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# FEP A NEWS





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# FEPA NEWS

## The Journal of European Philately

info@fepanews.com



### IMPRESSUM

FEPA News is the journal of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations. It is produced by the Board of the 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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### CONTENTS

Letter from the President	4
<b>News from FEPA</b>	
NEWS FROM THE FEPA Board	6
FEPA AWARDS for 2021	10
Sharing Information – FEPA Website	11
‘PHILATELY, FOREVER IN THE SHADOWS?’ – ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION AT MONACOPHIL, 25 <sup>th</sup> NOV 2022	12
DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANISED PHILATELY	14
<b>News from FEPA Members</b>	
NEWS FROM THE FEDERATIONS	16
LEBANON AND EUROPE: MORE THAN A HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIP	17
PHILATELIC WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SLOVENIA	22
“TWO MEMBERS ...”	23
OBITUARIES	24
<b>FEPA Exhibiting</b>	
FEPA EXHIBITION PROCEDURES – A NEW PACKAGE	26
NEW FEPA JURORS	28
<b>Exhibitions in the Second Half of 2022</b>	
European Stamp Exhibition and Polar Salon LIBEREC 2022	29
ULM STAMP FAIR, OCTOBER 2022 – A HUGE SUCCESS!	32
MONACOPHIL 2022	33
<b>Forthcoming Exhibitions</b>	
IBRA WORLD EXHIBITION IN ESSEN, 25 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2023: The Final Countdown!	34
BRATISLAVAFILA 2023 National philatelic exhibition with international participation with FEPA recognition	36
NAPOSTA 2023: JULY 2023 – German National Exhibition in Trier	37
MULTILATERALE 2023 EXHIBITION IN KOPER (SLOVENIA)	38
ALPE ADRIA EXHIBITION 2023 – VENUE FOR THE FEPA CONGRESS 2023	39
National Exhibition in Echternach, Luxembourg (30 <sup>th</sup> Sep–1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2023)	40
BALKANFILA XIX Belgrade, October 2023	41
HAFNIA24 – FEPA EXHIBITION IN COPENHAGEN 17 <sup>th</sup> –20 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	43
EuroPhilEx BIRMINGHAM 2025 European Stamp Exhibition with FEPA Patronage 8 <sup>th</sup> –11 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	44
<b>Developments in Philately</b>	
DIGITAL STAMPS – RECENT DEVELOPMENTS	46
NARROW THEME EXHIBITS	48
REGULATION OF OPEN PHILATELY CLASS	49
ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIP LITERATURE CLASS REGULATIONS	51
LITERATURE CLASS SPECIAL REGULATIONS – SOME REFLECTIONS	57
FIFTEEN CLASSES ENTERED IN ONE SHOW	59
<b>The World of Research</b>	
“Postal History: Multidisciplinary and Diachronic Perspectives” 2 <sup>nd</sup> International Congress, Prato, Italy.	62
Turkish Philatelic Academy: Postal History Workshop & Philatelic Exhibition	64
THE ROYAL HISPANIC ACADEMY CELEBRATES ITS GREATEST ACADEMIC SESSION OF THE YEAR 2022	66
A TEAM APPROACH TO RESEARCH	68
New Literature	71
Forensic Philately: Exploring the potential use of a Video Spectral Comparator	74
<b>FEPA Family and FEPA Board</b>	
FEPA Family	78
FEPA Board	81
<b>Events Calendar</b>	82

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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Dear Philatelic Friends,

Welcome to FEPA NEWS, the journal of European philately. In this issue we look back at what happened in 2022 and forward to what is in the pipeline for 2023 and beyond. We also examine some interesting recent developments in the philatelic world and look at new angles on research.

