What happened in October 2011                                     The Spanish Academy

Joint session of the Royal Hispanic and the European Academies of Philately

Presentation of "OPUS XI": From left to right, José Ramon Moreno, coordinator of the book, Guy Coutant, editor, Henk Slabbinck, President of the European Academy of Philately, Ramon Cortés, President of the Royal Hispanic Academy, Fernando Alonso, Secretary and Pablo Galán, Vicepresident of the Spanish Olympic Academy.

To present the "OPUS XI", devoted to the Spanish Philately, the European Academy of Philately accepted the kind invitation of the Royal Hispanic Academy, to join a solemn Session in Barcelona on the 31st of October. The meeting began with the RAHF session, under the Presidency of Ramon Cortes de Haro, president of the Royal Academy of Philately Hispanic, Carlos Saldaña, on behalf of the Spanish Post, Fernando Alonso, Secretary, and the members of the Board, Javier Padin, Jesus Sitjà and Julio Peñas.

Mario Mirman, presenting his speech and José Luis Guzmán, receiving his Diploma, after his talk, from the President of the Royal Hispanic Academy of Philately, Ramón Cortés de Haro.

The Academic Session enjoyed the very interesting and successful reading of the speeches of Mario Mirman about "The Origins of the Post in Seville" and José Luis Guzman, about "The Historical Archives of Loyola. Contributions to the Spanish Postal History. This is one of the requisites to became member of the RAHP. After what they received their medals and Diplomas from the President and became new academicians.

From left, Pablo Galán, Vicepresident of the Spanish Olympic Academy, which has a philatelic section, with the President of the RAHF Ramón Cortés, the President of the AEP, Henk Slabick, and José Ramón Moreno, coordinator of the "OPUS XI" and member of the academies.
Agustín Alberto de León, Antonio Cuesta, Mrs. Coutant, Guy Coutant, Mrs. Coulanges, Michel Coulanges and Eugenio de Quesada, amongst others. In the event President Slabbinck welcomed Eugenio de Quesada informing that he was elected the previous day as new academician of the European Academy of Philately.

Ramón Cortés presented the number 15 of Academus, the outstanding magazine of the RAHF, as well as the number XXV of the book of Academic Discourses, containing those of the academicians José Soler and Esteve Doménech.

The RAHF President gave an emotional tribute to the memory of Juan de Linares, founder of the Hispanic Academy, by offering a plaque to his widow, Margarita, in front of the whole Linares family.

In the Message from the President, Henk Slabbinck explained: ..."When meeting for the third time (at the Royal Hispanic Academy), we received an outspoken warm welcome thanks also to the efforts made by President Cortés de Haro. As a man of good advise he helped us with convincing José Ramón Moreno to accept a Board membership and this is how progressively every piece fell into place so as to be able to offer to you the present fireworks. The combination of José Ramon Moreno’s coordination work in Spain with the per-
José Ramon Moreno, coordinator of “OPUS XI” presented a commemorative plate to the editor, Guy Coutant.

permanent and in-depth efforts of our editor Guy Coutant made it possible to many authors to publish a summary of their insight in Spanish philately and postal history. The result of their efforts is, in my eyes, quite exceptional and the present OPUS will undoubtedly find a place of choice in many libraries. So we all owe a lot to the authors, to Michel Coulanges and to our board members Coutant and Moreno. Yet my heartfelt and great thanks go to my good friend Cortés de Haro, the President of the Royal Hispanic Academy, for having had that brilliant initial reaction, to no more talk about the past but to at once join forces s for the future. I dedicate the present OPUS to him, with e a warm «abrazo»! Henk Slabbinck.

Amongst the attendants, there were six members of the Board of the AEP: President Henk Slabbick, Vicepresident Bruno Crevatto-Selvaggi, Secretary General, Serge Khan, and the Board Members Guy Coutant, Luis Frazao and José Ramon Moreno. The President of the RAHF, Ramon Cortés, presented to all of them with a commemorative medal of the Royal Hispanic Academy during the friendship dinner that followed the Academic events. The audience was formed by many Spaniards but also by philatelists from Argentina, Italy, Portugal, Belgium, France and St. Pierre & Miquelon.

General view In the foreground Francisco Gilabert, Delegate of the Spanish Federation for America, Bruno Crevatto-Selvaggi, Vicepresident of the AEP and Eliseo Otero, President of the Federation of Argentina.