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IMPRESSUM

FEPA News is the journal of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations. It is produced by the Board of FEPA to facilitate the sharing of information among FEPA Members and to maintain a record of their philatelic activities. The editor is the FEPA President, Bill Hedley, with assistance from other members of the FEPA Board. The Board relies on contributions from its Members and friends and offers sincere thanks to all who have contributed to this issue.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Philatelic Friends,

May I welcome you most warmly to FEPA NEWS No. 40. This journal has now been in continuous production twice annually for 20 years. The first issue appeared in March 2002 and since then it has kept the FEPA Members, and the wider world, informed of what is going on in European philately. It was created to share information for the benefit of philately in general. Twenty years on, and the need to share information is greater than ever. Consequently, we are working to distribute FEPA NEWS to as wide an audience as possible both through our website and by extending the distribution of the printed version.

On 23rd November 2021 FEPA succeeded in holding its first Congress since 2019, taking advantage of the presence of many Members at the excellent NOTOS exhibition organised by the Hellenic Philatelic Federation. A revision of the Statutes was approved which introduces many changes that will help FEPA to continue its work. A new Board was elected, and we were able to outline our priorities for the coming years. While we will, of course, continue with existing programmes to support our Members in promoting philately, we will place more emphasis on promoting innovation and best practice, as well as on cooperation between Members. The philatelic world is having to adapt to change in order to survive, not least through greater use of information technology and social media. The pandemic experience has shown that we can adapt but that we can achieve better results if we cooperate and share experience.

We have all felt the joy of meeting once again in person recently and there will be plenty of opportunity to do so again next year, with 3 World exhibitions in Europe between February and May and a European exhibition at Liberec in October 2022. I hope you will be able to participate in these events in one way or another, and that you find the experience enjoyable and beneficial.

BILL HEDLEY

LETTRE DU PRÉSIDENT

Chers amis philatélistes,

Puis-je vous souhaiter la plus chaleureuse des bienvenues à FEPA NEWS No. 40. Ce journal est maintenant en publication continue deux fois par an depuis 20 ans. Le premier numéro est paru en mars 2002 et depuis lors, il a tenu les Membres de l'Association, et le monde entier, informés de ce qui se passe dans la philatélie européenne. Il a été créé pour partager des informations dans l'intérêt de la philatélie en général. Vingt ans plus tard, le besoin de partager l'information est plus grand que jamais. Par conséquent, nous nous efforçons de diffuser FEPA NEWS à un public aussi large que possible à la fois via notre site Web et en étendant la distribution de la version imprimée.

Le 23 novembre 2021, la FEPA a réussi à tenir son premier congrès depuis 2019, profitant de la présence de nombreux membres à l'excellente exposition NOTOS organisée par la Fédération philatélique hellénique. Une révision des Statuts a été approuvée qui introduit de nombreux changements qui aideront la FEPA à poursuivre son travail. Un nouveau Conseil de Direction a été élu et nous avons pu définir nos priorités pour les années à venir. Alors que nous continuerons, bien entendu, les programmes existants pour aider nos Membres à promouvoir la philatélie, nous mettrons davantage l'accent sur la promotion de l'innovation et des meilleures pratiques, ainsi que sur la coopération entre les Membres. Le monde philatélique doit s'adapter au changement pour survivre, notamment grâce à une utilisation accrue des technologies de l'information et des médias sociaux. L'expérience de la pandémie a montré que nous pouvons nous adapter mais que nous pouvons obtenir de meilleurs résultats si nous coopérons et partageons notre expérience.

Nous avons tous ressenti la joie de nous retrouver en personne récemment et nous aurons de nombreuses occasions de le faire à nouveau l'année prochaine, avec 3 expositions mondiales en Europe entre février et mai et une exposition européenne à Liberec en octobre 2022. J'espère que vous pourrez participer à ces événements d'une manière ou d'une autre, et que vous trouverez l'expérience agréable et bénéfique.

BILL HEDLEY

OFFENER BRIEF DES PRÄSIDENTEN

Liebe Freunde der Philatelie

Ich begrüße Sie sehr herzlich mit den vorliegenden FEPA NEWS Nr. 40. Diese Zeitschrift erscheint nun schon seit 20 Jahren zweimal jährlich. Die erste Ausgabe erschien im März 2002. Seitdem hat sie die FEPA-Mitglieder und die ganze Welt über das Geschehen in der europäischen Philatelie informiert. Sie wurde geschaffen, um Informationen über die Philatelie auszutauschen. Zwanzig Jahre später ist das Bedürfnis, gegenseitig Informationen zu vermitteln, wichtiger denn je. Deshalb arbeiten wir daran, die FEPA NEWS sowohl über unsere Website als auch durch die Ausweitung der Verbreitung der gedruckten Ausgabe an ein möglichst breites Publikum noch bekannter zu machen.

Am 23. November 2021 konnte die FEPA in Athen ihren ersten Kongress seit 2019 abhalten und dabei von der Anwesenheit vieler Mitglieder auf der hervorragenden NOTOS-Ausstellung profitieren, die vom Griechischen Philatelistenverband organisiert wurde. Es wurde eine Revision der Statuten verabschiedet, die viele Änderungen einführt, die der FEPA helfen werden, ihre Arbeit fortzusetzen. Ein neuer Vorstand wurde gewählt, und wir konnten unsere Prioritäten für die kommenden Jahre festlegen. Natürlich werden wir die bestehenden Programme zur Unterstützung unserer Mitglieder bei der Förderung der Philatelie fortsetzen, aber wir werden mehr Gewicht auf die Förderung von Innovationen und bewährten Verfahren sowie auf die Zusammenarbeit zwischen den Mitgliedern legen. Die Philateliewelt muss sich dem Wandel anpassen, um zu überleben, nicht zuletzt durch den verstärkten Einsatz von Informationstechnologien und sozialen Medien. Die Erfahrung mit der Pandemie hat gezeigt, dass wir uns anpassen können, aber dass wir auch bessere Ergebnisse erzielen können, wenn wir noch enger zusammenarbeiten und unsere Erfahrungen austauschen.

Wir alle hatten kürzlich das Vergnügen, uns wieder einmal persönlich zu treffen, und es wird auch nächstes Jahr wieder reichlich Gelegenheit dazu geben, mit drei Weltausstellungen in Europa zwischen Februar und Mai und einer europäischen Ausstellung in Liberec im Oktober 2022. Ich hoffe, dass Sie auf die eine oder andere Weise an diesen Veranstaltungen teilnehmen können, und dass Ihnen die dabei gewonnenen Erfahrungen auch in Ihrer persönlichen Arbeit für die Philatelie weiterhelfen.

BILL HEDLEY

CARTA DEL PRESIDENTE

Queridos amigos filatélicos,

Les doy la más cordial bienvenida al número 40 de FEPA NEWS. Esta revista se ha estado publicando de forma continua dos veces al año durante 20 años. El primer número apareció en marzo de 2002 y desde entonces ha mantenido informados a los miembros de la FEPA, y al resto del mundo, de lo que está sucediendo en la filatelia europea. Fue creado para compartir información en beneficio de la filatelia en general. Veinte años después, la necesidad de compartir información es mayor que nunca. En consecuencia, estamos trabajando para distribuir FEPA NEWS a una audiencia lo más amplia posible tanto a través de nuestro sitio web como ampliando la distribución de la versión impresa.

El 23 de noviembre de 2021, la FEPA logró celebrar su primer Congreso desde 2019, aprovechando la presencia de numerosos Miembros en la excelente exposición NOTOS organizada por la Federación Filatélica Helénica. Se aprobó una revisión de los Estatutos que introduce muchos cambios que ayudarán a la FEPA a continuar su trabajo. Se eligió una nueva Junta Directiva y pudimos delinear nuestras prioridades para los próximos años. Aunque, por supuesto, continuaremos con los programas existentes para ayudar a nuestros miembros a promover la filatelia, pondremos más énfasis en promover la innovación y las mejores prácticas, así como en la cooperación entre los miembros. El mundo filatélico tiene que adaptarse al cambio para sobrevivir, sobre todo mediante un mayor uso de la tecnología de la información y las redes sociales. La experiencia de la pandemia ha demostrado que podemos adaptarnos, pero que podemos lograr mejores resultados si cooperamos y compartimos la experiencia.

Todos hemos sentido la alegría de encontrarnos una vez más en persona recientemente y habrá muchas oportunidades para hacerlo nuevamente el próximo año, con 3 exposiciones mundiales en Europa entre febrero y mayo y una exposición europea en Liberec en octubre de 2022. Espero que podrá participar en estos eventos de una forma u otra, y que encuentre la experiencia placentera y beneficiosa.

BILL HEDLEY

INTRODUCING THE NEW FEPA BOARD



FEPA NEWS is delighted to introduce the new FEPA Board that has come into office following the FEPA Congress in Athens on 23rd November 2021.

Four candidates were nominated by their national Federations to fill positions on the Board that were due for re-election at the Congress, and all were duly elected for a four-year term. They are:

Vice President
Treasurer
Director

Giancarlo Morolli (Italy)
Hans Schwarz (Switzerland)
Thomas Höpfner (Germany)
Lars Engelbrecht (Denmark)

The other three Board positions will come up for re-election at Congress in 2023. The current post-holders are:

President
Secretary General
Director

Bill Hedley (UK)
Igor Pirc (Slovenia)
Costas Chazapis (Greece)



The new FEPA Board, photographed after the Congress at the Zappeion in Athens.

From Left:

Lars Engelbrecht, Costas Chazapis, Giancarlo Morolli, Bill Hedley, Thomas Höpfner, Igor Pirc, Hans Schwarz

We are also pleased to report that Fredi Kunz (Austria) was appointed as the FEPA Auditor.

Our warmest thanks go to Fredi, who stepped down at the Congress from the position of FEPA Treasurer, and to Nicos Rangos who retired as a FEPA Director, for their dedication and numerous achievements during their long period of service on the FEPA Board.

FEPA CONGRESS – WHAT HAPPENED?

The 2021 FEPA Congress was held on 23rd November 2021 in the Zappeion, Athens starting at 9.00am. The full record of the meeting produced by the Secretary General, Igor Pirc, is published here.

Welcome

The FEPA President, Bill Hedley, welcomed all participants and thanked the Hellenic Philatelic Federation and the Organizing Committee of NOTOS 2021 for their generous invitation to hold the Congress in Athens.

Apologies had been received from Bernie Beston, FIP President, who was unable to attend due to Australian restrictions on travel.

The President invited those present to observe a minute of silence in memory of the late Presidents of Member Federations Hans Kraaibeek, Alexander Ilyushin and Leonard Pascanu as well as many other friends who had died during the previous two years.

Presentation of FEPA Medals

The President presented the FEPA Medal for exceptional service to organised philately for 2020 to Jonas Hällström of Sweden with warmest congratulations.

The Francis Kiddle medal for the best philatelic website, awarded to the EXPONET website, was presented to Dr. Bedrich Helm, the delegate from the Czech Republic, representing the website committee.

The President also announced that the FEPA Medal for exceptional philatelic study and research for 2020 had been awarded to Miroslav Bachraty of Slovakia. Regrettably Mr Bachraty was unable to be present so the award is being sent to him after the Congress.

Certificates for Study and Research were also presented to Mehmet Akan and Timo Kuran (Turkey) and a Certificate of Appreciation for the Philatelic Society of Tenerife (Spain) was presented to José Pedro Gómez-Agüero to forward to the society.

Roll Call and appointment of Tellers

The Secretary made a roll call. Of 44 members 30 were represented (24 by delegates and 6 by proxies). All decisions of the Congress were, therefore, valid. Julije Maras and Bojan Bračič were appointed as tellers.

Delegates to the FEPA Congress, 23rd November 2021, Athens were:

1	ALBANIA	Julian Demeti	24	LITHUANIA	Not present
2	ARMENIA	Not present	25	LUXEMBOURG	Proxy to Belgium
3	AUSTRIA	Proxy to Germany	26	N. MACEDONIA	Not present
4	BELARUS	Not present	27	MOLDOVA	Not present
5	BELGIUM	Koenraad Bracke	28	MONACO	Jean Voruz
6	BULGARIA	Proxy to Albania	29	MONTENEGRO	Proxy to Slovenia
7	CROATIA	Julije Maras	30	NETHERLANDS	Not present
8	CYPRUS	Akis Christou	31	NORWAY	Not present
9	CZECH Rep.	Bedrich Helm	32	POLAND	Ludwik Malendowicz
10	DENMARK	Lars Engelbrecht	33	PORTUGAL	Not present
11	EGYPT	Hany Salam	34	ROMANIA	Viktor Iordache
12	ESTONIA	Not present	35	RUSSIA	Aleksei Borodin
13	FINLAND	Ari Muhonen	36	SERBIA	Not present
14	FRANCE	Bernard Jimenez	37	SLOVAKIA	Proxy to Czech Federation
15	GERMANY	Wolfgang Leupold	38	SLOVENIA	Bojan Bračič
16	GREECE	Christos Gikas			(observer Peter Suhadolc)
17	HUNGARY	Géza Homonnay	39	SPAIN	José Pedro Gómez-Agüero
18	ICELAND	Not present	40	SWEDEN	Peter Nordin
19	IRELAND	Proxy to UK	41	SWITZERLAND	Hans Schwarz
20	ISRAEL	Eddie Leib	42	TURKEY	M. Edip Ağaoğullari
21	ITALY	Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi	43	UK	Simon Richards
22	LATVIA	Not present			(observer Jon Aitchison)
23	LIECHTENSTEIN	Not present	44	UKRAINE	Not present

The President presented FEPA gold pins to recently elected Presidents of Member Federations who were present: Bojan Bračič (Slovenia), Akis Christou (Cyprus) and Jean Voruz (Monaco).

Minutes of the FEPA Congress in Monte Carlo, 29th November 2019

The minutes of the 2019 FEPA Congress were accepted unanimously without any comments.

Reports of the FEPA Board members

All reports were accepted unanimously.

Financial Statement

In the absence of Fredi Kunz, the President introduced the Financial Statement, noting that the outturn reflected the circumstances of the pandemic which meant there had been almost no travel expenses as regular Board meetings were held via Zoom. Overall FEPA's financial position remained solid.

Changes had been required to FEPA's banking arrangements as our previous banker had informed us at short notice that our account would be closed since FEPA was not registered in Austria. This was not possible without major changes to the Statutes. To fill the gap a company (FEPA Limited) was created in the UK with three Directors: Bill Hedley, Fredi Kunz and Igor Pirc. This had enabled FEPA to open a business account with Transferwise, an international banking and money transfer company, into which FEPA's funds had been transferred.

The report was accepted unanimously. The President added that there had been a problem with unpaid FEPA Membership fees for 2020 and 2021. Most outstanding subscriptions had now been paid but one Federation still owed membership fees for three years from 2019. The Board will keep the position under review and will, if necessary, take action to suspend membership in accordance with the stipulations of the Statutes. The President congratulated Fredi Kunz for his extremely good work as Treasurer during his mandate which had been of great benefit to FEPA and its Members.

Proposed budget of the current year

The plan for 2021 did not deviate significantly from previous years although some activities had been postponed due to COVID restrictions. It was noted that the proposed budget related to the current calendar year which was nearly complete. Thus, approval was being sought largely in retrospect. Looking ahead, therefore, with the prospect of Congress being held regularly in the second part of the year, the system of forward planning would be adjusted to enable Congress to consider future plans before they were well advanced.

Report of the Auditor

The auditor's report confirmed that he had found the accounts to be correct and in good order. He congratulated the Treasurer for his good work. As he had been nominated to become FEPA Treasurer he was now stepping down from the function of the Auditor.

Appointment of Auditor

Fredi Kunz (Austria) had been nominated to take on the position of auditor. This was agreed.

Adoption of revised FEPA Statutes

The President introduced the revised Statutes, commenting that changes in organised philately since 2002 and the completely different environment in which we now worked had necessitated a general rewriting of the Statutes to support the future development of the FEPA organisation. Among other things the revised Statutes would allow FEPA to hold a virtual Congress if necessary, and to admit new members from the near-European territory (an application from Lebanon had been open since 2018 but could not be entertained under the previous Statutes).

The proposals that had been tabled had been the subject of communication with Member Federations on several occasions during the previous year and half. Two proposals from Member Federations had been considered carefully by the Board but had not been adopted as they were not thought by the Board to be in FEPA's best interests. No motions had been tabled for consideration by Congress.

Ari Muhonen (Finland) reiterated a proposal from the Finnish Federation, previously tabled with the Board but rejected, that the maximum number of terms that Board Members could hold under the revised Statutes should be two. The Vice President pointed out that the revised Statutes introduced for the first time a limit to the overall number of terms a Board Member could serve. The Board wished to promote a healthy turnaround of Board Members, but it also required a combination of experience and new blood. There was a risk that, if restrictions were too tight, the Board's efficiency might be reduced. Taking both requirements into account, Hans Schwarz (Switzerland) proposed

that the number of full terms for Board Members should be reduced from four to three. With this change Article 6.2 of the revised Statutes would read as follows: '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 three full terms in total. In this respect, the positions of Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer and Director are equivalent.' This proposal was accepted, and the revised Statutes were adopted unanimously. The President noted that this was a moment of great importance in the history of FEPA and thanked delegates warmly for their support. He also thanked the Vice President who had led the work on revising the Statutes.

Election of the Vice President, Treasurer and two Directors

The President said that four nominations had been received from Member Federations for the vacant positions:

For Vice President:	Giancarlo Morolli (Italy)
For Treasurer:	Hans Schwarz (Switzerland)
For Director:	Thomas Höpfner (Germany)
	Lars Engelbrecht (Denmark)

Ari Muhonen (Finland) queried the eligibility of Giancarlo Morolli in the election of Vice President. He noted that Article 17.4 of the previous FEPA Statutes said that "All other members may serve up to three full terms" and that he had already served three full terms. He added this was not personal but concerned compatibility with the Statutes. In response Giancarlo Morolli pointed out that the limitations set out in Art. 17.4 of the previous Statutes had always been interpreted as applying to the number of terms that any Board member might serve in one position (two for the President, three for other Board Members) not on the total number of terms they could serve on the Board. That being the case, his nomination was compliant with the Statutes. Ari Muhonen disagreed, saying that in his opinion the candidacy of Giancarlo Morolli was inconsistent with Article 17.4 of the previous Statutes. Following the discussion all four candidates were elected unanimously to serve for a four-year period in the positions for which they had been nominated.

Concluding the discussion, the President expressed gratitude on behalf of Congress to the members of the previous Board who had stood down (Fred Kunz, Nicos Rangos and Ari Muhonen) for their contributions to the FEPA Board over many years.

Forthcoming Events

Liberec 2022. The Organising Committee gave a short presentation and asked for FEPA patronage for the exhibition. They also requested all FEPA Members to nominate national commissioners. Patronage was confirmed unanimously and the contract was subsequently signed.

Postal History Championship Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi (Italy) reiterated his plan to organise a Postal History Championship similar to the Thematic Championship. The intention is to hold the first PH Championship in Italy as soon as the pandemic situation will allow, with the expectation that it will occur every second year after that. FEPA will be asked for Patronage.

FEPA seminars Thomas Höpfner reminded Congress that two seminars will be held at LONDON 2022, on Youth Philately and on Digitalisation and social media. A seminar on Open philately will be held at HUNFILEX 2022.

FEPA's priorities for 2022-2023

The President gave a presentation on FEPA's priorities for 2022 and 2023, based on its mission to support Members in promoting philately in Europe and its main functions of:

- Sharing information
- Rewarding achievements
- Supporting exhibitions
- Promoting innovation and best practice
- Promoting cooperation between Members

Against this background the following priorities had been set:

- Maintain existing programmes for sharing information, supporting exhibitions and rewarding achievements.
- Extend our activities in promoting innovation and best practice
- Look for new opportunities for cooperation between Members.

Two particular needs had been identified:

- Setting common standards for on-line activities
- Improving the flow of information from Members to FEPA.

The presentation will be available to view on the FEPA website (www.fepanews.com)

Motions from FEPA Members

No motions had been received.

Agreement on venue for next FEPA Congress

The President said that the Board had received two generous offers to host the 2022 Congress – from the Club de Monte Carlo and from the organisers of the LIBEREC Exhibition.

The delegates decided unanimously to hold the 2022 Congress in Liberec.

Any other business

Data Hany Salam (Egypt) wanted to know whether FEPA has a statistical breakdown on Federation members by age. Detailed data are not available it was likely that the average age would be high and rising. Accumulation of data on societies and their members might be an important contribution to the further work of FEPA and National Federations.

Apprentices The President informed Congress that four apprentice FEPA jurors had participated in NOTOS and received a positive assessment from the jury. Consequently, he would recommend to the Board that they should be added to the list of FEPA jurors. Another juror had cross-accredited successfully. Congress took note with approval.

FIP Commissions The Vice President noted that the FIP had requested nominations for the Commissions in advance of its planned Congress in 2022. Coordination was needed at FEPA level to ensure that European candidates were nominated for as many of the available positions as possible.

FEPA Awards 2021 The Vice President informed Congress that the call for nominations will be made in mid-January 2022, with the deadline 15 April. He invited the Member Federations to increase their attention to Certificates of Appreciation, as they are very well received by the awarded societies. The address for sending publications supporting nominations for the medal for outstanding philatelic Study and Research will be circulated at a later stage.

The President thanked the delegates for their contributions to the Congress and, there being no other business, concluded the 2021 Congress at 12.15pm.



Congress at work, 23rd November 2021

The FEPA Statutes adopted by Congress at its meeting on 23rd November 2021 are published below. These Statutes came into force at 12.15pm on 23rd November and replaced all previous versions, which are no longer valid. The Statutes can also be read at www.fepanews.com.

STATUTES OF THE FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATIONS

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.*

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

- 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.
- 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 three 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 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.*



PRESENTATION OF FEPA MEDAL FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO ORGANISED PHILATELY



'We were delighted to present the FEPA Medal for Exceptional Service to Organised Philately to Jonas Hällström RDP at the Congress on 23rd November

NEWCOMERS IN THE FEDERATIONS

French Federation elects new President



The Fédération Française des Associations Philatéliques (FFAP) has elected Philippe Lesage (*above*) as its new President. M Lesage was previously in charge of Youth matters in the Federation for some 30 years.

