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IMPRESSUM

FEPA News is the journal of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations. It is produced by the FEPA Board to help share news and views among FEPA Members and to maintain a record of philatelic activities. It is edited by Bill Hedley with help from other Board members. We rely on content supplied by Members and friends and offer sincere thanks to all who have helped put this issue together.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Philatelic Friends,

Welcome to the latest issue of FEPA NEWS. May I first wish you all good health, success and happiness during 2021. Let us hope profoundly that it will not be too long before we can start to leave behind the restrictions that the pandemic has forced on us and once again enjoy the freedom to live our lives as we wish.

The last six months of 2020 have seen changes in the world of philately on a scale and at a speed that we would not previously have imagined possible. Faced with the prohibition on meeting in groups, collectors at all levels of organised philately have quickly adapted to meeting on-line. This includes the FEPA Board which held its first on-line meeting with the FEPA Members on 21 November 2020. The philatelic trade has also recognised the opportunity to extend its business more widely by building its on-line base.

Taking account of the age of many collectors, it is at least possible that the end of the pandemic will not mean that everything reverts to the *status quo ante* but that greater reliance on on-line contact is here to stay. This suggestion will be met with a mixed response. Many of us will welcome improved accessibility for collectors to philatelic events and dealers but will at the same time be concerned at the potential loss of opportunities to meet friends and see live exhibits. These are both legitimate interests, but will we be able to strike the right balance between them? We think this matter is of great importance for philatelists so a significant part of this issue is devoted to a survey of experience around the world in running virtual events in 2020. It is too early to draw firm conclusions, but I am sure that, as this story unfolds, it will be in everyone's interests more than ever to share information and best practice. FEPA will do what it can to support this.

Ari Muhonen recently stood down from the Board. Over the last six years he has led our efforts to develop the fepanews.com website and his great contribution is apparent in the fact that the website is now our most important channel for sharing information. On behalf of everyone in FEPA, thank you, Ari.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible later this year when, we hope, restrictions on travel will be relaxed. In the meantime, stay healthy and enjoy your philately.

BILL HEDLEY

LETTRE DU PRÉSIDENT



Chers amis philatélistes,

Bienvenue dans le dernier numéro de FEPA NEWS. Puis-je tout d'abord vous souhaiter à tous une bonne santé, du succès et du bonheur en 2021. Espérons profondément qu'il ne faudra pas longtemps avant que nous puissions commencer à abandonner les restrictions que la pandémie nous a imposées et jouir une fois de plus de la liberté de vivre notre vie comme nous le souhaitons.

Les six derniers mois de 2020 ont vu des changements dans le monde de la philatélie à une échelle et à une vitesse que nous n'aurions pas imaginé possible auparavant. Face à l'interdiction de se réunir en groupe, les collectionneurs à tous les niveaux de la philatélie organisée se sont rapidement adaptés à la rencontre en ligne. Cela inclut le Conseil d'administration de la FEPA qui a tenu sa première réunion en ligne avec les membres de la FEPA le 21 novembre 2020. Le commerce philatélique a également reconnu l'opportunité d'étendre ses activités plus largement en construisant sa base en ligne.

Compte tenu de l'âge de nombreux collectionneurs, il est au moins possible que la fin de la pandémie ne signifie pas que tout revient au statu quo ante, mais qu'une plus grande dépendance au contact en ligne est là pour rester. Cette suggestion recevra une réponse mitigée. Beaucoup d'entre nous apprécieront une meilleure accessibilité pour les collectionneurs aux événements philatéliques et aux marchands, mais seront en même temps préoccupés par la perte potentielle d'occasions de rencontrer des amis et de voir des expositions en direct. Ces deux intérêts sont légitimes, mais serons-nous en mesure de trouver le juste équilibre entre eux? Nous pensons que cette question est d'une grande importance pour les philatélistes, c'est pourquoi une partie importante de ce numéro est consacrée à une enquête sur l'expérience dans le monde de l'organisation d'événements virtuels en 2020. Il est trop tôt pour tirer des conclusions définitives, mais je suis sûr que, comme cette histoire se déroule, il sera plus que jamais dans l'intérêt de tous de partager les informations et les bonnes pratiques. La FEPA fera ce qu'elle peut pour soutenir cela.

Ari Muhonen a récemment démissionné du conseil. Au cours des six dernières années, il a dirigé nos efforts pour développer le site Web fepanews.com et sa grande contribution est évidente dans le fait que le site Web est maintenant notre principal canal de partage d'informations. Au nom de tous les membres de la FEPA, merci Ari.

J'ai hâte de rencontrer le plus grand nombre d'entre vous possible plus tard cette année lorsque, nous l'espérons, les restrictions de voyage seront assouplies. En attendant, restez en bonne santé et profitez de votre philatélie.

BILL HEDLEY



Liebe Freunde der Philatelie,

willkommen zur neuesten Ausgabe von FEPA News. Zuerst wünsche ich Ihnen Gesundheit, Erfolg und Spaß während des Jahres 2021. Wir wollen zu tiefst hoffen, dass es nicht mehr lange dauert, bis wir all die Restriktionen, die die Pandemie mit sich gebracht hat, hinter uns lassen können und wieder die Freiheit haben, so zu leben wie wir wollen.

Die letzten sechs Monate im Jahr 2020 hat es in großem Maße Änderungen in der Philatelie gegeben, die wir früher nicht für möglich gehalten haben. Konfrontiert mit dem Verbot Besprechungen in Gruppen abzuhalten, haben die Sammler auf allen Ebenen der organisierten Philatelie sehr schnell ihre Besprechungen auf on-line umgestellt. So auch der FEPA Vorstand, der das erste on-line Meeting mit den FEPA Mitgliedern am 21. November 2020 veranstaltete. Der philatelistische Handel hat auch sofort begriffen, das Geschäft durch die Möglichkeit von on-line Plattformen zu erweitern.

Unter Bedachtnahme des Alters von vielen Sammlern, wird wahrscheinlich durch das Ende der Pandemie nicht alles wieder auf den früheren Status zurückkommen und es werden viele on-line Kontakte bestehen bleiben. Das Ergebnis wird wohl ein Mix sein. Viele von uns werden sich freuen, virtuell verbesserte Voraussetzungen für Sammler zu philatelistischen Veranstaltungen und Händlern zu haben, aber auch besorgt sein über den eventuellen Verlust der Möglichkeit, Freunde zu treffen und Ausstellungen real zu sehen. Beides sind berechnete Interessen, aber wir werden die Möglichkeit haben, das richtige Gleichgewicht selbst zu treffen. Wir denken, dieses Thema ist für Philatelisten von großer Wichtigkeit. Einem wesentlichen Teil dieses Themas widmete sich ein weltweiter Erfahrungsaustausch zur Abhaltung von virtuellen Veranstaltungen im Jahr 2020. Noch ist es zu früh, solid Schlüsse zu ziehen, aber ich bin mir sicher, dass diese Geschichte ergibt, dass es in jedermanns Interesse liegt, Informationen und Erfahrungen auch online auszutauschen. FEPA wird alles tun was sie kann, um das zu unterstützen.

Ari Muhonen hat kürzlich bekannt gegeben, den FEPA Vorstand mit Ende des Jahres zu verlassen. Die letzten sechs Jahre hat er unseren Erfolg mit der Entwicklung der fepanews.com Web-Seite geleitet und sein großer Beitrag ist sichtbar mit der Tatsache, dass die Web-Seite nun unsere wichtigste Verbindung ist, Informationen auszutauschen. Von uns allen in der FEPA, DANKE Ari.

Ich freue mich, viele von Ihnen später in diesem Jahr zu treffen, wenn, was wir hoffen, die Einschränkungen des Reisens gelockert werden. In der Zwischenzeit, bleiben Sie gesund und haben Sie Spaß mit der Philatelie.

BILL HEDLEY



CARTA DEL PRESIDENTE

Queridos amigos filatélicos,

Bienvenidos al más reciente número de FEPA NEWS. En primer lugar, les deseo a todos buena salud, éxito y felicidad durante el 2021. Esperamos profundamente que no pase mucho tiempo antes de que podamos empezar a dejar atrás las restricciones que la pandemia nos ha impuesto y disfrutar una vez más de la libertad para vivir nuestras vidas como deseamos.

Los últimos seis meses de 2020 han visto cambios en el mundo de la filatelia a una escala y a una velocidad que antes no hubiéramos imaginado posibles. Ante la prohibición de reunirse en grupo, los coleccionistas de todos los niveles de la filatelia organizada se han adaptado rápidamente a las reuniones online. Esto incluye a la Junta Directiva de la FEPA, que celebró su primera reunión online con los miembros de FEPA el 21 de noviembre de 2020. El comercio filatélico también ha reconocido la oportunidad de extender su negocio más ampliamente mediante la construcción de su base online.

Teniendo en cuenta la edad de muchos coleccionista, al menos es posible que el fin de la pandemia no signifique que todo vuelva al statu quo anterior, sino que una mayor dependencia del contacto online está aquí para quedarse. Esta sugerencia se encontrará con una respuesta mixta. Muchos de nosotros daremos la bienvenida a una mejor accesibilidad para los coleccionistas a los eventos filatélicos y a los comerciantes, pero al mismo tiempo estaremos preocupados por la posible pérdida de oportunidades para reunirnos con amigos y ver exposiciones en vivo. Ambos son intereses legítimos, pero ¿podremos encontrar el equilibrio adecuado entre ellos? Creemos que este punto es de gran importancia para los filatelistas, por lo que una parte importante de este número está dedicada a una encuesta de la experiencia en todo el mundo en la realización de eventos virtuales en 2020. Es demasiado pronto para sacar conclusiones definitivas, pero estoy seguro de que, como esta historia revela, será en el interés de todos más que nunca compartir información y mejores prácticas. FEPA hará todo lo posible para apoyar esto.

Ari Muhonen se retiró recientemente de la Junta Directiva. Durante los últimos seis años, ha liderado nuestros esfuerzos para desarrollar el sitio web fepanews.com y su gran contribución es evidente en el hecho de que el sitio web es ahora nuestro canal más importante para compartir información. En nombre de todos en FEPA, gracias, Ari.

Espero encontrarme con tantos de ustedes como sea posible a finales de este año, cuando esperamos que se relajen las restricciones de viaje. Mientras tanto, cuidad vuestra salud y disfrutad de la filatelia.

BILL HEDLEY

OVERVIEW OF THE FEPA BOARD'S RECENT ACTIVITIES



Philatelic activity has been severely disrupted during most of 2020 by restrictions on travel and social gatherings imposed in most countries to inhibit the spread of the pandemic. These restrictions were completely unforeseen when the year began and have carried on for longer than most people thought possible. Meetings and exhibitions have been cancelled and attendance in person at auctions or fairs has been very restricted. In response the philatelic community has moved quickly to replicate normal activities through on-line links. There has been a rapid growth at every level in Zoom meetings, virtual exhibitions and on-line trading. The FEPA Board has had six Zoom meetings during 2020 and a general meeting with the Member Federations. News from the Federations has been posted regularly on the fepanews.com website and broadcast widely through regular Newsletters and FEPA News. Studies have been carried out in cooperation with the Federations. The annual FEPA awards for exceptional contributions to philately have been made.

In the first section of this issue of FEPA News, up to Page 16, we report on recent FEPA activities:

- The award of FEPA Medals for 2019.
- The general meeting between the FEPA Board and Member Federations on 21 November 2020.
- The current review of the FEPA Statutes.
- The survey of Federation requirements for exhibition frames and the scope for future collaboration.

In Pages 28 – 36 we also report on an extensive survey recently undertaken on experience in Europe and around the world with the organisation of virtual exhibitions.



AWARD OF FEPA MEDALS FOR 2019

The Board planned to present the FEPA Medals for 2019 at the Congress meeting in London on 10th May 2020, but unfortunately that event had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. We were delighted, however, to be able to make alternative arrangements for presentation of the Medal for exceptional philatelic achievement to Chris King in London on 16th September, and the Medal for exceptional philatelic support to Senator Carlo Giovanardi at a dinner in Trieste on 25th September.

So far, we have not been able to present the Medal for exceptional philatelic research formally to Henrik Mouritsen but he has received his medal and we look forward to presenting it to him as soon as a convenient opportunity arises.



Bill Hedley presents the FEPA Medal for exceptional philatelic achievement to Chris King RDP Hon FRPSL at the Royal Philatelic Society London's Annual General Meeting on 16th September 2020.



Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi, (then) Vice-President of the Italian Federation FSFI, presents the FEPA Medal for exceptional support to Senator Giovanardi in Trieste on 25th September 2020.

REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE FEPA BOARD AND MEMBERS, 21 NOVEMBER 2020

The meeting was held by ZOOM. This report is based on the Record circulated afterwards.

The participants were:

FEPA Board: Bill Hedley, Giancarlo Morolli, Ari Muhonen, Fredi Kunz, Costas Chazapis, Igor Pirc, Nicos Rangos.

Member Federations: Julian Demeti (Albania), Alfred Kunz (Austria), Johann Vandenhoute (Belgium), Nikolay Penev (Bulgaria), Nicos Rangos (Cyprus), Vit Vaniček (Czech Republic), Niels Kristian Hansen (Denmark), Dr. Eng. Sherif Samra (Egypt), Ari Muhonen (Finland), Bernard Jimenez (France), Walter Bernatek (Germany), Pantelis Leoussis (Greece), István Glatz (Hungary), Eli Weber (Israel), Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi (Italy), Andrée Trommer-Schilz and Jos Wolff (Luxembourg), Jean Voruz (Monaco), Tomo Katuriċ (Montenegro), Ton Steenbakkers (Netherlands), Frank Gilberg (Norway), Ludwik K. Malendowicz (Poland), Pedro Vaz Pereira (Portugal), Romeo Minca (Romania), Alexander Ilyushin (Russia), Nikola Ljubičić (Serbia), Pavol Lazar and Vojtech Jankovič (Slovakia), Peter Suhadolc (Slovenia), Rafael Acuña Castillo (Spain), Peter Nordin (Sweden), Edip Ağaoğullari (Turkey), Simon Richards (United Kingdom).

Invited Guest: Bernie Beston (FIP President).

The agenda and reports, had been circulated in advance:

1. Welcome by the President.
2. Report by the Secretary General.
3. Report by the Treasurer.
4. Report by the Communications Director.
5. Report by the Webmaster.
6. Report by the Vice-President on FEPA studies:
 - a) Review of Statutes.
 - b) Virtual exhibitions.
 - c) Collaboration on frames.
7. FEPA News – Next issue.
8. FEPA Awards for 2020 - Nominations
9. FEPA Congress – next meeting.
10. Any Other Matters.



Screenshot of attendees at the FEPA General Meeting on 21 November, 2020

Item 1. Welcome by the President

The President, Bill Hedley, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Covid restrictions had made it impossible to hold an annual Congress this year but much had changed rapidly and FEPA needed to stay in contact with its Members. This meeting was not a Congress but an opportunity to update Members, and for Members to express their views. No votes would be taken.

FEPA exists to support its Members in promoting philately in Europe, especially where it can assist beneficial cooperation between Members. This year the normal routine of international cooperation and sharing of information had been severely disrupted by the pandemic. However, this had not brought philately to a halt. People had spent more time working on their collections and the confinement had brought new recruits to philately. Philatelic activity had continued at on-line auctions and virtual exhibitions. Societies and Federations had reached a much wider audience by organising meetings and presentations virtually. Dealers and collectors had met successfully at on-line events. It was unclear whether there would be a full return to the old normal. Many people were able to work from home and confidence in travelling had been severely damaged. Some changes could become permanent – not least because they had carried forward developments that were already occurring before the pandemic started.

This raised large questions. Would the shift towards virtual exhibitions be permanent and extend to international exhibitions? If so, how should we respond? Were there new opportunities to attract younger people into organised philately. If so, maybe we should welcome it. Many people were concerned about a big shift to virtual. Personal contact and friendship doubled the satisfaction and pleasure of philately. Would this survive in a world where virtual interaction had become the main channel for communication? These questions would be with us for some time to come, and FEPA Members would need to share information on what worked well and to cooperate in finding solutions. FEPA would do what it could to help, working as always in close cooperation with its Members.

The President raised two other matters of current FEPA business:

1. Some Members had been inconvenienced by phishing e-mails that claimed to come from FEPA. These messages were a nuisance. To minimise possible risks, he asked everyone to check the address from which a message had come before opening it. If it was not from a recognised FEPA address, it was not from FEPA and should be deleted. If there was any doubt, the Secretary should be contacted.

- Ari Muhonen had decided to step down from the Board at the end of this year. He had made a magnificent contribution to FEPA, especially in setting up and running our current website which is such a vital part of our work now and deserved the warmest thanks from everyone for his work for FEPA. We looked forward to continuing to work with him as Finland's representative at the FEPA Congress.

The President thanked Members sincerely for all the help they had given FEPA this year. It had been excellent and asked them to continue to give their support and guidance.

Items 2 - 5. Reports of the Secretary General, Treasurer, Communications Director and Webmaster were noted.

Item 6. Report on FEPA studies by the Vice-President

a) Review of FEPA Statutes

The Vice-President, Giancarlo Morolli, opened with a presentation on progress. He explained that amendments to the Statutes were needed to meet changed circumstances and to make them easier to understand. He thanked Pedro Vaz Pereira for constructive suggestions in response to his article in FEPA News No. 37. He proposed a timetable for completion of the review leading to presentation of a final version to the Congress in Athens for approval. It is:

Date	Activity	Action
01.12. 2020	Draft to Members	Vice President
28.02. 2021	Comments to Vice President	Members
15.04. 2021	Board Review	Board
01.05.2021	Second Draft to Members	Vice President
15.06. 2021	Comments to Vice President	Members
July 2021	Board Review	Board
30.09. 2021	Final document to FEPA Secretary	Vice President
23.11. 2021	FEPA Congress	

Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi (Italy) appealed for strict adherence to the timetable so that a final draft could be presented by the end of July 2021. This would help to achieve consensus at Congress. Peter Suhadolc (Slovenia) supported the proposal for additional definitions regarding the powers and conduct of the Board in urgent cases as well as for limiting the term of office of the Board members to 2 x four years in one position and an additional 2 x four years at most in another function.

b) Virtual exhibitions

The Vice-President said he was collecting data from Members who had held virtual exhibitions on their experience, including the benefits, organisational needs and difficulties encountered. Two national exhibitions had been held virtually in Europe this year – EXFILNA in Spain and NAPOSTA in Germany. He had asked all Members for responses and additionally addressed requests for information to other nations such as the USA and South Africa. It was significant that FIP had agreed to accept exhibits from virtual national exhibitions as qualified for FIP exhibitions on an experimental basis in 2021 and 2022.

Pedro Vaz Pereira (Portugal) was highly sceptical of virtual exhibiting because it was essential for philatelists, dealers and postal administrations to socialise and build friendships in philately. This required live meetings where exhibitors, judges and dealers could come together. He feared that postal administrations would be less willing to support live exhibitions if they thought there was a cheaper alternative. Special measures were needed during the pandemic but beyond that he was unhappy to look just at scanned material where there could be questions as to whether it was genuine.

Peter Suhadolc (Slovenia) said that, together with Bernard Jimenez, he had participated as a juror in virtual exhibitions in Latin America and India. An advantage of a virtual exhibition was that the jurors could take a close, long look at an exhibit at any time which was not possible in a live exhibition. It might be possible to have both real and virtual exhibitions running in parallel so that jurors could study exhibits easily at home or in a hotel to be better prepared for discussion with the exhibitor. Regarding authenticity of material, experience to date suggested this was not a major problem. One possibility was that exhibitors in a virtual exhibition should sign a statement confirming that they owned all the material exhibited and that, to the best of their knowledge, it was authentic. If it subsequently emerged that this was not true exhibitors could be banned from future exhibitions.

Niels Hansen (Denmark) agreed, saying that he had experience of organising a virtual exhibition in his club with about 100 frames. At that level the work was manageable but a national exhibition represented a more demanding task.

Peter Nordin (Sweden) added that exhibition organisation always raised financial problems including the cost of jurors so both solutions could be interesting. For example, if jurors were able to do some work at home and thereby spend less time at the exhibition, it could be shorter. Ton Steenbakkers (Netherlands) hoped that technical assistance could be provided to organizers of future virtual exhibitions.

Pedro Vaz Pereira suggested an amendment to the FREGEX to allow judges to receive copies of exhibits in advance that would help them prepare for the evaluation. He commented that the Portuguese Federation has copies of all exhibits; these could be

made available to judges. Bruno Crevato-Salvaggi (Italy) added that since 1996 the Italian Federation had started prejudging at national exhibitions using paper copies of all exhibits. In 2008 it went digital at a dedicated portal. Scans of exhibits, as well as jury reports and award lists in pdf format, could be found at the following web address: <http://expo.fsfi.it>.

Vojtech Jankovič (Slovakia) offered a different perspective. While he thought it was a good idea to have parallel exhibitions, he emphasised that we should not forget the dealers who make a large contribution to the costs of live shows. We should also ask dealers and sponsors how they look at it. His concern was that, if live and virtual shows were run in parallel, there would be a fall in the number of visitors coming to the exhibition. He was considering a semi-virtual exhibition where photocopies of exhibits were shown.

Alexander Ilyushin (Russia) said that, looking at those attending the meeting, he realised that he knew at least a half of those present. All are about 70 years old and have known each other for a long time - that's philately. Philately needs to be live, in the field,. But we also know how much it has changed since the 1980s. Sometimes the juror received the application form, later the introductory sheet. Modern technology can be useful but the exhibitor wanted contact and that was why live exhibitions were important.

c) Collaboration on Frames

The Vice-President said he had received a lot of good quality information in response to his questionnaire earlier this year. It showed that the position regarding frames varied in different parts of Europe (Scandinavia, Central Europe, Iberian Peninsula). Logistics and differences in frame sizes were major problems in devising a system for collaboration. This was summarised in the report he had sent to the Members. However, Simon Richards (UK) had raised an interesting opportunity for collaboration using a stock of frame components that is available in the UK. Pedro Vaz Pereira (Portugal) said he had personal experience of the logistic problems involved in transporting a large number of frames. To avoid damage they could not be treated as general cargo and special transport was needed.

Item 7. FEPA NEWS

The President said that, due to Covid restrictions, there were fewer Exhibition reports than usual. On the other hand some Federations had provided invited articles and, while FEPA News is not a research magazine, it was part of its remit to report on and illustrate the range of activities in its Members. The Board also wanted to extend the flow of news and information as widely as possible through the *fepaneews* website which is a major channel for sharing information on the latest developments and he asked Members to continue to help in making the most of it. On a practical point he reminded Members that, to improve the flow of information, they had been asked to nominate contact points with FEPA. He thanked Members who had already done this and asked those who had not yet nominated a contact point to do so as quickly as possible.

Item 8. FEPA Awards for 2020

The Vice-President said that the timetable for making FEPA Awards for 2020 will be as follows:

Call for Nominations	10 January 2021
Closing date	30 April 2021
Awards announced	July 2021
Medals presented	FEPA Congress, Athens (19-22 November 2021)

The President requested Members to think carefully about nominating candidates. There are many organizations and individuals who make great contributions and deserve recognition. This is an excellent way of giving it.

Item 9. FEPA Congress

The President requested confirmation of the proposal that the 2021 Congress should be held in Athens on 23rd November 2021, the day after the closure of NOTOS 2021. This was agreed.

Costas Chazapis reported that the Organisers of NOTOS (19 - 22 November 2021) had everything necessary to prepare the event - determination, knowledge, funds and support. He looked forward to the pandemic passing by Spring 2021 so that we could meet live in Athens.

Item 10. Any Other Matters

FIP President Bernie Beston thanked FEPA for the opportunity to join the meeting. He was pleased to see things happening in Europe despite the difficult situation. A lot of work had been done and he thought there would probably be a real explosion of events next year. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and promised to attend the Congress in Athens. Closing the meeting the President thanked all the participants for their constructive cooperation and said he was looking forward very much to the exhibition and Congress in Athens. Season's greetings and best wishes for good health to all were shared by all participants.

REVIEW OF THE FEPA STATUTES

Following his presentation at the virtual meeting between the FEPA Board and the Members on 21st November 2020 the FEPA Vice-President, Giancarlo Morolli, has sent a proposal for revision of the Statutes to the Member Federations.

Giancarlo's letter is set out below, and the proposed text for the new Statutes is on Pages 11 – 15.

1 December 2020

To the Presidents of FEPA member federations

Subject: Review of FEPA Statutes - Proposal

Dear friends,

I am sending you the proposal for the revised Statutes, after my presentation at the Video Conference on 21 November.

I took the conclusions of such meeting as a "green light" for continuing with the concepts presented. In summary the Statutes attached:

- Define the nature and the aims of FEPA and reaffirm its independence. In this respect, our statutes are no longer connected to the constitutions of other entities.
- Take advantage of digital communications for increasing operating flexibilities and intensifying relations.
- Eliminate definitions that have shown to be unrealistic or unfeasible (e.g. Swiss law, Expert Group).
- Add some provisions concerning situation that might happen (e.g. resolution of disputes, need of the Board to add last moment, urgent subjects to the agenda of Congress).
- Specify more precisely (and limit) the overall terms of serving in the Board.

The last subjects were also compared with the similar provisions in the statutes of the FIP and the other continental federations.

Finally, the chapter currently devoted to the exhibitions has been kept to the essential definitions, as most concept are to be dealt in the FREGEX, a document that needs an urgent review after the changes of the FIP GREX, which is the reference paper for many articles of our FREGEX, introduced at the FIP 2016 Congress.

Now the ball is in your field and what the Board hopes to receive from you is not the mere revisions of commas or comments to modify a "should" into a "must". We expect you to propose any addition/change that in your opinion will make FEPA work better and be closer to you and more effective in serving your needs.

We have not re-written the statutes from scratch but just amended them, tidying them up and attempting to make them more adherent to today's reality... your proposal might help us to be more bold and start approaching the constitution of the FEPA of the future. The current turmoil originated by the pandemic could be the trigger for new definitions and ways of cooperating.

