

How to attract children to Philately by a Student Philatelic Written Competition

An effective experiment and good practice

Idea, organisation and presentation: Nicos Rangos

Step 1

Agreement made between the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Communications, the Cyprus Postal Services and the Cyprus Philatelic Society for establishing a Student Philatelic written competition.

Step 2

Cyprus Philatelic Society Board presented to the Director of Cyprus Postal Services a list of four different topics from which the one considered to be the most interesting for the written "Stamp Essay Competition" would be selected.

In September of every year since 2000 the Cyprus Philatelic Society Board presents to the Director of Cyprus Postal Services a list of four different topics from which the one considered the most interesting for a Stamp Competition for 14 years old students is selected.

Here below are the topics selected and used since 2000 in the last 14 years:

1. 2000-2001
"Football and Cyprus Stamps" 2001-2002"
2. 2001-2002
"Touristic attractions and Cyprus stamps"
3. 2002-2003
"The contribution of Cyprus to European Culture and Cyprus Stamps"
4. 2003-2004
"Space and Cyprus Stamps"

5. 2004-2005
"The contribution of Cyprus Stamps in the course of Cyprus' accession to the European Union"
6. 2005-2006
"The Fauna of Cyprus and Cyprus Stamps"
7. 2006-2007
"Art in Cyprus and Cyprus Stamps"
8. 2007-2008
"Immigration, Multicultural Society in Cyprus and Cyprus Stamp"
9. 2008-2009
"Personalities of Cyprus and Cyprus Stamps"
10. 2009-2010
"Europe and Cyprus Stamps"
11. 2010-2011
"Space, Planet Earth and Cyprus Stamps"
12. 2011-2012
"Works of art in The Cyprus Museum and Cyprus Stamps"
13. 2012-2013
"The Olympic Games and Cyprus Stamps"
14. 2013-2014
"The Flowers of Cyprus and Cyprus stamps"

Step 3

The following Regulations for the Competition were decided between the tree shareholders:

**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
& CULTURE**



**DEPARTMENT OF
SECONDARY EDUCATION**

20th November 2013

To the Head Teachers of Secondary Schools in State and Private Education

Subject: Written competition to be held by the Cyprus Postal Services

With reference to the above subject, we inform you that the Cyprus Postal Services, in cooperation with the Cyprus Philatelic Society, have announced a written competition for the school year 2013-2014 on the subject "*The Flowers of Cyprus and Cyprus Stamps*". The closing date for the competition is 31st January 2014. The above competition will be held on a voluntary basis in the pupils' free time, for pupils of the 2nd class of the Gymnasium in state and private education.

The aim of the competition is to promote philately as a healthy hobby, to attract students to the stamps as a source of knowledge and aesthetic cultivation and also as a means of becoming acquainted with the cultural heritage, the manners and customs of our country, the history and the relationship which the Cyprus stamp has with the flowers of Cyprus.

Theme of the competition: "*The Flowers of Cyprus and Cyprus Stamps*"

Rules of the competition:

1. An essay of 500-600 words.
2. All the essays must be submitted to the Cyprus Postal Services by 31st January 2014 at the latest, addressed to: Cyprus Postal Services, 1900 Nicosia.
3. All work without exception entered for the competition by the pupils, whether considered by the school to be excellent or not, is to be sent to the Cyprus Postal Services at the above address, since as well as the awards to the ten best pupils, a certificate of participation will be given to all the pupils who have taken part.
4. The name and surname of the pupil, his/her full postal address, his/her school and class must be written on all entries.
5. The name and address must be covered over.

6. All pupils of the 2nd class of the gymnasium in state and private education have the right to participate.
7. The enrichment of the essay by attaching 3-10 Cyprus stamps, cancelled or not cancelled, which are directly related to the text of the essay, will be considered an additional element for success in the competition.
8. The judging will be carried out by a committee appointed by the Cyprus Postal Services.

To the first three winners will be given prizes of 500€, 300€ and 200€ respectively, as well as the relevant certificates. The next seven pieces of work will receive commendation a commemorative gift and the relevant certificates. All the pupils who have participated in the competition will receive a certificate of participation.

Therefore, invite and encourage the pupils at your school to take part in the above competition.

For more information or clarification, you may contact Mr Stelios Hadjipavlou, telephone 22805730.

Savvas Antoniou (Director of Secondary Education Department)

**CYPRUS-WIDE STUDENT PHILATELIC
COMPETITION - MAY 12, 2014**

AWARD CEREMONY

The programme:

- Short speech of welcome from the President of the Cyprus Philatelic Society, Mr Christakis Ioannou.
- Short speech of welcome from the Director of Cyprus Postal Services, Mr Andreas Gregoriou.
- Welcome from the Minister of Communications, Mr Marios Demetriades.
- Reading of the grounds for the awards by the judging committee.
- Presentation of the prizes and individual photographs.
- Group photograph of the pupils.
- Group photograph of the teachers
- Group photograph of parents and relations.
- The event ends with a modest and simple reception.