Polish Federation elects new Board

The Polish Philatelists Union held a National Congress in Warsaw, October 1-3, 2021. Delegates elected the new Main Board of our Union for the 2021-2025 term. The Board now consists of:



President	Henryk Monkos (<i>above</i>)
Vice-President	Janusz Dunst
Vice-President	Józef Kuczborski
Secretary	Joanna Boniśniak
Treasurer	Józef Kopeć
Members	Marek Bąk
	Sławomir Chabros
	Przemysław Drzewiecki
	Waldemar Kawiński
	Artur Marsy
	Bogdan Pelc
	Adam Szuler

Hellenic Federation elects new Board

Following an election on September 29th, 2021 the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Philatelic Federation (E.F.O) is:



President	Nikos Mallouchos (<i>above</i>)
Vice President	Nikos Andriotis
Secretary General	Christos Gikas
Special Secretary	Evaggelos Karras
Treasurer	Vassilis Petrochilos
Directors	Georgia Baltso
	Nikos Varouxis
	Evaggelos Kotsis
	Kostas Samanidis
Auditors	Vasilis Apostolopoulos
	Kostas Christodoulidis

New Chairman for the ABPS



At its Congress in Harrogate in September the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) elected Steven Harrison (*above*) to be its new Chairman in succession to Graham Winters.

Turkish Federation elections

Following an election on 27.11.2021 the Board of Directors and Audit Members are:



President	M. Ziya Ağaoğulları (Above)
Secretary General	Arman Arıkan
Vice President (Internal affairs)	Murat Hazinedaroğlu
Vice President (External affairs)	Edip Ağaoğulları
Accountant /Treasurer	Cengiz Ülkerdoğan
Members:	Mehmet Akan
	Atadan Tunacı
	Muzaffer Arda
	Yamaç Erhan
	Nihat Çimrin
	Can Dengey
	C. Şükrü Melek
	Serdar Yazgan
Audit Members:	Murat İbrahim Çelebi
	Ihsan Başaran
	Ümit Azak



Italian Federation: New Board

On 4 July 2021 the Federazione delle Società Filateliche Italiane held its General Assembly in Venezia Mestre, the first in presence after the lockdown caused by the pandemic. On the occasion past-president Piero Macrelli was rewarded by having his name entered in the Golden Roll (Albo d'Oro) of the Italian Philately after twenty-six years of service as president of FSFI, highlighted internationally by Italia 98, Italia 2009, Italia 2018, ECTP 2019 and the celebrations of the centenary in 2019.

The new Board is composed of:

Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi (President)
 Giulio Perricone (Vice President)
 Andrea Fusati (honorary secretary)
 Aniello Veneri (honorary treasurer)
 Luca Lavagnino, Paolo Guglielminetti, Giuseppe Galasso, Vinicio Sesso, and Franco Laurenti.

The board confirmed Luca Lavagnino in charge of exhibitions and Jury matters, and Giancarlo Morolli and Claudio Manzati respectively as delegate and vice-delegate for International Affairs.

German Federation Organises a 'Virtual Marketplace'



Regrettably the „Internationale Briefmarken-Börse Sindelfingen“, which includes the 'Postgeschichte Live' competition, was cancelled this year for the second year running. It was due to have been held from 28th - 30th October 2021 but COVID restrictions made this impossible.

Faced with this reality the Bund Deutscher Philatelisten (BDPh) started to think about putting something in place that would compensate those philatelic societies (Arbeitsgemeinschaften) who would normally have had a booth at Sindelfingen where they could meet old friends and promote themselves to new members.

Eventually the idea emerged of having a "marketplace" on a "Zoom" platform – basically a whole day of presentations, round table discussions and other attractions. Lots of planning involving many people took place and it came to fruition on 13th November. There were three "rooms" with different key themes and an all-day programme with a total of twenty-five presentations and two round table talks. Nearly 200 people from 11 countries visited the market place and enjoyed a day packed with numerous well-prepared "shows". Obviously, a virtual event of this kind cannot fully replace the experience of a day at Sindelfingen, but it was generally agreed that the "market place" was a major success and a win for visitors as well as the societies who were able to enjoy the publicity.

All the presentations and talks at the market place can be found on the BDPh internet homepage and on Youtube. The links are:

- BDPh Homepage: <https://www.bdph.de/index.php?id=92>
- Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXeIReMvwYk9IJJSTKXhm5w>

NEWS FROM THE BALKANFILA WORKING GROUP

Igor Pirc writes:

Balkanfila is the oldest regional philatelic group in Europe, having held exhibitions since 1965. Its members are Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Greece, Croatia, North Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Serbia and Turkey with Cyprus as a regular guest. The Balkanfila Working Group Agreement, which defines how cooperation will be undertaken and exhibitions prepared, was signed in 2016.

The Working Group took the opportunity to hold a meeting in Athens during NOTOS. It was attended by 14 representatives from 8 of the members and everyone supported the proposition that cooperation between the member Federations should be intensified, perhaps in the fields of sharing exhibition frames, of jury work, and of good practice in preparing synopses of exhibits. Romania is still intending to organise the XIX Balkanfila exhibition, although dates have not yet been set.



Representatives at the BALKANFILA Working Group meeting in Athens, 20th November 2021

Further information about the Balkanfila Working Group can be found on its website (www.balkanfila.eu), which is run by Fery Ambrusc (Romania).

LEONARD PASCANU (1952 – 2021)



We are sad to report that Leonard Pascanu died on 1st November 2021 after a prolonged illness.

Mr Pascanu was aged 69 and had been President of the Romanian Philatelic Federation for many years. He was well-liked and respected among philatelists and had many achievements to his credit including the excellent EFIRO exhibition in Bucharest in 2008.

In 2020 he was planning to hold the BALKANFILA exhibition in Bucharest but the COVID pandemic prevented this from going ahead.

RIP

YOUTHFUL ENTHUSIASM IS ON DISPLAY

Bill Hedley writes:

Federations are continuing to invest considerable time and energy in philatelic youth groups. We receive regular reports from the Deutsche Philatelisten-Jugend organisation in Germany and from Stamp Active in the UK. We would like to know more about what goes on in other countries and invite their Federations please to send us information about their Youth activities.

In **Germany** the very active Landesring Süd-West, with support from the Foundation for Commitment and

Voluntary Activities, has recently made available 15 tablets with matching covers and keyboards to groups of young people. The aim is to support innovation in youth groups and the funding is part of a government programme to help children and young people catch up after COVID. The tablets have been configured for use in group work such as research or creating new collections.

The tablets were handed over at a StampCamp (*Left*) held in a youth hostel at the end of October, which was also the occasion for discussion on how to find new group leaders, and for an auction.



In the **UK** a new 'Youth Zone' was launched by the Stamp Active Network at Autumn Stampex, held in London from 29th September – 2nd October. The theme was 'Birds' and there were also features on Postcrossing and Stamp IT. World Postcard Day was celebrated on 1st October with a talk by the RPSL President, Peter Cockburn.



Young collectors could find stamps on Birds and complete other challenges to win points that could be exchanged for prizes or used at the children's auction on the last day. The auction was highly popular and at the end a free prize of a Penny Black was awarded to Micah McCaulay from London, aged 6.



2020 FEPA AWARDS PRESENTED TO POLISH WINNERS

Ludwik K. Malendowicz writes:

On 1st -3rd October 2021 the XXII General Meeting of Delegates of the Polish Philatelists Union (PPU) was held in Warsaw. It was attended by all delegates from regional branches and numerous invited guests.



At this Congress, where the new board of the PPU was elected for the term 2021-2025, a ceremony was held to present FEPA awards for 2020 to Polish winners. On the behalf of the FEPA Board, the certificates were presented by the PPU President Henryk Monkos and the PPU Representative for International Relations Ludwik K. Malendowicz.

The awards presented were:



The FEPA Certificate as Runner-up for the FEPA Medal 2020 for exceptional philatelic study and research:

Julian Auleytner and Stefan Petriuk

for their book:

„Polskie pocztowe wydania lokalne 1918–1919 na znaczkach „Germania”, Austro-Węgier i Ukrainy” / „Polnische lokale Aufdrucke 1918-1919 auf „Germania“-Ausgaben und Marken von Österreich-Ungarn und der Ukraine”.



The FEPA Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Activities to Promote Philately

Prof. Mirosław Miętus, i-KF President, receives the award for

Internetowe Koło Filatelistów i-KF
(Internet Philatelist Club of the Polish Philatelists Union - Poland).

NEW RDPs SIGN THE ROLL

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was signed by four new signatories on 24th September 2021 at the Congress of the Association of British Philatelists (ABPS) in Harrogate, Yorkshire. They were:

- ◆ José Ramon Moreno (Spain)
- ◆ Seija-Riitta Laaksen (Finland)
- ◆ Henrik Mouritsen (Denmark)
- ◆ James Grimwood-Taylor (UK)



The new RDP signatories photographed after the signing of the Roll with their sponsors.

Two other new RDPs (Dénes Czirók, Hungary) and Randy Neil (USA) were unable to travel to Harrogate due to COVID restrictions, but we look forward to them also signing the Roll at the next opportunity.



YEHUDI MENUHIN TROPHY 2021 FOR MUSIC PHILATELY

The Motivgruppe Musik, a thematic study group affiliated to the BDPH and the American Topical Association, has announced the winner of its annual competition for the most popular music stamp issued in 2020. The selection is made by popular vote and this year collectors from 59 countries took part in the on-line voting. The choice was between 66 stamps from 51 postal administrations.

Appropriately in a year that marked the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, the winner was a stamp featuring Beethoven issued by the Croatian Post in Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina). The stamp was designed by Manlio Napoli who lives in Mostar. Congratulations to Manlio who will receive the trophy. It is awarded in memory of Yehudi Menuhin who was patron of the Philatelic Music Circle from 1969 until his death in 1999.



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 2021 are:



1st Place: **BELGIUM** 'The silence of Alzheimers'



2nd Place: **NORWAY** 'Killer Whale' (*Orcinus Orca*)



3rd Place: **FINLAND** 'Art Awards 2020'

The winners in other categories were:

<u>Best Stamp Design</u>	1. Finland 2. Norway 3. Cyprus	<u>Best Mixed Printing Stamp</u>	1. Spain 2. France 3. Ukraine
<u>Most Original Format</u>	1. Spain 2. Belgium 3. Liechtenstein	<u>Best in Other Printing Technique</u>	1. Belgium 2. United Kingdom 3. Spain
<u>Most Innovative Stamp</u>	1. Spain 2. Austria 3. Portugal	<u>Best Definitive</u>	1. United Kingdom 2. Spain 3. Estonia
<u>Best Hand-Engraved Stamp</u>	1. Spain 2. France 3. Czech Republic	<u>Best Souvenir Sheet</u>	1. Uruguay 2. Croatia 3. Brazil
<u>Best Offset Stamp</u>	1. Mexico 2. Armenia 3. Czech Republic	<u>Best Luxury Proof</u>	1. France 2. Spain 3. Czech Republic

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/2021/11/2021-PowerPoint-NexoFil-Nexonum-Awards.pdf>



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From Spain



NOTOS 2021- European Philatelic Exhibition

19-22 November 2021, Athens



Bill Hedley writes:

We had almost forgotten the pleasure of live exhibitions – the opportunity to meet friends and share news and ideas, the chance to see a plethora of outstanding philatelic material that reminded us just how diverse and absorbing philately can be, the excitement of visiting a new venue and seeing some of its treasures, the pleasure of searching for new material to add to our collections. Just in time the NOTOS team has brought to life an exhibition that reminded us of all these delights and encouraged us to look forward to life after Covid.

NOTOS, held at the Zappeion Building in Athens, brought together an amazing range of exhibits in one of the best-lit exhibition venues we have ever seen. There was a steady stream of visitors from many countries and the central location made it easy to visit the exhibition and to explore the many attractions close by. The organisation was excellent, even managing to take in its stride a 24-hour delay in the arrival of the frames due to political demonstrations outside, and we even managed to cope with Personal Locator Forms and the other paraphernalia of Covid. NOTOS will certainly be long remembered as a wonderful experience.

In many ways NOTOS broke new ground in international exhibition organisation so we asked **Costas Chazapis, Head of NOTOS 2021 Organising Committee**, to give us an insight into how they had gone about it and what happened in the end. Here are his comments.



Our second NOTOS project started in November 2017, looking four years ahead. The basic model to be followed was set out in 2015: a major international exhibition with a downsized budget, low participation fees, simplicity in procedures, and a number of reasonable and practical suggestions. The target this time was to invite all the European Federations, not just those in Southern Europe as was the case in 2015.

Because of the support of our friends, donors, sponsors, philatelic and non-philatelic partners, the great work of our National Commissioners and perhaps out of a mixture of luck and determination, NOTOS 2021 managed to survive through the Covid-19 turbulence and eventually came to fruition.

During the days of the exhibition, we had the pleasure to meet our visitors and talk to each other like we used to under normal circumstances in normal times! These were moments of joy and happiness, since for most of them this particular trip to Athens was their first trip abroad during the two years of the pandemic.

The exhibition was organised by the Hellenic Philatelic Society (HPS), the oldest surviving philatelic club in Greece (est. 1925), which in turn appointed the NOTOS 2021 OC. The OC's initial concerns were to prepare the budget, start the financial campaign, place NOTOS 2021 into the philatelic calendars, and achieve these as early as possible in order to build the project to its best advantage.

The main target was to keep the participation fees as low as possible, considering that the gradual explosion of fees following Portugal 2010 (30 euros per frame) is not consistent with global inflation during the same period. In order to accomplish that, we had to sacrifice two of what we considered "luxuries" of the past: medals and *per diem* remuneration for commissioners and jurors. Together they amounted to roughly 15% of our budget. Lots of exhibitors cannot afford today's high participation fees and perhaps prefer to pay lower fees and not receive a medal. Similarly, there are a lot of qualified commissioners and jurors that are willing to take the job and are indifferent to their per-diem remuneration.

To safeguard our budget, we moved and travelled at our own expense. Secretarial work, IT work, translations etc. all were done in-house. On the other hand, we accepted costs that seemed likely to generate additional funds. A major example was the choice of the Zappeion over several hotel alternatives, which we considered would be less interesting for our sponsors, when in February 2021 the government decided to transform the original planned venue (the Peristeri Exhibition Centre) into a Vaccination Centre.

We were very well aware that no funding would be available from the State Post or from any other establishment of the public sector. We were also aware of additional important parameters. For example, venues are becoming increasingly expensive to hire, or to equip and run if space is provided free of charge. In our part of Europe foreign dealers are also reluctant to participate because of lower visitor attendance compared to events in Central or Western Europe. In the event the pandemic made things even worse in this regard since no one was willing to sign a contract or send a down-payment because of the ongoing uncertainty.

We started our financial campaign in mid-2018, first among the members and friends of the HPS, next targeting private companies. The results were very satisfactory. We ran two more campaigns in mid-2019 and in mid-2020, the latter via Zoom. Except for donations in cash, we asked for promissory notes spread out to as many as six instalments and for contributions of philatelic items to be sold at auction on behalf of the OC. We managed to make an agreement with A. Karamitsos International Auctions to be our Major Sponsor and with our Key Partner the Hellenic Post to refurbish at least 800 double-sided frames, prepare them for the exhibition, and transport them to and from the Zappeion at their expense.

To insert NOTOS into philatelic and cultural calendars as soon as possible, as well as to promote the exhibition, a multi-lingual website was set up in May 2018 (<https://www.hps.gr/notos2021>) and a Twitter account in July 2019. In



National Commissioners at NOTOS

the meantime, NOTOS 2021 OC had received patronage from FEPA, AIJP and AEP by October 2018, as well as recognition from the FIP. The exhibition was further upgraded when in May 2020 it received the patronage of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic. The OC then sent out fourteen newsletters to its mailing list and uploaded a good number of important breaking news items, two bulletins, the exhibition catalogue and the Palmares booklet. In addition, the OC met the Commissioners twice via Zoom. With or without a pandemic it confirmed the benefit for an OC to get to know its Commissioners in advance and have the chance to chat with them.

Looking back, I must admit that the Zappeion made a lot of difference. Our visitors admired the architecture, the surrounding area, the symbolism and the grandeur of the place. All but one of the halls on the ground floor were taken up by

the exhibition - seven halls for the exhibits, one for the stands of A. Karamitsos and the Hellenic Post, one for various meetings and presentations and one which was converted from Bin Room to Jury Room and back again to Bin Room. A single hall of 250 sq.m. was dedicated to the Court of Honour. Here visitors had the opportunity to see for the first time ever:

- From the Philatelic and Postal Museum in Athens, the seven printing plates of the 1861 Large Hermes Heads, masterpieces of Désiré-Albert Barre, chief engraver of the Paris Mint. One of the plates, dismantled in the past, was reassembled in 2020 for display at NOTOS 2021.
- Items from various exhibitors including 11 of the 13 Solferinos known to date. An 1871 40 lepta colour error, it is the most elusive Greek stamp. The display include the unique cover, the unique fragment and the unique pair.
- From Louis Fanchini, the original die of the medallion of the Large Hermes Head engraved by Albert Barre himself, along with its unique matrix of the medallion, predecessor of the final die.

The Court of Honour also included:

- An exhibit by the General State Archives, with documents related to the genesis of the Hellenic Post (1823-1828).
- A multi-faceted exhibit by the Historical Archive of the National Bank of Greece.
- Outstanding exhibits of Jean Voruz (*Geneva 1839-62*), Chris King (*Lübeck before 1868*) and Wolfgang Bauer (*Mail to and from Greece to 1875*) as well as a selection of Stavros Andreadis' exhibit (*Large Hermes Heads*).



A visitor admiring the Barre printing plates

The Literature area contained 10 open bookcases for exhibits and a reading area for visitors. A laptop placed on the table in the reading area provided shortcuts to each of the digital works. NOTOS 2021 also supported two major proposals brought forward by Wolfgang Maassen and the AIJP in recent years: the first that exhibitors need only send

in one instead of two copies of literature, and secondly that the OC should be willing to return a literature exhibit if the exhibitor so wishes.

During the exhibition the following presentations or meetings took place at the premises: a live auction by A. Karamitsos, the HPS Medal awards 2016-2021, two book presentations by Heinrich Köhler Stamp Auctions, a new issues presentation by the Hellenic Post, a book presentation by Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation, a Museum of Philately presentation by David Feldman SA; an RPSL reception, the 2021 AEP Annual General Meeting and the 2021 FEPA Congress. A Balkanfila Meeting took place at the nearby Hermes Hotel.

The 30-member Jury was headed by Honorary President and FEPA President Bill Hedley, President George Thomareis, Vice-President Per Mortensen and Secretary Bernard Jimenez. Jean François Brun led the Expert Team. Of the two Senior Consultants, FIP President Bernie Beston was sadly unable to come due to Australian travelling restrictions. FEPA gained four new jurors who passed successfully as apprentices plus one cross-accreditation in Literature. Out of 285 exhibits judged, 17 Large Gold and 49 Gold medals were awarded.

The Palmarès dinner took place at the Radisson Blue Park Hotel Athens on 22nd November. There were three Grand Prix awards:

Grand Prix de la Classe des Champions

Winner: Dr Vittorio Morani (Italy), *Tuscany 1836 to GPU (up to 30 June 1875)*
"Letter mail in, from and to Tuscany: routes, rates and charges".

Runner up: Tom Komnæs (Norway), *Norwegian Skilling Covers – domestic and abroad.*

Grand Prix International

Winner: Joseph Hackmey (Turkey), *Tughra Stamps of the Ottoman Empire 1862-1864.*

Runners up: Dmytro Frenkel (Ukraine), *RSFSR & USSR foreign exchange control stamps 1922-1941* Johannes Bornmann (Germany), *Nepal, Pre-Philately and Classic.*

Grand Prix National

Winner: Anestis Karagianidis (Canada), *Greece: The 1896 Olympic Issue.*



The NOTOS Jury



Vittorio Morani receives the trophy in the Classe des Champions

Exactly one year ago, on these very pages (FN38, p. 51), Rainer Fuchs' article on 2 and 3-frame exhibits motivated us to adopt this innovation in a major international. To their credit both Bernard Jimenez (the FIP Liaison Officer) and Ari Muhonen (FEPA Consultant) supported it and received the green light from the FIP and FEPA Boards respectively. Another innovation we put forward was the online submission of application forms, travel details etc. We had more in mind to offer in terms of technology, but the uncertainty caused by the pandemic did not allow us to proceed.

Finally, on behalf of the OC members I would like to express my gratitude to the exhibitors, the national Commissioners, the jurors, the visitors, our volunteers, our sponsors, our donors, our partners, our friends and supporters. Thank you all.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS

ISRAEL

The Israeli Philatelic Federation organized two virtual exhibitions during the first half of 2021. In March they held **NETBUL 2021**, a national aimed mainly at encouraging inexperienced exhibitors and promoting new exhibition classes. The Picture Postcard class was included for the first time, resulting in four exhibits with high enough scores to qualify for international participation. The Grand Prix went to Kobi Alexander for his exhibit entitled "Church of the Holy Sepulchre – The Jewel in the Crown of the Christian Pilgrimage to the Holy Land".



To help visitors the NETBUL 2021 website included a guided tour consisting of 6 short videos, each dedicated to a single exhibiting class. Another novelty was a "popular vote" option which enabled visitors to vote for the exhibits they liked best. This led to a special prize for Paulo Duek, whose one frame exhibit on the football star Pele was the most popular.



In June the IPF then used the NETBUL 2021 infrastructure to host **AAPE 2021**, a virtual tri-national stamp exhibition, with the participation of the United Arab Emirates and the United States. The exhibition marked the Abraham Accords peace agreements signed by the three countries in September 2020. It consisted of 3 competitive classes (Traditional Philately, Postal History and Thematic Philately), and each participating country had to submit 6 exhibits to be judged. There was also a Court of Honour, with a single exhibit from each country, and a non-competitive Picture Postcards section. It was further stipulated that at least half of the exhibits should be related to the Middle East.