Recent issues of FEPA NEWS have pointed to a paradox in the world of philately. Much good news has been recorded. Sales of philatelic material are booming with strong demand from new collectors. Exhibitions are oversubscribed with applications, and exhibits are achieving higher standards than ever. Many new works of philatelic literature have appeared based on first-class research. The use of digital technology is expanding even if there is still much to be done in this field. There is even recognition that philately forms an important part of our cultural heritage. From all this we might conclude the 'philately' is in good health and that all is well. On the other hand, many philatelic societies and other organisations are struggling to survive. Giancarlo Morolli reported to Congress in 2013 on the difficulties societies were facing due to ageing membership and inability to recruit new members in sufficient numbers even though there are evidently many more collectors than society members. Ten years on, the position may even have deteriorated as the use of stamps for postage has declined, especially among younger people. Could philately survive without a strong supporting organisation? Can more collectors be persuaded to play an active part in philatelic organisations? What more does philately need to do to adapt to the world of on-line communication and short attention spans. How can we improve its image in the wider world? These are vital questions on which we will have to focus our attention in the coming years.

I want to welcome the Lebanese Association of Philatelists warmly to FEPA membership and thank them for their support. We also send our best wishes to the organisers of future exhibitions in Europe. These excellent events play a vital part in promoting philately in Europe and we are very grateful to all those who go to so much trouble to make sure they take place successfully. They will have our full support.

BILL HEDLEY

## LETTRE DU PRÉSIDENT

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Chers Amis Philatélistes,

Bienvenue à FEPA NEWS, la revue de la philatélie européenne. Dans ce numéro, nous passons en revue les événements de 2022 ainsi que ce qui est prévu pour 2023 et au-delà. Nous examinons également quelques développements récents intéressants dans le monde philatélique et regardons nouveaux angles de recherche.

Les derniers numéros de FEPA NEWS ont mis en évidence un paradoxe dans le monde de la philatélie. Beaucoup de bonnes nouvelles ont été enregistrées. Les ventes de matériel philatélique sont en plein essor, avec une forte demande de la part des nouveaux collectionneurs. Les expositions sont souscrites avec des demandes d'inscription, et les collections atteignent des niveaux de qualité plus élevés que jamais. De nombreuses nouvelles œuvres de littérature philatélique sont apparues après de nouvelles recherches de premier ordre. L'utilisation de la technologie digitale se développe même s'il reste encore beaucoup à faire dans ce domaine. Il est même reconnu que la philatélie constitue un élément important de notre patrimoine culturel. De tout cela, nous pourrions conclure que la « philatélie » est en bonne santé et que tout va bien. D'autre part, de nombreuses sociétés philatéliques et autres organisations luttent pour survivre. Giancarlo Morolli a rendu compte au Congrès en 2013 des difficultés auxquelles les sociétés étaient confrontées en raison du vieillissement des membres et de l'incapacité d'en recruter de nouveaux en nombre suffisant, même s'il y a évidemment beaucoup plus de collectionneurs que de membres de sociétés philatéliques. Dix ans plus tard, la situation s'est peut-être même détériorée car l'utilisation des timbres pour l'affranchissement a diminué, notamment chez les plus jeunes. La philatélie pourrait-elle survivre sans une solide organisation de soutien ? Est-ce que plus de collectionneurs peuvent-ils être persuadés de jouer un rôle actif dans les organisations philatéliques ? Que doit faire la philatélie pour s'adapter au monde de la communication en ligne et des temps d'attention réduits ? Comment pouvons-nous améliorer son image dans le grand public ? Voici les questions vitales sur lesquelles nous devons concentrer notre attention dans les années à venir.

Je tiens à souhaiter chaleureusement la bienvenue à l'Association Libanaise des Philatélistes parmi les membres de la FEPA et les remercier pour leur soutien. Nous adressons également nos meilleurs vœux aux organisateurs des futures expositions en Europe. Ces excellentes manifestations jouent un rôle essentiel dans la promotion de la philatélie en Europe et nous sommes très reconnaissants à tous ceux qui se donnent tant de mal pour assurer leur succès. Ils auront tout notre soutien.

BILL HEDLEY



## OFFENER BRIEF DES PRÄSIDENTEN

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Liebe philatelistischen Freunde,

Willkommen bei den FEPA NEWS, der Zeitschrift der Europäischen Philatelie. In dieser Ausgabe blicken wir zurück auf das, was 2022 passiert ist und auf das, was 2023 und darüber hinaus auf uns zukommt. Wir gehen ebenfalls auf einige interessante Entwicklungen in der philatelistischen Welt und neue Blickwinkel in der Forschung ein.

