

Emilio Sala, Ukraine

By Greg Balagian

The House of Chimeras, or Gorodetsky House, is an Art Nouveau building in the heart of Kiev, the capital of Ukraine. It was built in 1901-1902 by Vladislav Gorodetsky* (1863-1930), a prominent Polish architect who built numerous structures in Kiev.

The name of the building doesn't refer to the mythological beast, but to an architectural style called chimaera decoration, where numerous animal figures are used as decorative elements.

The House of Chimeras features an abundance of sculptures of exotic animals and hunting scenes by the Italian sculptor Emilio Sala (1864-1920) whose many sculptural decorations include lions, mermaids, dolphins, frogs, sinking ships and hunting trophies.

One of Sala's beautiful sculptural scenes depicts a fierce fight between a female lion and an eagle in *Battle of Lioness and Eagle*. The fierce lioness is about to perform the kill-bite on the eagle whose remaining wing is raised perpendicular to its body.

The sculpture is shown on one of six stamps issued by Ukraine in 2014 commemorating the architecture of Gorodetsky (Ukraine 958a).

Sala also sculpted lions and griffins for Ukraine's National Art Museum.

Since 2005, the House of Chimeras has served as a presidential residence for official and diplomatic ceremonies.🐾

*or Wladislav Horodeckki in Polish



The *Battle of Lioness and Eagle* statue is at the House of Chimeras in Kiev on Ukraine 958a, issued in 2014 (and listed in CM #3).



Sculpted by Emilio Sala, the *Battle of Lioness and Eagle* is in front of the House of Chimeras in Kiev (circled above).



The *Battle of Lioness and Eagle*, sculpted by Emilio Sala, is in Kiev, Ukraine