

## MARIBOFILA 2012

In 2012 Maribor, the second biggest city in Slovenia will be one of two European Capitals of Culture. That is why we have decided, and the idea has come from the oldest philatelic society in Slovenia, Philatelic Society Maribor, to organize a major philatelic exhibition in the frame of the 2012 cultural activities in Maribor.



The Slovene Philatelic Association is an active participant both in the Working Community Balkanfila and in the Working Community Alps-Adriatic Philately. Therefore, Maribofila 2012 will host both the Balkanfila and the Alps-Adriatic Philately philatelic exhibitions and will be a place where exhibitors and representatives of both philatelic associations will meet. Since the other European Capital of Culture in 2012 is the Portuguese town Guimarães, and since we maintain a very good relationship with Portuguese philatelic federation, we have invited Portugal to participate in the exhibition as a special guest. Its presence will add also an Atlantic flavor to Maribofila 2012.



*View from right bank of Drava under arch of Old bridge to the North east shows judgment tower, east corner of city walls. Footbridge and a piece of Koroška bridge, the newest bridge over Drava in Maribor, can also be seen; behind all is Kozjak.*

Due to different existing exhibition agreements within the Working groups, and also due to logistic and financial organizational problems, the exhibition with the name MARIBOFILA 2012 will be held in one venue, but will be divided into two exhibitions. The Alps-Adriatic Philately, traditionally a Rank II exhibition, will include all competitive classes and will be shown in 12 page frames. The Balkanfila a Rank I exhibition will



*The main square, the biggest and one of the oldest square in Maribor with Town hall on the right side and plague mark from 17<sup>th</sup> century in the middle.*



*The Old bridge, casino on the left side of bridge, Jewish part and Water tower on the right side of bridge.*

include only five competitive classes: Postal History, Thematic Philately, Youth Philately, Open Class, One Frame exhibits and Philatelic Literature. Balkanfila exhibits will be placed into 16 page frames. Exhibits from Portugal will be included in the Balkanfila part of Maribofila 2012.

The exhibition will be mainly organized, with strong support both from Post of Slovenia and

Slovenian Philatelic Association, by the Philatelic Society in Maribor that has many organization skills, having organized some important exhibitions in the past, like National exhibition Fila'96 and the international exhibition Alpe-Jadran Fila 2006. More information about Maribofila 2012 can be found on web site [www.maribofila.si](http://www.maribofila.si) which weekly up-to-date.



*The city castle from 15<sup>th</sup> century with famous baroque staircase and Knight's hall.*

Maribor, the host city of Maribofila 2012 is the economic and cultural centre of north-eastern Slovenia. It is situated at the cross-section of traffic routes leading from Central to south-eastern Europe, and from western Central Europe to the Pannonian Lowland. This location has not only made Maribor prominent in past and present history but, because of it, Maribor's prominence is likely to continue in the future. Maribor lies at 274 m under sea level and has a middle-European to Pannonian type of climate. According to the 2002 census, restricted area of the city is inhabited by around 106.500 people.



As fortification Maribor had been mentioned in documents in the 1164, as town in the 1542. In a millennium Maribor has had ups and downs. As its history shows, it was not a large or

important city until the middle of the eighteenth century. Slowly it achieved prominence. It received fresh impetus during the initial phase of industrialization in the second half of nineteenth century. From a peaceful, provincial town, inhabited by merchants, craftsmen associated with several guild-organizations, a sprinkling of

clerks and soldiers, and a few members of the nobility, Maribor has been transformed into an

economically and culturally dynamic city. All those transformations during the time show up in the picturesque city architecture. The Castle, the Cathedral, the National Theatre with Opera, the City Park with the famous Aquarium, the Plague memorial, the Drava river Banks and the world oldest vine (over 400 years old, which was approved by Guinness book) are only a few of numerous points in town, expecting to visit them.



*The Old vine and wine shop with the same name.*

Maribor is the University town, headquarters of the Post of Slovenia and the archbishopric. It is proud of the numerous traditional cultural, entertainment and sporting events with international participation. Zlata lisica (Golden Fox, The world cup alpine skiing for ladies), The Lent Festival (one of the biggest summer festivals in the Europe), The Borštnik's Meeting of theatres are only the greatest events and well know in Europe and even in the world. In 2012 Maribor will be European Capital of the Culture and in 2013 will held the Winter Universiade and will be the European Capitol of the youth.



*The main post building in Maribor, built in 1894. Today is headquarters of the Post of Slovenia, the main sponsor of Maribofila 2012.*

Maribor is considered to be a cheerful, friendly city. Some relate this pleasant situation to its extensive wine-growing regions that routinely invite visit from Maribor residents, who are



open, easy-going people. Vineyards are part of the natural beauty of the city, along with the Pohorje forests, the valley of the river Drava, the Kozjak and the Kobansko ravines, the Slovenske Gorice hills and fields of Dravsko Polje at the south-east of the city.



Hills with vineyards reach the town at north side. One of them is Piramida; on the top of it was the first Maribor's castle.

From Maribor is very easy to visit Ptujška Gora, the famous pilgrimage church and old town Ptuj, founded by Romans, as well as health resort centers Radenci, Rogaška Slatina and Atomske spa.

Maribor is always ready to be a good host and Maribofila 2012 organizing committee is ready for the biggest philatelic exhibition ever in Slovenia as well. Logo of the exhibition had been made and Bulletin 1 had been published five month ago. Bulletin was sent with invitation to all planned participants. National commissioners were appointed and entry forms were already sent to them, exhibition place and hotel is reserved, Post of Slovenia include special miniature sheet of 1 stamp for Maribofila 2012, contents of catalogue is taking shape, ... and everything goes by plan.



University sporting hall named by famous Olympic winner Lon Štukelj will treat the exhibition. Pohorje with winter and summer sports resort is behind.

We are proud that with Maribofila 2012 we continue the traditional philatelic meetings among the Balkanfila and the Alps-Adriatic Philately members this time with FEPA support. We will do our best to be a good host, and we are convinced that Maribofila 2012 will be a nice experience for all, so that you will remember Maribor and Slovenia for a long time.



Maribor is known as green city. City park with trees from whole world, aquarium and pavilion with Sunday's concerts is right place for rest.

Bojan Bračić