The Jury President was Colin Fraser and the Jury Secretary Yigal Nathaniel. There were two groups of judges, each including a representative from each participating country. This structure required a large number of Zoom meetings of each group of judges and then of the entire jury. The quality of exhibits was high – 3 won Large Gold medals while 4 others won Gold. The winner of the Grand Prix award was Thomas Johansen with an exhibit entitled "Muscat 1864 to 1948: The Development of the Indian Post Office in Eastern Arabia".

AAPE 2021 opened on June 15th with a ceremony attended by FIP President Bernard Beston. Two seminars were conducted during the exhibition. Tim Bartshe of the US gave a presentation on "Exhibiting Picture Postcards" and answered many questions about this novel exhibiting class, and Colin Fraser gave a lecture about "Titles and Title Pages". All these events were recorded and are available to view at the exhibition website (www.aape2021.com).

SLOVENIA

The Slovenian Philatelic Association has organised an international One Frame exhibition every two years since 2003. Treating a one frame exhibit as a window into a story, the first exhibition was called in Slovenian EnoOkno ("OneWindow"). To keep the series going in the face of Covid restrictions, the 10th in the series (DesetoOkno, "TenthWindow") was held in September 2021 as a virtual exhibition, accessible online by all participants. 11 countries took part. This was supported by a live exhibition for domestic exhibitors in the Kranj Museum. All exhibits could be viewed there on a screen.

The Grand Prix was awarded to Koenraad Bracke (Belgium) for his Open Philately exhibit "The Magic of the Snowy Owl" and the jury also awarded 8 gold, 17 large vermeil, 15 vermeil, 4 large silver, one silver and one silver bronze medal.

One-frame exhibiting is firmly established and has stimulated the idea that a theme can be displayed in 2 or 3 frames as well as the traditional 1 or 5. In experiments so far this idea has generally met with approval and it will be a novelty at the EnajstoOkno Kranj 2023 ("EleventhWindow 2023").



Igor Pirc presents a medal to Ines Ropoša at Kranj for her picture postcard exhibit.

AICO WEB OLYMPIC SHOW 2021

An international virtual exhibition step by step

Giancarlo Morolli writes:

Last March AICO, the International Association of Olympic Collectors, decided to launch a virtual international show to coincide with the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo. Time was tight and I was invited to give organizational advice, chair the jury and lead the seminar with exhibitors. The timetable was:



Official announcement	27 March
Presentation of Special Regulations	1 May
Start submitting applications	1 June
End of entering applications	10 July
Acceptance notification to exhibitors	15 July
Announcement of jury composition	
Start file uploading	23 July
End file uploading	20 August
Opening of the exhibition to public	23 August
Assignment of exhibits to jurors	5 September
Meeting of the jury	29 September
Final session of the jury	30 September
Awards ceremony online	2 October
Closing of the exhibition	3 October
Jury detailed feedback to the exhibitor	12 November
Exhibitors' seminar	13 November

The AICO Organizing Committee established some key points for the show:

1. Open to all collectors belonging to national associations member of AICO and to youth (no conditions for the latter) and to any of their exhibits (no previous qualification needed)
2. Open to all philatelic classes as well as Sport and Olympic Memorabilia
3. No limit to the number of exhibits presented by the same collector – no “frame” fee
4. Number of pages exhibited decided by the exhibitors (multiple of 16; minimum 64 pages)
5. Pages accepted in A3 and A4, just one pdf file.
6. Two main categories: Philately and Sport and Olympic Memorabilia
7. Two separate juries, under the same president
8. Philatelic classes evaluated according to FIP and FEPA regulations
9. Furthermore, public vote on the website, to add an extra flavour to the show.

These definitions were made considering AIWOS 2021 as a propaganda event, aimed at reviving the spirit of Olympic Philately worldwide after some years of inactivity.

A virtual show, by definition, requires a specific information system. The one developed for AIWOS 2021 and hosted on the AICO website catered for the direct entry of the application form by the exhibitor. The relevant AICO member associations were then asked to confirm membership data, as per key point 1 above. The system presented views in Excel for the preparatory work of the OC secretary and the president of the Jury. Any discrepancy or data inaccuracy was sorted out by e-mail between the OC secretary and the exhibitor. The appropriateness of the class chosen by the exhibitor was double-checked with the jury President, as several exhibitors were new to this environment.

The competitive sections of AIWOS 2021 gathered 61 exhibitors from 16 countries, for a total of 85 exhibits: 58 in the Philately section, 16 in Memorabilia, and 11 in the Youth section (10 Philately, 1 Memorabilia). In the Philately section, 7 exhibits were shown in the Open philately class, and 19 in One Frame. The Court of Honour, by invitation, had 8 exhibits.

The task of uploading files received from exhibitors was not straightforward as several were at their first virtual experience while others, like most Italians, were well acquainted with the procedure since presenting pdf copies of exhibits is a normal procedure at national “real” shows. The OC secretary coped perfectly, loading exhibits containing pages in both A3 and A4 formats. As a result, 5,300 exhibit pages were available to the public and to jurors.

The philatelic jury consisted of experienced FIP and FEPA jurors specialized in the subject: Luciano Calenda (basketball, Mediterranean Games), Jary Majander (cycling), José Ramón Moreno (golf and yachting), Peter Suhadolc

(mountaineering), and myself (Olympics, football). I asked each juror to look at as many exhibits as possible, and I assigned several exhibits to each juror to judge in depth, report at the jury plenary session and prepare feedback reports. During the judging timeframe jurors exchanged opinions on specific exhibits, mainly by phone or e-mail, and sometimes by video conference.

The jury work was supported using commonly available applications - Excel and Dropbox. Each juror had to fill in marks in a large data sheet where exhibits were listed with cells for each detailed criterion appropriate for the philatelic class. In this respect, also the jury president checked all exhibits in advance and proposed some changes – later approved by the team – that resulted, for instance, in adopting the guidelines for modern philately for exhibits dealing only with material of the last 30 years. Exhibits of up to 32 sheets were evaluated using the guidelines for the One frame class (as was also done at the experimental class in NOTOS 2021).

From time to time I (as jury president) received updated files from other jurors, either directly via Dropbox or as e-mail attachments, and I uploaded them in Dropbox so that each member could have a view of this “dashboard” during the jury sessions with the marks given by his team fellows. Initially, all exhibits were evaluated by at least 2 or 3 jurors who had the synopses uploaded by the exhibitors in pdf format. A list of awards obtained at previous international exhibitions was also available. As a result, the first jury session (two solid hours) was very smooth and effective. Starting from scratch, jurors checked the marks in detail and reached agreement on most exhibits, leaving only a few pending for the final session. Before then each juror had the opportunity to review the exhibits and propose adjustments to the agreed marks. During both sessions they took note of remarks from the team, to be used for preparing the feedback report at a later stage. In the final session, after all evaluations were agreed, the ranking order was analyzed to spot any possible misalignment. Special awards were then granted: two for the best exhibits in the One Frame and Open philately classes, and three for the best exhibit devoted to the Olympic Games and Olympism, to a single Olympic Game, and to a Sport discipline or Sport Movement.

Judging a virtual exhibit in depth is really time-demanding. A 128-page exhibit took two hours of juror time on average as it was sometimes necessary to consult documentation in the personal library or online. Some comparison was also necessary and, since the program displayed pages in sequence, the download of exhibit files on a tablet in order to make comparison faster was of great help. Sometimes it was necessary to print a page to keep it in mind. Items could be analysed by working on a big display and occasionally using digital zoom features to examine an item in greater detail. Compared to jury work at real exhibitions, the teamwork is totally different as it misses comments that arise from looking at frames together or walking quickly from one exhibit to another to compare development or to rank them. The sometimes-animated discussions at the jury table, certainly more direct and effective, were also missing.

In the Jury report and the seminar exhibitors were informed that, due to the quality of some scans, it had been impossible to assess some items shown such as proofs and rare pieces. The jury assumed that all items shown were owned by the exhibitor as there was no means of checking and recommended exhibitors to have doubtful items expertized and assumed that all items shown were owned by the exhibitor as there was no means of checking. This aspect of virtual exhibitions, already difficult to cope with at national level, becomes almost unmanageable when there is such a large geographic participation.

The Memorabilia jury included three experts and, AIWOS 2021 being the first competition of this kind, they adopted the philatelic GREV to set criteria for evaluating their exhibits. This decision was very appropriate.

The online awards ceremony started at 16:00 to accommodate a wide range of attendees, from Hong Kong to California. 60 participants joined the 45-minute event which was introduced by AICO president Christophe-Ait-Braham in Paris, supported by AIWOS 2021 OC president Massimiliano Bruno in Turin and secretary Rufin Schullian in Appiano/Eppan. From Bangkok Mrs. Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, IOC Member and Chair of Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission, gave a welcome address, followed by myself in Milan who presented the results and announced that jurors would prepare a feedback report for each exhibit and that the most common areas for improvement would be covered in an online seminar. Lasting almost 1½ hours, the seminar took place a month later and was attended by about half of the exhibitors.

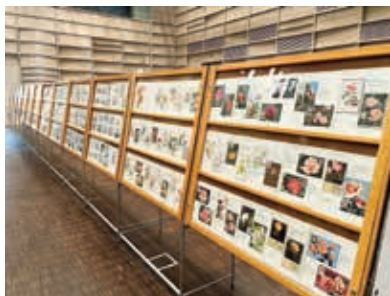
The number of polls cast in the public vote was 4,200 from 1,000 individuals. The system checked the identity of the device connected to prevent more than one vote being cast from it. Despite concerns about why people voted (friends and relatives are there to help) it was a means of raising interest in this exhibition.

We hope once again to see a “real” philatelic exhibition during the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris and recommend associating a virtual site with it so that collectors from all over the world can share the experience and relive the Olympic spirit through stamps, postal documents and memorabilia. The exhibits, Award ceremony and Seminar presentation are currently available at <https://aicolympic.org/aiwos2021/>

Luxembourg: Maximaphily and Postcard Exhibition in Echternach

Lars Boettger writes:

The Circle Philatélique Echternach succeeded – despite the uncertainties of the last two years – in holding a successful specialized exhibition in July 2021 on maxicards and postcards. Covid incidence levels decreased during the Spring and in June we decided it could go ahead. Even then the problems were not over. Echternach sits on the River Sauer and on 14 July the river reached record highs after continuous rain for 24 hours. Parts of the town were flooded and the “Trifolion” convention centre was converted to support flood victims. Our exhibition was on the brink of cancellation and only political intervention by our honorary president saved the day.



The exhibition attracted 24 competitive exhibits (including one literature) and 13 non-competitive exhibits in 118 frames. I am proud that many of these exhibits were shown in public for the first time and almost half were entered by our club members. Also, we attracted very senior exhibits from Germany and France, containing excellent material. The prize for the best postcard exhibit went to Thomas Wolf with a large gold medal for his lovely “My Life as a Wiener Dog”. The best maxi exhibit prize, and a large gold medal, went to Luxembourg Norbert Maes for his stunning “Chronicle of the City of Luxembourg”. Overall the international Jury, led by Jos Wolff RDP, awarded 5 large gold, 5 gold, 5 vermeil, 3 large silver, 4 silver, 1 silver-bronze and 1 bronze medals. Six exhibits were

awarded special prizes.

The club published a booklet and had two personalized stamps for sale. Two matching postcards and an envelope were also produced showing pictures of the abbey museum and the abbey of St. Willibrord. I had the impression that our visitors had been “starved” of personal interaction and were glad to meet old friends again. Post Luxembourg brought three special cancels for collectors. When the show closed almost all the stock on prepared maximum cards and stamps had been sold.

Lessons Learned

1. As a small show we had more flexibility to accept exhibits until a few weeks before the start date.
2. Essential preparations must be made well in advance. When we finally decided to go ahead, we discovered that the company we planned to use to handle the frames was overbooked. In future an order will be placed well in advance as it is better to cancel an order shortly before the show than to have to ask for help from club members who are well past retirement age.
3. Publicity is vital. We promoted the exhibition strongly in both Luxembourg and neighbouring countries which contributed to the high number of exhibits entered. The Luxembourg postal service also distributed a flyer about the exhibition to all households in Echternach. Several visitors who read it visited the show and an article by Jos Wolff for Luxembourg’s biggest newspaper also helped.
4. A small but dedicated team is essential. Only two or three club members were actively involved in preparations. Our secretary accepted the entries and provided information to exhibitors as well as preparing and distributing our stamps, postcards and maximum cards. I organized the location, van and driver, was in contact with the jury and wrote the small catalogue about the exhibition. At a later stage other club members joined the team to help run the show.



Armenian Exhibition commemorates 30th Anniversary of Independence

In November 2021 the Armenian Philatelists Association held an exhibition at the National Polytechnic University of Armenia dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia.

The Armenian Post office issued two postcards to mark the occasion – one dedicated to the exhibition and the other to the 100th anniversary of the honorary President of the Association, Suren Arakelov. Both postcards were cancelled at the exhibition which attracted philatelists, students and members of the wider public.

MULTILATERALE und ÖVEBRIA 2021



Vom 24. – 26. Sept. 2021 fand in St. Pölten, der Landeshauptstadt von Niederösterreich, der bislang größte philatelistische Event nach der WIPA 2008 statt. Die Veranstaltung war ein großartiger Erfolg. Bezüglich

Einhaltung der COVID Maßnahmen wurde vor dem Eintritt JEDER überprüft, ob geimpft, genesen oder getestet und mit einem nicht ablösbaren Armband gekennzeichnet. Nur diese Personen durften die Ausstellung betreten. Dank dieser strikten Maßnahme gab es auch keinen Vorfall!



Rechts im Bild – Kommissar Albert Haan (NL), sowie die Juroren Jos Wolff (LUX) und Igor Pirc (SLO)

Auf einer Fläche von insgesamt 5000 m² wurden 950 Ausstellungsrahmen der Multilaterale (620) und der ÖVEBRIA (330) mit durchwegs hervorragenden Objekten gezeigt. Daneben gab es 22 Händler, 5 Auktionshäuser, 7 Postanstalten, 4 philatelistische Verlage, sowie 19 Vereine und Arbeitsgemeinschaften und 6 Themenparks. Die Österreichische Post war mit einem Raritätenkabinett zugegen und zeigt noch nie gesehene Archivstücke.



Präsentation der Sondermarken zum Jubiläum und zum „Tag der Briefmarke“

v.l.: Alfred Kunz (Präs.Stv. VÖPh), Dr. Harald Kunczler (Österr. Post, Leiter Filialen), Dr. Anita Kern (Marken-künstlerin), Mag. Matthias Stadler (Bürgermeister St. Pölten), Mag. Helmut Kogler (Präsident VÖPh)

Zur Eröffnung gab es neben der Präsentation des Sonder-Briefmarken-Blocks „100 Jahre Verband Österreichischer Philatelistenvereine“ und der Sondermarke zum „Tag der Briefmarke“ eine Sonderpostbeförderung mit dem Oldtimer Austro Daimler, Baujahr 1921.



Mag. Helmut Kogler (Präs. VÖPh) mit Gattin Martha

Parallel zu diesem Event fand die jährliche Sitzung der multilateralen Postanstalten und Verbände statt, bei der wieder über viel Interessantes berichtet, diskutiert und neue Ideen geboren wurden. Was wäre eine so große Veranstaltung ohne Feierstunden? Am Donnerstag vor der Veranstaltung lud die Österreichische Post zu einem



Heurigenbesuch ein, am Abend des Eröffnungstages fand der Jubiläumsabend anlässlich des 100-jährigen Geburtstages statt und schlussendlich der Höhepunkt jeder Ausstellung, das mit Spannung erwartende Palmares am Ende des 2. Ausstellungstages wo wir informiert wurden, dass die fachkundigen Teams der Jury ausgezeichnete Ergebnisse gegeben haben.

From 24th - 26th September 2021 St. Pölten, the capital of Lower Austria, hosted the biggest philatelic event so far since WIPA 2008 and it was really a great success. Abiding by the pandemic laws EVERYONE was checked whether vaccinated, recovered or tested and marked with a non-removeable ribbon. Only those persons were permitted to go into the exhibition. Due to that safety procedure, there was no incident.

950 philatelic exhibition frames from the Multilaterale (620) and the ÖVEBRIA (330) with a consistent high quality were shown in an area of 5000m² in total.

22 dealers, 5 auction houses, 7 postal administrations, 4 philatelic publishers, as well as 19 philatelic clubs and working groups and 6 thematic expositions were also present. The Austrian Post brought rarities to the show including drawings and designs from their archive that had never been seen before.



At the Opening Ceremony there was a special postal delivery with an old-time Austro Daimler constructed in 1921, as well as the presentation of a stamp block on the "100th anniversary of the Austrian Philatelic



Federation" and special stamps for the "Day of the stamp".

At the annual meeting of the multilateral Post administrations and federations there was much interesting news and discussion and new ideas were aired.

What would a such a big event be without entertainment? On Thursday before the exhibition started the Austrian Post invited participants to visit a famous wine tavern. There was a jubilee evening on the opening day to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Austrian Philatelic Federation. Finally on Saturday evening came the highlight of every philatelic event, the Palmares, where we were informed of the excellent results awarded by the very experienced jury.



*Multilaterale– the international jury team
From left: Igor Pirc (SLO), Jos Wolff (LUX), Horst Horin (AUT),
Jean-Marc Seydoux (SUI), Jan Vermeule (NL), Bernward
Schubert (GER), Gergard Blaickner (AUT)*

Auf ein Wiedersehen bei der Multilaterale 2023.
See you again at the next Multilaterale 2023
in Koper - Slowenien / Slovenia.



Handover of the FEPA flag from Austria to Slovenia.
From left: Gernot Abfalter (exhibition manager),
Alfred Kunz (FEPA Treasurer), Mag. Helmut Kogler (Chairman
of the whole event), Peter Suhadolc (Commissioner SLO),
Igor Pirc (Jury member SLO)

LONDON

2022

19 TO 26 FEBRUARY

Business Design Centre, Islington, London
19 to 26 February 2022

Open each day from 10am to 6pm (close at 4pm on 26 Feb)

Entry on first day £10: other days free

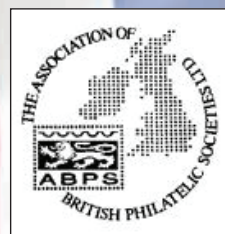


The venue in Islington, London

For full details visit
www.london2022.co

where you will find:

- ▶ full list of booth holders
- ▶ list of exhibits (some classes will be on display between 19 and 22 Feb; remainder between 23 and 25 Feb)
- ▶ details of talks, Seminars and FIP Commissions meetings
- ▶ how to book tickets for the first day
- ▶ how to make hotel bookings.



LONDON IS READY AND WAITING!

Frank Walton writes:

When I received the FIP flag in Wuhan, China in June 2019, who could have thought it would be more than two years before the next world stamp exhibition would be held? As the philatelic world prepares to meet again at LONDON 2022 from 19th – 26th February 2022, expectations are running high.

The venue is the Business Design Centre in Islington, also the venue for London 2010 and Europhilex in 2015. It has easy connections to all parts of London and beyond. While the past two years have been very difficult and life is not yet back to 'normal', exhibitions can again take place, business is returning to normal for shops, restaurants and theatres, and overseas travel restrictions have been eased considerably. There is no reason not to enjoy a few days in London sampling all it has to offer, not least London 2022.

Dealers

With around 125 booth holders expected, visitors will be greeted by stamp dealers, auctioneers, publishers and postal administrations. Whatever your field of interest, whether it be stamps or postal history, thematics or Cinderellas, stationery or revenues, you are certain to find something of interest. Items that make your collection special, plus literature and accessories, will all be on offer.



A wealth of exhibits

The displays will fill some 3,500 frames, more than can be accommodated at one time so the entries will be shown in two halves. Exhibits of Postal History, Postal Stationery, Open Class, Picture Postcards, Revenues and part of the Youth Class will be on display from 19th until midday on 22nd February, and Traditional Philately, Aerophilately, Thematics, the remainder of the Youth Class, plus exhibits for the World Stamp Championship will be on display from 23rd until midday on 25th February. On 26th February there will also be an opportunity to see exhibits recognised as the 'Best in Class', as well as the Grand Prix and World Stamp Championship winners. A Reading Room will

provide the opportunity throughout the exhibition to consult the entries in the Literature Class.

Meetings and seminars

Over 30 philatelic societies will be holding meetings during the exhibition and 15 societies will have tables on 23rd February (for more details go to www.london2022.co). FEPA will hold two seminars, the first on 'Best Practice in Youth Philately' led by John Davies on 20th February, and the second on 'Digitalisation and Social Media in Philately' led by Eric Scherer on 25th February. For more details see Page 81. Several FIP Commissions will also hold meetings: Astrophilately (21st February); Traditional (23rd February); Revenues (23rd February); Literature (24th February); Postal History (25th February); Postal Stationery (25th February).

Planning a visit There is a wealth of helpful information available at www.london2022.co. The show will be open each day from 10am to 6pm except on 26th February when it will close at 4pm. To enter on the first day there will be a charge of £10; tickets are available via the website. On all other days admission is free. Details of booth holders, exhibits and other events are also on the website.

Accommodation We recommend HotelSmart which will help visitors to secure the best deals at convenient hotels. Details are at www.london2022.co, or alternatively you can contact them at hotelsmart.co.uk or by telephone on +44(0)1202 533363. Why not combine a visit to the exhibition with the opportunity to sample many of the delights that London has to offer?





31. 03. – 03. 04. 2022

HUNFILEX2022

WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIPS AND EXHIBITION IN BUDAPEST

The **HUNFILEX2022** exhibition will take place in the beautiful capital city of Hungary, Budapest, between 31 March and 3 April 2022. Venue of the exhibition is an extraordinary exhibition center called "The Whale", on the shore of the river Danube, dividing Budapest into two parts, the hilly Buda and the flattish Pest. The 9 bridges across the big river are all interesting architectural achievements themselves.

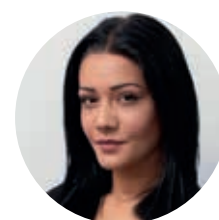
The Hungarian Philatelic Association MABÉOSZ is one of the oldest national associations in the philatelic world, and will celebrate its centenary in 2022, this is the main reason we decided to organize the stamp exhibition, which will be sponsored by the Hungarian State and Magyar Posta. Main philatelic sponsor of the event is the renowned Christoph Gaertner Auction House. The shifting of other exhibitions, planned originally for 2020 or 2021 produced a dense philatelic calendar for 2022, but despite this, interest in our exhibition was high, so we will proudly report that we will be able to fill the maximum capacity of the Whale, and will have around 1400 frames at the exhibition. A Hungarian Rarity Cabinet will be organized by the Stamp Museum of Budapest (having one of the largest collections of the world) - the visitors will be able to see all the existing rarities of Hungarian philately, which will be a first and for a long time probably last special assembly of these rare stamps.