The timetable agreed at the Video Conference is the following:

1.12.2020	Proposal to Members
28.02.2021	Members send comments to Vice President
15.04.2021	Board Review
01.05.2021	Reviewed Text to Members
15.06.2021	Members send comments to Vice President
07.2021	Final review of the Board
30.09.2021	Final document to FEPA Secretary for distribution to Members
23.11.2021	FEPA CONGRESS

I am looking forward to a positive cooperation.

Kind regards and Season's greetings.

Giancarlo Morolli

PROPOSAL FOR THE NEW FEPA STATUTES

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The „Federation of European Philatelic Associations“, abbreviated to „FEPA“ is a non-profit and non-political organisation, founded in 1989.
- 1.2. FEPA is a Federation of philatelic Federations, Associations and Unions in Europe and in the countries defined under Art. 3.1 and 3.2.
- 1.3. FEPA may have membership of other international organisations aimed at developing philately and shall respect their Statutes and principles.
- 1.4. The headquarters of FEPA will normally be located in the country of its President.

2. Objectives of FEPA

- 2.1. To support its Members in all their activities aimed at promoting interest in philately, cooperation and friendship among collectors and in the wider world.
- 2.2. To promote cooperation between its Members.
- 2.3. To disseminate news and information from its Members and on other matters of philatelic interest.
- 2.4. To promote best philatelic practices.
- 2.5. To recognise significant philatelic achievements.
- 2.6. To support philatelic study and research, and literature.
- 2.7. To represent its Members as necessary in other international organisations.

3. Membership

- 3.1. National Federations, Associations or Unions of European countries can be FEPA Members.
- 3.2. Membership may be accepted for national Federations or Associations / Unions of countries presenting significant historic, geographic, philatelic, communications and cultural links with Europe, provided they are not members of another Continental Federation.¹
- 3.3. Membership may be granted only to one philatelic organisation from each country.
- 3.4. Applications for membership must be submitted in writing to the FEPA Board at least six months prior to the date of the next FEPA Congress and must include the following documents:
 - a) The statutes of the Federation, Association or Union applying for membership.
 - b) A list of members of its Board.
 - c) A list of member societies and their total membership.
 - d) A written commitment to respect and fulfil the FEPA Statutes and Regulations.
- 3.5. The Board shall arrange for application to be assessed as necessary.
- 3.6. The acceptance of an application for membership shall be approved by the FEPA Congress.
- 3.7. All members shall pay an annual membership fee, the amount of which shall be determined by the FEPA Congress.
- 3.8. The membership fee must be paid by 30th April in the year for which the subscription is due.
- 3.9. Membership may be terminated by resignation or by a vote of the FEPA Congress, due to violation of the Statutes.

4. Administration

- 4.1. The FEPA Congress (hereinafter “The Congress”) is the supreme body of FEPA and consists of all Members as defined in Art. 3.1 and 3.2.

¹ Membership was granted to the Israel Philatelic Federation after a special agreement with FIP.

4.2. *The FEPA Board of Directors (hereinafter "The Board") is the managing body of FEPA.*

5. *FEPA Congress*

- 5.1. *The Congress as a meeting of the Members has the competence to decide and approve all matters as specified in the FEPA Statutes.*
- 5.2. *The Congress shall meet every year at the time and place determined by the Board in the light of invitations received from the Members.*
- 5.3. *The President shall convene the Congress on behalf of the Board by sending out a written invitation with the provisional agenda of the meeting to the Members at least four months before the date of the Congress.*
- 5.4. *The Secretary General shall send out the final agenda and the related documentation to the Members at least six weeks before the date of the Congress.*
- 5.5. *The Congress agenda shall at least include the following points.*
 - a. *Roll Call and choice of tellers*
 - b. *Approval of the Minutes of the previous Congress*
 - c. *Reports of the Board*
 - d. *Financial Statements for the past year and Auditor's report*
 - e. *Budget for the current year*
 - f. *Proposals and motions from the Board and the Members*
 - g. *Elections (if required)*
 - h. *Applications for membership (if any)*
 - i. *Amendments to FEPA Statutes and Regulations (if any)*
 - j. *FEPA Exhibitions*
- 5.6. *Any member may propose any item of business for inclusion on the agenda, with notice in writing to the Secretary General at least two months prior to the Congress. The Board shall consider all proposals received and streamline those considered suitable for inclusion in the agenda.*
- 5.7. *The Board may place any item of business on the agenda for Congress without previous notice if in its opinion such item requires urgent consideration by Congress.*
- 5.8. *Representation at Congress*
 - 5.8.1. *Each Member has one vote.*
 - 5.8.2. *Each Member shall appoint in writing one delegate as its official representative. In addition, each Member may nominate two observers without voting rights.*
 - 5.8.3. *The names and addresses of the delegate and of any observers shall be sent to the Secretary General in writing before the Congress.*
 - 5.8.4. *Members can be represented at Congress by another Member by proxy.*
 - 5.8.5. *A Member may represent only one other Member by proxy.*
 - 5.8.6. *A Member with overdue fees may attend the Congress but it has no voting rights.*
- 5.9. *Motions*
 - 5.9.1. *Motions may be submitted by the Board and by Members and must be circulated to all Members with the Congress documentation.*
 - 5.9.2. *Motions shall be submitted to the Board in writing at least two months before the Congress.*
 - 5.9.3. *Motions may be submitted by the Board at least six weeks before the Congress.*
 - 5.9.4. *Motions presented during the conduct of Congress can be accepted for discussion if the majority of Members present and the Board agree.*
- 5.10. *Elections*
 - 5.10.1. *The Congress shall elect by secret or open ballot as decided by the majority of the Members present:*
 - a) *The President*
 - b) *The Vice-President*

- c) *The Secretary General*
- d) *The Treasurer*
- e) *Three Directors*

5.10.2. *The Board is divided in two election pools.*

Pool 1: President, Secretary General and one Director.

Pool 2: Vice President, Treasurer and two Directors.

5.10.3. *Each second year one pool is elected.*

5.10.4. *The candidate for each post obtaining the highest number of votes will be declared elected. In case of a tie, voting will be repeated between the tied candidates only.*

5.10.5. *Simultaneously with the Pool 2 election, the Congress shall charge a Member not represented in the Board to appoint an auditor for assessing and validating the FEPA accounts.*

5.11. *Nominations*

5.11.1. *Written nominations of candidates by a Member must reach the Secretary General at least three months prior to the next Congress. If vacancies still exist at this deadline, nominations to fill them can be accepted. In this case nominations for each vacancy will close when the first nomination is received.*

5.12. *Voting*

5.12.1. *A quorum for decisions to be taken by the Congress shall be the presence in person or by proxy of more than half of the Members at the first roll call.*

5.12.2. *If a quorum is not present, the Congress will be called upon by the Board to meet again 30 minutes after the first roll-call. This repeatedly called Congress will have a quorum with any number of Members present.*

5.12.3. *In case of a tie, voting will be repeated.*

5.12.4. *If any Member requests a secret vote, then a secret ballot must be held on the matter or motion in question,*

6. FEPA Board

6.1. *The Board has the following members:*

- a) *President*
- b) *Vice-President*
- c) *Secretary General*
- d) *Treasurer*
- e) *Three Directors*

6.2. *All members of the Board shall serve for a term of four years and may serve up to two full terms in the same position and four full terms in total. In this respect, the positions of Secretary General, Treasurer and Director are equivalent.*

6.3. *A meeting of the Board shall be called by the President or at the request of four members of the Board.*

6.4. *The quorum for meetings of the Board shall be four members.*

6.5. *In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall act as Chairman. If the Vice President is not available, the Treasurer will act as Chairman.*

6.6. *The Board shall have the authority to issue directives, to approve and reform regulations, and to appoint committees and special delegates as may be required.*

6.7. *When an urgent decision is needed the Board may carry out a written poll of Members during the period between Congresses. Such written poll may not be used to make changes to the Statutes. The results of the poll will be reported to Members within one month and must be ratified at the next Congress.*

6.8. *In case of a vacancy in the Board, the Board may co-opt a person to fill the vacancy until the next Congress. However, such position shall be formally filled with an election at the next Congress, for the remainder of the term of the predecessor.*

6.9. *The Board members' task is honorary. They will receive no emoluments but may receive a refund of the expenses necessarily incurred in performing their FEPA duties.*

- 6.10. No member of the Board may at the same time hold office in the FIP Board.
- 6.11. The Secretary General shall perform the administrative functions of FEPA under direction of the Board. He shall maintain and keep such records as may from time to time be required. He shall in addition make all necessary arrangements for meetings of Congress.

7. Financial Management

- 7.1. The Board shall manage the finances of FEPA.
- 7.2. The member of the Board with primary responsibility for the financial operations is the Treasurer. He shall keep all funds and collect and disburse all monies and shall keep the accounts of all financial transactions.
- 7.3. The accounts of FEPA shall be made up to the 31st December of each year and a statement of income and expenditure and a balance sheet be prepared and submitted to the Board by 31 March of the following year.
- 7.4. The Treasurer shall also prepare a detailed budget for the coming year by 31 March of that year. Once the budget has been approved by the Board, any expenditure in excess of budget or any other proposed deviation or unforeseen commitment shall require the approval of the President.
- 7.5. The accounts shall be duly audited by the Auditor before the Congress and then presented to Congress for approval.

8. Philatelic Events

- 8.1. FEPA-recognised events organised by Members will be regulated by a special document (FREGEX)- formulated and proposed by the Board and approved by the Congress.
- 8.2. The Board may grant Patronage or Recognition to events organised by Members on the request of the Member involved. Patronage is subject to the ratification of the Congress.

9. Honours, Medals and Awards

- 9.1. FEPA may award the following:
- a) Honorary Presidency
 - b) FEPA Medal
 - c) Certificate of Appreciation.
- 9.2. FEPA Presidents who have long and outstanding service in the FEPA Board may be granted the distinction of Honorary President.
- 9.3. Honorary Presidents shall be elected by the Congress on proposal of the Board or of a Member and may only act in an advisory capacity.
- 9.4. The FEPA Medal shall be awarded by the Board to candidates who have given exceptional service to organised philately or have demonstrated exceptional philatelic study and research or to persons who have given a significant service or support to philately.
- 9.5. The FEPA Certificate of Appreciation may be presented to philatelic associations or clubs for outstanding activities in the promotion of philately at regional or local level.
- 9.6. The Board shall define and maintain specific guidelines for awarding the FEPA Medals and Certificates of Appreciation.
- 9.7. The Board may also present a FEPA Certificate to individuals and organisations congratulating them on specific philatelic achievements.

10. General Provisions

- 10.1. Legal representative
- 10.1.1. The President or the Board's nominee shall represent FEPA at all times and shall be its legal representative.
- 10.1.2. The President alone or the Treasurer together with the Vice President are authorised to sign on behalf of FEPA in a legally binding manner.
- 10.1.3. The Board may also authorise other persons to sign on behalf of FEPA.

10.2. Statutes

- 10.2.1. *All changes of the Statutes require a quorum of not less than three quarters of the Members present to vote in a Congress, in which the matter „Amendment of Statutes “is on the agenda.*
- 10.2.2. *Members may request changes or amendments of the Statutes every second year only. Such requests shall be sent to the Board at least three months before the date of the Congress.*
- 10.2.3. *The Board may recommend changes to correct anomalies at any time. This is not subject to the two years limitation.*

10.3. Dissolution of FEPA

- 10.3.1. *At the request of the Board or upon request of more than two thirds of the Members, the FEPA can be dissolved by Congress.*
- 10.3.2. *Such Congress called for the dissolution of FEPA will require a presence of three quarters of all Members by person or by proxy. For the motion to be carried, it requires a quorum of three quarters of the votes present.*
- 10.3.3. *In case of the dissolution of FEPA any assets will be used as decided by Congress.*

10.4. Language

- 10.4.1. *The official FEPA language is English.*
- 10.4.2. *The proceedings of the Congress will be conducted in English. On request and upon decision of the majority of the delegates translations will be presented in French or German or Spanish.*
- 10.4.3. *In the event of different interpretations, the English text shall prevail.*

10.5. Official Year

- 10.5.1. *The official year shall run from 1 January to 31 December.*

10.6. Communications and Meetings

- 10.6.1. *Communications may be undertaken by any standard methods including electronic mail and video conference.*
- 10.6.2. *The Board may decide, depending on the circumstances, to hold meetings, including the Congress, using video conference systems.*

10.7. Resolution of Disputes

- 10.7.1. *If the Board is asked to resolve a dispute between two Members, it will first investigate whether this can be done through informal discussions. If necessary, it will set up an arbitration panel including representatives of three Members other than those involved.*
- 10.7.2. *Each party shall designate one representative, the third being designated by the Board.*
- 10.7.3. *The panel shall investigate the dispute and make recommendations to the Board on how the dispute might be resolved.*

10.8. Legal Jurisdiction

- 10.8.1. *Any legal disputes will be determined under the law of the country of residency of the President.*

10.9. Interpretation and Matters not covered

- 10.9.1. *Matters not covered by these Statutes will be determined by the Board and must be ratified by the immediately following Congress.*
- 10.9.2. *In the event of any discrepancies of interpretation of these Statutes the Board will decide and act according to 10.9.1.*

10.10. Approval of Statutes

- 10.10.1. *These Statutes were approved at the Congress held on [23] November 2021 in Athens. The changes take effect immediately after this Congress. All previous Statutes are invalidated the same day.*

EXHIBITION FRAMES SURVEY: IS COOPERATION FEASIBLE?

Giancarlo Morolli writes:

When I launched the Survey on frames availability and maintenance in the member countries, no one would have imagined the scenario we are in today and we are looking forward to in the near future. Scheduled “frame” exhibitions have been postponed even two years ahead, whereas “virtual” (i.e. “frameless”) ones are getting the growing attention of the philatelic world. The pandemic has wiped away the short-term requirement for exhibition frames but the problems of obtaining them in sufficient numbers will return once exhibitions regain their more friendly nature based on exhibition halls, physical frames, and overall, human contact in person.

The Survey enabled us to present to FEPA Members a wide panorama of the situation as well as the practical limitations on international cooperation. Hereinafter is a summary of the report.

Availability of frames

- Frames are owned mainly by the Post or by the Federation (directly or through a Foundation).
- In a number of situations, frames were made several years ago with heavy material, and their conditions are not favourable for sharing them abroad.
- Older frames are normally designed for hosting 12 pages.

Frames storage and Maintenance

- Storage is taken care of, in most cases, by the owner.
- Maintenance approaches are quite different. In some cases frames are checked and repaired before being stored after they have been used at an exhibition, whereas in others such operations are performed before sending them to a forthcoming exhibition.

Sharing of frames

- The situation of the Nordic countries shows a common, shared approach that could be a reference point on a wider scale. They are, by and large, self-sufficient and for a number of reasons, made clear in their individual answers, they are unlikely to want to use frames from outside these countries.
- Older frames are almost impossible to share, as they tend to be heavy, require more demanding handling and are more at risk of damage.
- Geography is a major obstacle to sharing. Where federations needing frames are distant from the store there are likely to be high insurance, customs, handling and transportation costs
- Availability of frames for sharing is limited and has been already implemented between nearby federations (e.g. Germany-Switzerland, Balkan area).
- Bad sharing experiences could inhibit future international cooperation as it could lead to a lack of confidence in the way frames are managed by a borrower (if, for example unskilled workers are used).
- Sharing of frames outside a Federation's control is rather difficult nowadays, whereas in the past there was some cooperation between Post Ministries (I believe between Italy and Germany for IBRA 99).

On the bright side there is some room for starting a project involving neighbouring countries. Simon Richards (UK) has provided some useful information that might offer a basis for future cooperation.

The Philatelic Fund, a self-standing unit within the RPSL, owns components for approximately 500 frames (1,000 faces) which it might be willing to donate to a common European pool if other members were prepared to share the costs of transport, storage and assembly. The frames could be assembled and completed at a cost of about £70 a face in the UK. Assembly costs might be lower in other countries, though some technical assistance might be needed.

If anyone would like further information Simon can be contacted at Simon@sidebell.co.uk.

In confirming the Board's commitment to support this type of initiative that helps us to fulfil one of FEPA's main objectives - to promote cooperation between its Members - I once again thank the Member Federations for the attention they gave to this survey.

ESTONIA 2020 IN TARTU

Kaido Andres writes:

In spite of all COVID-related difficulties, Estonia '20 was held at the Estonian National Museum in Tartu from 10-12 July with FEPA Recognition. It went ahead according to plan and without restrictions on exhibition or guests. Exhibits from 14 countries arrived on time but participants from several countries were unable to take part due to restrictions on movement of people and mail. Unfortunately, some exhibits arrived after the end of the exhibition. Literature entries that arrived late were donated to the philatelic literature collection of the Estonian National Museum Library. Congratulations to Exhibition Commissioner Oliver Hanschmidt who managed these difficulties perfectly.



The Exhibition Hall



Flags of the Participants

The logo and postage stamp of the exhibition were designed by Lembit Lõhmus and the artist Indrek Ilves presented postal stationery dedicated to Estonia '20 on Friday morning. The exhibition was then opened to visitors who could also visit the Estonian National Museum's exhibitions free of charge, including that of the Estonian Postal Museum.

Exhibits for the invited class were provided by members of the Estonian National Museum and the jury. As an innovation collectors were given the opportunity to show interesting finds in this class as a way of displaying a wider range of exciting material. They were also allowed to exhibit in one to two frames so that they could gain experience and confidence to enter the exhibition competitively next time.



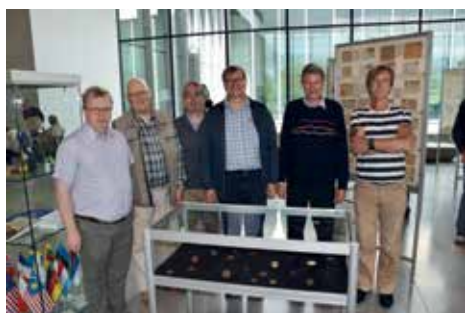
The Designer at Work



On the Boat!

The grand opening took place on Friday evening during a ship's trip with a light meal. During the voyage exhibition medals were presented to jury members and organisers. This was also the occasion for a second meeting of members of the Royal Philatelic Society London in Estonia. The RPSL was presented with an Estonia '20 medal and a small souvenir containing a selection of medals from previous Estonian exhibitions.

The jury was chaired by Ari Muhonen (Finland) and included Kaido Andres (Estonia – apprentice), Elmo Viigipuu (Estonia), Simon Richards (UK), Thomas Höpfner (Germany) and Kaido Laurits (Estonia). The Grand Prix Estonia 2020 was won by Jean-Jacques Tillard with his classic exhibit 'Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, ses surcharges au 19ème siècle'. Chris King won the Grand Prix International with 'The posts in the city of Lübeck before 1868' and the Grand Prix National was won by Jaan Roots for his postal history exhibit 'Estonia 1918'.



The Jury at Work



Grand Prix Prizes Awarded

As always, the exhibition was a great opportunity for intensive communication with old and new friends, and we look forward to seeing everyone again in 2022 at the next Estonia exhibition.

FINNISH NATIONAL EXHIBITION SFEx 2020, HELSINKI

Seppo Salonen & Jukka Mäkipää write:

Previously arranged for March, Finland's SFEx2020 National Stamp Exhibition) was held on 15th-16th August 2020 in the old Cable Factory, close to downtown Helsinki. It was organised by three philatelic societies from the Helsinki area - the Finnish Philatelic Society (*Suomen Filatelistiseura*), celebrating its centenary, the Korso Philatelic Society (70 years) and the Society of Postal History (45 years) in co-operation with the Finnish Philatelic Federation. Because of the pandemic foreign dealers, and a few Finnish ones, cancelled and the number of participants was lower than usual although at times the crowds gathered at the exhibition frames and the few dealer stands were almost too large. Nevertheless, the organising committee did a good job in the circumstances and due attention was paid to safety considerations.



The Exhibition Hall



Petteri Hannula addresses the visitors

With more than 500 frames, the exhibition was one of the largest in Finland in recent times. The exhibits covered all classes except astrophilately and maximaphily and the proportion of the total made up of new exhibits was a record high. Almost all entries accepted for the original timeslot in March were carried over to August. This allowed exhibitors an additional 5 months to shape their exhibits which may have contributed to the excellent standard. Nine Large Gold medals and fifteen Golds were awarded among ca 100 exhibits.

The Championship class included four excellent exhibits and the Grand Prix was given to **Markku Koivuniemi's** "The 1901 and 1911 Eagle Issues of Finland". The other 3 exhibits in the Championship Class were awarded Large Gold medals. The best exhibit in the competition classes was **Jussi Murtosaari's** fantastic "Finland, coat of arms, type 1875" which with 97 points achieved an all-time record in the Finnish National Exhibition. This was the first time the exhibit had been shown in Finland since 2006 when it won the Grand Prix Nordia and was given a cool-down period of 10 years. It has probably become the best Finnish-owned exhibit of any Finnish stamp issue ever built.



Above and Right: Markku Koivuniemi, winner of the Grand Prix, is congratulated on his award.



Ari Muhonen is presented with the Linder trophy.

The social programme included a Friday cocktail event for dealers and patrons of the exhibition. Some 30 persons had a chance to see the exhibits before the opening on Saturday. At the exhibition dinner in restaurant Perho on Saturday evening more than 50 participants gathered together to enjoy a delicious buffet and cosy atmosphere. In addition to the Grand Prix ceremony, the annual **Leo Linder** trophy (aka the Philatelist of the year in Finland) was awarded to **Ari Muhonen**, well-known from his various roles in both Finnish and International Philately. Ari was also acting as Chairman of the Jury of SFEx2020.

SFEx2020 was a "traditional" stamp show which also included a "virtual" version. More than 70% of the exhibits were also displayed in digital format. As a result the Jury already had a chance to work on the exhibits before the exhibition and the friends of philately who could not join the show in Helsinki had an opportunity to enjoy the exhibits from home. The feedback from this virtual add-on was so positive that in these difficult times it is easy to believe similar arrangements will become more and more popular. The exhibits are available to view at the Finnish Philatelic Federation homepage, <https://www.filatelisti.fi/kokoelmat/sfex-2020-kokoelmat/>.

PRAGA PICCOLA 2020

Julius Cacka, President of the SČF, e.V. writes:

PRAGA PICCOLA 2020 was held at the SBĚRATEL Fair in Prague on 11th and 12th September 2020. It was a national exhibition (Rang I and II) with international participation that included exhibits in the Traditional, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Youth Philately, Open and Literature Classes. It was organised by the Union of Czech Philatelists (SČF) in conjunction with the Society of Collectors of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps in the Czech Republic and the ArGe Tschechoslowakei in Germany.

In the frames were 42 exhibits from the Czech Republic, Germany and Slovakia as well as a Literature exhibit from the USA. The overall winner, with a Gold Medal and the Exhibition Prize, was Jaromír Petrík for his exhibit on 'Afghanistan 1871 – 1900'. The winner of the Rang 2 part of the exhibition was Richard Flaška with an exhibit on 'Hradčany'.

Similar events in other countries have of necessity been postponed for one or two years because of the COVID crisis. However, by holding this event the Union of Czech Philatelists has shown that it is still possible to organise philatelic exhibitions as long as strict hygiene measures are applied. These included:

- No large opening ceremony with lots of people present (the opening arrangements for this year's philatelic exhibition in Gmunden, Austria were taken as our model),
- No Palmares with a large group of people,
- A strictly controlled number of visitors,
- A requirement to wear face masks and
- Disinfection.

The fact is that none of these restrictions had any effect on the quality of the exhibits shown. It also showed the philatelist, and more importantly the general public, that philatelists can carry on living and working in spite of the difficult situation we face at present. Special thanks go to the exhibition's Organising Committee for what they achieved, for it was neither light nor easy.



Opening of the exhibition.

Left to Right: J. Cacka, President of the SČF; J Sedlák, Chairman of the Organising Committee of the PRAGA PICCOLA exhibition; P. Jirásek, Director of the SPĚRATEL Fair; H Liebermann, Leader of the ArGe Tschechoslowakei.



ÖVEBRIA – St. Pölten 2020 with FEPA recognition in spite of Corona

The situation was difficult, but the local government made it possible that with special safety precautions this event could be organized. A lot of visitors came to see the about 500 m² of philatelic objects on display from Austria and also foreign countries, especially from Heidenheim / Germany, one of the partner cities of St. Pölten. The result of this annual Austrian event was terrific. From the 49 shown exhibits the jury awarded 32 Large Gold and Gold medals in all the 3 classes and now 42 exhibitors are able to show their exhibits in the next higher class.

The opening ceremony was done under the appropriate guidelines for health – MNP, distance and number of allowed participants. The Mayor of St. Pölten, Mr. Matthias Stadler, inaugurated the special event and thanked the organisation for their work, also in this difficult time of CORONA.



Opening Ceremony - from left: Alfred Kunz (FEPA representative), Matthias Stadler (major of St. Pölten), Stefan Nemeth (philatelic head of the Austrian Post), Clarissa Fürnsinn (head of marketing - UN postal administration)



*Special Personal Stamp Block –
100 Years BSV St. Pölten / 50 Years Twin Cities*

Helmut Kogler, a special prize and certificate and praised the European outlook of the society.

Of course, the event was made complete by Austria Post, at whose stand collectors could acquire special postmarks, and the United Nations postal administration whose representative in Austria, Frau Clarissa Fürnsinn, also presented a special sheet of stamps for the occasion, and a lot of dealers who brought a wealth of collectable philatelic material.

It was a very successful event which passed off without any health problems for visitors and organisers, thanks to excellent precautionary measures.

His special present was a fancy cake marking the 100th Birthday in 2020 of the BSV St. Pölten philatelic club.

After the opening ceremony the special stamp “Tag der Briefmarke” / “Day of the stamp” and 3 stamps regarding sport were presented by Stefan Nemeth, leader of Austrian Post Philately Department. Because this event was recognized by FEPA, the Board member Alfred Kunz handed over to the organisers, headed by President Mag.