Kürzlich erschienene Ausgaben der FEPA NEWS haben auf ein Paradox in der Welt der Philatelie hingewiesen. Es gab viele gute Nachrichten. Der Verkauf von philatelistischem Material boomt, und es gibt eine starke Nachfrage von neuen Sammlern. Ausstellungen sind überbucht mit Anmeldungen und Exponate erreichen ein höheres Niveau als je zuvor. Viele neue Werke philatelistischer Literatur, die auf erstklassiger Forschung basieren, sind erschienen. Der Einsatz digitaler Technologie verbreitet sich, auch wenn in diesem Bereich noch viel zu tun ist. Es wird sogar anerkannt, dass die Philatelie ein wichtiger Teil unseres kulturellen Erbes ist. Aus diesem allen könnten wir den Schluss ziehen, dass es der ‚Philatelie‘ gut geht und alles gut ist. Auf der anderen Seite kämpfen viele philatelistische Vereinigungen und andere Organisationen ums Überleben. Giancarlo Morolli berichtete dem Kongress 2013 über die Schwierigkeiten der Vereinigungen wegen alternder Mitglieder und der erfolglosen Gewinnung einer ausreichenden Anzahl neuer Mitglieder, auch wenn es offensichtlich mehr Sammler als Mitglieder gibt. Zehn Jahre später hat sich die Situation wahrscheinlich noch verschlechtert wegen der sinkenden Verwendung von Briefmarken zur Frankierung, besonders unter jüngeren Menschen. Könnte Philatelie ohne eine starke unterstützende Organisation überleben? Können mehr Sammler überzeugt werden, eine aktive Rolle in philatelistischen Organisationen zu spielen? Was muss von der Philatelie noch getan werden, um sich an eine Welt der Online-Kommunikation und kurzen Aufmerksamkeitsspannen anzupassen? Wie können wir das Image der Philatelie in der weiten Welt verbessern? Dieses sind wichtige Fragen, auf die wir unsere Aufmerksamkeit in den nächsten Jahren zu konzentrieren haben.

Ich möchte die Libanese Association of Philatelists herzlich als neues FEPA Mitglied begrüßen und mich für deren Unterstützung bedanken. Wir senden ebenfalls unsere besten Wünsche an die Organisatoren zukünftiger Ausstellungen in Europa. Diese hervorragenden Veranstaltungen spielen eine wichtige Rolle bei der Werbung für Philatelie in Europa, und wir sind denjenigen sehr dankbar, die sich soviel Mühe geben, dass sie erfolgreich stattfinden. Sie werden unsere volle Unterstützung haben.

BILL HEDLEY

## CARTA DEL PRESIDENTE

---

Estimados amigos filatelistas,

Bienvenidos a FEPA NEWS, la revista de la filatelia europea. En este número, repasamos lo que sucedió en 2022 y avanzamos hacia lo que está en camino para 2023 y más allá. También examinamos algunos desarrollos recientes interesantes del mundo filatélico y observamos nuevos ángulos en la investigación.

Números recientes de FEPA NEWS han señalado una paradoja en el mundo de la filatelia. Se han registrado muchas buenas noticias. Las ventas de material filatélico están en auge con una fuerte demanda por parte de nuevos coleccionistas. Las exposiciones tienen un exceso de solicitudes y las exposiciones están logrando estándares más altos que nunca. Han aparecido muchas obras nuevas de literatura filatélica basadas en investigaciones de primer nivel. El uso de la tecnología digital se está expandiendo aunque aún queda mucho por hacer en este campo. Incluso se reconoce que la filatelia forma parte importante de nuestro patrimonio cultural. De todo esto podemos concluir que la ‘filatelia’ goza de buena salud y que todo va bien. Por otro lado, muchas sociedades filatélicas y otras organizaciones luchan por sobrevivir. Giancarlo Morolli informó al Congreso en 2013 sobre las dificultades que enfrentaban las sociedades debido al envejecimiento de sus miembros y la incapacidad de reclutar nuevos miembros en cantidades suficientes, aunque evidentemente hay muchos más coleccionistas que miembros de las sociedades. Diez años después, la posición puede incluso haberse deteriorado a medida que ha disminuido el uso de sellos postales, especialmente entre los jóvenes. ¿Podría la filatelia sobrevivir sin una fuerte organización de apoyo? ¿Se puede persuadir a más coleccionistas para que participen activamente en las organizaciones filatélicas? ¿Qué más necesita hacer la filatelia para adaptarse al mundo de la comunicación on line y la poca capacidad de atención? ¿Cómo podemos mejorar su imagen en el resto del mundo? Estas son cuestiones vitales sobre las que tendremos que centrar nuestra atención en los próximos años.