Budapest is a fascinating and wonderful city with a world class cultural life, (a spring cultural and classical music festival will take place parallelly with the stamp exhibition) and is among the top tourist destinations of the world. The Organizing Committee will be able to help to organize different touristic programs upon demand. The Palmares will take place on 2 April, Saturday evening in the fantastic conference center under the Buda Castle called the Varkert Bazar.

So if you wish to mix philately, culture and top-flight tourism, why not visit Budapest and the **HUNFILEX2022 World Stamp Exhibition** in the Spring of 2022?



Geza Homonnay
President of the
Organizing Committee



Vivien Szieber
Secretary of the
Organizing Committee

HELVETIA 2022

Adriano Bergamini (Chairman of the HELVETIA Organising Committee) writes:

This magazine will reach its readers around 100 days before the opening of HELVETIA 2022 and we are delighted to extend a warm invitation to all philatelists to visit our exhibition in Lugano, in the Swiss philatelic tradition and the well-known spirit of hospitality of our town.



Lugano is, at the same time, both a business city and a holiday town thanks to its mountains that surround the lake and the milder climate that invites visitors to relax and enjoy the moment. For the visitors at HELVETIA 2022, an additional reason for enjoying will be offered by the Palmarès banquet that will be prepared by "Da Vittorio". This three-starred Michelin restaurant in the countryside of Bergamo – some 60 km distant as the crow flies – is world famous for the concept of "Lombard tradition and creative genius" of its menus, which are regularly updated and altered to keep up with changes in the market and in the seasons. Reservations may be made at info@helvetia2022.ch.

At the Palmarès the Jury will present its report, after having evaluated 471 exhibits (of which 93 are in the Philatelic literature class) from 54 countries, selected out of the 528 applications received by the Organising Committee for a total request of 2408 frames. The 2100 frames available have been allocated as follows:

		Exhibits	Frames
Class 1	World Stamp Championship	11	88
Class 2A	Traditional – Switzerland National	10	56
Class 2B	Traditional – Europe	40	250
Class 2C	Traditional - America	22	133
Class 2D	Traditional – Asia, Oceania and Africa	27	156
Class 3A	Postal History – Switzerland National	19	98
Class 3B	Postal History - Europe	65	399
Class 3C	Postal History - America	13	83
Class 3D	Postal History – Asia, Oceania and Africa	18	108
Class 4	Postal Stationery	30	192
Class 5	Aerophilately	27	171
Class 6A	Thematic Philately - Nature	14	95
Class 6B	Thematic Philately - Culture	30	171
Class 6C	Thematic Philately - Technology	9	57
Class 8	One Frame Exhibits	43	43
	Total	471	2100

The Philatelic Literature class is also well populated:

Class 7A	Books and Research publications	60
Class 7A	Magazines and periodicals	18
Class 7A	Catalogues	15
	Total	93

The Swiss Post issued a miniature sheet (*Right*) on 9 September 2021 devoted to HELVETIA 2022, with a surcharge in favour of the Foundation for the Development of Philately. Additional issues will be released at the exhibition.

Further updates and the exhibition programme will be announced on our website: <https://www.helvetia2022.ch/en/>





ÖVEBRIA `22 Hirtenberg / Österreich veranstaltet vom 1. Triestingtaler BM - Sammler Verein Hirtenberg

Wettbewerbsausstellung im Rang 1, 2 und 3 mit internationaler Beteiligung und FEPA-Recognition am Rande des Wienerwaldes und nahe der Bundeshauptstadt Wien.

Der Verein feiert im Jahr 2022 sein 55-jähriges Vereinsjubiläum. Aus diesem Anlass wurde er mit der Ausrichtung der **ÖVEBRIA 2022**, der Österreichischen Verbandsbriefmarken Ausstellung, betraut. Es stellt dies, im Jubiläumsjahr, für den Verein eine große Ehre dar. Die Briefmarkenausstellung im Rang 1, 2 und 3 wird vom 22. - 24. April 2022 im Kulturhaus Hirtenberg stattfinden. Mit der Anerkennung der FEPA, des europäischen Verbandes, ist diese Veranstaltung ein weiterer Höhepunkt in der Vereinsgeschichte.

In über 300 Rahmen stellen Sammler, aus mehreren europäischen Ländern, in allen Wettbewerbsklassen, ihre Exponate aus. Weitere Programmpunkte: Sonderpostamt mit Ersttags- und Sonderstempeln, Fortsetzung der Briefmarkenserie „Eisenbahnen im Triestingtal“, Meine Marke Mobil, Philatelie- und Ansichtskartenbörse mit renommierten in- und ausländischen Händlern sowie Zubehörhandel.

Kontakt: 1. Triestingtaler BM – Sammler Verein Hirtenberg, Obmann Richard Winkler, Eichengasse 8, A-2551 Enzesfeld
E-Mail: philatelie.hirtenberg@aon.at
www.briefmarkenverein-hirtenberg.at

Ausflugsmöglichkeiten und Sehenswürdigkeiten für Besucher der ÖVEBRIA 2022:
Jagdschloss Mayerling, Stift Heiligenkreuz, Beethovenhaus Baden, Römertherme Baden, Krupp Stadt Museum Berndorf, Seegrotte Hinterbrühl, Schneebergbahn Puchberg, Naturpark Hohe Wand, Casino Baden bei Wien und viele gemütliche Heurigenlokale.

ÖVEBRIA `22 Hirtenberg / Austria Organized by the 1st Triestingtaler Stamp Collectors Club Hirtenberg

An exhibition in competition classes I, II and III with international participation and FEPA Recognition on the edge of the Vienna Woods and near the federal capital Vienna.

In 2022 the society celebrates its 55th anniversary and so it was given the opportunity to host the yearly national exhibition **ÖVEBRIA 2022**. For the collectors' club this is a big honour marking its jubilee. The exhibition in Classes I, II and II will take place in the Hirtenberg cultural centre from 22nd - 24th April 2022. With FEPA recognition this event is another highlight in the history of the club.

Collectors from several European countries will show their exhibits in all competition classes in more than 300 frames. Additional activities include a special post office with first day cancellation, a continuation of the stamp series "Railways in the Triestingtal" (valley of the River Triesting), mobile personal stamp, dealers with stamps and picture postcards from at home and abroad, as well as philatelic accessories.

Contact: 1. Triestingtaler Stamp Collectors Club Hirtenberg, Chairman Richard Winkler, Eichengasse 8, A-2551 Enzesfeld
E-Mail: philatelie.hirtenberg@aon.at
www.briefmarkenverein-hirtenberg.at

Sightseeing and places of interest:
Mayerling Hunting Lodge, Heiligenkreuz Abbey, Beethoven house Baden, Roman thermal bath Baden, Seegrotte Hinterbrühl, rack-and-pinion railway to the Schneeberg, Hohe Wand National Park, Casino Baden near Vienna and a lot of comfortable wine taverns.



OSTROPA 2022 IN BERLIN

Wolfgang Leupold writes:

There is an old proverb that all good things come in threes. Thanks to COVID we have had to postpone the OSTROPA exhibition twice. Now we are at the starting line for the third time, confident that it will go ahead in brilliant sunshine between 30th June and 3rd July 2022 in the Russian House of Science and Culture in the heart of Berlin.



Our plans have already been announced in FEPA NEWS No 36. OSTROPA is international competitive exhibition with FEPA Recognition and AIJP Patronage. 11 East European Philatelic Federations will take part – Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Ukraine and Hungary. Visitors will be able to view more than 1,000 frames of exhibits in all classes. We have received so many applications to exhibit that unfortunately we have not been able to accept them all.



With help from the AIJP we will designate a special area for philatelic literature. Literature applications will continue to be accepted until 31 March 2022.

As has been widely publicised, most stamp fairs that should be taking place in Germany in 2022 have been cancelled due to COVID restrictions. It is all the more remarkable, therefore, that a stream of well-known dealers and auctioneers is queueing to offer Eastern European stamps and letters. On 30th June 2022 the Schlegel auction house will hold an auction in the Russian House concentrating on Eastern Europe.

To stay in touch over the coming months with the latest information including plans for philatelic society meetings and the exact dates of the extensive supporting programme, go to our website www.ostropa2020.de



NATIONAL EXHIBITION IN PORTUGAL

500 Years of Mail in Portugal

Pedro Vaz Pereira writes:

We have not been able to hold a national exhibition in Portugal for two years. The pandemic and the confinements forced us to retire to the “troop barracks” in a way that we have never seen before in the philately of Portugal.

Little by little, philatelic associations have now re-started their activities and, in this spirit, the Portuguese Philatelic Federation decided to organise a national exhibition open to all classes in October 2022. The aim is to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the creation of the Correio in Portugal.

The exhibition will take place from 18th - 23rd October 2022 in the multipurpose space of the bullring in Évora where we held LUBRAPEX 2009. The Confraria Timbrológica Meridional Álvaro Bóino de Azevedo, an association with extensive experience in organizing philatelic exhibitions, will assist in the organization. France is the country invited to participate on this occasion and will be present with excellent exhibits.

Applications can be requested from the Portuguese Federation of Philately and must be returned to the Federation's headquarters by May 30, 2022. Applications for registration must be sent to the e-mail address: fpf-portugal@netcabo.pt.

We are back and will do everything to make this exhibition the restart of our activity, even if it is still necessary to take some precautions.





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This exhibition will present extraordinary
polar philatelic exhibits from all over the world,
together with various artifacts from the first
polar expeditions.

The LIBEREC 2022 exhibition will include an EXPO sales
exhibition, which will be attended by dealers from all
over Europe.

We are delighted that at the FEPA Congress
in Athens it was agreed that the next FEPA Congress
will be **LIBEREC 2022**. Czech Post has promised to issue
a stamp with the FEPA logo to mark this occasion.

The deadline for the National Commissioners
appointment was postponed until 31st January 2022.

www.liberec2022.eu



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FEPA PATRON(N)AGE

IBRA WORLD EXHIBITION IN ESSEN, 25 – 28 MAY 2023: Under Full Steam!

Thomas Hoepfner writes:



Although we are still approximately one and a half years away from IBRA 2023, it is not too early to become excited – not only because it will be the first large international exhibition in Germany for 14 years, but also in light of our idea to make the event a vibrant meeting place for all shades of collectors and philatelists. Our hope is that the coronavirus pandemic will mainly be behind us by then, and if it is necessary to re-invent the concept of large live events, we are certainly up for that task.

Right now, we are already entering the “hot” planning phase. Please put the dates in your diary. If you are sure you want to plan to come to Germany and visit IBRA 2023, please let us know. And consider making a contribution to the event yourself. Show your exhibit, hold a presentation or offer your personal help. We are sure that IBRA 2023 will deliver a unique experience that should not be missed.

In addition to having around 2.800 frames in the competitive exhibition area we are planning to have various special shows. Among them is a multi-frame display on “150 years German Reichspost”, which had its first day on 4th May 1871. The first stamp issue showing the “Deutsche Reichspost” inscription was issued on 1st January 1872 (“eagle shield”).

A second show will be titled “Jewels of German Philately”, and the idea is to give members of the Bund Deutscher Philatelisten (BDPh) – the German Federation - the opportunity to show one philatelic item. It is expected that we will see an exciting mixture ranging from pre-philately to items from the Euro era.

Finally, the 13th “Deutsch-Amerikanischer Salon” will take place during IBRA 2023. After the “Salon” in Heidelberg in 2016, the U.S. based Germany Philatelic Society will once more be our guest in “Good old Germany”.

Transported under full Steam!



The famous letter from Mauritius to Bordeaux that was carried by steamboat to Great Britain in 1847, *en route* to France.

This unique cover showing the One Penny and Two Pence stamps with the **POST OFFICE** inscription will be one of the IBRA 2023 highlights.

(illustration © Richard Borek Comp.)



This “express” postcard went by steam locomotive powered rail mail from Alexandrowo to Bromberg.

Don't miss the special show “150 years German Reichspost”.
(illustration © Rauhut & Kruschel)

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

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OPEN PHILATELY – The Past and the Future

As part of the HUNFILEX 2022 programme, Birthe King will be leading a FEPA Seminar on Open Philately at 10.30am on 2nd April 2022 in the Hotel Mercure in Budapest. In preparation for that we invited her to set out her thoughts on the progress made so far with this new exhibition class, and what more needs to be done.

What is Open Class, Open Philately, Display Class or Social Philately?

In the 1990s some philatelists wanted to create a new way of collecting and exhibiting without the many perceived restrictions, real or not, imposed by regulations on the recognised classes, particularly Thematic Philately. From this emerged the concept of an Open Class which became very popular in Scandinavia, with no rules, something new, something fun, something different. It soon turned out that there were problems with judging such exhibits – results changed from exhibition to exhibition, from juror to juror. Attempts of voting by the public were not a success either. A few guidelines were agreed - up to 50% of the material could be non-philatelic, and to fit into the frames no item could be more than 5 mm thick.

The hope was that philatelists and non-philatelists would both embrace this concept to show initiative with few rules with new topics, exciting non-philatelic material, and imaginative presentation. 'Open' meant open and welcoming to newcomers and new ideas. Across the world there were parallel developments with similar arrangements in the UK, New Zealand, and Australia called Social Philately, while the USA had a Display Class based on a more open attitude to what could be exhibited. In 2003 the Danish philatelist, Carl E Jørgensen, published 'Om den åbne Frimærkesamling og den åbne Udstillingsklasse' (About the open stamp collection and the open exhibition class) describing the ideas and rationale behind it.



(Left) Fig 1 The Brewer and his Beer
(Right) Fig 2 The Violin



Both pages show an expectation that Open Philately would appeal particularly to thematic philately exhibitors. They have philatelic and non-philatelic material on an innovative background.

FEPA led a move to gain international recognition for this new class, and Open Philately was recognised as an 'experimental' class at the FIP Congress in Singapore in 2004. Norsk Filatelist Forbund (The Norwegian Philatelic Federation) produced a leaflet in 2005 with brief descriptions of the different philatelic classes. Page 24 of the leaflet (illustrated in Fig 3, left) lists the judging criteria in the new 'Open Class' as:



Title, Idea and Innovation	20 points	
Treatment	40 points	20 for Plan and Development
		20 for Research and Knowledge
Material	25 points	15 for Quality and Rarity
		10 for Intelligent Use and Variety of non-philatelic material
Presentation	15 points	

Following the Singapore Congress, most countries started following the new Guidelines for international, regional and national exhibitions. Thus, it was possible to show the same exhibit in Open Class, Social Philately, and Display Class.

An important disadvantage was that internationally only five frames were allowed even if they were awarded 85+ points internationally, while regional and national exhibitions allowed eight frames. At the 2010 Congress in Lisbon a Working Group was set up to recommend a next step. This Group produced a proposal for the FIP Board, which led to the **'Guidelines for Judging Open Philately'** adopted by the FIP Congress in Jakarta in 2012. Within the Guidelines Open Philately was recognised as a 'discipline' rather than a 'class' which would have indicated that there should be a Commission, something that was not felt appropriate at the time. No Open Philately judges were accredited, but it was agreed that Open Philately exhibits with affinity with Postal History would be judged by Postal History judges and if they were more like Thematic Philately, by Thematic judges. In practice the judges of Open have almost always had a thematic background which has worked well. The most important issue was the change the Guidelines brought to the points system, in particular a reduction from 15 to 5 points for presentation to achieve parity with all the other classes (except Thematic) with a division of points of 30 – 35 – 30 – 5 (*See Page 45*). This change irritated some exhibitors but exhibits in Open Philately could now move from 5 to 8 frames, and although no medals were to be awarded, that changed in practice after the Melbourne Exhibition in 2013.



Figs. 4 and 5 The Melbourne 2013 medallion in Open Philately.

Initially the 20 points for Treatment were broken down to ensure that judges had a good look at the non-philatelic material, but by August 2018 the FIP Board, after consultation with FEPA, FIAP, and FIAF, agreed to delete the concept of 'Importance' which had proven problematic to judge, on the grounds that it was not appropriate in Open Philately. To bring Open Philately up to the status of a full FIP Class, a motion will be put to the FIP Congress in August 2022 proposing the establishment of an Open Philately Commission. If agreed there will then be a body to promote and support Open Philately across the world.

In Europe, the USA, Australia, and New Zealand, we have seen Open Philately exhibits of a very high calibre with Large Gold medals awarded at international level. Nationally some exhibitors have continued to favour the more 'open' approach, but with the accepted 'Guidelines' many exhibitors have had to decide if they want to show their material in their own way or abide by the Guidelines to obtain access to international exhibitions.

Building an Open Philately Exhibit

Many philatelists also collect other things - silver, paintings, porcelain, coins, medals, pamphlets, cigarette cards – to mention but a few. Open Philately provides an opportunity to show some of these items to complement the philatelic material and enhance the storyline and presentation. Collectors also have other interests such as sport from which they have acquired specific knowledge that can be brought to bear in an exhibit. Interest in history has generated many exhibits on historic periods, not linked purely to philatelic or postal history aspects. Jobs in engineering, agriculture, paper production or beekeeping can also provide inside knowledge. A check on drawers, boxes or keepsakes may spark off ideas for new exhibits.

Philatelists might choose never to exhibit but are happy to bring fully written up pages to club or regional meetings, even to national events outside competition. However, if a philatelist wants to exhibit in Open Philately, the advice is to read the 'Guidelines for Judging Open Philately' carefully. They consist of three pages only, with some explanatory text on the following lines:

Open Philately seeks to broaden the range of exhibiting and to allow philatelists to include objects from other collecting fields in support of, and in order to develop, an understanding of the philatelic material shown.

It provides an opportunity to present the range of research undertaken by showing the philatelic material in its cultural, social, industrial, commercial, or other context and to show wider and deeper knowledge of the topic.

By allowing an extended range of material Open Philately has the further objective of bringing new collectors to the skill and enjoyment of exhibiting and demonstrating its attractiveness as a hobby.

There are really only two rules:

1 The philatelic material must be at least 50% of the exhibit.

2 It is not a requirement that the non-philatelic material comprises half of the exhibit, but the variety of the non-philatelic material will influence the judging of 'Treatment' as well as 'Material'.



Fig 6 A page in A3 format, demonstrating approx. 50:50 philatelic/non-philatelic material.

The Guidelines provide good advice if the exhibitor wants points and medals. Specifically, the 'Principles of Exhibit Composition' (Section 3) explain the advantages of creating an exhibit with non-philatelic material.

Open Philately exhibits show the dual aspects of philatelic and non-philatelic material, and the exhibit must develop the chosen subject in an imaginative and creative manner.

Open Philately exhibits may include:

1 All types of philatelic material included in all other exhibiting categories (as defined in SREV-see below)

2 Non-philatelic material may include all types of items, excluding dangerous or prohibited material. Non-philatelic items must be relevant to the chosen subject and serve to illustrate it.

3 An Open Philately exhibit must show the development of the chosen subject in an imaginative and creative manner.

4 The philatelic items must be described in the proper philatelic terms, as they would have been in a similar Traditional, Postal History, Thematic or any other exhibit.

5 The non-philatelic items must be described and be relevant and assist the development of the exhibit.

Readers will see that the division of points is now 30 - 35 - 30 - 5 = 100. So how can a potential Open Philately exhibitor go about making the most of the points available within the Guidelines?

6 Exhibits may be planned chronologically, geographically or any other way that the exhibitor may feel appropriate to employ.

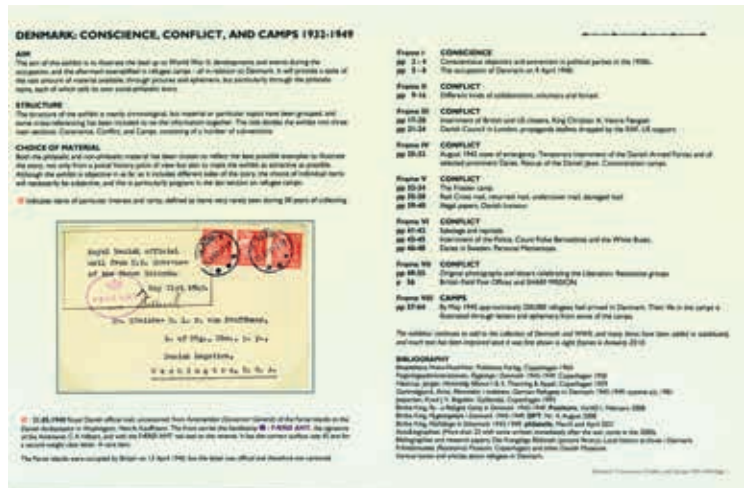
The schedule listing the points that can be awarded by category is as follows:

Treatment			30
	Title and Plan	10	
	Treatment	20	
Knowledge and Research			35
	Philatelic Knowledge and Research	20	
	Non-philatelic Knowledge and Research	15	
Material			30
	Condition	10	
	Rarity	20	
Presentation			5
Total			100

Section 4 of the Guidelines headed ‘Criteria for Evaluating and Judging Exhibits’ says that:

The importance of understanding an Open Philately exhibit can mean that the necessary text will be included to provide background information for the chosen subject. However, all text must be concise and clear, and the non-philatelic material must improve the understanding of the open philately subject and the attractiveness of the exhibit. Open Philately exhibits will be judged by approved specialists in their respective fields.

‘Title and Plan’ must show the relationship between the title of the exhibit, the scope of the story, and the structure of the exhibit. The introductory page must show a clear title indicating what the exhibit is about, a few lines stating the aim, explaining any philatelic abbreviations, use of different typefaces and/or colours and indication of rarity, relevant general information on the subject, and a brief bibliography. The plan should explain the development of the exhibit, not by giving a list of contents but by presenting a logical division of the topic in sections. A relevant illustration with text might attract attention and improve presentation.