*Presentation of the stamp „Tag der Briefmarke” (from left):
Stefan Nemeth, Dr. Anita Kern (designer of the stamp), Alfred Kunz, Mag. Helmut Kogler (president of the philatelic club St. Pölten)*



ÖVEBRIA – St. Pölten 2020 mit FEPA Anerkennung trotz Corona

Die Situation war schwierig, doch die örtlichen Behörden machten es möglich, dass mit speziellen Sicherheits-Maßnahmen diese Veranstaltung stattfinden konnte. Sehr viele Besucher kamen um die auf 500 m² gezeigten Ausstellungsobjekte aus Österreich und dem Ausland, speziell aus Heidenheim / Deutschland, eine Partnerstadt von St. Pölten, Sammlungen zu besichtigen. Das Ergebnis dieser jährlichen, in Österreich stattfindenden Veranstaltung war großartig. Von den 49 gezeigten Objekten konnte die Jury 32 Medaillen, in den 3 Klassen, Groß Gold und Gold vergeben und 42 Aussteller haben nun die Möglichkeit ihre Sammlung in der nächst höheren Klasse zu zeigen.

Die Eröffnung wurde unter entsprechenden Gesundheits-Vorgaben durchgeführt – MNS, Abstand und Anzahl der erlaubten Personen. Der Bürgermeister von St. Pölten Hr. Matthias Stadler eröffnete diese spezielle Veranstaltung und dankte dem Veranstalter für ihr Engagement, auch in dieser speziellen Zeit von CORONA.



Alfred Kunz übergibt den FEPA Ehrenpreis an den Präsidenten des BSV St. Pölten, Mag. Helmut Kogler



Sein spezielles Geschenk war eine Torte zum 100. Geburtstag des Briefmarkenvereines St. Pölten in diesem Jahr.

Nach der offiziellen Eröffnung wurde die Sondermarke zum „Tag der Briefmarke“ sowie 3 weitere Sondermarken zum Thema Sport, durch Stefan Nemeth, Leiter der Philatelie der Österreichischen Post, präsentiert. Nachdem diese Veranstaltung auch seitens der FEPA unterstützt wurde, hat das FEPA Vorstandsmitglied Alfred Kunz dem Organisator, geführt von Präsident Mag. Kogler, einen Ehrenpreis

sowie eine Urkunde überreicht und in diesem Zusammenhang den europäischen Gedanken des Vereines hervorgehoben.

Natürlich war diese Veranstaltung komplettiert durch die Österreichische Post, wo Sammler die Sonderstempel zu dieser Veranstaltung bekamen, die UN-Postverwaltung in Österreich, unter der von Frau Clarissa Fürnsinn, die auch einen speziellen Markenbogen zu dieser Veranstaltung präsentierte und einer Vielzahl an Händlern, die sammelbares philatelistisches Material anboten.

Es war eine sehr erfolgreiche Veranstaltung, die ohne gesundheitliche Folgen für den Veranstalter und die Besucher ablief, dank der ausgezeichneten Vorbeugemaßnahmen.



Sonderpostamt: Viele interessierte Sammler organisieren sich die Sonderstempel

CARINTHIA PLEBISCITE OF 1920 COMMEMORATED IN AUSTRIA AND SLOVENIA

Igor Pirc and Janez Cerkenik write:

After the First World War ended, the Austrian province of Carinthia was occupied by units of the newly-formed State of SHS (Slovenes, Croats and Serbs). The southern part of Carinthia was inhabited predominantly by Slovenes, but the SHS forces encountered resistance from the German population so they withdrew temporarily before re-occupying parts of Carinthia. To resolve the question the Peace Treaty of St Germain en Laye stipulated a plebiscite which took place on 10 October 1920. The decision was to stay with Austria and so it has remained since then.

The period from the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy to the plebiscite in Carinthia is reflected in postal history - the use of stamps of one side or the other, and especially of course in postmarks, early or late use, all related to movements and military successes of one side or the other. During the last two decades collectors from both sides of the Karavanke mountains which separate Carinthia from Carniola have held four bilateral symposia to exchange information about these events, supported by original postal and historical documents. This cross-border philatelic cooperation is a reflection of peaceful coexistence and is a model for Europe without borders.



The displays in Klagenfurt



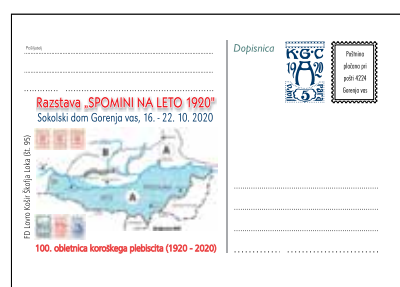
The special Post Office



Participants at the Klagenfurt exhibition

The centenary of the plebiscite was marked in October by philatelists in both Austria and Slovenia. In Austria the Carinthian Postal History Club of Klagenfurt held a non-competitive exhibition with 122 frames on 10th October at the Klagenfurt Exhibition Center. 26 collections were displayed, showing Carinthian postal history including letter and parcel post, postcards and propaganda material for the plebiscite, posters, as well as original newspaper reports of the time. The exhibit on 'The Postal Service during the Struggles and Plebiscite in Carinthia 1918-1920', by Walter Leitner, well-known researcher and exhibitor of this period, deserves a special mention. With 456 sheets it was a beautiful display.

Attendance was limited to 50 people with mandatory registration at the entrance and face masks. Exhibitors, organisers and visitors were greeted by the distinguished President of the club, Dr. Hadmar Fresacher. They included Peter Müller, representative of the City of Klagenfurt, Dr. Armin Lind representing the VÖPh, and Mag. Boštjan Petauer representing the Slovenian Philatelic Association. The exhibition was accompanied by commemorative issues from the Club and Austria Post which dedicated a commemorative postage stamp to the event. The exhibition was opened to the public on the following day.



Special postcard issued in Slovenia



Commemorative cancel



The displays in Gorenja vas.

In Slovenia an exhibition was also held in October in Gorenja vas. Organised by the Lovro Košir Philatelic Society of Škofja Loka in co-operation with the municipality of Gorenja vas-Poljane and the Philatelic Association of Slovenia. It commemorated three important centenaries for Slovenes - the burning of the National Home in Trieste on 13th July 1920, the Carinthian plebiscite on 10th October 1920, and the transfer of one third of Slovene ethnic territory to Italy on 12th November 1920 by the Treaty of Rapallo. The exhibition was also transmitted visually on-line by the Institute for Tourism and Culture in Poljanska dolina and the Philatelic Association of Slovenia.

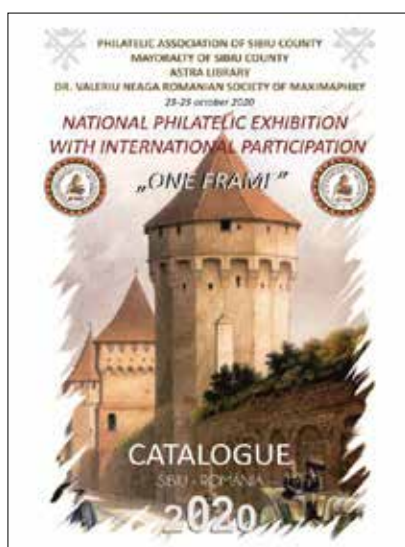
There were displays in 56 frames by the philatelic societies of Ajdovščina, Ravne na Koroškem, Ljubljana, Nova Gorica, Škofja Loka and Trieste, as well as the historical societies in Žiri, Podbrdo and Gorenja vas-Poljane. In addition to philatelic material they included newspaper articles, postcards, maps, photographs and other documentary material relating to the events of 1920. The Škofja Loka Philatelic Society issued an exhibition bulletin and a commemorative cancel showing a stylized landmark on the Rapallo border and two illustrated postcards.

Romania, the country where philately has defeated pandemics!

SIBIU ONE FRAME EXHIBITION 2020

Vasile Doros (Romanian Delegate to the FIP Commission on Maximaphily) writes:

Philatelic Romania presents itself this year, 2020, in front of Europe and beyond, by the “philatelic miracle” that occurred in Sibiu, a city situated in the centre of the country. Sibiu is a medieval city impregnated by the European spirit. It was founded by Saxon colonists in the 12th century and preserved a strong German fingerprint until the 19th century. In our days Sibiu means a community with traditions and opening for arts, culture and civilisation in this Romanian area. The city is organised around a magnificent large square where the famous Brukenthal Museum, the Council Tower and the new City Hall stand together in harmony. It also has many religious buildings including a German evangelical cathedral from the 14th century, a baroque Catholic church built by Austrians in the 18th century and a monumental Greek Orthodox cathedral built in the 19th century. The city is also famous for being European Cultural capital in 2007, together with Luxembourg.



As an act of culture philately has old traditions in this Transylvanian town and it was here that the initiative of organising a national exhibition with international participation – ONE FRAME – was taken at the end of 2019 by Mr. Nicolae Salade, the President of the Philatelic Association of Sibiu County. At the beginning of 2020, however, Planet Earth, Europe and Romania were hit by the terrible COVID-19 pandemic, with a more and more sinister evolution, and it created deep uncertainty on whether the organisation of such a large meeting would be possible.



Prof. Salade



Admiring the Display

Fortunately, Prof. Salade, an enthusiast of philately and Maximaphily as well as an action man with vision, held strongly to this project and finally managed to transform the impossible into an exceptional possible. Thus, a grand and beautiful philatelic exhibition – ONE FRAME – took place in Sibiu from 23-25 October within the pandemic restrictions. It was not easy, but a small group of aficionados supervised by Mr. Salade succeeded in achieving “philatelics beating pandemics” and thereby inscribing this meeting in the history of philately as the “Pandemics exhibition”.



Welcoming the Visitors



Presenting the Medals

Exhibitors from Romania and abroad contributed to this victory by promptly answering the call of the organisers in all philatelic classes. As a result, 140 exhibits were displayed (7 Hors Concours), from 14 countries:

Austria (5 exhibits),
Belgium (1),
Brazil (2),
France (5),
Germany (2),
Hungary (10),
Italy (6),
Luxembourg (4),
Poland (1),
Republic of Moldova (3),
Romania (76), Serbia (13),
Slovenia (4)
Spain (1).

114 of them were placed in the adult classes and 16 in Youth. Maximaphily was the largest class with 47 exhibits. 33 were in thematic philately, 19 cartophily, 14 postal history and 10 aero- and astrophilately.



The Medal – Obverse



The Medal – Reverse

The jury awarded 133 diplomas/medals, as follows: 6 Gold Medal, 15 Large Vermeil, 21 Vermeil, 14 Large Silver, 40 Silver, 25 Silver Bronze and 12 Bronze. In the Maximaphily class the awards were: 1 Gold, 3 Large Vermeil, 5 Vermeil, 2 Large Silver, 19 Silver, 7 Silver Bronze, 4 Bronze, and 1 diploma.

The partnership between the Philatelic Association of Sibiu and the Romanian Society of Maximaphily “Dr. Valeriu Neaga”

contributed greatly to the success of the exhibition but of a paramount importance was the logistic support provided by the Mayorality of Sibiu, by the ASTRA County Library and by some philately-loving sponsors.

Vivat Sibiu, vivat philately!

MAMER 2020 PLUS AWARDS FROM MULTILATERALE 2019 AND MAMER 2019

Jos Wolff writes:

On 3rd October 2020 we were pleased to present awards to exhibitors at the 'Multilaterale Briefmarkenausstellung Luxemburg 2019'. Emile Espen, the Head of the Luxembourg POST Philately, Jos Wolff, the President of the FSPL (Fédération des Sociétés Philatéliques du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg) and Andrée Trommer-Schiltz, the FSPL Vice-President made the presentations. The ceremony was held at the Foyer de la Philatélie in Luxembourg City with the prize-winners receiving their awards in groups of five wearing face masks with 10-minute gaps between each group (in accordance with COVID restrictions). Overall, 52 awards were presented. The brochure, catalogue and Palmarès are still available free of charge from Jos Wolff, 67 rue du Centre, L-3960 Ehlang/Mess, Luxembourg or wolffh@pt.lu.



Emile ESPEN (Post Philately) - Ralph LETSCH (Cercle Philatélique Mamer) - Jos WOLFF (FSPL)

On 6th November 2020, a further presentation of non-cash prizes was made to exhibitors at the "Journée Maximaphile 2019", which took place as part of the MAMER 2019 event. The Cercle Philatélique Mamer organised the event in the Centre Culturel Capellen and the awards were again presented by Emile Espen and Jos Wolff. Exhibitors were invited to attend at the rate of one every quarter of an hour. 13 exhibitors came to collect their awards and as refreshments they were offered drinks and biscuits by Ralph Letsch, President of the Cercle Philatélique Mamer. Under the current sanitary regulations, however, they were not permitted to consume these inside the building!



Exhibitors at MAMER 2019



*Nicole MATHIEU-POLFER,
Nelly BICHEL-MOLITOR
with their awards*

In 2020 the Cercle Philatélique Mamer was unable to organise its annual philatelic event in the CIPA Mamer's festival hall because

of COVID restrictions, but the exhibition was not cancelled entirely.

A virtual exhibition was organised on the Cercle's website showing real collections on the subject of "The Nobel Prize". At the end Ralph Letsch presented honorary awards to Nicole Mathieu-Polfer and Nelly Bichel-Molitor for their displays.

NEXOFIL: 2020 AWARDS FOR BEST STAMP DESIGNS



The results of the annual competition to find the best stamp designs in 11 different categories were announced in Madrid in November. The competition, which also covers coins, is run by the Nexofil and Nexonum Organising Committee headed by Eugenio de Quesada and the selections are made on the basis of voting by an international jury.

The first category to be judged is 'Best Stamp in the World', and the winners in 2020 are:

First:



NORWAY. Harald Sohlberg 150 Years. Street in Røros in Winter.

Second:



PERU. Inca Culture: Citadel of Machu Picchu.

Third:



AUSTRIA. Crypto stamp.

The winners in other categories were:

<u>Best Stamp Design</u>	1. Czech Republic 2. France 3. Peru	<u>Best Mixed Printing Stamp</u>	1. Belgium 2. Norway 3. Hungary
<u>Most Original Format</u>	1. Ukraine 2. Austria 3. Russia	<u>Best in Other Printing Technique</u>	1. United Kingdom 2. Belgium 3. France
<u>Most Innovative Stamp</u>	1. France 2. Romania 3. Austria	<u>Best Definitive</u>	1. Netherlands 2. United Kingdom 3. Denmark
<u>Best Hand-Engraved Stamp</u>	1. Italy 2. Liechtenstein 3. Czech Republic	<u>Best Souvenir Sheet</u>	1. Slovenia 2. Argentina 3. Switzerland
<u>Best Offset Stamp</u>	1. Romania 2. Ukraine 3. Czech Republic	<u>Best Luxury Proof</u>	1. Hungary 2. Monaco 3. Spain

Our warmest congratulations to all the winners.

The full results, with pictures of all the winning designs, can be seen at:

<https://fepanews.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Nexofil-and-Nexonum-2020-Award-Winners.pdf>



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From Spain



FIP MAXIMAPHILY COMMISSION: COMPETITION FOR BEST MAXICARD 2019

In September 2020 Jenny Banfield, Chair of the FIP Maximaphily Commission, announced the results of the competition for the best MaxiCard of 2019. There were 30 entries and the votes were cast by the Commission Delegates. It is a pleasure to report that the first, second and third places all went to FEPA Members. We send our warmest congratulations to them and to the other participants who contributed to such an interesting competition. Congratulations also to Pascal Bandry, the European representative on the Maximaphily Commission Bureau, who organised the competition.

The overall winner was Spain, which won 63 points with a card entitled "Puente Romano de Liergena".



Russia was in Second Place with
"Masha And The Bear" (57 Points)



France was in Third Place with
"Grottes de Lascaux" (51 Points).

VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS HAVE BECOME A REALITY

Giancarlo Morolli reports on his survey of recent virtual exhibitions.

The following pages present a wide panorama over the recent virtual exhibitions that took place in the FEPA member countries, thanks to the friendly response I received to the survey launched by the FEPA Board.

I have left the input received in a structured form, to provide facts and comments as I received them, trying to keep my editing to the minimum needed for harmonizing the various contributions. I also went browsing with the aim of widening the panorama to the whole philatelic world, and I have reported my findings as I found them in the web.

I did not include websites that do not deal with exhibitions in the sense defined in our regulations. For some years, some national associations and federations have devoted a section of their websites to storing exhibits that can be displayed and – very often – downloaded on demand. At international level, EXPONET is the best example of such a service, so useful for learning, studying, improving.

At this point my comments are:

1. FEPA does not intend to kill philately but wants to be proactive and share information on what its members have already been doing on their own initiative. The scale of effort involved and the impact on philately as a whole depend on our ability to work together, sharing experiences and avoiding both to reinvent the wheel and to fall in the same traps.
2. Being proactive means initiating changes rather than reacting to events. In this respect, some actions can be initiated immediately in response to direct or indirect remarks received. FIP has already launched a powerful and timely signal – albeit on an experimental basis - by recognizing the awards obtained at national virtual shows as qualifying for the international exhibitions scheduled in 2021 and 2022.
3. Our members welcome guidance on some points, e.g. technical and organisational aspects, where a uniform approach should be adopted in international virtual exhibitions. The areas of software and pages/files format, organisation of the jury/prejudging, control of ownership and doubtful items, have been indicated as being of common interest and deserve further cooperation.
4. The social impact of the pandemic has been devastating and nobody can predict how and when we will return to a normal situation, that is in any case unanimously believed to be different from the past. We all have a fond memory of LIVE exhibitions and their social aspects, which quite often alone justified a trip. But for the time being we have to make the most of what we can get out of VIRTUAL exhibitions and over time a new, different balance will be reached. We should also not forget that the social dimension we are talking about is seen differently by the new generations, which are exploiting the digital social networks for many facets of their relationships.

So, let us continue discussion of this subject to assess the extent to which the members agree on the main lines put forward in the reports of those who responded.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS IN FEPA MEMBERS IN 2020

Many thanks to Per Friis Mortensen, Alfred Schmidt, Reinhard Küchler, Luca Lavagnino, Aniello Veneri, Claudio Manzati, Josy Wolff, Vladimir Milič, Juan Panés Cantero, Mehmet Akan, and Simon Richards for providing the information below. As surveys were returned at different times, while some exhibitions were still in progress, some information might be not up-to-date due to later change (e.g. current availability of exhibits on websites, qualification for international exhibitions).

KPK133 (Denmark)

The Exhibition

- o Organised by the Københavns Philatelist Klub (KPK) celebrating its 133rd anniversary.
- o Local exhibition - opportunity for exhibitors to qualify for National Exhibition.
- o First edition; from Saturday 10 October to Sunday 18 October 2020.
- o 63 frames, 5 exhibits non-competitive, 16 in competition (of which 14 new ones).
- o Classes: Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationary, Open Class, Thematic. Most populated classes Traditional Philately and Postal History.
- o Reserved to KPK members and members of the Danish Philatelic Federation.
- o Frame fee.
- o Evaluation and Awards
- o 2 FIP jurors and 1 Nordic juror, judging in full adherence to FIP regulations
- o Each of the three jurors had judged every exhibit in the competitive classes in advance. The jurors had access to the exhibits on the web page of the exhibition from 14 days before the exhibition. On the day of "exhibition" the jurors met in one large room with 5 frames on the wall and made the final judgement for one day, with each exhibit available in the room for further evaluation and inspection.
- o Ownership and presence of material on the website secured by such real-life experience.
- o Assessment of doubtful items during virtual inspection and real-life inspection.

- o Diploma and evaluation scheme handed over to each exhibitor on the last exhibition date when they received personal and individual feedback from the jury team and their exhibits were returned.

Technical Aspects

- o Exhibits displayed on website within the KPK portal from Saturday 10 October to Sunday 18 October.
- o Exhibitors were asked to submitted pdf-files of each individual page with specified files names: page01, page02, ... Most exhibitors fulfilled this requirement.
- o Frames with 16 pages could be seen and each page could be accessed but only 50% of each page was visible on the screen at a time. Software used was new and developed for this occasion.
- o Exhibits are now available on the closed part of the KPK website (for members only), unless the exhibitor did not give permission.

Side Program

- o A few online presentations.

Organisational Experience and Remarks

- o Budget considerations: it was very expensive being the first time, because the club paid a professional web-page design company to make the pages.
- o Resources needed for scanning of exhibits and uploading them on website.
- o The software must be improved to see one full page on the PC screen. Scrolling must be avoided to the greatest possible extent.
- o Each jury member used far too much time preparing for and judging the exhibits. Expectations from exhibitors regarding jurors' knowledge of their exhibit must be agreed upon in future.
- o Difficult for each jury team to judge more than 20 exhibits.
- o Feedback is a problem timewise if there is only one day for the jury team to finalize judging, but costs can be minimized this way. Feedback can maybe be managed by zoom meetings or the like.
- o Most probably a new way of making local exhibitions possible for smaller societies.
- o Very positive attitude of exhibitors.
- o Feedback from jurors about the different judging environment OK but time consumption must be considered and exhibitors' expectations of degree of detailed knowledge of each exhibit by the jurors must be handled in the future. Exhibitors cannot expect the jurors to have seen each page of the exhibit and certainly not to have studied each page.
- o More jurors are needed on a virtual than on a real-life exhibition.
- o Things to do next time: Improve software; prepare exhibitors; prepare jurors.
- o Things to avoid next time: Individual face-to-face feedback.

VIRTUAL NAPOSTA 2020 (Germany)

The Exhibition

- o In recent years four online exhibitions were successfully carried out. The Corona pandemic and the associated cancellation of national exhibitions meant that many collectors who wanted to enter IBRA 2021 no longer had the opportunity to qualify for such exhibition.
- o Due to the pandemic IBRA 2021 was also cancelled, but the BDPH did not want to leave the participants alone with their efforts. Hence, it launched the Virtual NAPOSTA, Germany's fifth online exhibition.
- o 62 exhibits were displayed on the Internet. In addition to 19 postal history and 18 thematic exhibits (the most populated classes), there were traditional, aero, postal stationery, revenue, literature and open philately entries.

Evaluation and Awards

- o The jury work in the groups was uncomplicated and usually led to correct results.
- o In addition to two large gold medals there were 17 gold, 24 large vermeil and 16 vermeil medals. A total of 60 exhibits qualified for participation at international exhibitions.

Technical Aspects

- o Virtual NAPOSTA 2020 was offered under the BDPH-Platform "Exhibits online", and its exhibits, as well as the complete jury report can be viewed at https://www.exponate-online.de/e_verteiler.asp
- o "Exhibits online" is a BDPH platform on the Internet that provides a unique documentation of exhibits. Many of the exhibits no longer exist in that form and so could no longer be viewed without the platform. Many collectors like to take a good look at it, look for suggestions for their own exhibits and ultimately learn from these exhibits. New exhibits are constantly being added and, hopefully, many of the exhibits at Virtual NAPOSTA 2020 will be permanently on display.

Side Program

- o Online seminars to accompany the exhibition on the BDPH seminar platform. In future lectures will be given on the 1st and 15th of each month to draw attention to topics and advertise philately.

Organisational Experience and Remarks

- o Initial concerns that virtual exhibitions represented a greater risk for manipulation were not confirmed.
- o An exhibition that can be viewed by everyone on the Internet is an excellent opportunity to show high-quality exhibits to a large audience. The exhibition is open 24 hours on the Internet. One can study the exhibits much more extensively than would be possible at a real exhibition.

- o Virtual exhibitions also require a lot of “virtual communication”. Overall, interest in virtual exhibitions is quite present and there is a clientele for this form of exhibition in the BDPH. This is the only approach possible at present. If the pandemic persists, there will be further exhibitions in this form in 2021.
- o The vote in the overall jury is more difficult. This is where virtual exhibitions reach their limits, especially with a lot of exhibits. What is missing are personal discussions with exhibitors. Afterwards there are many inquiries, and the missing conversations can lead to misunderstandings that cannot easily be resolved. Such problems can usually be clarified much more easily at face-to-face exhibitions.

AICPM-Net (Italy)

The Exhibition

- o Organized by the Associazione Italiana Collezionisti Posta Militare with the FSFI's patronage.
- o In 2020, third edition.
- o First edition in 2013 was conceived as a hybrid between virtual and physical exhibitions. After a first part of the exhibition was performed virtually, some exhibits, selected according to the preliminary jury evaluations and a public feedback, were invited to be displayed on frames and finally awarded.
- o The 2020 AICPM-Net should have followed the same pattern, but due to the pandemic it was transformed into a completely virtual exhibition. Hence, it became the first virtual exhibition to be patronized by FSFI. It was announced one year ago. Initially the plan was to finalize it during Veronafil in May 2020 (cancelled) with some exhibits displayed on frames. It ended on 11th December 2020.
- o Sections for new exhibitors and for known ones.
- o In 2020: 1 class (postal history), 55 exhibits, 395 frames, most populated subclass “modern postal history” (1900-1945).
- o Open to all members of societies belonging to FSFI.
- o Both new and known exhibits – 20% new exhibitors.
- o Entry fee: 10 € per exhibit.

Evaluation and Awards

- o Regular evaluation with FSFI jurors and public vote (any Internet visitor), with control to avoid multiple votes and similar interferences.*
- o Full adherence to FIP regulations.
- o Exhibitor signature on the application form taken as guarantee of ownership of items shown. Jurors may request to check items in videoconferences with the exhibitor. If the latter fails to show ownership, he/she will be disqualified. Doubtful items are pointed out and a certificate requested at next exhibition.
- o Awards: Digital only.
- o Jury composed of 6 national jurors.
- o Four Zoom meetings of jurors to decide about awards.
- o High level of entries: 8 large gold and 17 gold medals awarded.

Technical Aspects

- o Dedicated portal of the Federation for all its exhibitions: expo.fsfi.it
- o Digital presentation of exhibits in pdf format. Some exhibitors have problems due to lack of IT skills.
- o Pages presented one at a time. Downloadable.
- o Communications via e mail.
- o Permanent display after the end of competition (unless exhibitor chooses otherwise).

Organisational Experience and Remarks

- o All the exhibits entering a FSFI exhibition have been available on expo.fsfi.it since 2014.
- o Budget considerations: Advantage in sharing the website which is managed voluntarily and free. Two persons involved.
- o Exhibitors attitude is sceptical.
- o A revision of the FSFI rules and judging is foreseen for December 2020, to include virtual exhibitions.

See also FEPA NEWS 23 (June 2013), page 74, about AICPM-Net 2013 and FEPA NEWS 26 (January 2015), page 68, about Prejudging in Italy.