THE GROUNDS FOR THE AWARD – 12th May 2014

The Cyprus Postal Service and the Cyprus Philatelic Society in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture announced for the school year 2013-2014 a Cyprus Student Philatelic Competition for pupils of the 2nd class (14 years old) of secondary state and private education on the subject:

“The Flowers of Cyprus and Cyprus Stamps”



The competition, which is voluntary, was held for the 14th consecutive year. For the first time, we saw this year a slight decline in the number though not of the quality of the entries. We are sorry that each year some schools continue to infringe the rules of the competition by selecting and submitting only the best, or the best 2-3, in their opinion, entries. They disregard the fact that the circular which the Ministry of Education and Culture sends to schools expressly states that the work of all the pupils must be sent to the judging committee. The rules of the competition provide that all the pupils who make an effort and submit their work in accordance with the provisions of the rules are entitled to a certificate of participation. Despite this, it is a fact that this school year, as well, the judging committee admits that once again it was impressed by the quality of thought and the originality of our 14 year-old pupils.

As is well known, every stamp is the result of a competition, is culture, is a work of art. Through it are promoted personalities, the natural environment, the manners and customs of a country, its cultural heritage, its natural beauty, its progress, main cultural events and, most importantly, its history and culture.

The organisers of the competition are sure that through this competition the promotion of philately among young people is achieved and through philately, discreetly and without particular effort, intellectual development is encouraged, aesthetic cultivation, encyclopaedic education, getting acquainted with one another and quality communication of our young people with the youth of our country as well as with young people in all the countries of the world.

The selected text which follows is taken from the work of Nicolas Nestoros, pupil of Class 2 of Saint Barbara Gymnasium, Limassol, who won the first prize. The pictures of the flowers of Cyprus on the stamps spoke to his soul and we had to admire the depth of his thought.

“Cyprus the ever-flowering...” The Cypriot flowers with their colours and scents have from the very old antiquity made our island considered a paradise on earth. The particularity of Cyprus to be always in flower blooming raises from time to time the interest of poets, artists and travellers. The Cyprus Postal Services also wanted to immortalise this beauty, including in their series stamps with Cypriot flowers...

The 1900 species and sub-species of the flowering plants of Cyprus send out through time fresh notes of optimism on our much-afflicted island. Through the series of Cypriot stamps all this enchantment of the best-known Cypriot flowers is displayed and opened both to the international community and to the indigenous population. It is an endeavour which wells up from the love for this lovely place and whose primary aim is for us to become acquainted with nature and to protect it.”

Nicolas gives an elegant description of the stamp issues of 1970 with wild gladioli. Cypriot poppies, the huge fennel plants, the wild orchids of 1981, the wild flowers of Cyprus which are, among others, the Cypriot cyclamen, the Cypriot tulip, the Cypriot crocus. With a lucid approach and mature sensitivity, he goes on to describe the flower symbol for the European Anti-cancer Year of 1989 and the flower symbol of the International Year of the Family 1994.

Having noted the philatelic issues of the 21st century which include in 2002 the flowers of medicinal plants, among which are the common myrtle, lavender, thorny capers and basil, and in 2008 the Cypriot anemones, he concludes as follows:

“The last milestone, for the present, is the decade we are going through. The Cyprus Postal Services decided to break new ground and are proceeding with the issue of a new category of stamps entitled “Aromatic Flowers”. The innovation lies in the fact that when you touch the stamp it immediately gives off the scent of the flower. Thus in 2011 the series “Aromatic Stamps: Roses” appeared. In 2012 Jasmine was issued and in 2013 the corresponding series with oregano. Rose, jasmine, oregano ... Special scents, scents of our country, scents of our soil, which through these Cypriot stamps travel the whole world. Flowers, colours and scents of the Cypriot earth ... The rare wealth of flowers which our Cyprus possesses is depicted in the best possible way by the Cypriot stamps. The aim? For it to remain indelible in

our hearts and also to travel through written correspondence throughout the world, that this place is blessed because it has risen innumerable times from its ashes and "flowered" both literally and metaphorically."

The above passage is indicative of the quality, the questioning and depth of thought which this year's competition evoked in our young students.

For all these reasons, the continuing voluntary participation in the competition of pupils of the 2nd class of the gymnasium and private schools from all over Cyprus is an encouraging element for the future of Cyprus and world-wide philately.

Having taken into consideration all the above and all the rules as set out in the relevant announcement of the competition, the judging committee decided to award the 3 first prizes and the 7 commendations to the winners.