(Right)

Fig. 7 Introductory Page:

'Denmark: Conscience, Conflict, and Camps

1932-1949'

‘Treatment’ starts with a strong storyline, often called ‘the red thread’, that runs through the exhibit like an essay with a beginning, a middle, and an end. The story may be divided into chapters or sections, and sub-sections, and the headings for these appear on the introductory page. Some exhibitors then put the sub-sections at the top right. It is vital that the headings be checked, maybe even re-written, at the end.

‘Knowledge and Research’ should be shown throughout the exhibit. Reading around the topic helps to provide a wider perspective that can be shown alongside specific knowledge. Philatelic knowledge should be clear and relevant. Knowledge should be demonstrated both through the choice of material and the relevant text. Research is more specifically related to the topic by reference to new, not previously published, material or an innovative way of approaching a well-documented topic. Personal research is best shown in the bibliography on the title page listing books and/or articles written by the exhibitor on the topic.

‘Condition and Rarity’ The condition of the material shown should be as good as possible, accepting that some items may have been exposed to adverse conditions. Rarity is not always obvious so it is important to indicate items of rarity and explain why they are rare. This is always the case for philatelic items, but even more so for non-philatelic material which judges might only come across in one exhibit. As a help in assessing rarity, it is worth considering how difficult it would be to assemble a similar exhibit.



(Left)

Fig. 8 Soldier's letter from the 1864 War between Denmark and Prussia, showing how mail can be affected by field conditions.

All philatelic material must be original, and all non-philatelic material, including photographs, should be original where possible. The exhibitor must exploit the scope for using non-philatelic material in developing the topic and use a variety of non-philatelic material, not just postcards and other pictorial matter.

'Presentation' Good presentation can affect the overall impression made by an exhibit. The individual page, the frame, and the exhibit

should be appealing and well balanced. To help themselves exhibitors should choose good quality paper and polyester protectors; often choose an off-white or cream coloured paper; choose an easily readable typeface and use it consistently, making variations with capital letters, bold, or italic; frame the items or use matting to make them stand

out; lay out the individual pages with the same margins on all pages; where possible, place the items in the most pleasing way according to the storyline (although this can create problems with a chronological storyline) and place the text next to the item. Due to the often large or unorthodox sizes of non-philatelic materials, mounting on A3 size sheets can help to achieve a more attractive presentation.



Fig. 9 Presentation, example from own exhibit: Conflict: Resistance; Sabotage (Frame VI, p. 41)

Some general questions include:

Q. What philatelic materials can be used in Open Philately?

A. All types of philatelic material that are allowed in other exhibiting classes (see SREVs – Special Regulations).

Q. What exactly is non-philatelic material?

A. Non-philatelic material may include any relevant items that serve to illustrate the topic such as photographs, illustrated postcards, medals, pins, fabric, buttons, gold braided shoulder straps, menu cards, tickets, postal laws, decrees and government proclamations, newspapers, placards, flyers, propaganda labels, advertising items. The material must be original where possible, and nothing can be more than 5 mm thick.

Q. How do you measure up to 50 % non-philatelic material – is

it per item or should it be measured?

A. Do not count, do not measure. The individual pages do not need to display 50-50 material, but when viewing a frame – or the whole exhibit – the overall look should be more or less 50:50, although non-philatelic material can be less than 50%.

Q. How should the philatelic text be written up?

A. Philatelic knowledge should be shown and the text must be written in proper philatelic terms.

Q. How should the non-philatelic text be written up?

A. The text to non-philatelic items must describe them appropriately and assist the development of the exhibit.

Q. Is a postcard a philatelic or a non-philatelic item?

A. When the picture side is shown, it is non-philatelic; when the address side is shown postally used, it is philatelic. The text to the items should reflect this.

Q. How important is the non-philatelic material?

A. Non-philatelic material should be as varied as possible within the chosen topic, but it must also be appropriate, illustrate the philatelic material, and bring the story forward. It makes an exhibit more interesting to look at, not just for other exhibitors and the judges but also for non-collectors and the general public.

Where do we go from here? Open Philately is popular in many countries but not worldwide and there is still much to do for it to be universally accepted. Many exhibitions do not include Open Philately and the FIP does not have accredited Open Philately judges, although individual countries have national and regional accreditation. It is time Open Philately was generally accepted as a full member of the philatelic community.

For further reference. Go to the FIP website: <https://www.f-i-p.ch> and click on > Regulations and Guidelines > Open Philately. The FIP General Regulations for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions (GREV) and FIP Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions (SREVs) for each competitive class are also essential reading for international exhibitors.



Fig. 10 Variety of Non-philatelic Material

Can we appreciate Non-Philatelic material properly in Open Philately exhibits?

Dr. Witold Mikołajczyk, Polish Philatelist Union Delegate and Representative on the proposed FIP Open Philately Commission has sent us some personal thoughts.

Unexpectedly, a book about the post in Bojanowo¹ prompted me to create an Open Philately exhibit. I started preparing the exhibit from an analysis of the applicable rules for the construction and assessment of exhibits as set out in the General Regulations for Competitive Exhibitions including the FIP Guidelines for Judging Open Philately, the General FIP Regulations for Exhibitions (GREX) and the General Regulations for the Evaluation of competitive exhibits at FIP exhibitions (GREV).

I paid particular attention to some substantive questions, especially on equivalence of treatment in the Open Class of philatelic and non-philatelic material and how markings of rarity may be shown on exhibition sheets, for example: expertise - "E" or certificate - "C". The GREV allow for the inclusion of additional information on philatelic rarity such as "**RARITY**" (capital letters in bold) when it is in a category commonly considered as rare or "**UNIQUE**" in confirmed cases.

However, I haven't found any information on how equivalent non-philatelic values should be indicated. Is it possible to use the same marks? The non-philatelic rarity of a historical artefact could be very high too, even of museum value. For example, in my exhibit I put an original letter of the Blessed Edmund Bojanowski (14 November 1814 - 7 August 1871, blessed of the Roman Catholic Church by John Paul II). This is probably the only letter from all his existing correspondence that is held outside the religious congregation he founded.

Another valuable item (*shown below*) is a document from 1743 confirming the admission of a new member to the Guild of Rope Makers in Bojanowo. After searches in archives, museums and libraries this is the only document I have found that confirms the existence of a Guild of Rope Makers in Bojanowo. I'm planning to put this rarity into my rebuilt exhibit.



Considering questions of rarity, I am also alert to other aspects such as the individuality of an item. Recently a mid-nineteenth century insurance policy of G.H. Schmückert, General Director of the Prussian Post, was offered on one of the internet auctions. Director Schmückert helped in the reconstruction of Bojanowo town after a Great Fire in 1857, so for me this item is priceless. On the other hand, the value of that type of document relates to the individual, so

¹ Witold Mikołajczyk, Gmina Bojanowo traktem i znakami pocztowymi opisana [Commune Bojanowo Described Through Its Route and Postal Stamps], Bojanowo 2018.

can we say that it has a unique value more generally? There are many similar examples. We can say that any item of which there is only one specimen is rare.

Certainly, it isn't only a matter of the author's knowledge relating to an item in the exhibit, but also how it is described, that will skilfully place it in terms of rarity. Perhaps the scope for describing postal correspondence in exhibits should be extended to cover not only the philatelic value of a postcard or the condition of an envelope, but also to include valuable non-philatelic rarity factors such as the signature of a famous person on it. Examples are the above-mentioned letter of the Blessed Edmund Bojanowski and the card shown below that was written and signed by Rabbi Dr Juliusa Theodora² who worked for over 30 years in Bojanowo. He was and still is considered to be one of the greatest scholars of Haggadah and midrash manuscripts.



Certificates of authenticity are issued in many areas of collecting; for example, to autographs of famous people. Thus, the question arises –is it possible to add information with the letter “C” beside non-philatelic rarities? A copy of the associated certificate could be put on the back of the sheet. That way we could talk more about the purpose of Open Philately and the evaluation rules. The Open Class was created to attract collectors, making philatelic exhibits more attractive by bringing in new items. Rare non-philatelic material should be treated equally with philatelic material in terms of evaluation. Including the rarity of non-philatelic materials in the exhibit and thus transferring the accepted markings from the philatelic area - “C”, “E”, “RARE”, “UNIQUE” to non-philatelic material would be helpful.

In the evaluation of an exhibit, an exhibitor may receive for: knowledge and research – 35 points, including: philatelic knowledge and research – 20 points and non-philatelic knowledge and research – 15 points, material – 30 points, including: 20 points for rarity of material and 10 points for condition of material.

I haven't found an answer to the question of whether the marks: RARE” or “UNIQUE can also be used in describing non-philatelic material in the same way as they can be applied to philatelic material. If they cannot, it could make it more difficult for judges to rate the exhibit because they aren't specialists in all themes which could be shown in Open.

Due to the limited space available in an exhibit and the need for brief descriptions, it would be reasonable to include in the Open Class regulations an obligation on the exhibitor to prepare a synopsis. At the beginning a new class always runs into barriers and a synopsis attached to the exhibit would become a kind of guide for judges. Additional information can then be provided about the non-philatelic material shown and the synopsis would become an additional tool allowing judges to make an objective assessment of rarity.

These questions seem important for Open Class exhibitors looking for guidance on how to interpret the Regulations for Open Philately exhibiting. If they could be resolved it would allow for a better understanding of the scarcity and quality of the items presented, especially the non-philatelic ones, to visitors and judges.

² Kadari Tamar, The life and research of Rabbi Dr Julius Theodor /in:/ Judaica, Year: 2017, Volume: 73, Issue: 4, Pages: 397-434.

ON-LINE PHILATELY – An Italian Contribution

Giancarlo Morolli writes:

At the recent FEPA Congress our President's presentation on FEPA's priorities highlighted the growing usage of online technology and digital platforms in organised philately - virtual exhibitions, Zoom meetings, seminars, displays, on-line auctions - and asked for more cooperation between Member Federations in sharing practices.

To assist this discussion I bring some considerations and experiences from the Federazione fra le Società Filateliche Italiane (FSFI) thanks to a "virtual", i.e., e-mail based, round table on the various facets of the subject with President Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi, Board members Aniello Veneri, Luca Lavagnino, Paolo Guglielminetti, and delegates Marco Occhipinti and Sergio Castaldo. Aniello, Luca and Paolo are the Presidents respectively of the Italian Center for Ordinary Stamps (CIFO), Italian Association for Postal History (AISP), and Italian Center for Thematic Philately (CIFT), all strongly committed to virtual exhibitions and seminars. Marco and Sergio are IT professionals engaged, in different ways, in websites and web contributions. We hope that this contribution will trigger a wide and deep analysis of the subject and will encourage others to share planning and implementation stories.

Since the first AICPM-NET in 2013 there have been 15 virtual exhibitions in Italy including 4 nationals and FSFI published dedicated special regulations last February. Moreover, since October 2014 every national exhibition has had a special section in the FSFI's exhibition portal <http://expo.fsfi.it/>, with all exhibits available in pdf format to jurors and the public, an asset of several hundred in total. Thanks to CIFO, CIFT, and AISP, seminars on the Zoom platform have been organized since April 2020. The most popular series, the "Philatelic Fridays" has reached 50 sessions with an average participation of 50 attendees, and peaks over 100, also from abroad. Over the last 6 years FSFI has made regular on-line contacts mainly using Facebook. Weekly reporting shows that by December 2021 there had been c.2,000 posts and more than 2,100 contacts.

THE REAL ROLE OF THE LOCKDOWN

Philately has been a social hobby since its early days as philatelists started exchanging and buying /selling items, founding clubs, publishing the results of their findings, giving displays. The pandemic has forced new approaches that were emerging anyway as was evident in the FEPA report "How to change direction" presented at the 2013 FEPA Congress in Madrid and included in a CD released at the 2015 Congress in Lugano. This CD also contained a paper from the APS Long Term Planning Committee with the significant title "Into the Future – the American Philatelic Society in 2030". A section of our report, 18 slides out of 51, stated, "By 2023 activities developed at national level are deeply Internet-based and exploit social networking". At the time of the FEPA study the potential of the smartphone was still unleashed, and the relevant social apps (Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, You Tube, etc.) were in their take-off phase. The APS report described the 2030 scenario in similar terms, substantiated by more pragmatic examples as the study was focused on one specific reality, the APS, and the American world was (and currently is) the driver of new technologies. For example, they concluded, "In 2030, STAMPSHOW could still be an annual extravaganza in both the physical and virtual worlds. Cost and reduced support from USPS may require a scaled down version of STAMPSHOW, but the virtual world makes STAMPSHOW offerings available to collectors all over the world (and 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week). Right now, seminars can be given on Second Life¹, classrooms established, social interaction with other collectors can occur, and purchases from dealers can be made."

The pandemic has accelerated these trends due to the lockdown and the consequent need to keep philatelic events alive as much as possible. In other terms, the pandemic compelled us to transform, where feasible, real shows into virtual ones (e.g. Naposta 2020, Exfilna 2020) and now, while we are fighting to keep some "normality", the virtual side remains in combination with the real. The best demonstration comes from STAMPEX, the bi-annual British stamp event in London. The Philatelic Traders Society (PTS) had to cancel the 2020 Autumn session and set up a STAMPEX International Virtual Exhibition in its place. This 72 hour event gathered internationally-recognised dealers, auction houses, societies and specialists from all over the world, enabling philatelists from their homes in any corner of the planet to join in for buying, selling, inquiring, listening, looking at exhibits. However, as the changed pandemic

¹ Second Life is an online multimedia platform that allows people to create an avatar for themselves and have a second life in a virtual world (Wikipedia).

conditions allowed more freedom, the Autumn 2021 STAMPEX reverted to live status but kept the virtual features, so that philatelists from all over the world could “visit” and participate.

PHILATELY BEYOND THE ORGANIZED SOCIETIES

The FEPA project report anticipated a shrinkage in the number of collectors but remarked that a lot of people were (and still are) collecting in their own ways and rightly consider themselves true philatelists. The discussion of our Project report focused on how to approach uncommitted collectors, i.e., those philatelists not linked to any formal organisation. A rough count by the project team presented the philatelic population in the FEPA territory by types of philatelist². For each international exhibitor, the visible tip of the iceberg, there were an estimated 10 - 15 national exhibitors, 500-1,000 society members, and 5,000-40,000 collectors, the width of the range varying between countries. Unfortunately, that was the project’s last step. Various initiatives that emerged in discussion, mainly devoted to how to attract some uncommitted collectors, never materialized on the international scene. New scenarios based on social media have now opened additional possibilities that need to be explored in depth.

THE UNCOMMITTED PHILATELIC WORLD

Many philatelists who populate forums, chats or Facebook groups do not feel the need to join an association even if some of them are fully aware of the existence of organized philately. They simply like to enjoy their hobby under current conditions. They look for stamps and information in the web (the knowledge-hungry ones exploiting education offerings in YouTube) visit virtual shows, exchange messages and share findings with fellow collectors, buy and sell items. All using a smartphone, a tablet, or a personal computer, and a web connection. They have become members of a virtual community, without association duties, deadlines, or rules, lasting as long as the common interest is shared. Most of them share (and tend to propagate) enthusiasm rather than technical knowledge, and value images and their stories rather than deep technical details.

Around the world there are active philatelic groups that are not affiliated to any official philatelic organizations and offer free membership, being able to manage at almost no cost. Their goal is to gather people really interested in a certain topic irrespective of their country of residence, relaunch the topic by creating knowledge synergies about it and publish their findings, capitalising on past contributions. Often these initiatives are originated by just one person. Their minimum entry on the web is based on a platform (e.g., ISSUU) which converts PDFs into digital publications that can be shared via links or embedded into websites and e-mail addresses so that interested collectors may browse through the magazine. Its contents are available to organized societies who may ask via e-mail to receive it as pdf at the next publication. Some of these groups have a website of interesting philatelic standard and ask for a membership application as they want to select members on the basis of a declared philatelic interest and avoid lowering the level of their group. If the group has lower costs (though not zero) by not producing a printed periodical it can eliminate or make the fee symbolic and cover the few expenses with voluntary donations or advertising or have on-demand services. Most such groups require a registration and, depending on what they offer, they may retain the right to refuse membership when they feel that the interest of the applicant does not match their principles. This requirement intends to define a clear “perimeter” around their base in order to maintain its identity. Social networks, forums, websites are a powerful tool for philatelic education as long as there is someone who wants to offer quality content. Paradoxically, if one day that person is no longer able to continue, what would happen? In this sense, the group is almost a synonym for continuity.

THE WEBSITE IS THE CORNERSTONE

Recently the FEPA Board launched the Francis Kiddle Medal for the best philatelic website 2021 as a token of its commitment to support such initiatives. Member Federations and sixteen experts on an ad-hoc panel were asked to nominate one candidate that “a philatelist would bookmark as highly interesting”. No rules were imposed as our main goal was to understand what it is going on. After their ranking by the panel and the Board’s final assessment, the resulting top websites covered very different scopes: a permanent virtual exhibition, two institutional websites (1 Society, 1 Institute for Philatelic and Postal Research), 3 websites created by individual philatelists (on Classic philately, Spanish-Philippines philately, and Stamps with phosphorescent bars), and 1 Youth. The other websites nominated included a World catalogue, a Philatelic daily news (both from commercial companies), a Postal History and Philately Museum, another individual website (theme Dentistry), 5 society websites (Military Post, Forum for postal History and Stamps, Postal Treaty project. Postal History and Forum, and Hungarian philately) plus 6 Member websites.

² The 29 Member Federations reported, altogether, 5258 member societies for an estimated total of 224,500 individual members.

HOW TO ATTRACT

This philatelic wealth is available to any internaut. It keeps philately alive but does not necessarily support our societies unless they create a kind of “magnetic field” which attracts collectors to become (or remain) members. That depends on the peculiarities of what is provided. By itself technology alone is not sufficient. Philatelic society websites, their front-end towards philatelic internauts, need to provide content capable of attracting new members by drawing attention to the special benefits they offer. This is a win-win situation: new members bring fresh air into society life and this improved situation is beneficial to all members. New members mean new resources, new brains, new skills, not only additional membership fees! The websites should have an attractive “public” side (above all news of real interest, updated frequently and when it is still fresh) associated with a member-only private area full of “goodies”, with some samples available in the public area for marketing reasons. The most important contents should be immediately visible on the home page, without users having to drill down to reach them. A list of society publications with some short samples from them should be available in the public area, but they should only be downloadable from the private area. Viewing the contents list may arouse a collector’s interest and encourage them to join the society. A classified index of all articles published would also be useful as well as attractive. Non-resident philatelists might be interested in “remote” membership at a reduced fee, based on receiving the digital version of the periodical. Furthermore, the feasibility of a mentoring program for individuals or small groups should be explored – first session free – then members only. It would be important to publish tutorials on how to assemble a collection or to analyse a postal document in the same way as one can find a video on how to make egg pasta.

WEB VS FACEBOOK

There is a further practical aspect stemming from a technical feature. Websites, forums, chats and webinars depend on a person’s willingness to connect to them. By contrast social networks impose a content. If I publish a content each registered member of the group will see it in his/her notifications whether or not he/she wants it. Such passivity could offer a great advantage to philatelic organizations as people will be presented with content for reading and may then take an interest. Marco Occhipinti’s weekly blog named Sfizi.Di.Posta (Postal Whims) is currently seen by 4,200 people. Dozens of them put the classic “like”, several make comments. About 500 are philatelists, the others are not. They include editors and directors of the National Institute of Cinematography, graphologists of the State Police, archivists and university professors. People who have nothing to do with philately but are interested in the stories presented. As the stories are based on postal documents, all these people are being put in touch with philately without having looked for it or chosen it. Marco has also set up a website on the same subject and with the same content, Sfizi.Di.Posta, but although it is graphically nicer, more organized and formatted, very few people visit it. Why? Because one has to go looking for the website, making a ‘huge effort’ to find it, while for Sfizi.Di.Posta on Facebook there is no need to remember to go and see if Marco has published a new contribution. Facebook that does this work for them. The challenge of the future will be how to prepare the meal and serve it ready-made. It requires an extra effort, but otherwise what is niche today will be even more niche in the future, submerged by the vast quantities of information that people receive unwittingly.

The AISP Facebook group has about 450 members but the page has more than 1000 “likes” and Zoom conferences are attended by non-members. AISP’s experience is that most new members are already well-known collectors, often personally invited to join. Is the vast majority of collectors deterred from joining a society because information is freely available on the web thanks to the willingness of those who want to share it? Or should it simply be read as general disaffection with associationism and personal commitment?

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

There is another side to the coin: increased incompetence and related superficiality, people playing the odds, fake news, scope for fraud and forgery. So careful attention is needed! There is a problem of control in this era of non-recognition of skills and very little fact-checking. This is an issue that needs to be reflected upon and brought to the attention of the public. But we should be careful not to throw the baby out with the bath water!

Traditional advertising is provided in a unidirectional way but in social networks messages are seen, processed and, in turn, shared by users; a digital word-of-mouth that, if well managed, can multiply visibility and trust. Web posts stay up almost permanently and may be observed, elaborated and misinterpreted without any oversight. An exhibit of mine, shown internationally and available as pdf on a couple of sites, was analysed in a webinar in another country. Its pages were assessed by an expert in graphic design who (fortunately) praised the layout of a certain page and appreciated the position of a particular stamp in its centre. I found this out months later and I was unable to explain that the position was merely a consequence of the thematic development of the page (the “file rouge”) without any graphic strategy from my side.

CONCLUSIONS

Having spent the last part of my professional career as an IT consultant I must stress out that any activity in this field has to be carefully planned and financed. It is a basic investment for the future and cannot be assigned to the goodwill of temporary available volunteers, however skillful they are. With very few exceptions auction houses, dealers, associations or philatelic experts have so far made modest and not particularly professional use of social networks and modern communication systems. And yet we are talking about stamps and letters, which themselves are based on image. How many commercial operators make systematic use of professional mail-marketing or publish professionally edited videos on YouTube to advertise their auctions or to spread news? The potential is enormous but little exploited, mainly because of the strange idea that if we talk about something old/antique - as stamps often are - we can't do it with a new and modern language. The pandemic has forced us to open up to the outside world through new channels that can reach practically everywhere in spite of social restrictions, but it was a forced rather than a targeted choice. In future more professional and less improvised use of communication via web, zoom or YouTube will be needed.