CIFO@Net (Italy)

The Exhibition

- o Organised by CIFO (Associazione dei Collezionisti Italiani di Francobolli Ordinari – the Italian Collectors of Ordinary Stamps Society) a member of FSFI.
- o CIFO aims at encouraging collectors to become exhibitors by educating prospective exhibitors and offering advice to current ones for improving their exhibits.
- o Main social event for the Society.
- o The exhibition is open to all the collectors even if not members of CIFO.
- o History: 8 editions starting since 2014; average of 40 exhibits yearly.
- o The 2020 edition included Postal History (the most popular), Traditional Philately, Open and One Frame.
- o Exhibitors are allocated as many frames as they wish.
- o Competitive (in the past couple of years also Non-competitive)

- o CIFO@Net Platform from 1st July,
- o No previous qualification required.
- o The entry fee is 10 € for each exhibit plus 1 € per each frame (12 sheets), and 10 € for One Frame exhibits (16 sheets). The entry fees are devoted to buying the awards.

Evaluation and Awards

- o The 2020 exhibition was launched in Spring and exhibits were posted on the website on 1 July. The public could vote till 31st August. The results of the public vote were announced on the following day together with the best three exhibits which received an award. In the public vote the rules were that any Internet visitor could cast a vote by e-mail - just for one exhibit and once only. No other votes were accepted from that email address.
- o The Jury evaluated the exhibits in September and announced its decisions in October at our annual social.
- o Evaluation was by national jurors according to FIP Regulations, with meetings in teleconference and, in 2020, using Zoom. The public vote was separate.
- o Proof of ownership was requested when jurors had a doubt, using video conference; assessment of doubtful items was managed by appointing a national expert (so far, no need for intervention).
- o Awards: Silver Plate for the Best Exhibit in Show and for the Best Exhibit of a CIFO member. In 2020 two additional awards for Best Postal History Exhibit and (offered by sponsors) Best in Traditional Philately.

Technical Aspects

- o Portal of the organiser is www.cifo.eu as website, with exhibits shown till the end of the exhibition. Before 2018, the display on the website was permanent.
- o Exhibit and Presentation Sheet loaded as one pdf file. Full adherence from exhibitors.
- o Pages displayed on website by flipping with ISSUU. Downloadable.
- o Communications via email, posting via social media as Facebook and LinkedIn and through the Monthly CIFO magazine.

Side Program

- o Educational (e.g. on-line videos) and Video Conferences program.
- o Organisational Experience and Remarks
- o Resources: mainly time - needed to promote, organise, and judge. Time dedicated by jurors at home spread over a one-month timeline, plus one or two zoom meetings for harmonizing and consolidating results. Italian jurors are well used to prejudging.
- o New exhibitors are few and the "old" ones are interested in getting a second review and advice of jurors.
- o Positive exhibitors' attitude, as the competition was managed with a very friendly approach.
- o Things to do next time: continue and transform in an official National Exposition
- o Feedback received quite positive.

"Latinphil 2020" in Latina; "20th Italian Championship of Philately – Cadet series" in Syracuse The Exhibitions

Two more recent FSFI exhibitions that were planned on frames, but their organisers decided to transform them into virtual ones because of the pandemic. "Latinphil 2020" (23-25 October 2020) in Latina and the "20th Italian Championship of Philately – Cadet series" (6-7 November 2020) in Syracuse.

Organizing Entity: local philatelic societies with the FSFI's patronage

- o At Latinphil 2020 classes were postal stationery, and revenue philately.
- o The Italian Championship exhibition in Syracuse included all classes (except philatelic literature).
- o Most populated classes: postal stationery at Latinphil 2020; thematic philately at the Italian Championship.
- o Frames: 160 at Latinphil 2020, 140 at the Italian Championship.
- o Both events were announced eight months before the scheduled date.
- o Open to all members of societies joining FSFI - both new and known exhibits
- o Latinphil 2020 had different fees according to the number of frames, just to recover some expenses for preparing the "real" exhibition, then turned into "virtual" one week before it was to be held. Participation in the Italian Championship was free.

Evaluation and Awards

- o Regular jurors. Public only after the exhibitions, again for the sudden transformation.
- o Full adherence to FIP regulations. Evaluations of individual jurors coordinated and harmonised via Zoom.
- o Proof of ownership and assessment of doubtful items (fakes and forgeries): same as at AICPM-Net above.
- o Awards – digital and real objects.
- o Public award ceremony via Zoom videoconference.
- o Note: for other aspects, same as for AICPM-Net.

MAMER 2020 (Luxembourg) The Exhibition

- o A virtual exhibition on the website of the Cercle Philatélique Mamer; real exhibits about the "Nobel Prize".
- o The first exhibits on the "Nobel Prize" were presented on 5 November; others followed later.

- o Exhibits could be viewed until 31 December 2020 (at least) at: www.cp-mamer.lu> Veranstaltungen/Manif.> Mamer 2020> Mamer 2020 - 2-PR

Organisational Experience and Remarks

While it does not offer the advantages of attending a live exhibition, a virtual exhibition has three advantages:

- o More open setting for presentation of exhibits (no physical limitation due to the size of the exhibition frames provided by the FSPL (3 rows of 5 A4 sheets).
- o Longer opening hours (24 hours a day, 7 days a week instead of 2 or 3 days at a rate of 8 hours a day).
- o Better accessibility (no travel to the exhibition hall necessary, view possible from any Internet connection).

SOFIZ 1 - Serbian Online Philatelic Exhibition

The Exhibition

- o Organizer: The Union of Philatelists of Serbia.
- o Competitive exhibition with goal to get new exhibitors /new exhibits.
- o First edition 7-14 December 2020: 12 classes and 55 exhibits. Most populated classes: Traditional Philately and One Frame Class. How many frames: 1/5 (with some exception from GE/CH area).
- o 3 Months between announcement and exhibition opening date.
- o Fully open but with exhibits related to West Balkan philately (former Yugoslavia) - except for classes Thematic, Maximaphily and Youth class.
- o Free for everybody.

Evaluation and Awards

- o Competitive with Regular jurors (Jury president also FIP juror). Adherence to FIP regulations (ca. 85%)
- o Viber group for urgent communication and Zoom for Jury meetings
- o Proof of ownership via contact with Exhibitor directly via Video Call (WhatsApp, Viber...)
- o Assessment of doubtful items by contacting the Exhibitor directly via Video Call (WhatsApp, Viber...). Request for certificate or scan in high quality (1200 dpi).
- o Awards Only digital certificate
- o Validity of awards for entering future "real" exhibitions, at the moment it is not foreseen.
- o Only the stamp exhibits were displayed.

Side Program

There were 5 different online Seminars in Serbian (via Zoom). Videos are available on the website.

Technical Aspects

- o Website with the portal of the organizer: www.philaserbia.com/sofiz1/
- o Permanent display after end on competition (unless the exhibitor explicitly prohibits it).
- o Digital presentation of exhibits jpg in 300 dpi instead Class literature: jpg or pdf.
- o Actual adherence of exhibitors to these requirements, till today it is OK.
- o Option print screen is theoretically possible, so no protection from downloading here. Hence, IREX provision: "Online format of the exhibition is available via the Internet and in that sense the organizer is not responsible for copying, duplicating or further use of the scanned pages of the exhibition or any part of it"

Organisational Experience and Remarks

The only challenge was the quality of the scanned exhibits (the minimum required was 300 dpi).

VIRTUAL EXFILNA 2020, 58th National Philatelic Exhibition (Spain)

The Exhibition

- o Organised by the Spanish Federation of Philatelic Societies (FESOFI).
- o Originally planned as a regular exhibition in Cáceres from 28 October to 1st November, then transformed into a virtual exhibition due to the pandemic but keeping the same dates and town as a logistic venue.
- o VIRTUAL EXFILNA was inaugurated on 28 October with the presentation of the mayor of the city of Cáceres and the President of FESOFI with two videos and exhibits posted on the home page of the website. It featured a programme of events adapted to the circumstances.
- o Open to any exhibitor belonging to a society member of FESOFI.
- o Exhibits must have qualified for entering a national exhibition.
- o Non-competitive (Official) and competitive classes (championship, traditional, postal history, thematic, aerophilately, astrophilately, postal stationery, maximaphily, modern, open, postcards, literature).
- o 145 Exhibits (31 new). Most populated classes: Postal History (34), Thematic (24), and Traditional (22).
- o Organisational structure with a national commissioner and regional commissioners.
- o No frame fees.

Evaluation and Awards

- o The Jury consisted of 25 members and applied the FIP regulations.
- o Once the Jury was constituted, the exhibits were made available to the jurors on the website for individual evaluation. Then each team leader met online with his teammates for finalizing their evaluation, which was sent to the jury secretary for a balancing session with the president and vice president of the jury. The agreed scores were then returned to all jurors in order to reach a final approval of the awards.
- o If the jury had observed or suspected that an item was doubtful or not owned by the exhibitor, it could have asked the latter to provide reliable evidence of authenticity or ownership, to avoid disqualification.
- o All exhibits received a diploma attesting the points and a souvenir medal.
- o Awards: Grand Prix of Honour for the Championship Class, Grand Prix of the Exhibition for the Best in Show, Best in Class awards for Postal History and Thematic Philately. Special awards.

Technical Aspects

- o By 30 September, exhibitors had to submit the pages scanned in pdf (single file containing the exhibit).
- o Exhibitors had to sign a declaration authorizing the display of their exhibits on the website.
- o All exhibits displayed on the web www.fesofi-exfilna2020.es until the 30th November.

Side Program

An intense programme of conferences and presentations of new books, with streaming on You Tube.

Organisational Experience and Remarks

The website had, on average, 400 visits per day, from more than 20 countries. The most visited classes were Thematic, Traditional, and Postal History.

E-Philately Exhibition in Turkey Marking the Centenary of the Inauguration of the Grand National Assembly The Exhibition

- o Organiser: The Philatelic Academy of Turkey.
- o All FIP classes + experimental ephemera class: 400 frames. Most populated classes: Postal History.
- o 98 exhibitors participated in the first philatelic e-exhibition arranged worldwide. It did not have an official characteristic but aimed to increase our good taste, keep us engaged with our hobby and deepen international links among philatelists.
- o Only stamp exhibits.

Evaluation and Awards

- o The exhibits were not judged formally by an official jury. Instead, judging was based on votes of appreciation by the participants. Each participant could vote for eight exhibits that he/she liked, other than his/her own. All the exhibits were classified into 4 main groups and a total of 51 philatelists voted.
- o Time between announcement and exhibition opening date: 20 April – 31 May 2020.

Technical Aspects

- o Facebook (special group for this event).
- o File format required: jpg.

Organisational Experience and Remarks

Advantages

- o It is possible to make an exhibition with very limited budget.
- o There is no need to have several organising committees and staff on duty.
- o Due to its difference with physical experience, there will be organizations where the young generation who are fond of Internet will be predominantly involved.
- o The assembly part of the work is fast and practical compared to the physical one.
- o It is possible to organize various specific exhibitions simultaneously.
- o It is a good way for training jurors and having them gaining experience.
- o It enables a large number of people to participate into the exhibition.
- o It allows the participation of prominent exhibits that would not participate in a live exhibition for reasons such as security or transportation.
- o Exhibits are not at risk of being stolen or lost, related costs are almost non-existent.
- o It is possible to reach an unlimited number of visitors.
- o It enables organising the exhibitions independent from national postal organizations.

Disadvantages

- o Stamp exhibitions are social events where people interested in similar subjects gather. E-exhibitions will restrict this kind of socialization.
- o It will be very difficult to get support from the official authorities unless the exhibition is tangible.
- o E-exhibitions can damage stamp trade and fairs.
- o There will be more numbers of jurors needed. Team leaders will have more workload.

- o It is needed to allocate fewer exhibits to jury groups compared to the current system. Comparisons of similar exhibits may not be so quick.
- o Apart from the well-known counterfeits, it is impossible to distinguish the material that needs expertise.
- o The exhibits come in different formats and dpi, so it is not easy to follow closely.
- o There may be no problems for up to 5 frames. However, if Facebook is used, 8-frame exhibits might cause problems.
- o Open issue: whether the exhibition results can be considered accredited or not.

Basic Recommendations

- o How formal jury exist in e-exhibition within FIP rules? Formal jury teams can work with applications like Zoom. It is possible to share the data or exhibitions with these kinds of applications during the meetings. The most important problem is the necessity of having more time to spend for each exhibit.
- o FIP, FEPA, FIAP etc. or National Federations can host the exhibits for upload on its website
- o The most important task of the Commissioners will be to guarantee the physical existence of the exhibit.
- o Standard format such as PDF 300 dpi should be defined.

See also FEPA NEWS 37 (July 2020), page 20 about this exhibition.

VIRTUAL STAMPEX (United Kingdom)

The Exhibition

- o Organised by the Philatelic Traders Society (PTS) as the “World’s First Virtual International Stamp Show”.
- o ABPS participation was to provide competitive exhibits to accompany the virtual trade stands.
- o Live: 01 – 03 October 2020.
- o Fully open National exhibition for one frame entries only plus regional inter-federation competition.
- o £18 per frame.

Technical Aspects

- o Virtual Stampex website <https://stampex.vfairs.com/en/>. Exhibits were found by a link to the ABPS website in which they were hosted.
- o Exhibits presentation on the website was extended after the show. It was initially planned for one month but could still be viewed for several weeks beyond that as the Virtual Stampex website remained open.
- o File format required: jpg at 300 dpi.
- o About 50% of entrants needed some help, particularly for non-standard page sizes – A4 was easiest.
- o With the ABPS software it was possible to look at the frame as a whole and then focus on an individual page so the jurors could look both at a page in detail and at the overall appearance of the exhibit.
- o Downloadability of the files was made to work with some help.
- o A pdf catalogue of Virtual Stampex including the exhibits was downloadable at the main website.

Evaluation and Awards

- o Regular jurors from the national list, evaluating exhibits according to the FIP one frame rules.
- o All exhibits evaluated individually by jurors, then teams met by Zoom and then whole Jury met by Zoom.
- o No proof of ownership required, just declaration on entry form.
- o No physical medals but certificates produced.

Side Program

- o Educational side program (e.g., on-line videos).
- o Video Conferences program.
- o Lots of dealers and post office virtual stalls.

Organisational Experience and Remarks

- o A much wider range of entrants than normal, including some new exhibitors. Some exhibits were difficult to put into classes. If we did it again, we would be more specific.
- o More guidance for the less experienced would have been good if time had permitted.
- o We did not want to attract too many entries as we were unsure how it would all work. With more time for preparation we would push harder to increase numbers.
- o Generally positive exhibitors’ attitude.
- o Feedback received generally positive, though we wait to see how it worked commercially for dealers.
- o Most jurors seemed to manage the new environment and would be willing to help again.
- o Budget considerations: There were costs for ABPS to access the exhibition (recoverable from the frame fees) and to develop the frame to page software, but they were manageable and the software can be used again. Jurors gave their time free.
- o Resources: time – it all takes longer than we expected.
- o Things to do next time: allow more time, be clearer about the technical requirements and try and make sure the exhibits fit the class, make sure the rules and processes are on the website as early as possible.
- o Things to avoid next time: the rush.
- o Awards will be on the database but one reason for selecting one frame was to avoid the issue of qualification pending some FIP guidance.
- o What is the qualification path for international exhibitions? Can a Virtual exhibition medal qualify for the shows we hope to hold in 2022?

2020 VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA

AusVipex 2020

<https://www.ausvipex2020.com.au>

AusVipex was an Australian National virtual One-frame Exhibition organized by the Australian Philatelic Federation. It was a response to the cancellation of several exhibitions due to the pandemic. Entries were judged on the scans by judges in the usual way and awards, medals and prizes awarded according to standard Australian Philatelic Exhibition rules. The exhibition was open to residents of Australia and New Zealand. Entries of 16 standard sheets or equivalent in larger page sizes were accepted. These include traditional, postal history, postal stationery, picture postcards, revenues, thematic, aero, astrophilately, polar, topical, and frugal. A frame fee of \$45 per frame was requested for participation. Entries were displayed progressively on <https://www.ausvipex2020.com.au> between 17 – 31 October 2020 as 16-image slideshows, so that all entries were on display by 1 November. Results were finalized by 7 November and feedback was given to exhibitors from 8 November 2020 by Zoom Video Conference.

INDIA

PHILAVIRTU– 2020

www.philavirtu.com

This First Virtual National Philatelic Exhibition with International Participation was held, organized by International Collectors' Society of Rare Items, Pune under the patronage of Philatelic Congress of India (PCI) for promotion of philately, took place from 10-18 October 2020. It provided an opportunity for philatelists to participate in the first ever International Virtual Exhibition featuring exhibits exclusively on all aspects of India and Indian states philately and thematic exhibits on any theme including Indian theme. It was open to four categories of exhibits (Competitive Class, Championship Class, Invitee Class and Court of Honour). 600 frames of competitive exhibits were judged by international jurors according to FIP rules and regulations. The programme of the event included live and recorded webinars, live auctions, youth activities, live inauguration and Palmarés.

SOUTH AFRICA

SAVPEX 2020

<https://sapa.africa/exhibits/>

The South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition (SAVPEX), a one-frame exhibition, took place under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa. Proudly hosted by the Philatelic Society of the Orange Free State, the exhibition attracted 80 entries, of which 63 were international. SAVPEX 2020 was the third edition, after the 2019 (30 exhibits) and the 2018 ones. SAVPEX 2020 was due to run concurrently with the Bloemfontein Hobby Expo on 22 August 2020 but this was cancelled due to the pandemic. The International judges did a sterling job in judging all the exhibits during July 2020.

SOUTH AMERICA

VirTemFil 2020

<http://filatelia-interamericana.com/virtemfil2020/>

This competitive thematic philatelic exhibition, supported by FIAF, took place virtually with 49 entries from 10 countries participating in competition (multi-frames, one frame and youth). 10 more exhibits from Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, Mexico and Argentina were also hosted out of competition as well as display exhibits to promote collecting of several classes, Maximaphily, Astrophilately and Open Philately. To participate exhibits should previously have obtained at least one Vermeil medal at a national exhibition or have participated in a FIAF exhibition. The pages were to be assembled as for a normal exhibition and then scanned for submission to the Organizers. 600 dpi JPG format was recommended to ensure a quality of images that perfectly allowed the appreciation of both texts and items. The deadlines were: Applications: 28 May; Upload exhibits: 30 May; Exhibition: 1-30 June; Awards: 28 June 2020. Participants were awarded virtual diplomas and medals, as well as special awards according to merit. The awards were sent to the e-mail addresses given on application forms as soon as the results were published.

UNITED STATES

THE VIRTUAL STAMP SHOW

<https://stamps.connectedcommunity.org/home>

Co-hosted by the American Philatelic Society, American Topical Association, and the American First Day Cover Society. Held from 17 - 22 August, it had 76 exhibitors and 113 exhibits totalling 3,250 pages for attendees to view. The programme included: Buy and Sell stamps, Connecting attendees directly with APS Dealer members to conduct virtual transactions; Two First Day of Issue Celebrations in conjunction with USPS; AMA (Ask Me Anything), and Awards sessions. The co-sponsors all held online public meetings and other clubs, societies and affiliates were invited to schedule virtual meetings. "We are excited at the prospect of reaching even more collectors than an in-person show," said AFDCS president Lloyd A. de Vries. "This is further evidence that stamp collecting can and does adjust to the times and turns adversity into opportunity." 529 out of 3,097 registrants at the show responded to an e-mail survey; 80.67% of the respondents said they were extremely likely, or very likely to attend another Virtual Stamp Show. Comments included:

- o "It was nice to be able to view the exhibits at my leisure and in more detail than in person. This is especially true for the elderly such as myself, standing for a long time would be problematic. I wish virtual exhibits will continue even after the pandemic ends. Thank you so much for giving the philatelists around the world a chance to view this wonderful and extremely well-organized exhibition."
- o "For something put together so quickly, it was fantastic! I was also very happy that so many people who normally cannot attend physical shows were able to participate. The show website was easy to use and the profile/message system was a nice addition that could have more potential in the future."
- o "I would like to see the development of a school of online exhibiting which thinks wholly differently about exhibiting online. Which breaks free, that is, of the notion of simply re-presenting the paper-in-frame exhibit, page-by-page, online. Which lays out exhibits in formats designed deliberately for online presentation."
- o "I had a great experience at Virtual Stamp Show. The only good thing to come out of my COVID experience. A great way to re-focus on philately. I found myself watching presentations about topics in which I really had little or no interest BUT enjoying them and learning from them and perhaps finding new interests. My appreciation to all who made it possible."

About 80% of respondents evaluated the show quality as excellent or good and a similar number said the programme met their expectations. Respondents also expressed concerns and suggestions, e.g. on difficulty logging in, quality of audio/video, speaker sessions to be held in different time zones or evenings and enhancements to the dealer bourse.



Reunite through Croatian Post Mostar's philately

Postage stamps are small works of art that travel throughout the world carrying beauty, with a source of knowledge and as a witness to history. Croatian Post Mostar through its stamps preserves spiritual, cultural, historical and natural wealth of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Stamps with global themes make us a part of the global philatelic mosaic.

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XXV[^] ALPE ADRIA TARVISIO 2021

Gabriele Gastaldo and Francesco Gbertini write:

Preparations for the XXV[^] Alpe Adria Tarvisio 2021 go on and we are looking forward to the weekend from 10 - 13 June 2021 when, after the postponement in 2020, the rescheduled exhibition will finally get underway. It will include the annual competitive exhibition with c.350 frames that brings philatelists together from the Alpe Adria community, and the international philatelic trade fair, attended by about 30 dealers from all over Europe. It is also a great opportunity to visit this beautiful Alpine area where Italy, Austria, and Slovenia meet, c.175km from Trieste, 225km from Venice, 490km from Milan, 95km from Udine, 230km from Salzburg, 400km from Vienna, 350km from Munich, 105km from Ljubljana.

There is lots to see and do around Tarvisio including the Fusine Lakes (8 km from the centre) and the Borgo del Monte Lussari (3 km from the centre, with cableway service). Of particular interest are the Slizza ravine and the Val Bartolo, a destination for easy excursions. Tarvisio is also on the Ciclovía Alpe Adria (Radweg - Cycle Track) that connects Salzburg to Grado and is popular with cyclists because of the beauty of the places it crosses and the low difficulty of the route. There is also an 18-hole golf course at the Tre Confini Golf Club, which extends into the millenary forest of Tarvisio.



The Fusine Lakes



Village on Mount Lussari

The Alpe Adria exhibition will take place in Tarvisio Sports Hall, an area of c.1,800 square metres formed of two covered structures connected by an underground tunnel. The location is close to the centre of Tarvisio and easily accessible on foot or by car with adjacent parking. The programme is as follows:

Wednesday 9 June 2021

10.00 - 18.00: Arrival of Commissioners and mounting of exhibits

Thursday 10 June 2021

10.00 - 18.00: Exhibition and Post Offices open

14.00 - 18.00 Trade Fair Open

16.30: Postal History Conference

18.30: Official inauguration

Friday 11 June 2021

10.00 - 18.00: Exhibition, Trade Fair and Post Offices open

16.30: Reception of the Municipal Administration at the Council Chamber of the Town Hall

Saturday 12 June 2021

10.00 - 18.00: Exhibition, Trade Fair and Post Offices open

19.00: Palmarés

Sunday 13 June 2021

09.00: Meeting of the Alpe Adria Group and greeting to guests

10.00 - 14.00: Exhibition, Trade Fair and Post Offices open

11.00: Meeting of Jurors with exhibitors

14.00: Closing of the exhibition and dismounting of the exhibits.

How to get there: Visitors travelling by car can reach Tarvisio from the Italian motorway A23 (exit Tarvisio) or the Austrian A2 motorway, taking the first exit after the border. Tarvisio also has an international railway station, 4 km from the centre, with links to Udine, Venice, Trieste, Villach, Vienna, Munich, Ljubljana, Villach and Klagenfurt. Trains from all over Europe converge on Villach station. For air travellers the nearest airports are Trieste - Ronchi dei Legionari (135 km away); Venice - Marco Polo (210 km); Ljubljana Brnik (85 km); and Klagenfurt (75 km).

Accommodation: Arrangements have been made with two hotels (c.1 km and c.6 km from the venue) to provide suitable accommodation for guests and exhibitors. A shuttle service will be provided. Requests for information and reservations should be sent to the Organising Committee (info@unioneircircolifilateliciavg.it).

Further information: e-mail: info@unioneircircolifilateliciavg.it Telephone: +39(0)332409341.

NORDIA 2021 COMMEMORATES THE FIRST POSTCARD OF FINLAND

Ari Hämäläinen writes:

NORDIA 2021 will now take place in the Music Centre in Kuopio from 13-15 August 2021. The deadline for applications has been extended to 15 May 2021.



Kuopio Music Centre, the venue of Nordia 2021. Photo by Opa

More information about NORDIA is at <https://www.postimerkkikerho.fi/nordia-2021/nordia-2021-english/exhibition/>.

NORDIA 2021 will mark the 150th anniversary of Finland's first postal stationery card

The Organisers hope to celebrate the occasion with a special exhibit of Finland's first postcards. The first postcard was issued on 9th October 1871, only two years after the world's first card issued by Austria-Hungary in 1869. It was denominated 8 penni and was an important change in ways of sending messages. At the time postal rates were high - letters cost 20 or 40 penni depending on distance. The new card cost only 1/5th as much as a letter for distances of more than 200 versts (213.8 km)! So this was a very affordable way to send a message and popular from the start. Originally accepted for domestic use only, the 8 penni cards were valid until 31 Dec 1884. The first card was designed by Tilgmann in Helsinki and printed by lithography; a sheet contained from 14 to 28 forms. The value imprints were handstamped by Mr. Granroth and his helper Löfberg at the Charta Sigillata Office. During the 8 penni era, until 1875, six different main types of card were made (including 8+8 penni for foreign use). The first type (Fig 1) has four subtypes, that can be differentiated by subtle differences in the text and/or the lines on the reverse of the card, or by cardboard type.



