: 4.12.2008

\* Cancelled: 4.12.2008

\* Card: Turistička štampa -  
Beograd, YU

Ohrid - the most famous street  
World Heritage - list of UNESCO



The Robevtsi house is a masterpiece of Macedonian traditional urban architecture. It is located in the Old City of Ohrid and is named after one of the most famous city families-the Robevtsi, mentioned for the first time in written records from 1379. The house was built in 1827, while the carved wooden ceilings and the rest of the interior were made by the famous Mijak carvers. Today it house is the Ohrid City Museum.



\* Issued: 13.4.2012

\* Cancelled: 13.4.2012

\* Card: Foto "REX",  
Ohrid - MK

The Robevtsi house

#### 4.4. The old city and the Ohrid Lake

Ohrid is a town-museum and a cultural treasury of Macedonia. Situated on the shore of the lake, it abounds in natural and spiritual beauties. It has a long building tradition, having as a testimony the mediaeval churches, the fortress and houses.

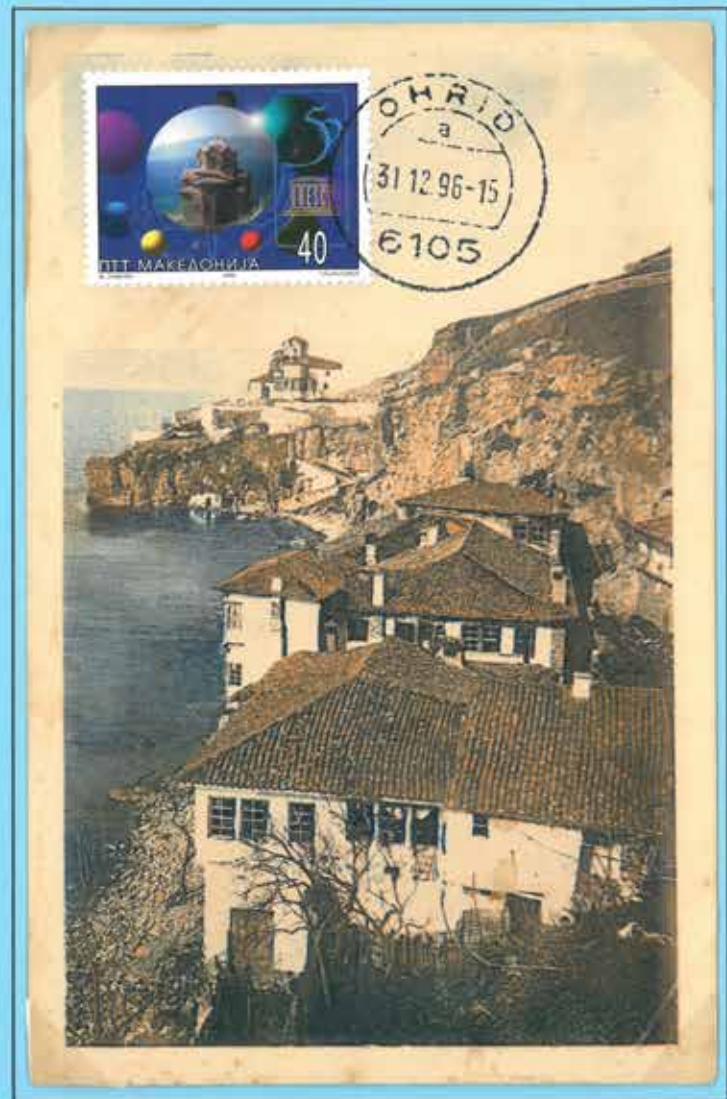
The old city of Ohrid is under protection of UNSECO since 1980, as part of the world heritage. The decision was made due to Ohrid's old architecture, its long tration of religious and cultural activities.

- \* Issued: 31.12.1996
- \* Cancelled: 31.12.1996
- \* Card: Grafika, Novi Sad - YU

Ohrid deserves and justifies these credit from UNESCO for more than 35 years.

✓ **Fact: World Natural and Cultural Heritage - List of UNESCO**

The Ohrid Lake is one of the 3 oldest lakes in the world and it is the deepest lake, situated on the Balkan Peninsula. Due to the geographic isolation and favorable hydrographic conditions, there are more than 200 endemic species. Part of them are live fossils, almost unchanged since the tertiary period. Therefore, the Lake is thought to be unique in Europe. Due to this wealth of natural values, Ohrid Lake was listed as a natural good on the World Heritage List in 1979.



- \* Issued: 16.5.2001
- \* Cancelled: 16.5.2001
- \* Card: Unknow - MK

Let us preserve the magic shine of the water mirror that the Ohrid Lake has.