



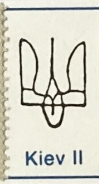
The Ukraine Trident.

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Ukraine is now in the news. I recently acquired some of their stamps that show their national symbol. What is its significance?

Modern stamps of Ukraine show the seal-trident of **Volodymyr the Great**. It was seen on a coin from his era. This medieval symbol was not intended as a trident, but as a symbol of the Holy Trinity. It also imitates a diving *gyrfalcon* (a Norwegian falcon).

The earliest Ukrainian stamps [1918] overprinted Imperial Russia stamps with the Trident. Scott catalog lists 39 stamps of 7 designs and 19 denominations with various perforations (or imperforate). Overprints were made in 6 Ukrainian cities with 16 different designs and in 5 color! The Ukrainian Philatelic Society issued a souveiner sheet showing the overprinting formats [reduced 2/3].



The first printed Ukrainian stamps of 1918 were imperforate. They included the Trident in the central design or the frames.

Vienna Issue: A set of 14 stamps was produced in 1920 but never placed in use. They show the Trident and various Ukrainian scenes and heroes:

1 grivna [~1/2 ruble]: Trident

2 gr: Ukrainian girl

10 gr: **Bohdan Zynoviy Mykhailovych Khmelnytsky** – Ukrainian Military commander led an uprising (1648–1654) resulting in an independent Ukrainian Cossack state.

20 gr: **Taras Hryhorovych Shevchenko** [a.k.a. *Kobzar*] Ukrainian poet, writer; regarded as the founder of modern Ukrainian literature and language.

40 gr: **Symon Vasylyovych Petliura** - Supreme Commander of the Army & President of the People's Republic 1918–21.

100 gr: **Vladimir the Great Memorial** - Vladimir the Great [a.k.a. *St. Vladimir*] ruler of the Kievan Rus' 980 - 1015. Consolidated territory from the Baltic to the Black Sea, he brought Christianity to the Ukrainian people.



In 1990 Ukraine declared its independence from USSR, and again issued its own postage stamps. This corner stamp was issued in 1992, and shows the modern flag and coat of arms with the trident symbol also appearing in the sheet margin.