Fig 1: 8 penni card of 1871



Fig 2: 8 + 8 penni card of 1875

The second design of the 8 penni card appeared in 1872, and the placement of the text was quite different (quite similar to 8+8 penni shown at Fig 2). New types, sometimes with added text, appeared in late 1872, 1873 and 1874. The last type of 8 penni card was not printed by Tilgmann, but by Ziliacus in Viipuri. An important matter in collecting these cards is the cardboard from which they were made as there are many significant differences in thickness and colour. Some types, like the "playing card cardboard" and "red cardboard" of Card no.1, are rare. Normally the cardboard has three sheets of paper glued together, but some thin examples have only two. Several different colour shades of the stamp imprint appear, though most can be described as olive green or dark green.

The last issue with an 8 penni imprint was an "emergency" issue in mid-1875. When Finland joined UPU on 1 July 1875 a 16 penni foreign rate for a postcard was adopted. A new 16 penni card was not yet ready, so another 8 penni imprint was stamped on existing 8 penni cards (Fig 2). Intended usages to foreign countries are rare (about 15 exist).

The 8 penni cards are an interesting subject to collect, with about 25 subtypes including different colour shades. Some subtypes are more scarce used, some unused. This issue can be collected by anyone, but also expanded to a serious and demanding collection. Many types are very affordable to buy but a few scarce subtypes exist.

The most famous rarities of this issue are usages with additional stamps. After the rate change from 8 to 10 penni on 1 July 1875, many 8 penni cards remained unused. However, 2 penni stamps were not available until 12 September 1875. Before then, and also afterwards, some 8 penni cards were used with a 5 penni stamp. "Forced uses" with a 1866 5 penni stamp are especially desirable and about 15 exist. An even later usage with an 1866-type 5 penni stamp is a scarce item. A more common usage is an 8 penni card used with an 1875-model 2 penni stamp. These appear in auctions regularly, and are often seen in 1875-type stamp collections. A very rare usage is a card with an 8 penni 1866 stamp added and sent to a foreign destination. A card with an 1875-type 5 penni stamp added is also rare albeit overpaid.

Let's get on board again



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MONACOPHIL 2021



MONACOPHIL 2021 will be held at the Terrasses de Fontvieille in Monte Carlo from 8th – 11th December 2021.

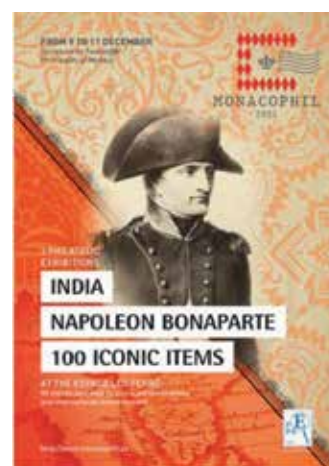
An exhibition of “100 iconic stamps and documents” will be held at the Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies (Stamp and Coin Museum) with items from 100 world-famous collections belonging to His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco and to:

- o Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
- o 10 postal museums
- o Members of the Club de Monte-Carlo

The Monaco Top Cars Collection will also host two exhibitions. The first will be devoted to Napoleon Bonaparte and the second to India and there will be a commercial section in the Espace Léo Ferré with 80 stands operated by postal administrations and well-known international stamp dealers. The OETP will also make its own special contribution by issuing MonacoPhil commemorative stamps.

The MONACOPHIL Organisers are looking forward to seeing as many philatelists and visitors in Monte Carlo as possible. Further information is available in French and English at <https://www.monacophil.eu/en/>

MONACOPHIL 2021 has FEPA Recognition.



LONDON 2022

After the postponement of the LONDON 2020 Philatelic Exhibition due to the pandemic the Organisers are pressing ahead with planning to hold the exhibition, now re-named London 2022, at the Business Design Centre in London from 19 - 26 February 2022. They are very grateful to exhibitors and the philatelic trade for their support during this very difficult time.

It is still too early to say what the situation will be in 2022, but the Organisers are looking forward to London once again being fully open for visitors to the numerous attractions of the capital, with its vast array of fine restaurants, shops, theatres, museums and other places of interest. They are again expecting to be able to offer some accommodation at discounted rates.

To stay up to date, follow the latest information at www.london2022.co. Newsletters are also available on request at www.london2022.co/mailchimp/

Philatelic Literature One aspect of LONDON 2020 that the Organisers hoped to salvage this year was the judging of the philatelic literature entries. Unfortunately, even this was not possible as the international team of judges was unable to travel to the UK. As soon as details are available of when the judging can take place, the National Commissioners will be informed and they will be posted on the London 2022 website.



HUNFILEX2022 World Stamp Exhibition

Budapest, Hungary. 31 March - 3 April 2022



Géza Homonnay writes:

HUNFILEX2022 will celebrate the centenary of the Federation of Hungarian Philatelists (MABÉOSZ) and preparations are moving forward in the firm belief that by then we can leave the problems of 2020 behind and greet the world of philately in Budapest! A contract with the FIP was signed recently and final negotiations with the planned venue, the so-called “Whale” in central Budapest on the shore of the Danube, are under way. Invitations to the National Federations to nominate commissioners will be sent out soon and a first Bulletin will be issued in March 2021.

We decided to add an extra class to the original list so the exhibition will include the following classes: Traditional, Postal History, Open Philately, Revenue, One-Frame, Championship and Philatelic Literature.

Hungarian philately has a lot of friends and supporters around the world and we would like to get them together on this special occasion to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of MABÉOSZ, one of the first national stamp associations of the world. The annual Spring Cultural Festival is held every April in Budapest, with world-class musical performers and other programmes. HUNFILEX2022 will be part of the Festival, providing an extra good reason to visit Budapest at that time.



The MABÉOSZ building in Budapest



The Szechenyi Baths (in normal times!)

We have also put together a sponsor programme to give anyone who likes Hungarian Philately an opportunity to support the Exhibition financially. Sponsors will receive interesting programmes and possibilities in return. This support programme is available from the secretary of the Organising Committee, Vivien Szieber, who is also available for any other questions, inquiries or requests. Vivien can be contacted at hunfilex2022@mabeosz.hu.



A rarity cabinet of Hungarian philately will be organised with, for example, several copies on display of the famous first stamp printed in Hungary. There were grave errors in the printing so the stamp was called the “dotted Joseph”.

For news and updates on HUNFILEX2022, go to the dedicated website at www.hunfilex2022.com.

HELVETIA 2022 - LUGANO



Adriano Bergamini writes:

HELVETIA 2022 will take place in the Padiglione Conza in Lugano from 18 -22 May 2022. The Palmarés will be held on Saturday 21 May at the Congress Palace.

The exhibition will be a specialized World Stamp Championship with FIP patronage and FEPA recognition. The Organisers are the Federation of Swiss Philatelic Societies (VSPhV) in cooperation with the Philatelic Society of Lugano. The Association internationale des journalistes philatéliques and the European Academy of Philately have also granted patronage to HELVETIA 2022 and an application has been made to hold the 2022 FIP Congress in Lugano.

The following classes will be in competition:
World Stamp Championship; Traditional Philately; Postal History;
Postal Stationery; Aerophilately; Thematic Philately; Philatelic Literature;
One Frame Exhibits. In the non-competitive section there will be a Court
of Honour and other exhibits by special invitation at the discretion of the
Organising Committee.
The exhibition will contain approx. 2,000 16-sheet frames with fees of
CHF 80 per frame in all Competitive Classes except Philatelic Literature
(CHF 100 per exhibit) and One Frame Exhibits (CHF 100).
Applications are called for by 15 July 2021.
The Commissioner General is Jean-Marc Seydoux
(e-mail: commissioner@helvetia2022.ch).



The Organising Committee for HELVETIA 2022

The Swiss Post is planning to issue a special stamp in autumn 2021 to promote the show worldwide. A souvenir sheet, and possibly another item, may follow although no decision has yet been taken. POST CH AG will also take part in the exhibition with an important booth.

Switzerland has a distinguished record of holding International Exhibitions dating from Zürich in 1893. It has also hosted the FIP Congress no less than five times in the past. In the spirit of that tradition, philatelists from all over the world are invited to Lugano and the Organisers hope that many visitors will come to combine the pleasure of our hobby with world-famous Swiss hospitality. Lugano has a lot to offer and our guests will be spoiled for choice. For more information on the region, events, types of accommodation available and on travelling to Lugano, please have a look at <http://www.luganoregion.com/>



Gallery of Arts and Culture in Lugano



The Gate opens on Lago di Lugano

How to get to Lugano

Visitors arriving by air can land at Zürich or Milan. There is a train connection every hour from Zürich to Lugano (approx. 2 hours 20 minutes - information at www.sbb.ch). This is a very pleasant journey which passes through the Gotthard Base Tunnel, with its length of 57 km being the longest railway tunnel in the world (for details go to www.alptransit.ch). Milan Malpensa is closer, with 18 train connections daily taking approx. 90 minutes, and Bergamo's Orio al Serio is another option although there are fewer railway connections that take over 3 hours.

For visitors coming to Lugano with philatelic material, we recommend the connection via Zürich airport to benefit from the simplified customs procedures which is going to be established by the HELVETIA 2022 Organisers together with the Swiss Customs authorities.

For further information, including the IREX, go to the exhibition website: <http://www.helvetia2022.ch/>

NEW DATE FOR IBRA: WORLD EXHIBITION IN ESSEN, 25 – 28 MAY 2023

Thomas Höpfner writes:



In news media it matters a lot to be up to date in everything that is published. When the article on IBRA 2021 was handed over for the July 2020 issue of FEPA News, the Organising Committee did not know that they would more or less be forced to postpone IBRA immediately after FEPA News was published. The dynamic development of the pandemic had made it impossible to know whether the event could take place in 2021. Now the new date is fixed, and everybody involved in planning IBRA is fully committed to make IBRA 2023 a major success. As far as patronage is concerned, the federal election in 2021 will mean that Dr Angela Merkel, the current Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany (and the patron of IBRA 2021) will be replaced by another Chancellor, who may become the new patron.

The good news is that the contracts with Messe Essen are secured, and the plan is to stick with the concept that had been developed for IBRA 2021. This gives the advantage that nearly all previous planning can be re-used. We have already received a lot of positive feedback from the National Federations that had appointed their commissioners and nominated jurors. Numerous National Commissioners are on board again, and this means that there will be plenty of time to win exhibitors for IBRA 2023. A new special IBRA bulletin, which will be called "Info 2", is currently in the making, and the new IREX and application forms will soon be available.



Signing of the contract with the FIP in May 2019. The FIP remains fully behind IBRA 2023.

*From left: Reinaldo Macedo, Alfred Schmidt, Bernard Beston, Walter Bernatek.
(Photo by Udo Angerstein)*



Signing of the sponsor contracts. Both main sponsors will retain that role for IBRA 2023.

*From left: Tobias Huylmans (Köhler), Alfred Schmidt, Reinaldo Macedo, Bernard Beston, Walter Bernatek, Christoph Gärtner.
(Photo by Wolfgang Maassen)*

For further information on how the preparations of IBRA 2023 are progressing, visit the IBRA 2023 website at www.ibra2023.de

NEW BOARD FOR TURKISH PHILATELIC ACADEMY

Arman Arıkan writes:

The new Board of the Turkish Philatelic Academy of the Turkish Philatelic Federation was elected on Saturday, 11th July 2020.

Mehmet Akan was elected as the new President for a three-year period.

The new Academy Board is pictured on the right.

Turhan Turgut was also unanimously elected as Honorary President.

The election was held on Zoom because of COVID restrictions.

We send congratulations and all best wishes for a successful term in office to the new Board.



NEW CHAIRMAN APPOINTED FOR NETHERLANDS FEDERATION



Koninklijke Nederlandse Bond van Filatelistenverenigingen

Lid van de "Fédération Internationale de Philatélie" (F.I.P.)

Lid van de "Federation of European Philatelic Associations" (F.E.P.A.)

In October 2020 the Union of Philatelic Societies in the Netherlands (KNBF) announced that its Board had appointed Mr. V.T.J.M. (Victor) Coenen as Chairman to succeed the late Hans Kraaibeek.

Victor Coenen is a well-known philatelist and a member of the Dutch Academy of Philately and the Académie Européenne de Philatélie. He was previously chairman of the KNBF from 2009-2012.

We extend a warm greeting to Mr Coenen in his new position and send him all our best wishes for a happy and successful time as Chairman.

FINNISH FEDERATION ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

The annual Conference of the Philatelic Federation of Finland was held on Saturday, 12 September 2020. Representatives of the philatelic societies and clubs gathered together in Helsinki, although their number was lower than usual.

In addition to normal business the Conference elected a new President for the Federation, because Mr. Klaus Juvas had served all three possible terms and was no longer available.

The new President is Mr. Petteri Hannula (*pictured, right*).

He is a prominent philatelist who has participated in numerous domestic and international exhibitions.

He is also a Nordic level juror in postal history and national juror in literature.

Petteri has written several books about Finnish postal history.



*Petteri with other members of the Board:
Kari Lindholm, Juha Niininen, Kalle Nurminen,
Kai Varsio and Seppo Salonen.
(Jukka Mäkipää was not present at the Conference)*

Congratulations to Petteri and best wishes to the Board for success in their efforts to take philately forward in Finland!



ITALIAN FEDERATION: PIERO MACRELLI RETIRES AS PRESIDENT

After 26 years as President of the Italian Federation (FSFI) Piero Macrelli retired on 31 December 2020. During his long term as President, Piero was highly successful and made many contributions to the development of philately in Italy. On behalf of FEPA we thank him for the great service that he has given and wish him well in retirement when we hope he will continue to draw enjoyment from philately.



Piero Macrelli (Left) with Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi

Piero announced his intention to retire at the FSFI assembly held on 1 December 2020. In accordance with the FSFI statutes, the Vice-President Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi took over as President on 1 January 2021.

We send our congratulations to Bruno with best wishes for a happy and rewarding Presidency.

OBITUARIES

LUMIR BRENDL (1935 – 2020)

Lumir Brendl died on 8th October 2020 at the age of 85. Born into a teacher's family, he loved stamp collecting from his childhood. Later he developed his interest in the field of thematic philately and his famous exhibit 'Troubled Times in Bohemia and Czechoslovakia' was awarded many FIP gold medals.

Lumir dedicated his life to Czechoslovak and world philately. An untiring organiser and juryman, he was a very successful functionary of the Czech Republic especially as President of the Union of Czech Philatelists from 1995 – 2011. On a nationwide level he devoted himself to promoting Czechoslovak stamps and contributed significantly to co-organising the international philatelic exhibitions BRNO 2000 and BRNO 2005 and World exhibitions PRAGA 1998 and 2008. He mastered many world languages, which was one reason for his long-standing engagement with FEPA and as a Director on the Board of FIP from 2000 - 2008.

As an FIP juryman he participated in many FIP exhibitions in all over the world, in France, UK, Spain, Italy, Germany, Poland, Cyprus, Romania, Israel, USA, Australia, India, Thailand and Russia. He initiated a number of new rules connected with organising philatelist competitions and exhibitions. Highly important was his contribution to the evaluation of exhibits in the One-Frame class, Open class, Maximaphily and Postcards philately.

He will long be remembered as one who devoted his life to philately and as a spectacular person, always kind and ready to help.

Rest in peace.



SAVERIO IMPERATO (1935 – 2020)



Saverio Imperato, 'Il Professore' and a great Italian philatelist, died on 20 November 2020.

A brilliant professor of immunology, he was well known around the world for his charming personality, his assiduous participation in international philatelic exhibitions and his determination to compete for the top awards.

He started under a pseudonym at Buenos Aires 80, but his formal career as a recognised top-class exhibitor took off at España 84 where he was awarded the Grand Prix International for his exhibit of Tuscany.

Over the years he moved from Traditional to Postal History, moving through the challenging range of almost all the Old Italian States until his last Gold Medal in Budapest (2011). During his career his exhibits were awarded 6 Grands Prix, 60 Large Gold medals and 19 Gold medals.

He will be remembered for the amazing wealth of his material, the depth of his knowledge and his almost constant presence on the international stage for more than a quarter of a century.

Rest in Peace.



DANIELA MOROLLI (1945 – 2020)

In October we were greatly saddened to hear that Daniela Morolli, wife of FEPA Vice-President Giancarlo Morolli and a well-known figure in international philately for many years, had passed away after a long period of ill health.

On behalf of the whole FEPA family we offer our deepest condolences to Giancarlo and to his family.

Rest in Peace.



DIGITISATION OFFENSIVE BY DEUTSCHE POST: POSTAGE STAMPS ONLY TO BE USED WITH MATRIX CODE

Jürgen Olschimke writes:

A few months ago Deutsche Post held a press conference and product presentation in Berlin entitled “New digital products and services for letters and parcels”. All the facts presented at that event are to be implemented over the next two years. The consequences for philately and postal history are in some ways very far-reaching and revolutionary, even if the headings sound quite harmless: “Franking mail”, “Receiving notification of mail”, “Tracking mail” and “Receiving and sending mail”.

Franking mail

Under this point are mentioned the “mobile parcel stamp” and “mobile returns” for the parcel area of the business. This option has been available for some time via the DHL Paket App or its DHL online franking variant, where one

can alternatively receive a QR code for the counter or the DHL deliverer. This then prints out the relevant franking, sticks it on the shipment and the parcel’s journey begins.



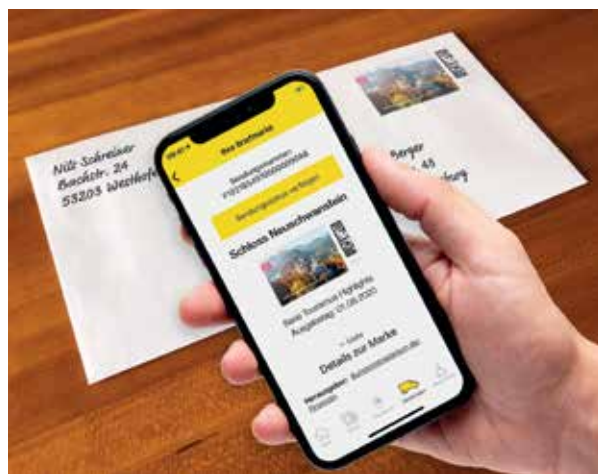
Franking cut-out of a self-service registered mail franked with mobile phone postage from the early days, with notification note August 20, 2008 with special mobile phone label sticker.

The mobile postage stamp has been known under the previous term “mobile phone postage” or “mobile phone stamp” since August 2008. Due to the additional costs for the telecommunications provider, however, this is unattractive and more of a niche product. At the end of 2020, the previous mobile phone stamp is to be replaced by the new “mobile postage stamp”, which will no longer imply additional costs for the provider. Both the processing and the payment then take place via a corresponding app. The use of the “mobile postage stamp” is very easy: customers have only to request the desired postage via the app and pay online,

then they receive a multi-digit alphanumeric code that they have to handwrite on the postcard or envelope at the top right, in the normal place for stamps. This way the mail is franked and can be thrown into the mailbox, whereupon it is delivered to the addressee via the normal service of the Deutsche Post. A further internal removal and post-processing at the post office with an additional label should apparently also be omitted.

Mail notification

In 2019, Deutsche Post successfully tested the new “Letter notification by email” service on the email platforms of both GMX and Web.de in a pilot test with 500 customers. In doing so, addressees are informed immediately in their GMX and Web.de



Post press photo concerning tracking letters, but also calling up additional information about the stamp itself - using the Neuschwanstein stamp as an example.

mailboxes about incoming letters, with a process compliant with the high German data protection and security standards. The envelopes of the mail items are photographed in the Letter Centres of the Deutsche Post and, at the recipients' requests, they are sent to their mailboxes by email. The physical mailings follow the conventional sorting process and are delivered as usual to the recipient's address. It has been known for a while in specialist circles that letters are recorded photographically. These images of the envelopes are used for various purposes. One of these purposes is the subsequent coding and shipment control, as the manufacturers of the sorting machines report at relevant trade fairs. The shipment notification service has been available for all customers who have a corresponding email address since mid-July 2020, and for the customers having a post box since the beginning of October. Based on these processes, further options are to be offered in the future.

Mail Tracking

Next, the new "live tracking of parcels" will be considered. The current shipment messages mention a larger time window in which the delivery should take place. As is common with some other parcel services, this large time window is now going to be significantly reduced. First, the customer receives a 60 to 90 minutes time window on the day of delivery. He/she should then receive another message 15 minutes before receiving the shipment. With the help of GPS-based live tracking in the DHL Paket App and in the online shipment tracking, the customer can see how many stops the deliverer still must make before he rings the recipient's doorbell. If the latter is not at home, he/she can now select the "preferred location" or "preferred neighbour" option. But this is not new, because competitors such as DPD and GLS have been offering this service for a while. This service has been implemented in practice for around 80 percent of all customers since mid-October.



Automatic stamp with matrix code from the test in Cologne - here from the Geibelstrasse location from January 2019.

introduced at the end of 2017, a 20-digit hexadecimal code. This usually consists of a 10-digit identifier (a type of machine number) and a 10-digit serial number including a check digit. Another important component of these preliminary tests was the temporary pilot with automatic stamps with matrix code from the end of 2018 to June 2019.

Franking with a matrix code is more forgery-proof and ensures that postage stamps cannot be used more than once. The counterfeiting, washing (the chemical removal of inkjet cancellations) and re-use of postage stamps is a massively growing problem for Deutsche Post and other postal companies (e.g. Royal Mail). Since the introduction of the euro, around 70 different counterfeits have been known to damage the post in Germany alone. The first samples of such new automatic stamps with matrix codes were presented at the press conference in Berlin. The 70 c. stamp "Grüffelo"

The tracking and tracing of letters sounds harmless, but for postal historians and collectors it has the most explosive power or introduces the biggest changes in a long time. In the future, all frankings, including postage stamps, should contain a matrix code that enables better tracking of ordinary letters and thus ensures even more effective quality assurance of letter transport. Postage stamps with a matrix code are forgery-proof and have yet another advantage for customers interested in the cultural asset "postage stamps". They can be loaded with additional information about the stamp or provided with further links on the Internet. In order to make this technology work, the so-called franking ID was



Enlarged section of one of several sample sheets with a matrix code - here the Pippi motif with an identical matrix code for this motif.

could be seen there together with the 70 c. stamp "Rainbow fragment" and the 80 c. stamp "Pippi" as a wet-adhesive sheet of ten with matrix code. The 80 c. of the motif "Neuschwanstein" with a matrix code was also shown.

When and how the introduction should take place, or whether there will then also be some of the definitive "flowers" issue with a matrix code, for example, remains to be seen in the near future. Other questions about the period of validity of the old and the new automatic stamps also must be clarified. As a further validation, a supplementary test with a blue colour for classic postmarks and inkjet cancellations will run for four weeks from mid-November, since black cancellations would cause more interference in reading of the data matrix code than blue coloured ones. Hence, it will be very exciting in several ways in the near future.

Receiving and sending mail

It should be known that the "Packstations" are a success story. This concept is implemented around the world in somewhat different forms, especially in industrialized countries. The plan is to jump from the current 4,500 locations with 450,000 compartments to over 7,000 Packstations by 2021. But this should still not be the end of the expansion of this system, as it is going to be supplemented by a further variant, especially in rural areas, from the end of 2021: "Post & Parcel 24/7". The first tests are to be carried out from the end of November 2020. At this stations, one can buy and post postage and parcel stamps without cash. In practice, they should make available the range of services offered by a small post office.

It remains to be seen whether one can also post registered mail here. Deutsche Post has made several trials in the field of letter acceptance, but also partly in connection with the acceptance of parcels, such as the ABAS system (Automatic Letter Acceptance System), an automated postal service machine for accepting letters and parcels from the Samkyung company, presented at the 2002 "Post Days" or the "Letter Station" tested in Cologne in 2005 and later in Frankfurt, which was discontinued a short time later. As a photo of a device from the press conference shows the touchscreen monitor is in the middle (via which the corresponding dialog is controlled) whereas a card reader on the right enables cashless payments. The output compartment for the letter labels or parcel labels and for the receipts is located below the screen. There is a mailbox underneath. As a kind of product brand, the letter labels will probably have an almost identical design to an internet automatic stamp.

Summary

The press conference in Berlin had a variety of implications for postal historians as the announcements made will have far-reaching consequences in the field of philately. The question is not whether these things will come or not, but how and when they will come and what further consequences could be associated with them. In any case, the next few months will be extremely exciting and varied and interesting new areas of collecting will develop.

[Editor's Note: I would like to express our thanks to Herr Olschimke for sending us this article which highlights another aspect of how digital developments are having an impact on philately. He has also reported extensively on this subject in the BDPh magazine "Philatelie" 514 (April 2020) and 515 (May 2020). FEPA NEWS will continue to keep you informed of how these changes evolve.]

Could we include Two and Three Frame exhibits in international exhibitions?

Rainer Fuchs FRPSL makes a case for reviewing the FIP / FEPA regulations.