However, just as the pandemic has brought a wider circulation of information, I believe that personal contacts will flourish again and that newer contacts, first established via the net, could turn into personal ones. After having contacted a club, why not attend one of its events and meet the people who are on the other side?



PROPOSAL FOR AN ON-LINE EXHIBIT BUILDER

Following on from Giancarlo's article we are grateful to Marcus Orsi and Devlan Kruck of the Museum of Philately for providing information on their proposal for an innovative on-line tool to help collectors produce display and exhibit sheets.

An overview of our proposal for an online Exhibit Builder

During Autumn Stampex in London this year we organised a roundtable event to discuss the topic of virtual exhibiting. We invited a selection of individuals to participate who had wide experience of exhibiting at national and international level. The purpose was to introduce a concept the Museum of Philately has formulated to help collectors with varying levels of competence in assembling their material, from the advanced exhibitor who has produced competent printed sheets and assembled frames, to those who are on the first rung of putting together a basic display and those who just don't know how to start the process of writing up their collection. To this end, the Museum of Philately outlined a proposal for an 'App' or 'Tool', accessible online, free to use, that would enable collectors at any stage in their exhibiting life, anywhere in the world, to organise their collection and develop an exhibit or display.

Where are we and what's next?

At the meeting we discussed the merits of virtual exhibits and led into the concept of an App or electronic Tool, accessible on our website, which could facilitate the development of a basic display to a virtual exhibit. We presented a prototype mock-up (screenshots included below) of the proposed tool and walked through what we envisage would be the process for users to access and begin the development of their own virtual display or in the case of an existing exhibitor to get the benefits of an online exhibit builder. At this stage our concept is purely an idea we would like to open out for further discussion with the aim of establishing a way forward and ensuring the App/Tool would be helpful to the full spectrum of collectors. If the overwhelming feedback is positive, a full system specification would be developed and quotations obtained for building the App/Tool by an appropriate system developer. Moving forward we need to enlist assistance from the philatelic community on design and funding of the project. At present the Museum of Philately relies upon sponsorship from David Feldman SA, who have supported both the wider Museum online project, and the initial concept of this App/Tool. But additional sponsorship is needed to ensure effectiveness and independence.

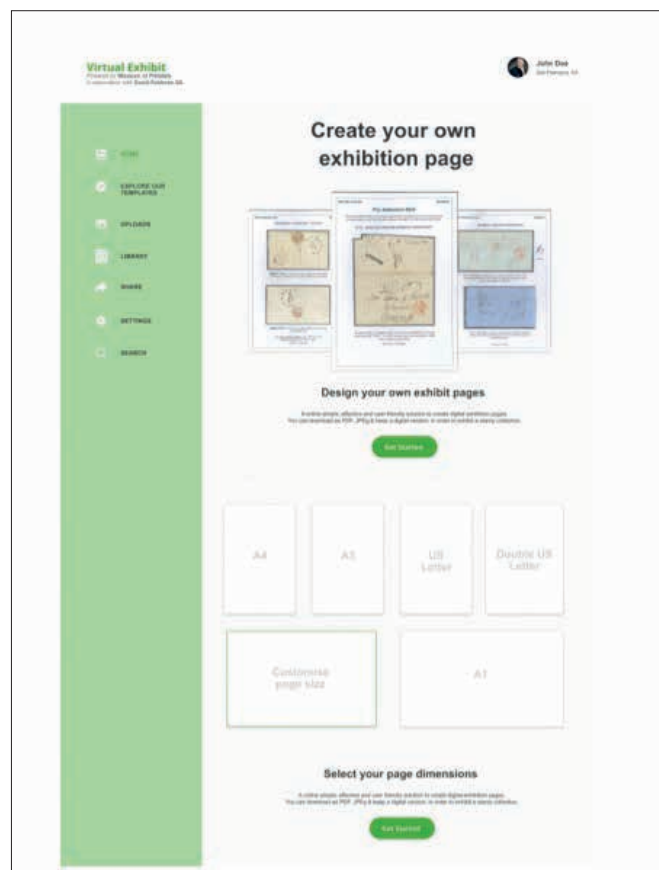
Proposed Timescales

We would like wider feedback over the coming months so that we can review the project and take it forward in 2022. Our preferred approach would be to make this App/Tool free to use for all, seeing this as a way to promote the hobby, encourage exhibiting, help collectors to organise their material, and unite the wider philatelic community, enabling collectors at all levels to connect with individuals and organisations who have a higher degree of expertise in the formation of an organised collection and get them on their exhibiting journey. However, this App/Tool is intended to

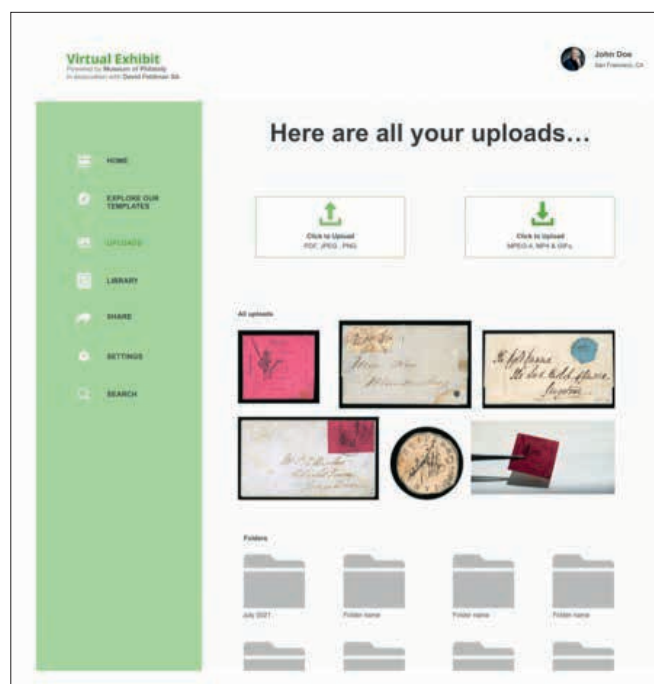
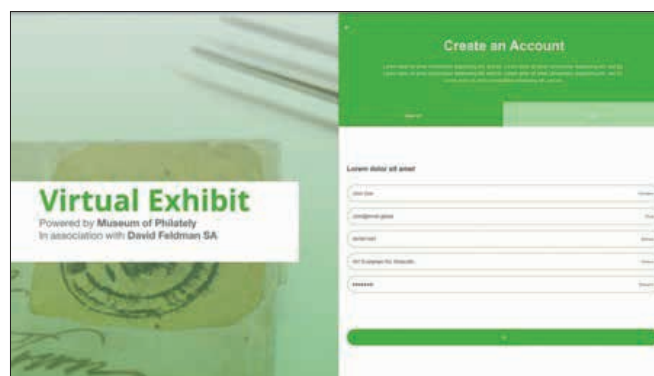
support those who want to develop virtual exhibits and who need to develop, revise or produce traditional pages. In essence, this proposal is for a free electronic tool, accessible online, which enables any collector to prepare display pages from scans of their material and then arrange them on pages which they can write-up and arrange into a basic display or right through to an advanced exhibit. The App will enable the collector to share their work with others, store their virtual collection and organise their pages online, with the facility to make changes at any time, anywhere through the Internet, and to connect with online resources and share their collections with others.

Screenshots of the Exhibit Builder Tool

Users would access the App/Tool via a website and create an account.



The user would have access to Templates to design an exhibit which would include different page sizes. Users would need to scan their material.



Scans would be loaded and could be organised for use with any displays or exhibits produced by the user. The App would provide a library of the exhibits saved by the user, and enable them to customise pages, through inbuilt tools, fonts and icons, and to share their work from within the exhibit builder.

Feedback on this proposal

We would very much like to hear your opinions on this proposal. Please take 5 minutes to fill in our survey at:

<https://us1.listmanage.com/survey?u=27b1165ae621611705a663a80&id=85311bb1f6&attribution=false&e=b854b5f28a>

PROFESSIONAL PHILATELY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

(Ed) To find out how the pandemic has affected the philatelic business community I recently had an opportunity to interview Karl Louis of Corinphila and Dieter Michelson of Heinrich Köhler for FEPA NEWS. Their comments give an added dimension to Giancarlo Morolli's article (above) on the growing importance of on-line activities for philately.



Dieter Michelson and Karl Louis in conversation with King Karl-Gustav of Sweden at the STOCKHOLMIA exhibition in 2019.

BH: At the start of the pandemic in March 2020 our lives changed dramatically in many ways, both professionally and in our leisure activities. What effects did Covid-19 have on philately?

Dieter: At the start we all felt very bewildered. Many people felt unsecure or afraid and stayed at home. Meetings with friends and in the extended family circle were restricted, journeys were cancelled, restaurant visits were no longer possible for a long time. For many people working from home became a new professional experience. Suddenly our daily life was confined to a small circle; the older generation felt safest at home.

Karl: So, what do people do when all of a sudden they are spending much more time at home? The days become long

and a moment approaches when the last book on the shelf has been read and too much time has been spent in front of the television. The newspapers only covered one subject – Covid 19. At a certain point they asked, 'What do I do now?' And then many former collectors picked up their stamp album. They had put collecting away but now its fascination touched them again. A missing piece here could be looked for; an interesting addition would fit well somewhere else. This led to research on the internet. That could easily be done from home and the search quickly proved absorbing and successful.

BH: What effects could be seen in the trade and at auctions?

Dieter: First of all, we had to postpone our Heinrich Köhler auction, planned for the end of March 2020, a week before it was due to start to an unknown date because of the 'Lockdown' and restrictions on admittance. Customers had to be informed. Only a small team of staff remained in the office called off in March at the end of June. And then we had an encouraging surprise. From April the stamp trade had reported a flood of orders for their material offered on the internet. The trade then bought up material when auctions started again to replenish stocks emptied by sales. At the traditional auctions the trade then ran into highly motivated collectors who wanted to extend their collections through auction purchases.

Karl: And this trend continued. The auction at Corinphila in Zürich, postponed from May until September 2020, confirmed what we had already seen at Heinrich Köhler in Wiesbaden. Because of increased demand from collectors and dealers the hammer prices and sales numbers rose remarkably in nearly all collecting areas. Because of the good business done at the start of the pandemic the trade was in a strong financial position, and the collectors also had considerable financial resources at their disposal. The restrictions on spending on restaurant visits, travel or on opportunities to buy in shops led to unexpected financial flexibility which generated higher investment in stamp collecting. This tendency was noticeable in all our businesses including Corinphila Veilingen in Amsterdam and John Bull in Hong Kong. Even our company H.R.Harmer in Rockefeller Center in Manhattan, New York experienced a boom in orders for prime items in the 'ERIVAN' USA Collection as well as for interesting stamps and letters in the lower and middle price ranges.

BH: How did people find their way to stamp auctions? Was the auction room packed with people and the advance viewing booked out?

Karl: Bidder behaviour changed dramatically at these first auctions of the pandemic. The opportunity for viewing in advance was heavily restricted, not least because we could only allow a small number of customers into our premises at any one time due to the pandemic. We responded early to these restrictions. At auctions before the Covid 19 pandemic we had already put many tens of thousands of scans on the internet. In many cases we scanned stamps, letters, rear sides, certificates of authenticity, collections and large estates and our philatelists looked for the best parts of the collection to show on the internet. We greatly increased the effort on this but it was worth it. For us, for our buyers and our consigners the service was extremely well received.



Dieter Michelson at an auction in Wiesbaden during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Online Live Bidding is displayed on the large visual display unit to the right of the auctioneer.

Dieter: When the auction began the room was relatively empty, but the auction agents had full order books. At the same time the triumph of live on-line bidding began, a form of 'booster' for our traditional live auctions. Anyone who still had doubts about the new bidding technology soon learned better. If we had around 300-400 live on-line bidders registered before the pandemic, that number doubled in June to almost 800 activations. At the next auction in December the number of activations had already passed the 1,000 mark before the auction. In the end we counted over 1,200 on-line bidders. Since then we have more or less reached this level regularly at every auction. We already detected a move in this direction before the pandemic, but it has hugely accelerated the whole process. Thanks to the internet!

Karl: We could perhaps add that both the collectors and the dealers have very large budgets for investment

in philately. We added up the bidder limits applied for by on-line bidders and confirmed by us in our auctions at Corinphila in Zürich in June 2021 and in November 2021. In both auctions we found that the maximum bid limits granted before the auction exceeded 17 Million Swiss Francs. These were not fully spent but it is impressive to see the financial resources that are basically available to collectors for investment in high-value philately.

BH: Will we soon only have on-line auctions?

Dieter: This is not discernible at present. As the new pattern has emerged during the Covid-19 pandemic we have evolved a type of new sales format for traditional live auctions that goes far beyond the well-known 'fully automatic' internet sales organisations. With us collectors can bid without restrictions or a limit on time. As a result they keep control of their personal bidding. With simple internet sales organisations such as, for example, E-Bay there is a precise time when the bidding will close, and an exact remaining time by when a bid has to be placed. In the last seconds before the time limit runs out a bidder can lose control and be surprised to have been over-bid in the closing seconds.

Karl: In our on-line live bidding systems the collector follows the room auction on the internet. He hears the auctioneer's voice and can even see him on live video. The internet customer can therefore follow the bidding battles in the auction room in voice and picture. At a live auction run by an auctioneer bids can be placed without the pressure of a fixed deadline; the bidder keeps control and can rearrange his bids within the framework of his budget. To summarise it we can conclude that, while the Covid-19 pandemic has been so tragic for society as a whole, philately has received a tailwind from it through increased demand from reactivated and even new collectors. We are very optimistic about the outlook for philately. Now we hope that exhibitions and philatelic fairs will also soon be up and running again. For in the long term there is no substitute for personal meetings with collector friends. Not even the internet.

BH: Thank you Dieter and Karl for these very interesting insights.

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THE STAMP MUSEUM IN BUDAPEST

At Géza Hommonay's invitation Gabriella Nikodem, Curator of the Budapest Stamp Museum, has kindly given us an article about the museum in advance of the HUNFILEX 2022 World Stamp Exhibition from 31 March-3 April 2022.



The Royal Hungarian Post opened the doors of the Stamp Museum to visitors on 28 April 1930. The thought to establish such an institution had already emerged in 1890 in connection with the stamp exhibition organized in that year in Vienna, when the Hungarian Post was unable to participate because of the anarchy in the postal material collection. A document written in 1911 contains specific suggestions "regarding the arrangement of the valuable items collection of the Directorate of the Post", related to the storage in a "fire-free money safe", the professional arrangement of the collection, the know-how of continuous enlargement, plus a foreign travel plan for the curator, Karoly Klimes, to gain extra knowledge.

The original material contained "around 25,000 postal and revenue stamps plus 6,000 valuable items"; this collection was valued at around 50-60,000 Koronas, "getting more valuable each year". Regarding foreign stamps, thanks to the obligatory copies organized by the UPU, the collection was close to complete. The Hungarian material though was not very strong, - in particular, types, varieties and specialities were missing. This gap had to be filled from the stamp market. By far the biggest such transaction was the acquisition of the collection of *Frigyes Mirkó Poppovits*, commercial counsel, which, in addition to the basic stamps, contained a very rich compilation of varieties, specialities, multiples, plus stamp plans and essays. This material received the Grand Prix at the first Hungarian National Exhibition held in the Spring of 1909.

Well, this magnificent collection was partly bought, partly exchanged by the Post and became the base of the Stamp Museum's Hungarian collection. Still, many other collections were bought from dealers and collectors and to expand the material of the Museum continuously, the Post set aside a sum each year from the profit of the Stamp Sales Office, based on a permission received from the Minister of Finances. Indeed, in the 1927/28 budget a "significant sum" was set apart on the suggestion of this Minister to enhance the collection of the Stamp Museum.

During the planning of the museum furniture the model was the exhibition-case system of the Nuremberg Post Museum. The Museum was placed in the large boardroom on the 8th floor of the newly built Post Palace on Krisztina boulevard in Buda.





At the above-mentioned opening date the exhibited material consisted of 49,000 foreign and 7,000 Hungarian stamps. The room was 20x8m and could host 8 big showcases of which two contained 80, six 40 boards. In the middle there were two big exhibition cases each containing 12 sections. Visitors were able to study watermarks with the aid of four stereoscope devices. Apart from stamps and trial prints the collection contained forgeries, original plans, printing devices and cancellers, printed matter and stamps of private posts. Special collections like the gravure-corrections of Dessewffy, the Fiume collection or the Bosnia material were “only shown upon request”.

The space problem caused by continuous growth of the material, plus the non-ideal location of the Post Palace, induced the thought of the establishment of a new exhibition location. This became the mezzanine of the new Post Palace, completed in 1939 in Dob street 75/81, which was specifically planned to meet the needs of the museum.



The Museum opened its doors at the new location on 23 November 1940, in one of the most modern buildings of Budapest at that time. The building was supplied, as a then unique solution, with an A/C system plus an automatic fire service system using gas, defending the premises of the Museum from possible catastrophe. During the set-up, maximum attention was paid to the point of view of artwork protection. Besides ensuring constant temperature, the problem caused by colour fading was solved by not using natural light and shielding the stamps even from the artificial light by exhibition frames recessed into the wall. By 1940 the collection contained some 89,000 exhibited items. The two most valuable Hawaii „Missionary” stamps, even today, were purchased. The Museum owned the two most famous Hungarian printing error stamps, the Inverted Madonna



and a fairly big sheet part of the “Nagyományos” stamp. The collection was enriched by the Fournier forgery collection, still today a very popular attraction of the exhibited material. The size of the new showroom was 34,5 x 9 m, housing 10 new showcases, harmonizing perfectly with the older ones. Today the museum still

functions at these premises. On one wall there is a watercolour painted by *Gyula Rimanóczy*, the architect of the museum, depicting the would-be showroom of the museum during the planning process.



The concept for the Museum in 1939.



The Museum as it looks today.

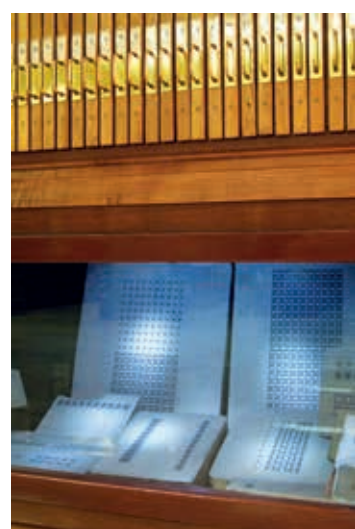
A little less than 8 months later, on 11 July 1941, the museum was closed because of dangers posed by the war. The exhibition was dismantled, the collections were placed in steel-plated crates in the air-raid shelter under the building. By the end of 1944 Soviet troops were close to Budapest and the Post decided to dispatch the collection out of Budapest. The ten crates containing the less valuable material were sent to the building of the Sopron Postal Directorate where they lived through the war without any problems. They were sent back to Budapest in the summer of 1945. The three crates containing the most valuable items were sent to the secure facilities of the Hungarian National Bank in Veszprém; then, together with the treasures of the National Bank, gold reserves and other art collections, they were sent further west on 23 January 1945. This whole shipment was seized by the US Army in Spital am Pyhrn in Austria on 7 May 1945. Here – according to notification Nr. 420/1946 dated 6 February 1946 by the government officer responsible for valuables shipped abroad – it was guarded by a military task-force led by Major Roesti. After successful government-level negotiations the whole shipment (including the 3 crates from the Stamp Museum) was returned to Hungary in 1946 and provided the gold collateral for the new Hungarian currency, the Forint, introduced on 1 August 1946. The whole collection, miraculously intact and unharmed was returned to the Post on 4 September 1946. After restoring the damage to the premises caused by the war, the Stamp Museum reopened on 24 June 1948 and has been functioning there ever since. The Hungarian State became the owner of the Museum in 2020.

The collections of the Museum include more than 14 million stamps, some 550,000 of which can be seen in the showroom. With very few exceptions the stamps of all countries of the world are on view. The Museum is a curiosum among similar institutes of Europe and the World. It also collects all requisites of the manufacturing



and application processes of the stamps, from sketches and drawings of the stamp designers through original graphics used by the printing houses to FDCs, ad hoc picture post cards and memorial sheets. The two biggest groups of the object collections are the printing devices and the ad hoc cancellers.

The first unit of the permanent exhibition shows Hungarian stamps, broken down into three parts according to the historical stamp periods. The first part contains the pre-stamp covers, the earliest item from 1752 showing one of the earliest postmaster cancellations from Tyrnau (Nagyszombat). The material helps in understanding the formation of postal handling marks, the phases of the usage of handstamps, tariff changes, the development of postal services and changes in the culture of correspondence. The second part shows the period "Austrian Post in Hungary" (both stamps and covers), Austrian



stamps from the first Austrian issues of 1850 to 1867 used in Hungary. This second part focuses not on the base variations of the stamps themselves, but rather on cancellations and tariffs. From basic stamps to great rarities it uses a historical rather than a philatelically professional approach when showing the issues of this era.

The third part of the Hungarian material tries to combine these two points of view with a third, the technical one during the processing and exhibition of the issues of the independent Hungarian postal authority. This means that in case of several stamps even imprimaturs, essay prints and phase prints are shown, demonstrating the steps of the printing process. This third part shows all issued Hungarian stamps with variations, especially the most valuable items: printing errors, perforation variations, gravure repairs etc. The lower parts of the

showcases, previously closed but now opened for exhibition purposes, contain the printing stones used for the early Hungarian stamps.

Starting from showcase IV. stamps of individual countries can be seen, processed by the Yvert catalogue-numbers, sorted in alphabetical order by continents. Regarding Europe the collection shows – including the great rarities – each and every issued stamp of the ceased and existing countries of "the Old Continent" with very few exceptions. The permanent collection shows true rarities, extremely valuable stamp stars. You can visit the first newspaper stamps of the world issued by Austria in 1851 including the vermilion Mercure of 1856, the Olympic issue of Greece of 1896 and some interesting examples of the first stamp in the world, the Penny Black, among the stamps of the UK.

