

THE GREAT GATE OF KYIV

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The city now known as Kyiv, capital of Ukraine, traces its history as early as the 9th century CE. In the 11th century it was fortified by a wall with gates. The Southern Gate became known as the Golden Gate, reportedly modeled after that gate in Constantinople. It later became known as the Great Gate of Kyiv. The gate was partly destroyed in 1240 and in later centuries became little more than a ruin. In 1982, during the Soviet era, the gate was rebuilt, but historical accuracy is uncertain.



Ruins of the Great Gate (postcard ca 1930)

A posthumous exhibition of paintings by Russian artist Viktor Hartmann (1834-1873) was the inspiration for “Pictures at an Exhibition” by Hartmann’s friend, Modest Mussorgsky. Published as a piano work in 1886, the finale is titled “The Great Gate of Kiev.”

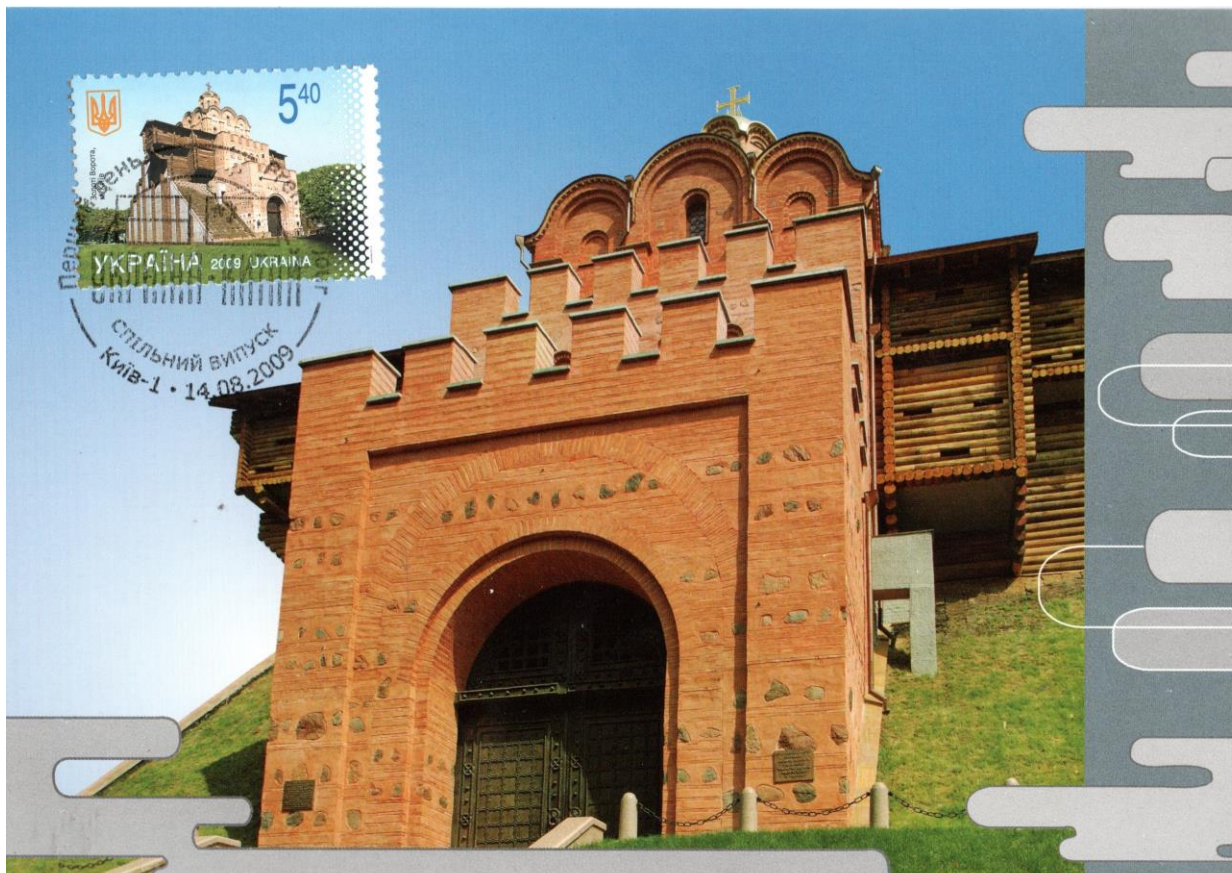


Ukraine 2023



France 1956

This beautiful work can be heard here in its original [piano](#) form and in the later [orchestration](#) by Maurice Ravel in 1922.



The Great Gate of Kiev, in its 1982 reconstruction, is shown below in a simplified stylized form on the 1990 stamp of Russia.



The 2009 stamp of Ukraine, shown on a maximum card, photographically depicts the 1982 reconstructed gate.