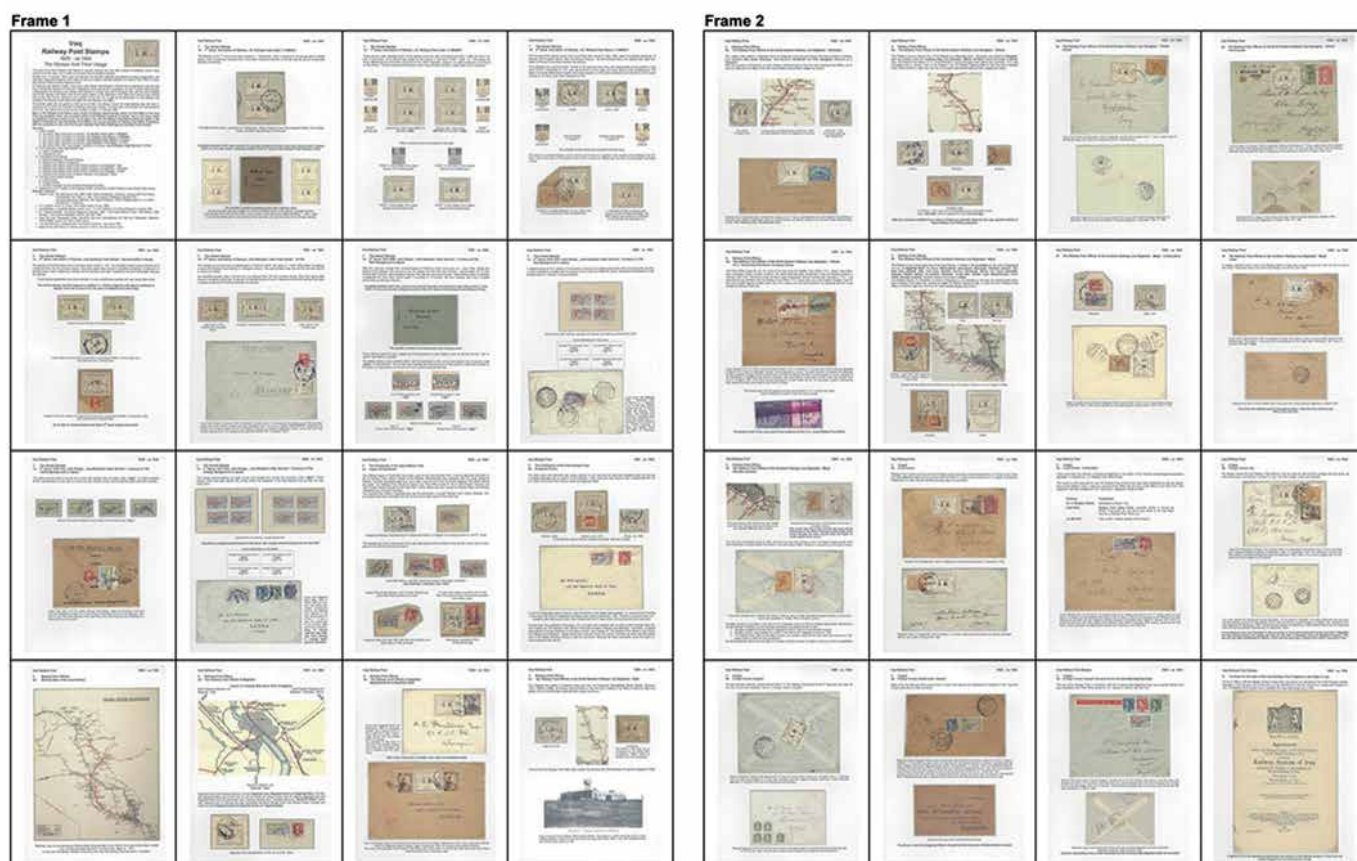
For some time, one-frame exhibits of 16 sheets have been accepted in international exhibitions and much has been written about the art of constructing them. A key point is that the subject should be sufficiently compact to enable it to be covered comprehensively in one frame. Indeed, it should not be possible to extend the scope of a good one-frame subject to five frames.

I would like to draw attention to the fact that there are some subjects which are too large to cover fully in a one-frame exhibit but are too small for five frames. They would fit neatly into two or three frames, but current regulations restrict exhibits larger than one frame to five or eight frames. Consequently, two or three frame exhibits cannot be entered for FIP or FEPA exhibitions, although they are often accepted at Nationals.

As an example of the difficulty this restriction places on exhibitors, I refer to my exhibit on Iraq Railway Post Stamps 1928 - ca.1942. The material on this subject is so rare that my two-frame exhibit contains about 45% of what is known world-wide. I have shown this exhibit in Germany up to National level (with 3 frames / 12 sheets each) but internationally I cannot show it in competition because it is not large enough. Hence, I have only been able to show it out of competition - in 2 frames / 16 sheets each at STOCKHOLMIA 2019 and at the Virtual Stamp Show 2020 of the American Philatelic Society, held from 17-22 August 2020, where the virtual audience voted it as the "Multi-Frame Exhibit I Would Most Like To Own". I conclude from this experience that visitors would be interested in seeing it and similar smaller-sized exhibits at live stamp shows.

At recent virtual exhibitions the strict rules on exhibit sizes have been relaxed somewhat and my proposal is to extend this relaxation to live exhibitions. This would reflect changes of approach to collecting. Many collectors now tend to study smaller areas, often in great detail, but are unable to exhibit competitively at FEPA or FIP shows. Smaller-sized exhibits would also bring more variety to competitions and, with a lower cost of entering, they would encourage more exhibitors to take part. For these reasons I believe that the regulations should be modified to permit two or three frame exhibits to compete on a similar basis to what is already in place for one-frame exhibits and I would like to invite a discussion of this proposal by FIP and FEPA.

Thumbnails of my exhibit, which can best be described as a Traditional exhibit with a strong Postal History section, are shown below. It can be viewed in full size at the online exhibition site of the German Philatelic Federation (BDPh): https://www.exponate-online.de/e_exponat.asp?a=1&e=140



MY WAY OF WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE TO CREATE A PLANNED EXHIBIT

Charlotte Meuwis-Soreil writes:

[Editor's Note: Charlotte Meuwis-Soreil is a supervisor of, and Belgian provincial commissioner for, Youth Philately. She kindly provided us with this article on her experience with young philatelists. Translation from the French original is mine, as are any errors.]

Important note: The young people involved are aged 10-12 (primary school) and 12-13 (first year secondary school).

I take three steps before deciding on the plan:

1. Initiate philatelic activities as games in primary school classes (during school hours) to stimulate interest among the young people in stamp collecting, and then to encourage them to come to regular meetings of the youth stamp club.
2. Arrange meetings of the youth stamp club in a single school outside teaching hours – one meeting every fortnight between 16.00 and 17.30. The activities there are presented in the form of games such as composing attractive pages on a theme chosen by the pupils; mail art; or solving riddles while using the Official Catalogue of Belgium. The aim is to establish at least a temporary commitment among those most interested.
3. Develop a single common plan at these meetings outside school hours. To do this, there are four fundamental steps:
 - a. **Choose the subject** (VERY IMPORTANT)
I suggest to the children that they choose a collecting theme that interests them. I always have to give them guidance because many of the subjects proposed are too vague or would lead into topics that have already been done or are often seen in competitions. For example, 'The Horse' (already done in our club), 'Birds' or 'Flowers' (too vague) or 'Dogs' (already seen). Sometimes proposals such as 'The Dinosaurs' spring up which pose real difficulties in finding the necessary material!
 - b. **Carry out research in books, journals and papers written on the subject**
At this stage all information is welcome, whether found in bookshops, libraries or on the internet. After I have carried out a preliminary sift, the children do part of the work by reading the documents while I carry out research on the internet.
 - c. **Undertake a search for philatelic material** (Time needed: about 1 year)
We have 3 adults who look for material in the philatelic markets. The children never contribute their own material because – as it is a group effort – I do not want to deprive them of their 'goods'. Consequently, the club buys the material with the help of sponsorship from the Federation, the Province and above all the town of Virton where the young people live. My contribution is to research small documents on the internet, consulting Delcampe, for the price of the material is important. Moreover, as this is the work of a group (Class B in Youth) I have to plan for a minimum of two teams and a lot of material is needed to make up 32 sheets! As material is acquired this is demonstrated and explained to the children. They have to know why some documents are accepted in constructing the plan while others are not.
 - d. **Develop a detailed plan** (Time needed for development and implementation – about 1.5 years)
 - i. The first, and by far the most difficult, task is to draw up a preliminary, quite simple, plan for an exhibit that is closely related to the philatelic material, books and information in our possession.
 - ii. The second task is to draw up texts relevant to the subject that can be combined with the material and philatelic information. At first when we meet the work is presented in the form of a rough draft with black and white photocopies. Gradually the young people (and myself as corrector) take over completion of the work on computers using Publisher.
 - iii. The third, and most pleasant task is to mount the sheets. Experience in the handling and mounting of material are quickly acquired. Should a document be shown in full or in a window? Why?
 - iv. The last step is to exhibit the completed work in regional, national and international competitions when it has reached a good level.

Because the work is done jointly, the collection remains the property of the club. Each young person is given a complete photocopy in colour of the finished exhibit as a recognition of their contribution to it. The cost is borne by the club's sponsor – the town.

NEWS FROM THE YOUNG PHILATELISTS' ORGANISATIONS



STAMPACTIVE COMPETITIONS

Stamp Active has announced a one-page competition for young philatelists in the UK on the theme of 'My Favourite Things' which could include Places, People, Hobbies, Objects and much more. It could be favourite Flowers, Authors, Toys, Animals, Sports or Transport or it could be anything that the entrant likes to do or see or places they like to go to. The possibilities are endless. Entrants may choose to focus on one area - like Football or Cars - or they may wish to cover a range such as Sports or Transport. Or perhaps be creative with "Make a Wish for 2020".

The competition is open to young people up to the age of 18 on 1st September 2020. Stamps, covers and other philatelic items can be used, and the page must have a title, and either captions or a short write-up that tells the story. Entries can be either hand-written or prepared using a computer. Entrants are required to send a scan of the page to Stamp Active by 28th February 2021. The age groups will be: Up to 7; 8-10; 11-14; 15-18 and entries will be judged on knowledge of the subject, originality and presentation. Prizes will be awarded (*for First, Second, Third*) in each age group, sponsored by Isle of Man Stamps & Coins. Winners will receive philatelic gifts to the value of £25 (1st), £20 (2nd) and £15 (3rd) and the best overall entry will receive an Amazon voucher for £100.

The Entries will be displayed at Virtual Stampex 2021 from 25th to 29th March 2021.

Separately, Stampactive announced the winner of the 2020 Design A Stamp Competition, held as part of Virtual Stampex in October 2020 in support of the UK National Health Service. It has been won by ALFIE SCOTT, age 10, from Shetland who received an Amazon Voucher for £100. Alfie's design is shown here.

More stamp competitions are promised in the coming months. Details will be posted on the Competitions section at www.stampactive.co.uk.



GERMAN YOUTH PHILATELISTS: FOCUS ON MARCOPHILY

Although they had to adapt the proceedings in accordance with pandemic restrictions, the German Young Philatelists (DPHJ) held **JuPhila 2020** – including Team Championships, a foundation competition and a regional exhibition – in Mainz from 2nd- 4th October 2020.



The Team Championship trophy was won by a team that included participants from Sachsen-Anhalt and the South West region.

The DPHJ publishes the 'Junge Sammler' magazine quarterly and a recent Press Release announced that, with a Portuguese postman on the front cover, the December 2020 issue (*left*) has postmarks as its main theme.

It added that, regardless of whether it is a railway postmark from the Harz, coloured and multicoloured German stamps or post box stamps, marcophily - the customer of stamps - is a constant concern of stamp collectors. Great letters from special mobile post offices are one of many sources of "special stamps" and there is an endless seam of interesting information to be mined such as the fact that the first oval special postmark of the Federal Post Office was used at the German-Soviet youth stamp exhibition in Ludwigshafen in 1971.

'Junge Sammler' has many interesting articles for young collector readers.

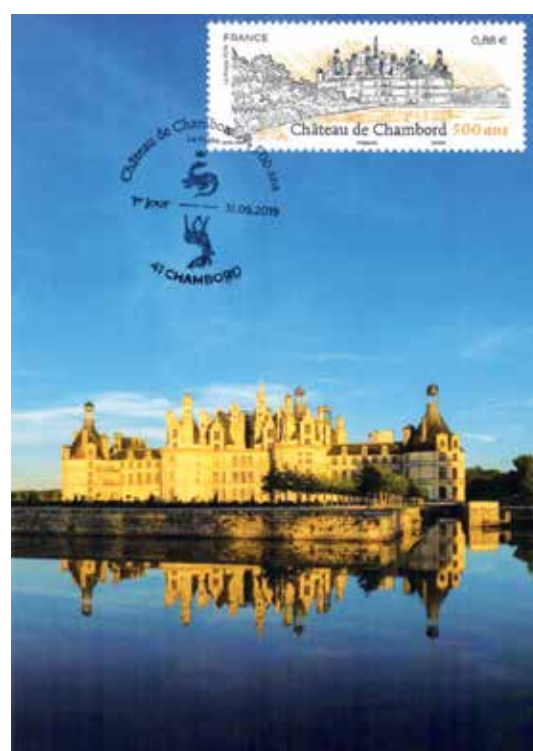
LEARNING ABOUT MAXIMAPHILY

Bill Hedley writes:

I have been impressed recently by the energy and enthusiasm that exudes from Maximaphily exhibits and, not knowing much about the subject, I contacted Pascal Bandry who is an acknowledged expert. Pascal very kindly sent me a nicely produced booklet published in June 2020 by the Maximaphiles Français entitled 'Secrets de collections MAXIMAPHILIE'. It is full of useful information and ideas on how to enter this particular niche of the philatelic pantheon. Having seen it I can appreciate more clearly how this aspect on philatelic collecting might appeal to younger people and those of an artistic temperament who are less interested in the more traditional branches of philately. The cover and first page of content are shown below to give a flavour of it.



Pascal also sent me two Maxima cards showing famous French scenes. They are so attractive that I cannot resist including them as a reminder of happier times, which we hope will return before too long.

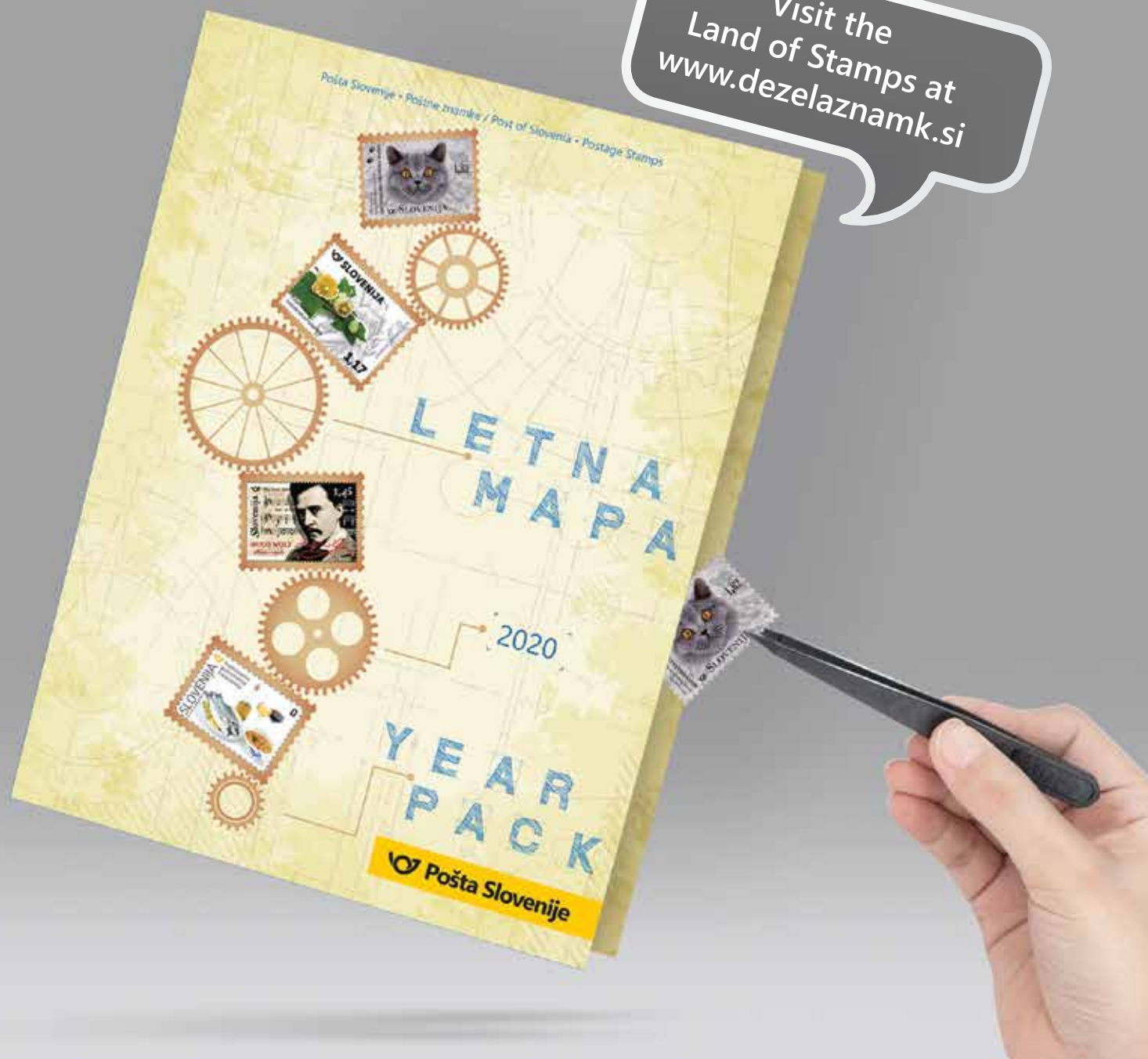


For more information on collecting Maxima cards, please contact Pascal BANDRY, European representative on the FIP Maximaphily Commission.

Pascal's address is: pascal.bandry@orange.fr

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THE MUSEUM OF TASSO AND OF POSTAL HISTORY IN CORNELLO DEI TASSO

Tarcisio Bottani is Educational Services Manager at the Museo dei Tasso e della Storia Postale in Cornello dei Tasso. We invited him to provide some information about the Museum for FEPA News and he kindly gave us this article.

The hamlet of Cornello dei Tasso, in the Brembana Valley in the province of Bergamo, is known for being the homeland of the Tasso family, to which belongs Torquato, celebrated for his heroic epic poem 'Gerusalemme liberata' (1581; "Jerusalem Liberated"). However, few know that those who are regarded as founders of the European postal service organised since the fifteenth century at the imperial court also belong to this family.



View of the Tasso Museum at Cornello

The Museum of Tasso and Postal History is devoted to the multifaceted and centuries-old activities of the Tasso post masters. It was inaugurated in Cornello in the last decade of the twentieth century on the initiative of the municipal administration of Camerata Cornello and has quickly become a meeting centre and focal point for postal history students and enthusiasts.



Walkway at the Museum



Tasso Palazzo ruins at the Museum

Arranged in three exhibition rooms, the museum presents documents related to the history of these entrepreneurs, who created a multinational company dealing with postal and forwarding communications, as well as finds illustrating the evolution of the postal services over the centuries.



Disinfected letter from the Prince of Thurn and Taxis



Ceramic tray and inkwell; three pens with silver nibs

In recent years, the Museo dei Tasso forged cooperative relationships with a number of Italian and foreign institutions, starting with an agreement with the Museum of the Italian Ministry of the Post, thanks to which it has been possible to exhibit some finds of postal history of considerable value. In 2002 the Museum started an important collaboration with the Association for the Study of Postal History of Padua, which drew the attention of major students of postal history at the international level, as well as enthusiasts of philately and prephilately. Furthermore, it enabled the acquisition of important finds and gave life to a long series of cultural initiatives including exhibitions, conferences, and publishing activities.



Carriage and post station, c. 1850



Post Horn in the Museum

From the very beginning, the museum's managers have established close relations with the descendants of the Princely House of the Tasso family, who over time have changed their surname to Thurn und Taxis and reside in Regensburg. The collaboration with the Central Archives of the Thurn und Taxis princes in Regensburg has resulted in fruitful cultural exchanges and has allowed access to the extensive documentation kept in their Archives. Digital copies of thousands of documents were thus acquired, which were used to reconstruct the origins of the family and the functioning of the first postal structures.

The frequent contacts with Regensburg, as well as several other Italian and foreign archives, has allowed the publication of a series of monographs dedicated to the various personalities of the Tasso family. In 2012 a major study project called *I Tasso and the post of Europe* was launched. It was inaugurated with an international conference, held in Cornello with the participation of a hundred students from Italy, Spain, Belgium, Austria, and Germany.



Travellers' Guide, 1771



Wax seals with cases

Within the framework of the project, close cooperative relationships were established with various archives in addition to Regensburg. These include the University of Valencia and the Institute of European History and Ethnology of the University of Innsbruck. The collaboration with the latter University has produced two monographs, edited by Francesca Brunet and Elena Kustatscher, and devoted respectively to the postal branch of the Taxis Bordogna, operating between Trento and Bolzano, and the Tyrolean branch of the Thurn Valsassina und Taxis.



Objects for machine writing



Quaderno Olivetti 1992

A second international conference was held in 2016 in Regensburg and a number of researches have been carried out leading to the publication of dedicated studies, in particular on the Tassian branches operating in Venice and Milan and on the figure of Francesco Tasso, considered the founder of the Bergamo postal couriers in the service of the Emperors Maximilian of Habsburg and Charles V.

STUDY AND RESEARCH COLLECTIONS AT THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

Chris King writes:

The library at The Royal Philatelic Society London is renowned for its wide range of publications, including auction and exhibition catalogues, journals of all kinds, and handbooks in many languages. It is now known as 'The John Sacher Library' after receiving the support of The Jeremy and John Sacher Charitable Trust and has recently benefitted considerably by being entrusted with the library of the National Philatelic Society which could no longer be securely stored elsewhere.

During the past year, despite the lockdown, the large NPS library has been delivered to 15 Abchurch Lane, sorted with duplicates disposed of, accessioned, and the material shelved securely in our new library or in the closed access stacks. At the time of writing only 150 boxes remain to be processed. In a climate-controlled environment it will be secure and, equally importantly, it will be more easily accessible to visitors. This donation has greatly enhanced the Royal's library along with material from eight other smaller libraries this year. We are grateful for the trust placed in us by all our donors.

The refurbished building and new resources for philately also gave The Spear Charitable Trust the confidence to make a grant of three quarters of a million pounds to the Society and, in honour of their generosity, we have renamed our museum, 'The Spear Museum of Philatelic History'. The museum is another rich collection of artefacts and records that has grown considerably in size in recent years.

Not as well-known as the library as it was difficult to display the artefacts at 41 Devonshire Place and there was very little space to work with the material, our museum is now able to put on exhibitions, to have more visitors, to make the material more widely known, and to conserve the collections more effectively. In Abchurch Lane we have exhibition cases and storage facilities for our collections to full museum standards. The challenge now is to make this accessible to more users – and not only members of the Royal, since as a charity we are committed to serve the wider philatelic world, and beyond. Members have access at any time but, when conditions return to normal, visitors need only to make an appointment with our Head of Collections and agree a time for admission to use the library, research our archives, or view our museum collections, perhaps in our secure research room. We look forward to seeing you.

To make an appointment to visit the RPSL Library or Museum, just send an e-mail to research@rpsl.org.uk

Some treasures from the collections.

The museum collection is eclectic, covering the history of the Society and our own records, but also a wide range of other material including exhibition catalogues, printed ephemera, and medals, together with trade materials, philatelic ephemera, and items relating to the story of philately. The following few examples are only intended to illustrate the range of the collection. There is much more, and – if you are looking for something – it is worth making an enquiry.

Medals



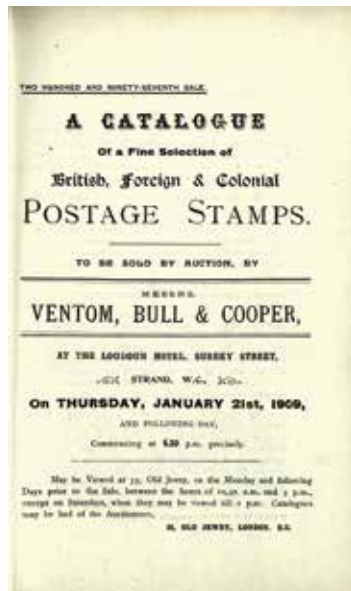
The Crawford Medal is given annually for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately published in book form. The medal shown above was the first to be awarded - in 1920 to Hugo Griebert RDP (1869-1924) for '*The Stamps of Spain 1850-1854*'. This Medal is open to world-wide competition and is open to books in all languages.

Michèle Chauvet RDP FRPSL was awarded the medal in 2010 for her '*Colonies Françaises, Les Tarifs et Service Postal 1848–1878 – Les Colonies D'Afrique*'. In December 2020 we were pleased to receive as a donation the Crawford medal awarded to Johannes Schmidt-Andersen in 1952 (*The Postage Stamps of Denmark 1851–1951*).



Within the collection of medals, which covers local, regional, national and international we are proud to hold examples of all kinds of awards from the whole world of philately. Among the highest honours is an example (shown above) of the Lindenberg medal, pictured in the obverse, that was awarded to Ronald A G Lee RDP FRPSL in 1983. In honour of the noted philatelist Judge Carl Lindenberg (1850-1928), the Berliner Philatelisten-Klub von 1888 eV have awarded the Lindenberg medal since 1905 to those who provide “conspicuous service to philately” because of their investigations and contributions to philatelic literature.

Auction Catalogues

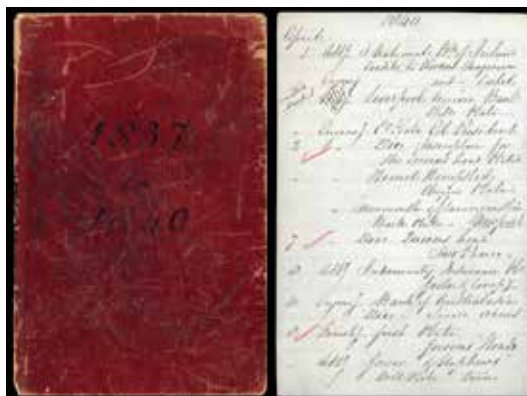


Auction Catalogues are a significant source for provenance and indexing scarcity, and the Royal holds one of the finest collections in existence with significant runs from important auction houses worldwide. Shown here is the catalogue of Ventom, Bull and Cooper for their auction on 21 January 1909. Between their first auction in November 1888 and the last in March 1915 they achieved 407 sales.

Thomas Bull (1839-1905) was property editor of the Standard and the Financial Times and a partner in Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, organising his first auction with Douglas Garth (1852-1900), Honorary Secretary (1888-1894) of the Philatelic Society, London, on 24th November 1888 at Moss & Jameson's rooms in Chancery Lane. With his partner Walter Bull, theirs was the leading auction house of the time, selling, for example, a mint two pence POST PAID Mauritius for £140 in October 1895. The firm eventually passed into the hands of Ernest Harmer (1877-1937), who founded one of the oldest British auction firms still standing, Harmer Rooke, London, in 1905 after his earlier purchase of Martin Ray and Company.

Printing Records

In 1935-36 when Perkins Bacon, the printers of the Penny Black and many other postage stamps, bank notes, cheques, and security documents, went into bankruptcy, the commercial records were acquired by Charles Nissen, who presented many of them to the Society. A full listing of these is to be found in Appendix 22 of *'Perkins Bacon Line-Engraved Postage Stamp Printing 1840-1846'* (RPSL 2018) by Alan Druce FRPSL.