The exhibit showing the stamps of Switzerland – the second country in Europe to issue stamps – begins with the 4 and 6 Rappen stamps of Canton Zurich, followed by the "Double Geneva" stamp, the Swiss stamp with the highest catalogue value. The stamps of the Old Italian States, issued before the establishment of Italian Kingdom, were (like the Swiss stamps) only valid in the territory of the given state. Their most famous items are the Trinacria stamps of Naples from 1860 and the "Cross stamps" of the provisional government (Savoya).



Besides these outstanding issues plenty of interesting and important stamps can be viewed in the Europe collection of the Museum. An interesting aspect of the continent is also important from the point of view of the Museum, that political changes can be followed precisely by examining the stamp issues. A salient sign is that previously "ceased" countries, booked as closed collection areas, are suddenly reappearing as stamp issuers, and vice versa - active territories become "ceased" ones.

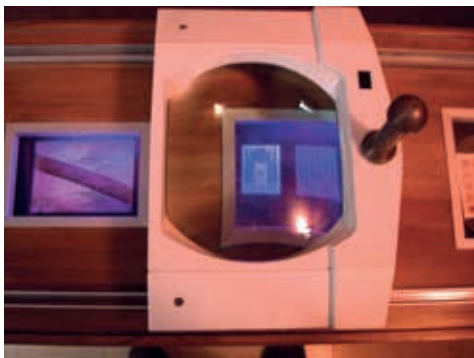
Among the stamps of other continents let us mention the Mauritius reprints, the “Vain Postmaster” stamp of New Brunswick, the Missionary stamps of Hawaii and the 4 Cent denomination of the world-famous British Guiana stamps on cover. Curious visitors can see gold-plated, jewel, 3-dimensional, silk, lace and even chocolate-smelling stamps.



Upon the occasion of the HUNFILEX2022 World Stamp Exhibition the Museum will organize some displays, partly in the Rarity Cabinet of the Exhibition, partly in the museum, as a temporary exhibition. Our museologist colleagues provide regular guided tours for visitors. Our temporary exhibitions show rarely shown materials, sometimes using an event or anniversary to present associated stamp material.

Often, we take exhibitions outside

the walls of the Museum and each month we organize a philatelic presentation at the museum led by well-known philatelic experts (Right).



The Museum has a so-called secret room, where security and ornamental elements built into the paper of the stamps can be scrutinized under microscope or UV-light (Left).

Museum-pedagogical lectures for youth – awarded a

Niveau Price in 2014 - are held upon request and we have a Philatelic Circle of Youth Philatelists, meeting every second Saturday (Right).



The huge collection operates as a matrix – unsealing the cell determined by the row and the column we can find the desired information. Study of stamps and their history can enlighten unknown details with regard to any scientific branch, but especially history. The stamp, being the product of a given era, is in many cases a tool for propaganda, and can show revealing facts about changes of power structures, events, economic relations, mood, culture and even fashion of different historical periods. As a general observation, great historical contexts can be processed into manageable knowledge when the receptive person is brought into close touch with events by a precise exposition of a certain detail. The effect, called „the sea in a drop”, is similar to the photogravure stamp printing method. From the small grid cups slotted next to each other at the crossing of the grid net lines, the paper of our brain can suck out the information paint. As one, two, a hundred dots come next to each other, our widening angle of view can include ever more dots and these blobs will trace out a shape which interlocks into further units and finally forms a comprehensive full picture. And this picture is history itself, the assistant sciences of which (including philately) perform the meticulous work essential from the point of view of the entire - to bring to light those minute details clearly and sharply without which the entire picture would stay vague and undefined.

Preserving a Philatelic Archive for the Island of St Helena

(Ed.) The preservation of philatelic records and artefacts is vital for current and future philatelic research, but all too often they are neglected or destroyed. We hope that this story of how the postal archive in St Helena has been preserved by a combination of luck and dedication will inspire other philatelists elsewhere to find their archives and take action as necessary to preserve them.

Barry Burns FRPSL & Bernard Mabbett write:

Saint Helena is a British possession in the South Atlantic Ocean and a remote volcanic tropical island 1,950 kilometres west of the coast of south-western Africa, and 2,900 kilometres east of the coast of South America. It is one of three constituent parts of the British Overseas Territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. The island measures about 16 by 8 kilometres (122 sq. km.) and has a population of 4,527 per the 2021 census. The uninhabited island was discovered on 21 May 1502 by the Portuguese navigator João da Nova whilst returning from the East and became a haven for travellers due to a plentiful source of water and fruit; and later of fresh meat following the introduction of goats and pigs. It was also used by the Dutch, but it was the English East India Company which started the first permanent settlement at Jamestown in 1659. In 1834 the island came under the direct control of the British Crown. Finally, in 1981, all three islands became part of the British Overseas Territories. It is perhaps best known for being the place that Napoleon was exiled to after his final defeat at Waterloo in 1815, and where he died in 1821.



The first Post Office was opened on 23 February 1815, and the first stamp issued on 1 January 1856. We had visited St Helena twice (in 1998 and 2002) before returning in 2009. On each occasion we spent a good deal of time in the Government Archives held in The Castle at Jamestown, where there are excellent records relating to the history of the Island from the 17th Century onwards. Of particular interest to philatelists are the shipping records, correspondence books, blue books containing annual reports including post office sales, names of postmasters and some postal rates. There are also broken runs of various newspapers and parish journals etc.

During our 2009 visit we had a meeting with the Postmistress Beverley Francis. We had been concerned at the lack of detailed postal records at the Castle and asked if there were any other records in the Post Office building.



The Post Office in Jamestown.

She smiled and replied, 'Have you seen the cellar?', to which we responded in the negative. She took us out of the building and down a small flight of steps at the back of the Post Office.

Opening the door, we faced a cellar full of all sorts of discarded equipment and material, including a vast quantity of paperwork and boxes.

Opening a couple of the boxes and flicking through some ledgers it was obvious this was a very important hoard of records, with some dating from the 1860s. Beverley explained that her wish was to save the most important within the Post Office main building and she was hoping some funds may become available, but unfortunately this did not happen. In the short time we had left on the island we could only view a very small percentage, but we left determined

to return as soon as time and money allowed. An important factor to consider was that the suggestion of turning the Post Office building into a boutique hotel - when the long-awaited airport opened. This could result in the cellar contents being discarded with no regard to their value, both archival and financial.

Back in the UK we set about planning this visit. We wrote to the Governor of St Helena, Mark Capes, during 2012 informing him of our discussion with Beverley Francis and offering our help to sort the cellar records. We applied for, and were delighted and proud to be awarded, the Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship to visit the island and save the archive. Without this help towards our costs we would have been unable to return in 2013. We estimated that five or six weeks would be necessary to remove the unwanted equipment, and to sort all the box contents, ledgers and paperwork into two categories; that which was relevant to St Helena, and that which could be discarded. As news of our plans filtered through the St Helena grapevine, two fellow West Africa Study Circle (WASC) members decided they would like to join us for their first visit. Wilf Vevers FRPSL of Somerset (UK) and Stefan Heijtz FRPSL of Stockholm are two prominent postal historians of St Helena and we were delighted to have them join us.



A corner of the cellar in 2009.

Beverley's replacement, Karen Yon, would be off the island during our visit but the assistant postmistress Linda Cranfield would be available to assist us. Our team was delighted to learn that Edward Baldwin was assigned to lead the project on behalf of the St Helena Government (SHG). Edward had been instrumental in setting up the Museum of St Helena in 2002; he was an authority on the history of the Island, and with his many contacts would be a real benefit to our work. As the Museum Director would be absent, Edward was appointed Acting Director. Additionally, SHG funded the purchase of a significant stock of archival presentation and storage materials, and Gregory Cairns-Wicks provided a 20-foot refrigerated container (reefer) for our use.

The airport on St Helena was not in regular operation until 2017, so until then the only mode of travel was by sea. The RMS *St Helena* - the last of the Royal Mail Ships still then sailing (the RMS *Queen Mary 2* does not provide a mail service in the true sense) - operated between Cape Town, St Helena and Ascension. To maximise our time on the island, our team of four opted to travel via Ascension using the RAF flight from Brize Norton in Oxfordshire, UK. After staying one night at Ascension we joined the RMS (as she is affectionately known) on 8 March arriving Jamestown on 11 March 2013.

The Cellar

The Post Office building in Jamestown dates from the 1850s and was originally the Officers' Mess, and the cellar would have been the wine store. Access is from the outside of the main building down a short flight of steps. The cellar is divided into two main chambers, with another smaller one leading off the outermost chamber. The inner one is divided into ten or so open compartments, each in two tiers. The brickwork is painted white with the 'shelves' being of metal, possibly wrought iron. The cellar itself is of importance historically and architecturally.

Each compartment was filled with bundles of paperwork, files, ledgers and boxes, with the rest of all three chambers filled with more boxes, discarded furniture, old office and computer equipment, office materials and even car tyres. None of this was neatly stored, but virtually thrown in. Our first task was to clear out much of this junk. There were literally hundreds of empty mailbags, and representative examples of these were saved. It took the five of us all of the first day to clear away the rubbish, and it was hard work in the hot, dusty and very dirty environment. All this took place amidst the bemused Post Office staff and the Islanders (Saints) checking their mailboxes in the nearby building.

We left some large items of furniture in the cellar to serve as benches as we next tackled the paperwork. As this had been stored in no particular order or fashion, it was simply a matter of starting at one end and working along the compartments. Anything that was considered as superfluous to the Island's interest was put to one side.

Everything of possible interest, not only philatelic items but other classes e.g. staff and savings bank records, were placed as they were unearthed into over a hundred cardboard boxes. These were then transferred to the reefer situated a short drive away near the museum. Many significant artefacts were also found scattered about, such as date stamps, letter boxes and grille cards.

There were many signs of the presence of vermin. Although attack by paper mites, silver fish, cockroaches, mice and rats were all evident, the main problem had been caused by termites (white ants). One particular chamber was so badly affected that virtually nothing from it could be saved; the paper crumbling to dust when touched. Some other papers were just about salvageable.



Examples of damage done to the records by white ant infestation.

Clearing the cellar took the whole of the first week. Much of the hard and dirty work was now behind us but in order to destroy all traces of vermin, it was necessary to cool the reefer to a temperature of minus 18°C. or lower for at least 48 hours. A temperature of minus 19°C. was achieved that weekend, and the doors could be opened and the temperature allowed to rise to ambient (30°C.)

Sorting

We started sorting the boxes in the reefer at the start of the second week. Makeshift workbenches were assembled down the full length of the container, and as we worked our way through each box we sorted the various papers, letters and ledgers into separate piles depending on their subject matter. The freezing had worked, as no living organisms were found during the sorting. Altogether we identified 32 categories, and we tried to keep the records for St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha separate where possible. Anything of possible monetary value would be transferred at this point to the museum for safe keeping. Although this sounds straightforward, it took a great deal of time as hundreds of thousands of pieces of paperwork had to be handled and hurriedly assessed. Edward, with advice and help from the rest of us, would examine and classify the material that had been transferred to the museum. Much of this was sufficiently interesting to be photographed, which was done using the high-quality copying facilities of the museum. The sorted records in the container were transferred to archival boxes which had been provided by SHG. As each box was filled it was given a reference number; altogether 106 boxes were required. This sorting and repacking took most of our remaining time on the Island, but we did take time out to show Wilf and Stefan around this very interesting island - by car and on foot. When the packing was complete, the boxes were wrapped in pallet wrap and refrozen to a temperature of minus 18°C. to ensure the destruction of any further infestation.



Archival boxes in the 'reefer'.

The Archive

Ascension Island Accounts

There is an almost full set of accounts for the period 1923 to 2001, missing only a few years. Bernard Mabbett has subsequently produced a monograph of these accounts. One interesting point to emerge is that GB stamps were used to increase the value of Postal Orders, and a small stock of them was kept at Georgetown for this purpose. We believe this practice was not adopted by other British Colonies.

International Reply Coupons

We discovered a very large number (estimated to be around 26,000 examples) of Reply Coupons in the cellar, possibly one of the largest accumulations ever to be found in one place. They were of three types; International Reply Coupons (IRC), Imperial Reply Coupons (IMRC) and Commonwealth Reply Coupons (CRC) and received at both Ascension and St Helena having originated from all over the world.

St Helena Stamp Issues

We came across a large number of folders which housed paperwork relating to individual stamp issues for the period 1959 to 1998. These were mainly for St Helena and this paperwork included production details, letters to and from Crown Agents and Printers, and also numbers ordered and delivered, sale and withdrawal dates.

Stamp Proofs, Running Proofs and Bromides etc.

There were quite a lot of mailed packages in the cellar from various security printers, containing material connected with the printing of stamp issues of the 1985 to 1998 period. These had been dumped in the cellar with little concern for their rarity or potential value, and we ensured they are now in the custody of the museum. Included in the envelopes were proofs, running proofs, bromides, and in a few cases chromalins and artwork or photographs for designs.

Specimen Handstamps on Stamps, Grille Cards and FDCs

We found many examples of grille cards (cards with stamps and/or covers affixed to promote sales within the Post Offices at Jamestown, Georgetown and possibly Tristan da Cunha). In some cases the stamps and covers had been handstamped SPECIMEN in different styles.

Datestamps and Handstamps

We recovered a number of datestamps, handstamps and other small artefacts. Many of the former were of the eight sub-Post Offices which had been established in 1965 when the local post was introduced. We also discovered a number of first day cover datestamps. All of these implements are now in the museum.

Shipping and Mail Records

Several ledgers recorded sailings of mail ships and the mails they carried; the earliest dating from 1859 and continuing until the twentieth century, although it is not known if the records are complete.

UPU Stamps

During our 2009 visit we found a large box containing many issues from all over the world, in multiples or strips. These dated from around the turn of the Millennium and were undoubtedly stamps distributed by the Universal Postal Union. These have been sent to the various member states since the late 1800s, and were previously overprinted or perforated SPECIMEN or similar, although this practice was discontinued around the time of the Second World War. In 2013 we discovered several more boxes of slightly earlier issues, i.e. from the late 1990s. They were not examined at all, except to repack them.

Stamp Stocks

This is a very large archive. Details are recorded in several records, for instance daily/weekly/monthly stocks and sales at St Helena and Ascension: letters between St Helena and The Crown Agents, and internally between the two islands and the Treasury and Post Office. Much work will be required to check through the figures and present the results in meaningful formats.

Destruction Figures

Very little has previously been recorded of the numbers of stamps of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha which were destroyed following their withdrawal from sale. There are no records in the Castle Archives and, as

far as we are aware, none at Ascension. In the case of other British Colonies, these figures have invariably been sourced from the territories themselves, so we were hoping that this information may be in the cellar. We were correct in this assumption, and I can say that a large amount of information was discovered and saved. However, the figures are dispersed through other records, principally within the record books of stamp stocks.

Miscellaneous Items

A number of artefacts were found, not necessarily philatelic but of considerable interest. These are now all safely resident in the museum:

- A lifebelt from the RMS *Southampton Castle*. This had been the last Union Castle ship to transfer mail at St Helena on 14 October 1977.
- Several red painted posting boxes, probably from some of the sub-Post Offices on St Helena.
- Two canisters dating from the 1982 experimental air drop of mail onto Prosperous Bay Plain from a Hercules aircraft.
- Government Gazettes, Public Notices and Government Reports.

Summary and Future Plans

From a chance mention of the Post Office cellar by Beverley Francis in 2009, our team have created the foundations of a very significant philatelic archive of which everybody connected with it can feel justifiably proud. Of course, this could not have been achieved without the help and assistance, both practical and financial, of many persons and bodies (see acknowledgements below).

We must make it clear that the cooperation of everybody involved was paramount. Without the support of the Julian Chapman Scholarship Committee, which gave credence to the project, we doubt the St Helena Government would have backed us in appointing Edward and financing the archive materials. The practical help and philatelic expertise from Wilf and Stefan; the huge input and advice from Edward, and the help from the staff at the Castle, Post Office and Museum were essential in surpassing what we hoped could be achieved in 2009.

What of the future? A lot still needs to be done. In 2013 we part-sorted the records into 106 archival boxes, most of which need much more detailed examination and classification before they can form a searchable archive. But they are now safe from destruction from either site development or vermin attack.

There is now the material to form a very important philatelic archive for St Helena, including Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. It has yet to be decided exactly how this will be made accessible to researchers and the public, but it will certainly be based on the Island. One very interesting possibility is the creation of a facility combining the Library, Castle Archives and Museum to be located in the former Public Works Department (PWD) Store building, which is adjacent to the museum, and is currently disused.

Acknowledgements

In no particular order we both wish to thank: The Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship Committee, and Richard West in particular for his assistance in facilitating the successful application for the award; the St Helena Government and Colin Owen, the Financial Secretary, for providing the financial assistance in procuring the archival storage materials and allowing us access to the cellar and the Castle Collection, and for appointing Edward Baldwin as our team leader; The Jamestown Post Office and staff, headed by Linda Cranfield, for giving us access to the cellar, their offices and facilities (including refrigerator - an essential accessory in the sweltering heat), and for remaining cheerful despite our intrusion into their workplace; The Museum of St Helena for allowing us the use of Lucy Caesar's office in her absence in 2013, and the staff there; Gregory Cairns-Wicks for the use of the reefer; Beverley Francis for her initial prompting; Anyone else whom we may have inadvertently forgotten. And not least, our fellow team members - we could not have wished for better companions to embark on this large undertaking - we all worked hard, but it was fun and very fulfilling. So special thanks to Barry, Bernard, Edward, Stefan and Wilf (in alphabetical order to avoid controversy!) Many Thanks to you all.

Contacts: Barry Burns; barry.burns1@hotmail.co.uk ; Bernard Mabbett; bernardmabbett@hotmail.co.uk

A more detailed report of this project, which includes the remounting of the Government Stamp Collection during a subsequent visit in 2019, is available to view and download on the West Africa Study Circle website, www.wasc.org.uk

PERKINS, BACON LINE-ENGRAVED STAMP PRINTING: A case study in the use of Archives for philatelic research

(Ed.) Philatelists often find difficulty in setting the scope of their research into a topic. Should they confine themselves to philatelic aspects of a question, or should they broaden the research to include the wider context and, if so, how far? We came across an interesting example of how research into the printing of the first postage stamps of Great Britain, initially confined to philatelic aspects, gained greatly in value when it was extended to include a wider range of historical archives.

David R Beech MBE FRPSL has kindly described what happened for FEPA NEWS:

Many months before the publication of Alan Druce's award-winning book *Perkins Bacon Great Britain Line-Engraved Postage Stamp Printing 1840-1846* in 2018, Frank Walton RDP FRPSL requested me to review the first version of the text on behalf of the Publications Committee of the publishers, The Royal Philatelic Society London (the Royal). Alan's work was well advanced, Alan having researched the subject for some years. His original aims were to work through the Perkins, Bacon archival records held at the Royal to establish how the printing work for the first postage stamps had been managed and progressed. He also wanted to establish printing numbers and other data building on and adding to the scholarship of Sir Edward Denny Bacon KCVO RDP FRPSL (1860-1938). Bacon's book, *The Line-Engraved Postage Stamps of Great Britain Printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co*, was published in two volumes in 1920 and remains a work of the first importance. Alan, an accountant by profession, has an analytical mind for detail and so was naturally well equipped for the task. His open mind to new ideas also meant that it was a pleasure to work with him.

As I read the text it was clear to me that this work could be of even greater value if it was expanded into associated areas as this would provide a greater understanding of the context in which this considerable and complex undertaking took place. Comparatively little had been written - except by Bacon in a philatelic context - about the production of the first postage stamps from a commissioning, management, industrial and social history viewpoint. When we consider that Perkins, Bacon printed some 65 Million of the first postage stamps in less than a year, starting from scratch using the machinery available at the time, in addition to their normal work, it becomes clear that this was a significant industrial undertaking.

The National Archives in London

Having previously seen relevant files (especially the T [Treasury] and IR [Inland Revenue] files) at the Public Records in the National Archives, I discussed their possibilities with Alan. Not unnaturally he had some resistance to an expansion of his book's scope. However, after one visit we made together to the National Archives at Kew, he realised the potential they offered to give greater depth to his research. He soon made a number of research visits to look at the historical records which contain evidence of



the involvement of the British government as a whole in the development of the postage label as part of its wider reform programme at that time. In this context it is important to remember that at that time postage was regarded as a government tax rather than as a means of covering the cost of running a postal service. With some relish he reported much of what he had found.

The Henry Cole Papers

Other archival sources of importance to Alan's broadened research were now key to the vision of the book's modified parameters. The postal reform papers of Sir Henry Cole (1808-1882) who worked closely with Sir Rowland Hill (1795-1879) are held at the National Art Library in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. I had seen these in the 1980s and knew that they should be examined. We did this to great advantage in a number of ways but especially by being able to confirm that the concept of printing 240 stamps per sheet in twenty rows of twelve had been established by about December 1839. The idea came from Henry Cole and a careful drawing setting this out is to be found in his papers.

Paper Manufacture and Security Control

Alan had already undertaken much original research into the Stacey Wise company who manufactured the paper used to produce the first postage stamps at Rush Mill, Northamptonshire. A lively discussion ensued about how the paper was transported from the paper makers to the Stamps and Taxes Office at Somerset House, London. This was part of the industrial history of the time and we are still not sure if it was delivered into Somerset House via the River Thames at a time before the river was narrowed by the construction of the Victoria Embankment.

Security was a major concern. There were worries that sheets would be printed illicitly from the plates and, of course, that stamps would be re-used. The key to understanding the control of security was that the Small Crown watermarked paper sheets were counted on multiple occasions, first at the paper makers several times, then at the Stamps and Taxes Office, again at the printers Perkins, Bacon and yet again after printing at the Stamps and Taxes Office, not to mention subsequently by Stamp Distributors and at the Post Office.

The Work and the Printers

Meanwhile the research in the Archive into the flow and urgency of printing by Perkins, Bacon for the stamps to be ready by early May (1840) revealed much about the working practices and practicalities involved. These included both day and night work. It was possible to identify printers' pay and the name of the printer who had printed the world's first postage stamp – Thomas Graham – and by other records where he lived, which at the time – in an era before there was extensive public transport - had to be within walking distance of the Perkins, Bacon printing factory in Fleet Street, London.