The judging committee also took into consideration:

- that the remaining pupils from all the schools of Cyprus who took part in this 13th Philatelic Competition and did not win a prize or commendation, nevertheless devoted many hours of their very little free time to it,
- that they voluntarily decided to try,
- that they researched and studied the subject,
- that they were reconciled with the values of "trying one's best",
- that they put themselves to the test which participation in the noble rivalry of every kind of competition entails,
- that finally their approach to the subject was of high standard,

The judging committee decided to award to all the pupils, along with their congratulations, a certificate of noteworthy participation in the competition.

On behalf of the Board of the Cyprus Philatelic Society, I express my appreciation and my warm thanks to the Minister of Communications, Mr Marios Demetriades, who with his presence at today's award presentation ceremony, has contributed decisively to the encouragement and success of the student philatelic competitions that will follow.

I also thank the Ministry of Education and Culture for their excellent cooperation in the course of the conduct of the competition and for adopting the voluntary programme of Philatelic Education which the Cyprus Philatelic Society is promoting in elementary and secondary schools.

I express my special appreciation and thanks to:

- The Director of Cyprus Postal Services, Mr Andreas Gregoriou, for his sensitivity and vision, the adoption of innovative ideas and programmes and his positive attitude towards the continuation of the financing of the competition, backing which has now become an institution since 2000.
- The Chief Postal Inspector, Mr Pavlos Pavlides
- The Head of the Stamps and Philatelic Service, Mr Stelios Hadjipavlou and
- all the staff of the Stamps and Philatelic Service for their excellent cooperation in all matters relating to the philatelic public and the support of our endeavours for the greater aesthetic and cultural cultivation of our young people.

Congratulations and thanks are also owed to the parents, head teachers and other teachers of the schools of the prize-winning pupils, who show keen interest, encourage and support the children in the direction of the mentality which we call the mentality of success, which strengthens their self-confidence and which creates in this way appropriate reactions, so that when the time to make choices comes they will choose the right direction along their path of life.

The reading of the grounds for the awards was followed with the presentation of the prizes by the Minister of Communications



The 1st prize went to Nicholas Nestoros, student of Saint Barbara Gymnasium in Limassol. In the picture Nicholas receiving his 1st prize from Mr. Marios Demetriades Minister of Communications. The award ceremony was held in Cyprus Philatelic Society premises, in Nicosia.

The Director of Cyprus Postal Services Mr. Andreas Gregoriou at the end of the ceremony presented the Minister with a special philatelic gift.

Individual and group photographs were taken and the ceremony closed with a modest and simple reception, as dictated by present-day circumstances.

During the reception parents were given the opportunity to enrol their children if they so wished as Youth Members of the Cyprus Philatelic Society.

At the end of 2012 in a total of population of 865.878 people of the country, out of 1424 active and some inactive members of the Cyprus Philatelic Society, 271 are registered as youth members of 10-21 years old.



CPS ACTIVITY FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS



Marios Demetriades Minister of Communications, Alekos Michaelides and other officials together with the winners of the competition. Nicosia, 12 May 2014



Pefkios Georgiades, Minister of Education and Culture and Nicos Rangos Special Advisor of the Ministry with the winners of 2006 competition



Pefkios Georgiades, Minister of Education and Culture, Dr. Minas Hadjiminias Mrs Popi Georgiou and Stelios Hadjipavlou with the winners of 2004 competition



Olympia Stylianou, Gen. Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Culture and Nicos Rangos Special Advisor of the Ministry, with the winners of 2007 competition



Pefkios Georgiades, Minister of Education and Culture Vasos Vasiliou Cyprus Postal Services Director, Nicos Rangos and Paschalis Eliopoulos with the winners of 2005 competition



Nikos Nicolaides Minister of Communications and Andreas Gregoriou Cyprus Postal Services Director with the winners of 2008 competition



Nikos Nicolaides Minister of Communications and Cyprus Postal Services Director Andreas Gregoriou with the winners of 2009 competition



Alekos Michailides Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications and Andreas Gregoriou Cyprus Postal Services Director with the winners of 2012 competition



Erato Kozakou Markoulli, Minister of Communications Stelios Hadjipavlou with the winners of 2010 competition



Tasos Mitsopoulos Minister of Communications, Alekos Michailides Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Andreas Gregoriou Cyprus Postal Services Director, Pavlos Pavlides, Chris Ioannou CPS President and Stelios Hadjipavlou with the winners of 2013 competition.



Erato Markoulli, Minister of Communications Andreas Gregoriou Cyprus Postal Services Director, Pavlos Pavlides and Stelios Hadjipavlou with the winners of 2011 competition.



Alekos Michaelides Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications and Andreas Gregoriou Cyprus Postal Services Director with 10 out of 62 school Headmasters and Educators who encouraged their students to arrive up to their great success.