The records are a rare primary source for the extent of the printing industry and its international reach during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Among these are the Engraving Books. The 1837-1840 book, which documents the engraving of the Queen's head for the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue, is shown above.

Printing Artefacts



The collection includes a wide range of 'metalwork' including printing plates, dies and rollers. The roller shown here was used in a transfer press to transfer the design to a flat printing plate, with the process repeated as many times as necessary to create the number of impressions required on the sheet. Pictured above is the relief impression of the 1970 'Pirates' design for Grenada (SG numbers 367-370) produced by K. Plowitz for Bradbury Wilkinson.



Among the plates in the collection is the Mauritius 2d copper intaglio plate, 1848-1858, which was kindly donated by HM King George V. This is the POST PAID issue, which was printed in sheets of twelve, rather than the POST OFFICE issue of 1847 where the stamps were printed individually.

Postal Service Artefacts



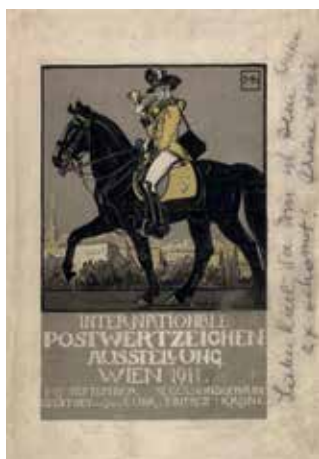
This balance is one of a significant collection of postal weighing devices from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These range from hand-held instruments to these counter or desk devices. The museum also has a large collection of hand-stamps.

Exhibition Memorabilia



Printed card produced by the United States Postal Service for the HAFNIA international philatelic exhibition held in Copenhagen from 20-29 August 1976. These souvenir cards for exhibitions and National Stamp Collecting Day were issued throughout the 1970s and into the 80s. The item shown features the first issues of Denmark and the United States, and is one among many items of exhibition ephemera in the collection.

Exhibition Catalogues



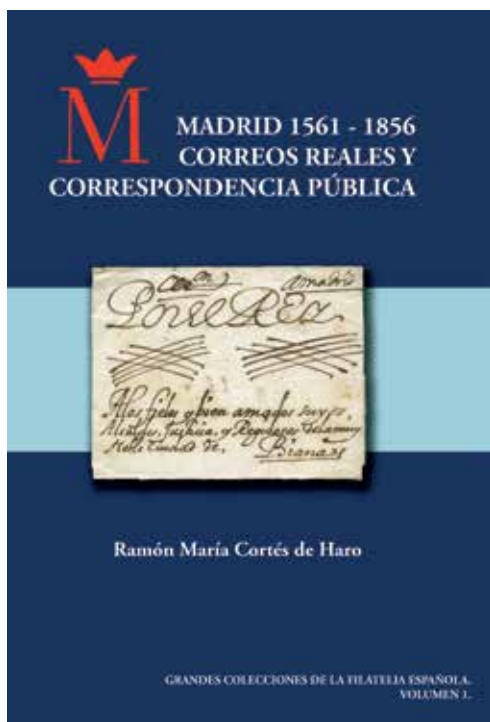
Exhibition ticket for Vienna 1911. The related ephemera is important to give as complete an impression of the event as possible. Such items are often much more difficult to find than catalogues or medals.

The collections also include a large holding of catalogues and memorabilia from international philatelic exhibitions since 1881. Shown above is the catalogue for the Vienna Stamp Exhibition held from 7-17 September 1911 at the Secession Building which is a reminder of how international the exhibitions were at that time. The jury of 20 included E D Bacon (1860-1938), M P Castle (1849-1917), Dr Emilio Diena (1860-1941), Otto Friedl (1878-1952), Maurice Langlois (1860-1948), Carl Lindenberg (1850-1928), H P Manus (1851-1931), Axel de Reuterskjold (1860-1937), R B Yardley (1858-1943). The cover design was by Maximilian Albert Josef Liebenwein (1869-1926) whose mark is seen in the ML 1911 cartouche in the top right-hand corner.

The value of these catalogues is their contribution to philatelic biographies, the articles they sometimes contain, and the provenance of collections and individual items. Like auction catalogues they are important original sources.

MADRID 1561-1856 : ROYAL AND OFFICIAL MAIL

Ramón María Cortés de Haro



In this spectacular book the author reviews his collection of the Royal and official mail of Madrid, from 1561 to 1856. This is one of the very best collections of Spanish Postal History of all time. Mr. Cortés de Haro decided to exhibit it internationally only twice, first in New York 2016 with 5 frames receiving a Gold Medal, then with 8 frames at Finlandia 2017 reaching Large Gold.

It was in 1561 that King Philip II made the small town of Madrid capital of Spain. Since the unification of the Spanish kingdoms under one Crown in 1469 it had been itinerant, moving wherever the king took up residence.

As a prologue the author includes two letters of great historical interest pre-dating 1561. The first is a letter signed personally and jointly by the Catholic Monarchs, Fernando and Isabel, on November 28, 1494, two years after the conquest of Granada from the Arabs and after uniting the Spanish kingdoms during one of their few stays in Madrid. The second, dating from 1542, was signed by Raymond of Tassis, Postmaster General of Spain, who sensibly fixed the main headquarters of the Post in Madrid so that it was no longer itinerant.

The story ends on 15th July 1856 when use of the adhesive stamps created in 1850 became compulsory. Its study of the "black stamps", the spectacular and very rare certified mail, the cabinet mail, the General Mail marks and international correspondence will bring the reader closer to this fascinating



Ramón María Cortés de Haro, Professor at Seville University, former President of the Royal Hispanic Academy of Philately and Postal History, President for 25 years of Seville Philatelic Society and of the Federation of Philatelic Societies of Andalusia, Active Member of l'Académie Européenne de Philatélie, and the Philatelic Foundation (New York), Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, Director of the quarterly magazine "Atalaya Filatelica" from its foundation in 1978 until 2015 (145 issues). He has received the Gold Medal for Philatelic Merit of the Spanish Post "Correos" among many other distinctions.

part of Spanish Postal History. The collection shows documents of such interest that they are rarely found outside Museums and National Archives.



1619. Letter signed on 29th September by the King of Spain and Portugal Philip III "the pious" in Lisbon and sent from Lisbon through Madrid to the Corregidor of the city of Chinchilla.

To buy the book (Spanish language) please contact:

Mario Mirmán

ONCE LIMADO. Avda. de Málaga, 1, 3º Dcha. 41004 Seville (Spain)

e-mail: mariomirman@subastasevilla.com

Price of the Book 25 €

Shipping costs, 14 € Europe, 21 € rest of the world

DESDE MI CASA (From my home)

Cuadernos de Filatelia 24

Various Authors

410 pages, ill., col., 2020, FESOFI



At the beginning of April, following the announcement of the lockdown, the Spanish Federation of Philatelic Societies (FESOFI) launched an appeal on its website, inviting readers to send short features related to a stamp, a letter, a piece of postal stationery ... out of a collection or accumulation. It should be chosen for rarity, uniqueness, presence of errors or simply because it was nice or attractive, curious or funny. The response was large and of high quality - a total of 220 articles were submitted by 57 philatelists and 3 FESOFI working groups. The authors chose the most varied topics, which have been organised in the book according to the classes of the philatelic exhibitions: aerophilately, astrophilately... up to thematic. The work is characterised by many illustrations, to the point that very few pages are text only. Supported by that close collaboration with the Spanish Post which produces frequent editorial initiatives, FESOFI has decided to publish the volume not only on its website but also in paper form.

You can find it at:

<http://www.fesofi.es/libro-cuadernos-de-filatelia-24/>

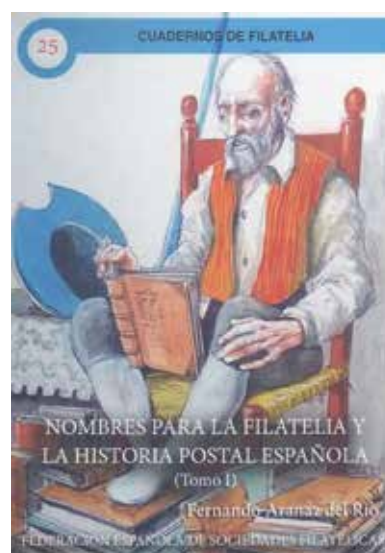
After the recent Autumn lockdown, FESOFI has launched a second "Desde Mi Casa" campaign. Additional articles can be found on the website.

NOMBRES PARA LA FILATELIA Y LA HISTORIA POSTAL ESPAÑOLA (Names for Spanish Philately and Postal History)

FERNANDO ARANAZ DEL RIO

Cuadernos de Filatelia 25

Vol. I 280 pages, Vol. II 250 pages, ill., col., 2020, FESOFI



With these two volumes, sponsored by the Mint and Stamp Printing Enterprise of Spain, Fernando Aranz del Rio brings to the stage 125 personalities, chosen regardless of nationality for the importance of their contribution to the development of Spanish philately. Aranz presents, in alphabetical order, collectors and dealers, publishers and designers of stamps, but also sovereigns (such as Isabella II and Alfonso XIII who also exhibited at the National Philatelic Exhibition) and postal couriers starting with Francesco Tasso. The history of each person is very schematic, with meticulous details of each philatelic activity carried out, from the collections made and awards obtained at various exhibitions to their publications and the service they gave in juries and philatelic associations. To better describe the personality and his/her work, the text is accompanied by photographs, images of pieces and covers of publications, sometimes with excursions outside philately. Like the photo of Luis Alemany, a great collector and architect to Real Madrid, as he presents to King Juan Carlos and the FIFA president his project to renovate the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in view of the 1982 World Cup. Fernando Aranz deserves great credit for recording on paper for posterity the memory of these personalities that otherwise would have been lost. He has rendered another service to Spanish philately in which he is honorary president of FESOFI after many years in office as its president and as a member of the FIP Board of Directors.

The work is available at:

<http://www.fesofi.es/libro-cuadernos-de-filatelia-25/>

1867-1870 DA MENTANA A PORTA PIA – STORIA POSTALE DELLA PRESA DI ROMA
(From Mentana to Porta Pia 1867-1870 – Postal history of the capture of Rome)

DIEGO CARRARO, GIANNI CARRARO, ANTONIO FERRARIO,
 GIUSEPPE A. NATOLI, MARCO PANZA, ANGELO TERUZZI

336 pages, ill., col., 2020.

Zanaria Filatelici Editori in Milano and Associazione Italiana di Storia Postale, 50 € plus postage



This work presents the story of the capture of Rome on September 20, 1870 after a decade of political discussions between the new Kingdom of Italy, France and the Papal States, and vain military attempts. Those events belong to the “Questione Romana” (i.e. Roman Question), that the authors chose as their starting point so as to contextualise the postal consequences properly. It covers the unfruitful Campaign of Agro Romano (1867) led by Giuseppe Garibaldi, as well as the final capture of Rome and end of the Papal States in 1870, 150 years ago, when the Italian army took advantage of the withdrawal of French forces to France because of the Franco-Prussian war. A complete postal history treatise on this subject did not exist and that was the most important goal of this book which covers unknown or little studied features such as the effects of the Campaign of Agro Romano on communications. These included the disruption and recovery of postal services in towns as the invasion forces advanced and later withdrew. Other key points are the analysis of foreign mail during the months when Rome was occupied and finally annexed to Italy, and the use of Papal States’ stamps and then Italian ones by a census. The lavishly illustrated book is bilingual (Italian/French). An English version will also be published in digital form for members of the Royal Philatelic Society London with an eye to increasing the number of prospective readers as much as possible.

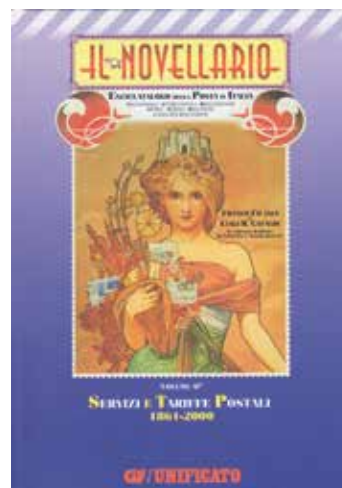
Available from: Zanaria Filatelici, Via Santa Margherita 6, 20121 Milano, Italy; www.zanaria.com; info@zanaria.com or from: Vaccari srl, Via M. Buonarroti 46, 41058 Vignola, Italy; www.vaccari.it; info@vaccari.it or from: C.I.F.-Unificato, Via Cascina Venina 20, 20057 Assago, Italy; www.unificato.it; info@unificato.it

IL NOVELLARIO VOL. 6 .

SERVIZI E TARIFFE POSTALI 1861-2000
(Postal Services and Rates 1861-2000).

FRANCO FILANCI E LUIGI R. CATALDI

264 pages, ill., col., 2020, Unificato, € 39. info@unificato.it



In 1985 Franco Filanci’s and Enrico Angellieri’s book on “Postal Services in Italy - History and Rates” had a great impact among philatelists as, for the first time, the postal services made available by post offices from Italian unification onwards were duly analysed and the relevant rates depicted in clear tables. After 35 years, Filanci revisits this subject in a book published as the sixth volume of the “Novellario”, a set of works subtitled as the “Encyclopedic Catalogue of the Post in Italy”. They aim at divulging knowledge among philatelists so that they develop a new collecting methodology, considering and studying their objects in the framework of postal history. This volume, prepared together with Luigi R. Cataldi, is divided into five major chapters. The first starts with mail services and describes the objects that may be carried by post - letters, postal stationery, postcards, blind cards, announcements, manuscripts, aerograms, medicinal samples, bank statements, second-hand newspapers, records and phonic engravings, and many other types. It then deals with postal franchise, concessionary, accessory and special services, and postal rules. Each object is described in its historical development, often accompanied by illustrations and quotations. At this point postal rates are introduced, in clear, effective and colourful tables, for both domestic and foreign services, at the highest level of detail.

This structure is common to the other chapters, arranged by objects or services, description, and rates. The second and third chapters analyse money and parcel services, whereas the fourth is devoted to the “electrical” services made available by technological progress (telegrams in their many facets, marconigrams, telex, fax, postel-early electronic post). The last chapter covers concessions (authorised delivery by private carriers, parcels under concession, etc.).

In a nutshell, a precious publication for consultation and reference, but also for a pleasant reading full of discoveries even for the experienced philatelist.

DIE POST WÄHREND DER KÄMPFE UND DER VOLKSABSTIMMUNG IN KÄRNTEN 1919-20 **(The Postal Service during the conflicts and plebiscite in Carinthia 1919-20)**

Walter Leitner

479 pages, col, ill, Kärntner Heimatdienst
office@khd.at Austria 50.00 €, Europe 60.00 €



Walter Leitner has marked the centenary of the plebiscite in Carinthia with an extensive and very interesting book. His aim is to describe in detail the philately and postal history of the turbulent period between November 1918 and October 1920 when the future of the province of Carinthia was contested between the Austrian Republic and the emerging SHS Kingdom, which became Yugoslavia.

The book gives a historical introduction to the field, including a description of how private and official stamps were used by both sides to raise money for propaganda purposes. It goes on to illustrate in great detail with postal material all the happenings of that time, including a wealth of rare postmarks from the region, early and late uses, and manuscript cancellations which helped the work of the postal service at a time when one side took over the other's postage stamps.

This period is important for collectors of both Austrian and Slovene material as it overlaps with first appearance of a Slovene speciality, the 'Chainbreaker' stamps with an image of a slave breaking his chains. The first two of this series, with 10 and 20 Vinar values, came into use on 3rd January 1919.

The book is nicely produced in full colour, is easy to read and will be a very useful tool both for specialised collectors of Carinthia and for a wider audience of those with a general interest in the postal history of Austria or of territorial adjustments in Europe after the First World War ended.

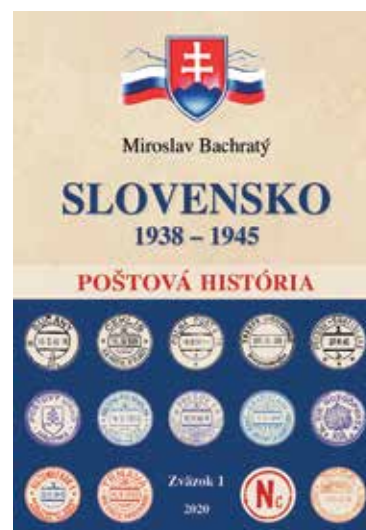
SLOVENSKO 1938 – 1945 / PO TOVÁ HISTÓRIA (SLOVAKIA 1938 – 1945 / Postal History)

MIROSLAV BACHRAT

773 pages, col, ill, 2020, Bachrat,

tecons77@gmail.com

79.00 € + packaging and postage costs.



This two-volume monograph offers a thorough postal-historical study focused on the period of World War II in Slovakia and its territories that were ceded to foreign powers in 1938. It is the first attempt to produce such a comprehensive processing of philatelic documentation of postal services within these territorial boundaries and timeframes. It came to life after more than twenty years of preparation which included collecting extensive documentary material, researching of then limited philatelic literature, studying all available postal as well as archival sources and exchanging information extensively with fellow collectors. Through a complex elaboration of postal-historical material against the background of historical events in this extremely turbulent period of Slovak history, the publication represents a unique philatelic work in the context of Czech-Slovak philatelic literature.

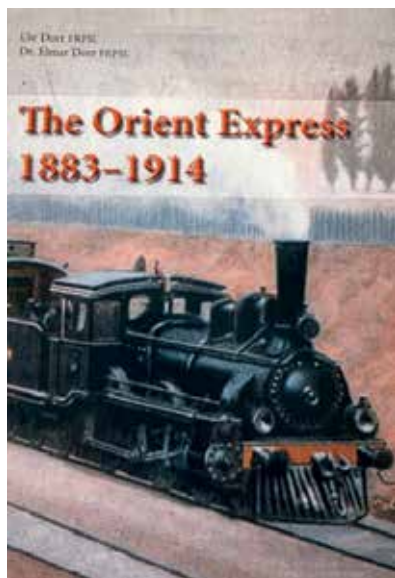
The monograph starts with a short introduction which brings explanatory mapping of events leading to the demise of Czechoslovakia in 1939. The extensive first chapter deals with the establishment of the independent Slovak State in March 1939, in the context of German presence in Slovakia and its participation in military campaigns during the World War II. The next chapter is mainly focused on an intensive study of the material related to the activities of the Slovak Postal Administration in all spheres of its responsibility.

The publication concludes with three individual chapters on the activities of the German, Hungarian and Polish postal administrations providing their services on the Slovak territories. All chapters contain a comprehensive cataloguing of philatelic material presented in each of them. The volumes include almost 2200 illustrations, 160 tables and 36 maps.

THE ORIENT EXPRESS 1883 – 1914 An Empirical Study of its Postal History

UTE AND ELMAR DORR

168pp, ill, col, Ute and Elmar Dorr
utedorr@web.de 49€ + postage/packing



Inspired by the fictional 'Murder on the Orient Express', Ute and Elmar Dorr have produced a fascinating book based on a collection that started with the vignettes and markings used on mail carried by the Orient Express and broadened out into a study of the various post offices in Constantinople, the development of the routes followed by the Orient Express between Paris, Ostend and Berlin at one end and Constantinople on the other, and the different types of mail it carried.

A good deal of scientifically-based research has gone into the analysis, along with an extensive search for information from a wide range of sources including auction catalogues, railway timetables and other collectors, and the result is a lucid, well-constructed book that is indispensable reading for anyone interested in the movement of mail across Europe during the decades before the First World War. The authors emphasise that Orient Express items are not railway mail – they were carried on the train as luggage but were already paid and postmarked before being loaded on the train.

Lavishly illustrated in colour, with good maps and with data presented precisely and accurately, it is difficult to believe that there is much left to be discovered on this topic, although the authors say they think there is further research to be done. It is especially good to see that private and official mail markings are considered side-by-side and given the recognition that they both deserve without any pre-conceptions as to their relative importance.

This book is an excellent illustration of how the nuts and bolts of postal history can be brought together in a broad historical context and thereby illuminate both the detail and the bigger picture. Strongly recommended.

'EXHIBITING POSTAL HISTORY' SEMINARS

FIP POSTAL HISTORY COMMISSION,
AUGUST-OCTOBER 2020

Available to view on FIP website: <https://www.f-i-p.ch/>

Faced with a large and unexpected gap in the exhibitions programme in Summer 2020, the FIP Postal History Commission Bureau decided to organise a series of five virtual seminars on 'Exhibiting Postal History' that would enable them to bring the latest thinking on this topic to a wide audience. The seminars were led by prominent exhibitors who are also international judges and can fairly be described as a series of master-classes that should go to the top of the list of study material for anyone who wants to learn more about the art of exhibiting postal history. They are available to view free of charge.

The first seminar was led by Henrik Mouritsen on the subject of 'Rarity and Condition'. He explained how some rarities are more significant than others, and that definition of an item as 'rare' required some explanation of what 'rarity' meant – best done from a database of known material.

Secondly, Chris King discussed 'Presentation', pointing out that – while it might be only 5 points on the scoresheet – it could have a much bigger effect on the overall impression that an exhibit created. He also described in detail the mechanics of laying out exhibition sheets, while emphasising that there was no 'right way' to do it.

The third seminar was on 'Treatment' and Dan Walker described how to structure an exhibit to secure a smooth flow of the storyline from beginning to end, using several exhibits as examples of good practice. He emphasised the importance of the title and introductory sheet in setting the direction for the exhibit, and the need to maintain the link with the plan through clearly defined sections, page headings and running headings.

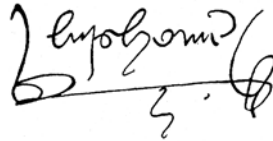
In the fourth seminar, Henrik Mouritsen was again in the lead on the topic of 'Importance'. Recognising that this was always a contentious subject among exhibitors he described a process by which it could be addressed objectively. This was that the subject of the exhibit should be assessed in terms of its relative importance in World Philately, and up to half of the available points awarded on the basis of that evaluation. The other half should then be awarded for the completeness and significance of the exhibit in the context of its subject.

The final seminar, led by Andrew Cheung, was on the subject of 'Knowledge and Research'. He pointed out that more points were available for this than any other aspect of exhibiting, and at less cost. He described how the knowledge shown in an exhibit could be implicit or explicit, and mentioned the need to quote references (though not too many). He also emphasised the importance of showing personal research where possible, especially where it had led to new discoveries.

500 YEARS OF MAIL IN PORTUGAL

Invited Article by Pedro Vaz Pereira

On 6th November 1520, while in Évora, D. Manuel I decided to establish a mail service in Portugal. He created the office of Correio-Mor and appointed Luís Homem, a knight of the royal house who had travelled extensively in Europe and knew how the Taxis post office was organised, to fill the new position. Luís Homem was put in charge of organising the post office in Portugal as a private service for which even the king paid. At first mail distribution was done on foot and it was only after another century that mail began to be carried on horseback. Initially it was restricted to Lisbon and up to 5 leagues around, but the horseback service was faster and more reliable and so it was extended throughout the country.



Signature of the 1st Correio-Mor, Luís Homem

PERIOD OF “CORREIO-MOR”

In 1525 Luís Homem was confirmed Correio-Mor do Reino, by D. João III. Rules for this service were stipulated in the Correio-Mor letters of 1520 and 1525, as follows:

The Correio-Mor was required to:

- 1 – Reside in Lisbon; and, in his absence, to be replaced by someone he trusted.
- 2 – Have the necessary mail-men to carry out the trips requested by the King or private individuals.
- 3 – Adjust the prices of postage with interested parties according to distances and speed of delivery.
- 4 – Provide essential facilities and keep staff warm.
- 5 – Establish stand horses in the places deemed most convenient.

The post office staff were obliged to:

- 1 – Take an oath to serve with secrecy and fidelity.
- 2 – Take no action on the running of the post without a mandate from the Correio-Mor.

Postages and Fines

- 1 – Postage rates were to be fixed by agreement between the Correio-Mor and interested parties.
- 2 – Postal services from abroad could only deliver correspondence to Portugal through the Correio-Mor, to whom they paid 2 reais of silver, or 3 vinténs for those from Spain plus 1 cruzado for mail from other countries.
- 3 – Only the Correio-Mor could establish post offices. Anyone infringing this regulation was subject to a fine of 100 cruzados, half for the Câmara do Rei and half for the Correio-Mor.

Privileges

- 1 – A postal operative could use the royal arms on his clothing and carry sword and dagger, both day and night.
- 2 – He was exempt from duties in the municipality, from “fintas” (taxes) and from tithes.
- 3 – He could not be arrested when travelling except for a crime. If a postman was arrested the authorities were obliged to find an honest person to carry the mail.

Salary

The Correio-Mor could receive one tenth of all earnings as a salary. The balance belonged to the staff.

Luís Homem was succeeded by several Correios-Mores (the post became almost hereditary, passing from father to son). They were:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Luís Afonso | 1532 - 1566. |
| 2. Francisco Coelho | 1565 - 1577. |
| 3. Manuel de Gouveia | 1579 - 1598. (appointed by Cardinal D. Henrique, King of Portugal) |

Interim Correios-Mores

With the death of Manuel Gouveia, the post of Correio-Mor was vacant from 1598-1606. In 1592 Simão Luís was Lieutenant Correio-Mor in Lisbon temporarily. João Fernandes de Arões also held this office from 1600-1606. Assistant post offices, already distributed around the country, were responsible for organising the post in their regions.

The Matta Family - 1606 to 1797

The Matta family was from Aragon, having in Spain the nickname of Coronel. On 19th July 1606, Luís Gomes de Elvas Coronel bought the business of the Correio-Mor Office for 70,000 cruzados, an astronomical amount for the time, which proves its importance. As a result the profitable post business became the exclusive property of the Matta Family so that the king was not able to appoint another

chief courier. They started to use the name of Gomes da Matta and the office of Correio-Mor became hereditary, remaining in the possession of the Mattas until 1797. As Correio-Mor do Reino the Matta family were also able to appoint people to assistant positions in the postal service.

