Dr. Victor Babes was born on July 28, 1854 in Wien, Romania. He completed his Medical Education in Budapest and Vienna from 1871 to 1878. While he was still an undergraduate student, his brilliance was noticed by his professors including famous pathologist K Rokitansky. He was assigned the job of assistant lecturer at department of histopathology in 1885. He undertook several study tours in Europe’s most famous medical science establishments from 1882 to 1886; thus providing him golden opportunity to work with famous scientists like Louis Pasteur (Paris), R Virchow and Robert Koch (Berlin).

A prolific investigator and writer, he had written over 100 original scientific papers by the time he arrived back in Romania in March 1887. He discovered more than 50 new germs. Babesia is so named after Babes who formally recognised the intra erythrocytic parasite in the blood of cattle and sheep in 1888 while studying the cause of febrile haemoglobinuria in cattle. In 1893 this parasite was shown to cause the tick borne disease Texas fever, an acute haemolytic disease of cattle in southern USA. This was the first arthropod borne disease to have been identified. Dr. Babes also identified in the cells of the brain of animals afflicted with Rabies, the Babes Negri corpuscles. While in Pasteur’s laboratory, he convinced the great scientists to consent to dispensed anti-rabies treatment to other major European medical centres. He used serotherapy along with anti-rabies vaccination in Romania. He has been named “the second rabiologist in the world” after Louis Pasteur.

He is counted among scientists who created modern microbiology. He along with French scientist AVCornil wrote the first treatise on bacteriology. “Bacteria and their role in the anatomy and pathological histology of contagious diseases” in 1885. Dr. Babes work was highly influential in the progress of Veterinary science. Babes, who loved people, took paints to put science in the service of mankind and improve human quality of life. He contributed to bring under control the cholera outbreak in Bulgaria in 1913 by preparing and anti-choleric vaccine that proved effective during World War I. By 1887 he settled in Bucharest where he founded and organised the institute of pathology and bacteriology. On March 2, 1925 this institute was renamed as Dr. Babes institute of pathology and bacteriology; this did not prevent him from retiring on Oct. 01, 1926. This great scientist and humanist died shortly after that on Oct. 19, 1926.

The depicted stamp was brought out by Romania in honour of its great son on his birth centenary in 1954.