The British Library

A fuller understanding of die and plate registration was obtained by inspection of the *Registers of impressed United Kingdom fiscal and postage dies and stamps (commencing 1710)* in the Board of Inland Revenue Stamping Department Archive, held at the British Library Philatelic Collections. An illuminating hour or two was also spent discussing the operation of the Perkins "D" Cylinder printing press (patented in 1819) on exhibition at the British Library (with curatorial demonstration), as well as India Office Records also held there.

The Postal Museum

The Postal Museum [London], who hold the Archives of the Post Office (the Public Records in the POST series), was of great assistance in providing access to records relating to plate registration and stamp distribution as well as giving much other support.



Award Winning Scholarship

Perkins Bacon Great Britain Line-Engraved Postage Stamp Printing 1840-1846 by Alan Druce FRPSL is a remarkable work of considerable depth and wide coverage; indeed, it is comprehensive. It describes the complex programme of operations that delivered the world's first postage stamps to the public. These two volumes give philatelists a previously un-published level of detail of the first six years of postage stamp production, fully referenced at the end of each chapter. In reviewing Alan's work the Great Britain Philatelic Society commented that '*this book creates a new standard for philatelic studies*'. It is not surprising that it has gained Large Gold medals for literature, including best in class at *Stockholmia 2019*, and was awarded The Royal Philatelic Society's Crawford Medal in 2019. This success is founded in profound knowledge enhanced by the use of Archives for philatelic research.

The two-volume book may be purchased from the publishers The Royal Philatelic Society London - see their website at: rpsl.org.uk

End Notes

The five organisations holding archival material mentioned in the article are all in London and can be contacted as follows via their websites:

The Royal Philatelic Society London: rpsl.org.uk

The National Archives [London]: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The Victoria and Albert Museum, National Art Library:
www.vam.ac.uk/info/national-art-library

The British Library: www.bl.uk

The Postal Museum [London]: www.postalmuseum.org

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Bacon, Edward Denny, *The line-engraved postage stamps of Great Britain printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co, A history of their production during forty years - 1840-1880 - mainly compiled from the records of the firm...*, London: Charles Nissen and Company, 1920. Published in two volumes

Beech, David R, *Philatelic Research – A Basic Guide*, 3rd version 2019 to be found on the website of The Royal Philatelic Society London at: rpsl.org.uk See under Publications/Guides

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**OS CORREIROS PORTUGUESES
(THE PORTUGUESE POST OFFICE)
1853-1900
in 500 years of the Mail in Portugal**



PEDRO VAZ PEREIRA

2 Vols, 621 pages; 636 pages. ill., col., 2021
Available from Philatelic Dept, Portuguese Postal
Administration. E-Mail: filatelia@ctt.pt

After 42 years' work on this study of Portuguese postal history, Pedro Marçal Vaz Pereira has published a work of great historical quality.

The first 300 pages survey the story of the Portuguese Postal Service from 1520 to 1853. It begins with the creation of the post office in Portugal on November 6 1520. King D. Manuel I was in Évora and, following what was happening throughout Europe, he decided to create a post office in Portugal and assign the post of Correio-Mor of the kingdom to Luís Homem, a gentleman of his royal house. From then on we would witness an unstoppable development of the mail, continuing until today.

However, the main focus is on the Adhesive Period which began on July 1, 1853 with the creation of postage stamps in Portugal. An exhaustive study is carried out of the undated word marks used in almost all post offices in that period and intended to indicate where letters were sent or the type of service that had been provided. A historical study of the etymology of land names and charters is also carried out.

The postal reforms, in which the marks were used, are also described, as well as all the post offices which had electric telegraphy and were served by the railways. The number of houses and the population of each district are also listed. This information is essential to define the rarity of postal material, taking into account that in Portugal around 85% of the population was illiterate in the 19th century. Thus, the fewer the number of inhabitants, the fewer letters and cards were written meaning that less postal material exists now. This work is published by CTT-Correios de Portugal and the Portuguese Federation of Philately. It commemorates 500 years of Correio (postal services) in Portugal.

The books are presented in hardcover, and are extensively illustrated, with a high-quality design and equally high-quality graphic printing.

**ADMINISTRADORES Y CASAS DE CORREOS DE BARCELONA, SIGLOS XV AL XXI,
(ADMINISTRATORS AND POSTAL HOUSES IN
BARCELONA FROM XV TO XXI CENTURY)**



ANTONIO AGUILAR PEREZ

306 pages, ill., col., Madrid, 2021
Real Academia Hispanica de Filatelia e Historia Postal
(info@rahf.es). €20 + postage.

This book, the XLVIIIth volume of the series devoted to discourses of the members of the Royal Spanish Academy of Philately and Postal History, presents the discourse of Antonio Aguilar Perez on the occasion of his joining the RAPH on 5 November 2021.

A quick browse through its pages is sufficient to realize the professional background of the author who has a doctorate in Geography, and has been working for the Spanish Post in charge of the communications in Catalunya. Aguilar's research is focused on the postal houses and their administrators in Barcelona and its territory through five centuries.

The book is structured in seventeen chapters, from the initial hostels and hosts of the post in the Middle Ages to the Palacio de Comunicaciones, the building in Layetana street that has been the seat of the Central Post Office in Barcelona since 1929, and the recent centralization of the management of all territorial services in Madrid, enforced in May 2021. Thirteen appendices devoted to the lists of administrators in the various periods supplement the study.

As a matter of fact, Antonio Aguilar has drilled down through the centuries looking at the postal services, their organizations and infrastructures, to the point that he is showing diagrams of the estimated location of post houses and post offices in places where there are no longer any remaining traces of them. In addition to postal documents, he supports his study with drawings and pictures, illustrated postcards and citations from various publications. The author has been engaged in

intense research in archives, libraries, philatelic and postal publications, gazettes, and newspapers from different periods, as shown by six hundred and seventy-eight bibliographical and reference citations.

**MAIL ADDRESSED FROM ITALY
TO THE FOREIGN COUNTRIES
1 JANUARY 1863 - 31 MARCH 1879**
**CORRISPONDENZA SPEDITA
DALL'ITALIA ALL'ESTERO
1 GENNAIO 1863 - 31 MARZO 1879**

MARIO MENTASCHI and GIOVANNI NEMBRINI

212 pages, ill. col., *Circolo Filatelico Bergamasco (info@circolofilatelicobg.it)*, Bergamo, 2021
€40 + postage.



After the Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed on 17 March 1861 postal legislation was approved on 5 May 1862 and came into force on 1 January 1863. Hence, this is the starting date for the research which presents the rates from Italy to foreign countries up to 31 March 1879, before Universal Postal Union (UPU) convention came into force.

Giovanni Nembrini's collection of documents forms the bulk of this study, supplemented as necessary by other documents to provide a comprehensive coverage. In all it describes 266 postal documents arranged according to destination so they show the chronological evolution of postal rates for each destination.

The work, presented in Italian and English, analyses two periods. From 1 January 1863 to 30 June 1875, postal rates from Italy were regulated by bilateral postal agreements with other countries. In the absence of a direct agreement Italy used the mediation offered by other states, in particular France and the UK. From 1 July 1875 to 31 March 1879, international postal rates were regulated by the General Postal Union (GPU) convention, signed in Berne by 22 countries including Italy, which came into force on 1 July 1875. The convention established uniform tariffs between the signatory countries, including Italy, and regulated relations with states that had not joined the GPU.

The book is organized into two main chapters: mail sent to other Italian states and mail sent to foreign countries. In

addition to the table of contents that outlines the various topics covered by the chapters, readers are helped to find their way round with four analytical indexes that address the most important attributes characterizing each document - Currencies, Contracted steamships, Conventions, Postmarks. Each index lists all the documents that share that particular attribute.

**IRISH PHILATELY
That Was The Year That Was
A Compendium of Irish Philately**

BRIAN WARREN, EDDIE FITZGERALD, PADDY SMITHERS
Vol. 1 - 1971 to 1999

BRIAN WARREN
Vol. 2 - 2000 to 2020

Vol 1 520 pages, Vol 2 468 pages, ill., col., edited by Philip Kane. Published by Brian Warren and the Irish Philatelic Circle.
€45 + postage.
E-Mail: info@stampa.ie



In two large volumes Brian Warren and his colleagues have brought together a vast amount of information about Irish stamp issues, postmarks and other cancels, postcards, exhibition materials and other philatelic materials that have appeared over the last 50 years.

Essentially, the books are a compilation of the annual Journals of the Irish Philatelic Circle recording the outputs of the previous year under the title, 'That Was The Year That Was'. Older editions have been rescanned and original stamp and postmark images converted to colour. The intention was to produce a comprehensive source of reference for collectors, so additional material is still being sought with the further aim of producing a digital edition in 2023.

These books are a knowledge store organised on chronological lines and include an immense amount of background information to explain each item. For anyone interested in collecting modern Irish material, and requiring background information, this is an extremely useful guide.

CONGO: THE FIRST TWO ISSUES (1886-1887)

Patrick Maselis RDP has kindly provided FEPA NEWS with this invited article following a display he gave at Autumn Stampex this year. Thanks also to Vincent Schouberechts for his help.

Postal History before the Belgian Issues

On the initiative of the King of the Belgians, Leopold II, an International African Association was founded in 1876 to organise several expeditions to the African continent. In 1878 Leopold II created the *Comité d'Etudes du Haut-Congo*. This committee became the International Association of the Congo in 1884, and employed Henri M. Stanley, the famous British explorer. Its aim was to annex new territories. The King achieved his aim following the Berlin Conference (1884-85) which gave him everything he wished for despite him having made no demands: the creation of an independent state recognised by the colonial powers, with himself as sovereign.

There was no official postal service before 1886. Mail was initially carried by agents of the *Association Internationale Africaine*, later by those of the *Association Internationale du Congo*. Mail to Europe from the Lower Congo was handed over to steamers calling at Banana. It was partly unfranked and taxed on arrival, and partly franked with stamps of the nationality of the transporting steamer. There were many natural obstacles for mail from more remote areas in the Upper Congo. The Congo River was not navigable over long stretches and several roads had to make up for this lack of navigability.

Mr Hertwig, a German agent of the Association who was hired as an assistant on 1 December 1880, arrived in the Congo for a second term in May 1883. He was posted to Vivi as a storekeeper before being sent to Issanghila from the end of 1883 to August 1884 where he was responsible, among other things, for the routing of mail.

The "Hertwig" labels

At the beginning of 1884 Hertwig also devised a label, in his own words, "to facilitate the classification of correspondence". To avoid problems with the authorities - the private issue of postage stamps was strictly forbidden - he called his stamps "sorting labels". To make his labels, he had an imprint engraved on wood that was either applied directly to the envelopes or affixed to paper supports by reusing what he had on hand, mostly on the reverse of bills of exchange or maps. Three types of labels are known to us, with variations in colour depending on the medium used, an example of which is illustrated.

The "HOMEWARD" label

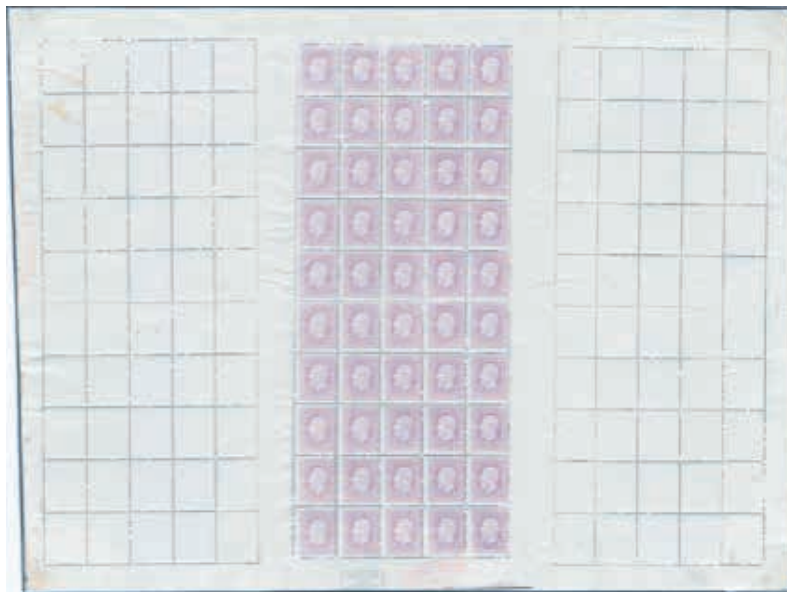
These labels are known on greenish-blue and later yellow-brown paper.

*(Right) Reverse of a letter showing handstamps:
Manyanga on 10 January 1884;
Issanghila on 13 January;
Maritime passage mark applied in Liverpool on
24 March 1884;
Mark of the ambulant Ouest 1
(ambulant Mouscron - Ghent) on 25 March 1884;
Arrival the same day in Brussels.*



The 1886 issue

Following the unexpected success at the Berlin Conference the postal authorities in Belgium were quickly asked to prepare a stamp issue for the Congo. Given the very short time available (6 months between the proclamation of the Congo Free State and 1st January 1886 when the new state joined the UPU), it was decided to use dies of stamps used at that time in Belgium. Only the text and colours were modified.



Full sheet of the 5 francs value of the First Issue printed on the central panel of a sheet of 150 copies. As the stamps for the new state had to be produced within 6 months, the design of the Belgian stamps then in circulation was used, but with some modifications. The same paper was used as for the Belgian stamps. Due to lack of time to engrave 150 stamps, it was decided to print only one panel of 50 and to leave the other two panels blank.

A letter sent to the owner of the Congo Independent State, King Leopold II (the Congo was his own private territory).



Letter sent from Boma to King Leopold in Brussels on 8 September 1886. Weight 18g / double postage rate or 1 Fr. Banana transit datestamp 9/SEPT/86 on the reverse.

The 5 franc issue was overprinted to allow this stamp to be used to pay for the carriage of postal parcels.

Hand overprinting led to sought-after varieties such as the reverse overprinting. These varieties have always attracted collectors, among them some of the great names in philately such as Ferrari, who had this spectacular pair shown here in his collections.



The 1887 issue

Compared to the first issue, the deadline for the postal authorities to prepare the 1887 Issue was much longer. Preliminary trials were prepared. An initial die was engraved without value and without the words CENTIMES or FRANCS. Two dies were then made from this neutral die. The word CENTIMES was engraved on one and the word FRANCS on the other. These primary dies were then used for the secondary dies with the respective values shown in the cartouches.



The CENTIMES die.



The FRANCS die

The 50c grey value is a rare stamp on letter. A large part of the issue was overprinted to create a new value for parcel post. Furthermore, it was issued on 15 November 1894 but replaced 10 days later by a similar value of a new type.

Letter sent from Boma to Belgium, 16/07/1888

Charged 50 c per 15 grams

*Manuscript endorsement 93/7
= 93g/7 weight steps or 3.50 Fr*

An extraordinary franking
with seven copies of the 50c grey.



Mail with the stamps of this issue gave rise to spectacular combinations such as the letter below with a beautiful four-colour franking.



Registered letter from Boma to Belgium 22/10/1892

*Handwritten inscription 37/3
= 37 gr./3 franking or 1,50 Fr.
and registration fee: 50c. or 2 Fr.*

On the reverse are:

- Transit stamp from Banana, 24th October 1892.
- Arrival stamp in Brussels, 24th November 1892.
- Postman's handwritten inscription "Absent 7th dis 24-11-92" (the letter was to be taken again by the postman for signed delivery the following morning).

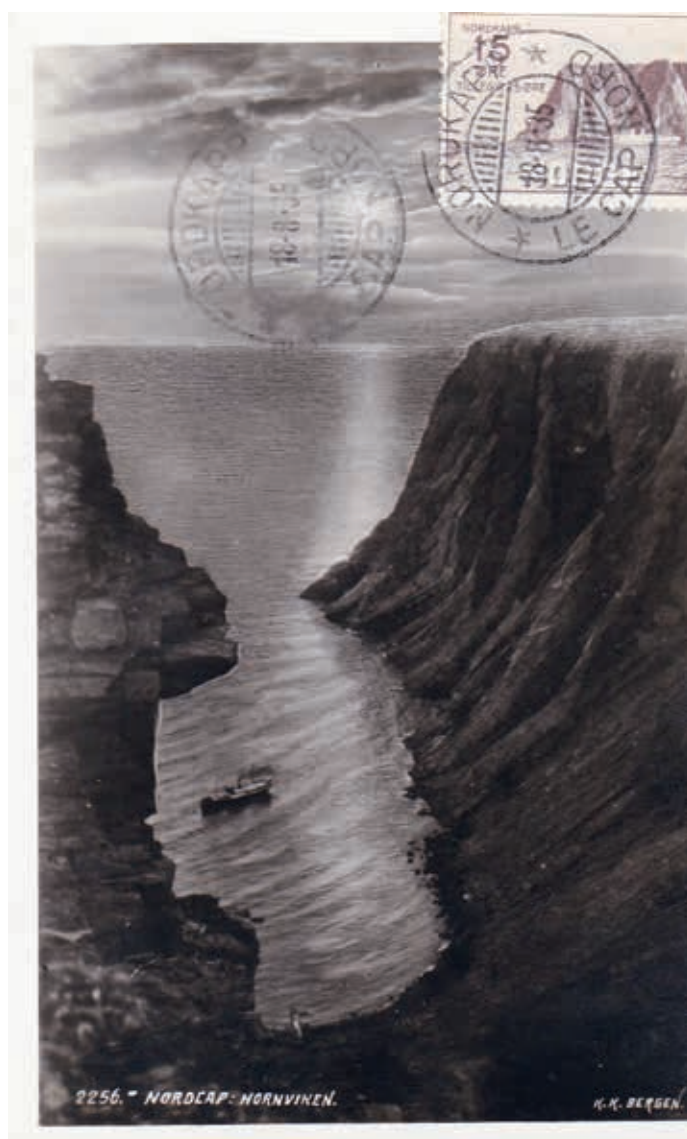
NORDKAPP ON MAXIMUM CARDS

Reminding us that Maximaphily is alive and well, and that it provides a fascinating alternative approach to philately, Dr Boštjan Petauer has kindly provided us with this invited article.

Nordkapp (North Cape) is on the north coast of the island of Magerøya in northern Norway. It is located in the municipality of Tromsø, in Finnmark county. The E69 road leads to the cape, by which it is possible to get the northernmost point in all of Europe by car. It is also the northernmost public road in Europe.

It is a popular tourist spot. There is a 307 m high cliff with a large flat surface where visitors can, if the weather allows, observe the midnight sun and have a beautiful view of the Barents Sea, all the way to the North Cape hill. The visitor centre was built in 1988 on the platform. In it there is restaurant, post office (with special postmark), a souvenir shop, a small museum and a cinema.

As a natural landmark the place has featured on Norwegian stamps, once before World War II (in 1930), and several times after it. There are also maximum cards of various values, some of which are shown below.





Nordkapp cliff from the plateau



Nordkapp cliff



Midnight sun at Nordkapp

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Event	Date	Time	Details
London 2022	20 February	12.00-14.00	Title: Best Practice in Youth Philately
			Presenter: Mr. John Davies FRPSL
			Location: BDC Meeting Room
London 2022	25 February	10.00-12.00	Title: Digitalisation and Social Media in Philately
			Presenter: Dr. Eric Scherer
			Location: BDC Meeting Room
Hunfilex 2022	2 April	10.30-12.00	Title: Open Philately
			Presenter: Ms. Birthe King
			Location: Mercure Hotel, Budapest

Events Calendar

2022		
19-26 February	LONDON 2022, London	World specialised, FIP Patronage, WSC, FEPA Recognition https://www.london2022.co
20 February	Seminar led by Mr. John Davies at London 2022	FEPA Seminar on Best Practice in Youth Philately
25 February	Seminar led by Dr. Eric Scherer at London 2022	FEPA Seminar on Digitalisation and Social Media in Philately
March	MAKSI RAVNE 2022, Ravne na Koroškem, Slovenia	National (Maximaphily, Picture Postcards) with international participation
31 March - 3 April	HUNFILEX 2022, Budapest	World specialised, FIP Patronage, WSC, FEPA Recognition https://www.hunfilex2022.com
2 April	Seminar led by Ms. Birthe King at Hunfilex 2022	FEPA Seminar on Open Philately
22-24 April	ÖVEBRIA 2022, Hirtenberg, Austria	National, FEPA Recognition
6-8 May	LATINPHIL 2022, Latina, Italy	National (Traditional, Postal History)
18-22 May	HELVETIA 2022, Lugano, Switzerland	World specialised, FIP Patronage, WSC, FEPA Recognition https://www.helvetia2022.ch
9-12 June	CAPEX 2022, Toronto, Canada	World One-Frame, FIAP Patronage, FIP Recognition https://capex22.org
23-26 June	PARIS-PHILEX 2022, Paris, Porte de Versailles	National
30 June - 3 July	OSTROPA 2022, Berlin	Multinational http://www.ostropa2020.de
4-9 August	INDONESIA 2022, Jakarta	World specialised, FIP Patronage, WSC
28 Sept - 1 Oct.	STAMPEX INTERNATIONAL 2022, London	National https://www.stampexinternational.co.uk
September or October	(International Exhibition), Armenia	Name, dates and place TBA
13-16 October	LIBEREC 2022, Liberec, Czech Republic	European, FEPA Patronage, FIP Recognition https://www.liberec2022.eu
14-16 October	STAMPA 2022, Dublin, Ireland	National
8-12 November	CAPE TOWN 2022, South Africa	World specialised, FIP Patronage https://capetown2022.org
24-26 November	MONACOPHIL 2022, Monaco	India, Napoleon Bonaparte, 100 iconic items, FEPA Recognition https://www.monacophil.eu
2023		
25-28 May	IBRA 2023, Essen, Germany	World, FIP Patronage, FEPA Recognition https://ibra2023.de
20-23 July	NAPOSTA 2023, Trier, Germany	National
7-10 September	MULTILATERALE 2023, Koper, Slovenia	Multinational
14-23 September	ENAJSTO OKNO KRANJ 2023, Kranj, Slovenia	One-Frame International

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54th AUCTION

11 OCTOBER 2022

Banknotes & Coins

17 - 21 OCTOBER 2022

Philately

CLOSING DATE

FOR CONSIGNMENTS:

Single lots 8 weeks and
collection lots 7 weeks before auction



ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS?

Please contact us and we
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