The following were the Correios-Mores from the Matta family:

Luís Gomes da Matta 1606-1607
 António Gomes da Matta Coronel 1607-1641
 Luís Gomes da Matta 1641-1674
 Duarte de Sousa da Matta Coutinho 1674-1696
 Luís Vitório de Sousa Matta Coutinho 1696-1735
 José António da Matta de Sousa Coutinho 1735-1790
 Manuel José da Matta de Sousa Coutinho, Count of Penafiel. 1790-1797

This was the last Correio-Mor in the Kingdom. His son was born in Lisbon on 5th May 1776 where he died in November 1859. At the end of 1796 Minister D. Rodrigo de Sousa Coutinho started negotiations with the Correio-Mor to transfer the mail service to the State. This was due to the poor functioning of the mail which was deteriorating. From this negotiation emerged the Decree of 18 January 1797 that ended the Correio-Mor's service and transferred it to the crown. In compensation the last Correio-Mor was granted the following:

- 1 – A title of nobility and the 'Interest and Homestead in Três Vidas', which by the 'Lei Mental' (a law on inheritance) had to be passed to the firstborn son and could not be divided for 3 generations.
- 2 – Retention of the honour of His Majesty's servant.
- 3 – An income of 40,000 cruzados a year to be linked in a Morgadio (a lineage and means of designating successors, statutes and behaviours)
- 4 – Pensions of 400,000 reis to his mother, brother and sisters.
- 5 – Advance of one or two posts in the army.

From 1797 to 1799, the necessary adjustments were made for the transfer of the postal services to the State and on 19th April 1799 they became a division within the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs.

PRE-ADHESIVE MAIL PERIOD

The mail service, now in the possession of the State, maintained the assistant post offices who paid the State a rent. This payment was complemented with deliveries of foodstuffs, such as watermelons, quinces, chestnuts, figs, cheeses, hams, linen cloths, mussels, peaches, partridges and much else. Postage began to be paid by the recipient. When the sender wanted to pay postage, the correspondence was marked **FRANCA** (there are several types). Correspondence always showed the postage which could be written or stamped. In correspondence generally, and especially in letters, an undated hand-stamp was always struck showing where it had been posted. The name of the place from which the letter originated was very important because postage charges varied according to distance. By checking the name of the despatching office with the destination it was possible to verify if the postage was correct. The "Provisional Regulation of 1st April 1799" was followed by the Regulation for *As Postas* on 13th January 1810. Practical Instructions for Post Assistants were also published and many more changes were made up to 1852 by which time there were 190 assistant post offices and an increasingly large and important mail service in the country.



Pre-adhesive Letter from Peso da Régua. Postage was 25 reis.



Pre-paid mark showing postage was paid by the sender.

ADHESIVE PERIOD

During this period there was a complete reform of the post office in Portugal, which began with the appearance of adhesive postage stamps, i.e. with glue on the back to be pasted on letters. Three major postal reforms took place - in 1852/53, in 1869 and in 1880. All were of great significance and relevance in the history of Portugal. In the 1st and 2nd Postal Reforms undated postmarks showing the point of despatch were mostly used, but stamps were obliterated by bar cancellers containing a number that indicated the station where the letter had been posted. In the 3rd Postal Reform stations which moved over from the 2nd Reform and new stations created by the 3rd Reform initially used undated postmarks to obliterate the stamps but, by the end of the 1880s, there was a progressive appearance of dated postmarks.



Letter posted on 1st July 1853, the first day of use of adhesives. It was not pre-paid with a stamp, so 40 reis were due from the recipient.



Letter from Mirandella to Lisbon franked with the first Portuguese stamp.

On 30th October 1852 the Secretary General for Finance Affairs gave instructions to the Director of the Mint House, Joaquim Francisco de Azevedo, to start the process of manufacturing stamps. Borja Freire, the Mint House opener, then travelled to London to buy the necessary machinery for printing stamps. The first Portuguese postage stamps were based on stamps already issued in France and England and it was decided to follow the English method, with stamps printed in relief. On 11th June 1853 the first 15,600 stamps of 5 reis were ready. On 26th June everything was ready to start using adhesive stamps, with 178,800 stamps of 25 reis and 106,800 of 5 reis delivered to the post so that they could be sent to the largest cities in the country. The stamps were ready for sale from 1st July 1853 so on 28th June 1853 the post office published a notice in the Government Gazette informing the public that the stamps of 5 and 25 reis were available for purchase in Lisbon in the «Correio Geral, in the letter delivery rooms, and in the stores of the depositaries of small post boxes». In 1853 the country was divided into 10 postal administrations which in turn were made up of 219 post offices and delegations.



The first Portuguese stamps. D. Maria II in stamps of 5 and 25 reis.

The 1869 Reform brought some changes in the functioning of the post office which went from 10 central administrations to 8, but now with 522 post offices and 52 distributions. In the 1880 Reform the Post, Telegraph and Lighthouse Directorates are integrated into a single General Directorate of Mail, Telegraph and Lighthouses. This merger was of enormous importance for the country's postal history, making the Postal Reform of 1880 one of the most profound and important in Portugal's history. Mail began to be distributed by districts and municipalities. An astronomical number of 870 post offices was then reached, distributed over 20 districts and 294 counties. 27 years had passed since the Reform of 1852/1853 at which time there were only 390 post offices spread between directorates and delegations and 13 distributions. If we compare that with the 870 of the 3rd Reform we see how the post became of great national importance, not only socially among the population but also for the country's economy. From then on mail continued to evolve. Undated postmarks disappeared and were replaced by dated ones. The Telegraph would assume a very important place in communications and the transport of correspondence by train became essential for the development of the post and the speed of its message.



Electric telegraph envelope, indicating Lisbon stations.

Much remains to be said about the history of the post office in Portugal, but I tried to summarise it as much as possible to cover 500 years of postal history in a few pages.

POSTAL TARIFFS FOR COVERS AND POSTCARDS DURING THE ITALIAN OCCUPATION OF ALBANIA (1939-1943)

Invited article by Jovan Basho

Albania was occupied by fascist Italy on 7th April 1939. According to published documents the postal service restarted work very quickly, even on 9 April, i.e. two days after the invasion. According to Walter Astolfi, who studied the postal service in Italian-occupied countries in detail, the occupation of Albania was not accompanied by immediate changes in the Albanian Post, at least in terms of fees and postmarks.

Albanian stamps issued during the occupation were commonly used, but covers and postcards are rarely found with the following combinations:

1. Mixed franking of 1930 Albanian stamps with and without overprint "Constitutional Meeting 12-IV-1939 XVII"
2. Mixed postal objects with Albanian and Italian stamps.
3. Postal objects with Italian stamps only. Such covers and postcards are only found from the first months of occupation and mainly for the Military Post.



Tirana to Milan (27.4.1939) with two 1930 airmail stamps and two overprinted stamps.



Postcard (June 1941) to Italy with Albanian and Italian stamps.



Albania - Italy cover (October 1940) with Italian stamps only.

Until the full issue of a new emission at the end of 1939 the stamps overprinted "Constitutional Meeting 12-IV-1939 XVII" were commonly used, both on mail within the United Italian and Albanian Kingdom and abroad.



Registered cover from Korça to New York in June 1939.
The postal fee was 65 cents: 40 cents for the cover (30-50g),
15 cents for registration, 10 cents for an international destination.



A simple 15 cents letter from Durres to Rome in May 1939.

In June 1940 (F.O. No. 68, 6.6.1940) it was decided that direct civil correspondence from Albania to Italy should be carried at the Italian internal rate, using Albanian stamps. The use of Italian stamps was tolerated in Albania for about one year, but from June 1940 only Albanian stamps were used while Italian stamps were used only to levy additional charges in cases where the value of the franking was less than needed. The postal tariffs for covers took into account not only their weight but also the mode of circulation. Thus, ordinary covers and tickets weighing up to 15 grams were mailed with stamps to the value of 15 cents. As the weight of the cover increased, the value of the stamps required also increased. Another charge was the air tax, when the postal object was sent by airmail.

POSTAL OBJECTS		Foreign	Airmail
Ordinary postal covers and tickets	Inland	supplement	supplement
Up to 15 grams	0,50	0,15	0,20
15 - 30 grams		0,20	0,30
30 - 50 grams		0,40	0,60

Table 1. Postal tariff table of June 1940. Monetary values are expressed in Albanian francs and cents.

Additional charges were made of 0.15 francs for registered covers and 0.25 francs for "Express" Post. The charge for a notice of receipt was 0.15 Albanian francs. For declared value the insurance tax (for every 300 francs or less) was 0.50 francs.



Simple postcard with the value 10 cents from Shkoder to Verona in February 1941.



Cover sent from Durrës to Prato, Italy in March 1942. The postal tariff was 75 cents (15 cents postage up to 15g, registration 15 cents, airmail 20 cents and "Express" post 25 cents).

These tariffs were also used in the territories united to Albania which were excluded from its territory by the London Conference of 1913 (shown on the map, right).

On 3rd March 1942, a revision of tariffs was made.

POSTAL OBJECTS	Weight	Tariff
Covers	Up to 15 grams	0,15
	Each extra 15 gr	0,15
Postcards		0,15

Table 2. Revised postage rates from 3rd March 1942.

At the end of 1942, several more tariff changes were made to bring tariffs into line with those of the European Union of Post and Telecommunications, which entered into force on 1 April 1943. The tariff for letters and postcards sent from Italy to Albania remained the same as within Italy, while the following rates were set for letters and postcards sent from Albania to Italy:

POSTAL OBJECTS	Weight	Tariff
Covers	Up to 20 grams	0,20
	20-250 grams	0,30
	250-500 grams	0,50
	500-1,000 grams	0,75
Postcards		0,08

Table 3. Revised rates for mail from Albania to Italy from end of 1942.

Despite this revision, the 0.08 fee for simple postcards seems not to have been applied in Albania as is shown in the example below.

Simple postcard from Prizren to Venice in July 1943 with the value 30 cent (15 cents for the postcard, 15 cents airmail).



Map of Albania 1941



Registered cover from Tirana to Catania in May 1943 with the value 50 cent (20 cents for postage up to 20g, 15 cents airmail, 15 cents for registration).

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Postscript: I tried to present a more or less complete picture of the postal tariffs during the Italian occupation in respect of circulated covers and postcards, illustrated with the materials in my collection. High-weight covers are rare and hard to find.

THE YUGOSLAV ARMY DETACHMENT IN ZONE A, 1945 - 1947

Invited article by Dr Veselko Guštin

Throughout May and early June 1945 there was diversified diplomatic activity among the allies on the governance of Julian Venetia (it. Venezia Giulia, VG). The Western allies asked for administration over Trieste, Gorizia, Monfalcone and Pola, together with a certain territory and the Isonzo valley, due to the need for a connection between Trieste and the occupied zone in Austria. Finally, on June 9, 1945, an agreement was reached relating to the distribution of VG in two zones, signed by Šubašić. A more detailed agreement was concluded on June 20, 1945 by General Arso Jovanović and the head of the Allied Command Office for the Mediterranean, Lieutenant General Morgan.

We will be interested in Zone A and some provisions concerning it in the future. It was agreed, among other things, that in Zone A a detachment of the Yugoslav Army (JA) would remain but under Allied command. Colonel Dragomir Benčić was appointed commander of the detachment. The detachment of the JA had the San Giusto hospital in Gorizia available for its needs. On June 20 all the units of the detachment of the JA were transferred from the cities to the Karst, i.e., to Kostanjevica and the surrounding villages. In Kostanjevica, originally there was also the headquarters, which moved to the village of Opatje selo on September 4, 1945, where it remained until October 1947. The allies also allowed the extension of the JA to the villages of Pliskovica, from September 1, 1945, Gabrovica, Škrbina, Brestovica, Kobjeglava and Gorjansko, and later also to Šempolaj, Kobilj and Renče.

In the detachment area there was no space for the operation of the AMG and their police. Unlike other places in Zone A, where the NOOs (National Liberation Committees) were abolished and their administration established, the NOOs continued to operate. The detachment of the JA lasted until October 1947.

Territory of the JA detachment for Trieste, Istria and the Slovenian Littoral in Zone A of VG, 1945-47. The red area is marked after June 20, 1945, and the blue after September 1, 1945.



Postal History: The first time I read about the detachment of the JA was in the Italian philatelic literature (R. Pinelli). With regards to the functioning of the postal communications, B. Morenčić (V. Guštin, B. Morenčić, Postal history and philately in the Littoral) says "The detachment of the JA took the official and personal mail of officers and soldiers every day and he transported it with his own means to Ljubljana, and on the route he also collected and delivered post in Ajdovščina and Postojna. When leaving or arriving their detachment territory, AMG exercised no control over the postal items. At the same time, Morenčić wrote that "an employee of the auxiliary post in the village of Opatje selo (on the territory of detachment of the JA) went herself to Gorizia for the postal items she gave to the KNOO (regional committee for liberation)." This is all we know about the postal operation.

These are the only two letters that I have seen from the JA detachment in Zone A.



*Letter from the Artillery Division of the Detachment of the JA for the Slovenian Littoral, Trieste and Istria (ŠTAB BRDSKOG MOT. DIVIZIONA * Odred Jug. Armije za Trst, Istru i Slovensko Primorje *) to Hreljin, sent: 10.X.1945, arrived: 28.XI.1945.*



April 1946. Red Cross (RK) of Slovenia envelope carried by the ODRED J.A. ZA S.P. TRST I ISTRU - VOJNA POŠTA (JA Detachment for the Slovenian littoral, Trieste and Istria - military post) to the "propagandni odsek Odreda za Slov. Primorje, Trst in Istro". As the addressee was no longer there it was taken by hand to Merna and then by regular mail to Bovec (PLEZZO RACC.ASSIC.20.4.46) where it was delivered.

THE FIRST STAMP OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA AFTER INDEPENDENCE

Invited article by Boštjan Petauer

Towards the end of the 1980s the economic situation in the former Yugoslavia deteriorated. The standard of living of the population was declining, and the inflation rate was rising sharply. Tensions between nations escalated and even went so far as to boycott goods from other parts in some parts of the country, while at the same time there were attempts to destabilize individual parts of the country politically.

Slovenia wanted out of this mess and that is why a referendum on the independence of the Republic was called for 23rd December 1990. 90% of the population opted for independence which was declared by Act of Parliament on 25th June 1991. The next day the Yugoslav army, attacked Slovenia, mainly from its bases in Slovenian territory, and the ten-day war for independence began. This ended with the Brioni Agreement, concluded with the help of the European Union which ended hostilities. At the same time Slovenia had to stop all independence activities for three months which also applied to the sale of the stamp which is the subject of my article. At midnight on 25th October 1991, the last soldier of the Yugoslav Army left Slovenia, leaving no more foreign troops on its territory.

On 26th June 1991 the first post-independence Slovenian stamp was issued with a motif of Plečnik's Parliament, which is one of the unrealized designs of this world-famous Slovenian architect (1872-1957). This stamp was printed in 2 million copies, i.e. one for every Slovenian. Given such a large quantity and the short time available for its production (which also took place in secret) it is not surprising that there were errors in printing and perforation.

In my short article the more interesting variations of this issue are displayed such as shifted and double perforation (at various positions) as well as partly imperforate, the combinations of these varieties and missing colours which is the rarest variety of all.



All colours missing except grey.



*Double perforation at the last stamp (above)
and shifted perforation (below)*



Double perforation above and missing horizontal perforation (full sheet).

COLLECTING BUTTERFLIES AS AN EXCITING PASSION OF KINGS AND TSARS

Part II of an invited article by Vladimir Kachan, Belarus

Naturalists have collected butterflies for over 300 years with the earliest surviving specimens dating from the late 17th century, the beginning of the Scientific Revolution. Butterfly collections came about as a result of growing interest in natural history and many were displayed in curio cabinets in the town houses and country mansions of the wealthy society of Europe. Monarchs were also attracted to form collections, many of which subsequently made important contributions to museums of natural sciences. Here are a few examples.

William III (1650-1702), also known as William of Orange, was sovereign Prince of Orange from birth, Stadtholder of Holland, Zeeland, Utrecht, Gelderland and Overijssel in the Dutch Republic from 1672 and King of England, Ireland and Scotland from 1689 until his death in 1702.



King William III. (UK, 2010)



'Monarch' butterfly (US postal stationery, 1986)

He had a passion for gardening and liked to collect butterflies, enriching his collection with specimens brought back from expeditions to distant lands. These included extensive quantities of butterflies and botanical material brought back by trader and naturalist James Cunningham from visits to the East Indies in the 1690s. The displays of rare flowers and beautiful butterflies also served a political purpose as it enabled the court to stand out as a model of splendour on the international stage, an important point in the age of King Louis XIV. The American butterfly Monarch also has a direct relationship to William III. Apparently, early settlers in North America from Holland and England were so impressed by the sight of the Monarch butterfly and its orange colour that they named it "Monarch" after him.

Augustus II the Strong (1670-1733), known in Saxony as Frederick Augustus I, was Elector of Saxony from 1697, Imperial Vicar, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania.



King Augustus II the Strong (Poland postal stationery, 2002)



Tropical butterfly from Augustus's collection (Surinam, 1983)

As Elector of Saxony, he enlarged the capital Dresden to become one of the most beautiful cities in Europe and he is remembered as a patron of the arts and architecture, amassing an impressive art collection and building lavish baroque palaces in Dresden and Warsaw. He had animal collections throughout his royal residences and was passionate about butterflies to the extent that in 1708 he had silver commemorative coins minted where the obverse shows a crowned monogram while the reverse is decorated with a butterfly. In 1731 he bought a «repository of natural curiosities» from the Dutch anatomist Frederik Ruych that included a large collection of exotic butterflies from Asia, Africa and America to be housed in the pleasure palace in Dresden.

King George III (1738-1820) was the first British king to study science as part of his education. He liked butterflies and entomology and enjoyed watching fluttering butterflies among flowers in an exotic garden.



King George III (UK, 2011)



'Big greasy' butterfly (Australia, 1983)

He was fascinated by magnificent specimens of bright butterflies brought from distant lands including the unusual Big greasy butterfly presented to him by Sir Joseph Banks after the first voyage of discovery to New Holland (Australia) by the British ship Endeavour in 1771. In 1810, he acquired one of the first editions of *Metamorphosis Insectorum Surinamensium* by Maria Sibylla Merian (hand-painted on vellum) for the Royal Collection.

Gustav IV Adolf (1778-1837) was King of Sweden from 1792 until his abdication in 1809.



King Gustav IV Adolf (postcard of Sweden)



Uppsala University (Sweden, 1977)

He had a great interest in natural objects and assembled an extensive natural history collection that included seashells, petrifications, and insects. Many were colourful butterflies and moths. This collection was donated to the University of Uppsala in 1803.

Ferdinand I (1861-1948) was the second monarch of the Third Bulgarian State, first as knyaz (ruling prince) from 1887 to 1908, and later as Tsar from 1908 until his abdication in 1918. He was an avid amateur naturalist who developed an interest in ornithology, entomology, and botany and butterflies were his passion. The news of his election as a Bulgarian prince reached him during a butterfly hiking trip. In Bulgaria he visited all the high mountain ranges and climbed their highest peaks. He also collected butterflies during research trips to Bulgaria and Central Europe.



Prince Ferdinand (Bulgaria proof, 1884)



Tsar Ferdinand I (Bulgaria, 1915)



Allancastria cerisy (Bulgaria, 1962)

In 1889 he brought his personal collection of Bulgarian and tropical birds, mammals and butterflies to the palace, laying the foundation for the first Bulgarian museum known today as the National Natural Science Museum. In 1914 and 1915, he organised and led the first two major scientific expeditions to explore the Pirin mountain range which contributed to the exploration of the mountains in geographic, zoological and botanical terms. During these expeditions and other excursions, he found several species of butterfly hitherto unknown in certain territories including the *Archon apollinus* and *Euchloe penia*, the *Thaumatopoea solitaria* (new for Bulgaria), the *Charaxes jasius* (new for the eastern half of the Balkan peninsula) and the *Allancastris cerisy* (new for Northern Bulgaria). Among the interesting Bulgarian species associated with him is the Ferdinand butterfly with the scientific name *Allancastris cerisy ferdinandi*. Ferdinand's butterfly is found only on the Balkan Peninsula and, therefore, belongs to the group of so-called endemics - species whose distribution is limited to a particular geographical area. His energy and enthusiasm made a major contribution to the development of Bulgarian zoology and botany.

Boris III (1894 – 1943) was Tsar of Bulgaria from 1918 until his death (he was the eldest son of Ferdinand I) but he might have preferred to be a lepidopterist and botanist.



King Boris III (Bulgaria proof, 1921)



Butterfly (Bulgaria, 1984)



National Natural History Museum

Under his father's influence he was interested in natural sciences from childhood. He liked to collect butterflies, observe rare birds and explore unknown plants. By 1941 he had formed a rich collection of several thousand butterflies from Bulgaria and other European countries which is today in the National Natural History Museum. He visited the most desolate places, either alone or accompanied by botanists and ornithologists, and discovered rare or unknown plants and insects that were sent to scientists for research. Consequently 5 newly discovered species of plant, 11 of animals and one of birds were named «Boris's». He was an honorary member of botanic, entomological and ornithologic learned associations in Bulgaria, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. On October 2, 1938, he was unanimously elected a member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. He was a real scientist - a botanist and zoologist specialising in the study of butterflies and mountain plants.

King Farouk of Egypt reigned from 1936-1952 and collected coins, weapons, butterflies, watches, cigarettes, cars and postage stamps. His collection included 7,000 butterflies from all parts of the world, including very rare species.



King Farouk (Egypt, 1950)



Rare butterfly 'Ornithoptera allotei' (Papua New Guinea, 1975)

At present, this beautiful collection of butterflies is on display in the Hunting Museum at the Manial Palace in Cairo.

Leopold III (1901-1983), who reigned as King of the Belgians from 1934-1951 was a keen amateur entomologist and a butterfly collector. In 1919 he went to Brazil where he caught exotic butterflies like the Blue Morpho with iridescent blue wings.



King Leopold III (Belgium, 1934)



Blue Morpho butterfly (Brazil, 1971)

In 1925 he went to the Congo where he took extensive notes on the flora and fauna and collected specimens, especially of unusual African butterflies. In 1928-1929 he travelled through the archipelago of the Dutch East Indies (currently Indonesia) where he also collected animals, among which were many butterflies. After his abdication in 1951 he devoted himself entirely to scientific work in the field of entomology making several scientific expeditions to tropical countries and publishing a number of studies. He created the "King Leopold III Fund for Nature Exploration and Conservation". He donated his collection of butterflies to the Van Straelen Museum (now Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences).



Butterfly (Congo unadopted design, 1971)












Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (Belgium, 1996)

One of the most beautiful creatures to grace the earth is the butterfly. The sight of a butterfly flying in the air during the spring or summertime in its sheer beauty and gracefulness is awe-inspiring. Its natural beauty does not leave anyone indifferent.



The Author is ready to help philatelists in creating of philatelic exhibits on butterflies and moths. His address: Vladimir Kachan, street Kulibina 9-49, Minsk-52, BY-220052, Republic of Belarus, E-mail: vladimirkachan@mail.ru

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We are delighted to welcome Thomas Höpfner from Germany as a FEPA Director.
Thomas was appointed to the Board on 12th January 2021 in place of Ari Muhonen who stepped down on 31st December 2020.

If you have news that would like us to post on the website, or to publish in the twice-yearly magazine, please contact us. The address is:

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Events Calendar

2021		
18-20 March	HERTOGPOST 2021, 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands	National, with international participation https://hertogpost-event.nl
25-27 March	Virtual STAMPEX 2021, London	National https://www.stampexinternational.co.uk
10-13 June	ALPE ADRIA 2021, Tarvisio, Italy	Multinational, FEPA Recognition http://www.alpeadria.eu/exhibitions/2020/tarvisio-2020.html
11-13 June	ANTVERPIADE 2020, Antwerpen, Belgium	100th anniversary of the Summer Olympics in Antwerp in 1920 https://www.antverpiade2020.be
13-15 August	NORDIA 2021, Kuopio, Finland	Multinational, FEPA Recognition https://www.postimerkkikerho.fi/nordia-2021
20-22 August	ESLÖVIA 2021, Eslöv, Sweden	National
25-30 August	PHILANIPPON 2021, Yokohama, Japan	World specialised, FIP Patronage, WSC https://www.japan2021.jp/en
27-29 August	"phila"-TOSCANA 2021, Gmunden, Austria	National
24-26 September	ÖVEBRIA 2021, St. Pölten, Austria	National
24-26 September	MULTILATERALE 2021, St. Pölten, Austria	Multinational, FEPA Recognition
29 September - 4 October	BALKANFILA 2021, Bucharest, Romania	Multinational, FEPA Recognition
29 September - 2 October	Autumn STAMPEX 2021, London	National https://www.stampexinternational.co.uk
8-9 October	MILANOFIL 2021, Milan	National
15-17 October	STAMPA 2021, Dublin, Ireland	National
9-13 November	CAPE TOWN 2021, South Africa	World specialised, FIP Patronage, WSC https://capetown2021.org
19-22 November	NOTOS 2021, Athens	European, FEPA Patronage, FIP Recognition https://hps.gr/notos2021
23 November	FEPA CONGRESS 2021, Athens	
9-11 December	MONACOPHIL 2021, Monaco	100 iconic items, FEPA Recognition https://www.monacophil.eu
2022		
19-26 February	LONDON 2022, London	World specialised, FIP Patronage, WSC, FEPA Recognition http://www.london2020.co
31 March - 3 April	HUNFILEX 2022, Budapest	World specialised, FIP Patronage, FEPA Recognition http://www.hunfilex2022.com
18-22 May	HELVETIA 2022, Lugano, Switzerland	World specialised, FIP Patronage, FEPA Recognition https://www.helvetia2022.ch
9-12 June	CAPEX 2022, Toronto, Canada	World One-Frame, FIAP Patronage, FIP Recognition https://capex22.org
4-9 August	INDONESIA 2022, Jakarta	World specialised, FIP Patronage
14-16 October	STAMPA 2022, Dublin, Ireland	National
21-23 October	NORDIA 2022, Birkerød, Denmark	Multinational
2023		
25-28 May	IBRA 2023, Essen, Germany	World, FIP Patronage, FEPA Recognition https://ibra2023.de



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