Quiero dar una calurosa bienvenida a la Asociación Libanesa de Filatelistas como miembro de FEPA y agradecerles su apoyo. También enviamos nuestros mejores deseos a los organizadores de futuras exposiciones en Europa. Estos excelentes eventos juegan un papel vital en la promoción de la filatelia en Europa y estamos muy agradecidos a todos aquellos que se esfuerzan tanto para asegurarse de que se lleven a cabo con éxito. Tendrán todo nuestro apoyo.

BILL HEDLEY

## NEWS FROM THE FEPA BOARD

### *Bill Hedley writes:*

During the second half of 2022 the Board has focused its attention on several priority activities, including:

- Sharing information about philatelic activities among Member Federations and the wider philatelic world.
- Initiating a programme of activities aimed at helping philatelic organisations in Europe to develop their strategies for improved use of digital tools through cooperation.
- Investigating steps that could be taken to improve the public image of philately with a view to attracting more collectors into organised philatelic activities.
- Improving the information available to exhibition organisers.



FEPA's central aim is to address the long-term decline in participation in philatelic organisations. It was discussed at the Congress in Liberec on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022, and again at the Round Table discussion held under FEPA's leadership in Monte Carlo on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022. A fundamental question is whether the decline is terminal or if it merely reflects a change in collecting styles from one model to another. FEPA will do what it can to help its Members adapt and innovate to meet changing needs with the aim of preserving the benefits philately brings both to individuals and the wider society, and of maintaining the high standards of philatelic study and endeavour that have developed in recent decades.

Many Members were represented at the Congress in Liberec. The record is published here.

### RECORD OF THE FEPA CONGRESS HELD IN LIBEREC, CZECH REPUBLIC ON 15 OCTOBER 2022

The FEPA President, Bill Hedley, warmly welcomed all Members present and thanked the Organising Committee of LIBEREC 2022 for their generous invitation to hold the Congress in Liberec and for their considerable help in making excellent arrangements for it. He extended a special greeting to the guests of honour: FEPA Honorary Presidents Pedro Vaz Pereira and José Ramón Moreno; FIP President Prakob Chirakiti and former FIP President Jos Wolff; and representatives of the Lebanese Association of Philatelists Messrs. Billy Karam and Abdo Ayoub.

#### 1. Roll Call and appointment of Tellers

The Secretary made a roll call. Of 44 Members, 30 were represented (27 by delegates and 3 by proxies). Accordingly, all decisions of the Congress were valid. Julije Maras and Bojan Bračić were appointed as tellers.

Delegates present or represented at the Congress were:





<i>Country</i>	<i>Delegate</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Delegate</i>
ALBANIA	Proxy to Portugal	LIECHTENSTEIN	Dr. Jan Huys-Berlingen
AUSTRIA	Helmut Kogler	LUXEMBOURG	Andrée Trommer
BELGIUM	Koenraad Bracke	N. MACEDONIA	Branislav Svetozarević
BULGARIA	Orlin Todorov	MONACO	Jean Voruz
CROATIA	Julije Maras	MONTENEGRO	Proxy to Slovenia
CYPRUS	Akis Christou	NORWAY	Frank Gilberg
CZECH Rep.	Julius Cacka	POLAND	Przemyslaw Drzewiecki
DENMARK	Lars Peter Svendsen	PORTUGAL	Pedro Vaz Pereira
FINLAND	Ari Muhonen	ROMANIA	Ion Chirescu
FRANCE	Bernard Jimenez	SLOVAKIA	Dr. Pavol Lazar
GERMANY	Frank Blechschmidt	SLOVENIA	Bojan Bračić
GREECE	Christos Gikas	SPAIN	José Antonio Aruego Sanz
HUNGARY	György Lvei	SWEDEN	Rikard Azelius
ISRAEL	Menachem Lador	TURKEY	Proxy to Greece
ITALY	Claudio Manzati	UK	Simon Richards

## 2. Presentation of FEPA Gold Pin

The President presented FEPA gold pins to recently elected Presidents of Member Federations who were present: Julius Cacka (Czech Republic), Lars Peter Svendsen (Denmark), Siniša Pavleski (North Macedonia), Ion Chirescu (Romania), and Rikard Azelius (Sweden).

## 3. Approval of FEPA Congress Regulations

The President introduced the draft FEPA Congress Regulations, circulated in advance to all Members. He indicated that, if approved, the Regulations would take effect immediately. The Regulations were approved unanimously.

## 4. Minutes of the FEPA 2021 Congress

The Minutes of the 2021 FEPA Congress, held in Athens on 23rd November 2021, were approved unanimously.

## 5. Presentation by the President on FEPA activities

The President introduced his presentation by reiterating the priorities for FEPA in 2022-23. These were:

1. Maintain and enhance existing programmes, including sharing information, supporting exhibitions, and rewarding achievements.
2. Promote innovation and best practices.
3. Look for new opportunities for cooperation between Members.
4. Build FEPA NEWS as the Newsdesk on European philately.

He reported that there had been useful progress on these objectives during the last year, including:

- A substantial increase in news postings on the fepanews website.
- Distribution of FEPA NEWS magazine had increased to 1,500 (including many individual recipients).
- Three seminars had been held at exhibitions in London and Budapest.
- Patronage and support had been given to the Liberec exhibition.
- The awards programme for 2021 had been carried through successfully.
- The experimental introduction of two and three-frame exhibits.
- Enhanced international cooperation on digital strategies.
- A focus on the future of organised philately and how its image in the wider world could be improved.

He then turned to the broad question of philately and its place in the world, noting first that there were many encouraging trends, including:

- A strong philatelic market.
- Expanding use of digital technology.
- Thriving philatelic research and publication.
- A steady improvement in philatelic exhibiting.
- Expansion of philately to embrace new disciplines.
- Recognition of philately as part of cultural heritage.

On the other hand, there were also negative trends, including:

- Philately's poor public image in the wider world.
- Falling membership of societies.
- Increasing average age of club members and difficulty in finding volunteers to carry out essential tasks.
- Fewer new exhibitors coming forward.
- Attendances at events are down.
- Dealers are retiring.
- Organisations are disappearing.

Overall, he concluded that, while in many respects philately in Europe is in good shape, we have not succeeded in presenting an attractive image of philately to the wider public which was generally ill-informed about it. Many philatelic organisations face a difficult future and could disappear with serious consequences for organised philately. There was a risk that they could be replaced by new organisations less dedicated to maintaining current standards.

To address this, he proposed that we should work together to improve the image of philately. He suggested that a focus should be placed on appealing themes in philately, including conservation, research, personal development, local and cultural history. He also proposed that, in formulating a more attractive image, emphasis should be placed on the benefits philately brings for the individual, including: A route to lifelong learning; A social network with people of similar interests; A beneficial activity for mental health, and the 'thrill of the chase'.

It was essential to develop digital strategies that would help philatelic organisations adapt to a rapidly changing world. He added that the FEPA Board will work with Members to help Federations formulate their digital plans, including an exhibition data-processing tool; guides on organising digital meetings and virtual exhibitions; information about digital activities and on-line philatelic resources, and Video-based on-line resources for research, and on mounting exhibits.

This work will require cooperation between FEPA and its Members the President asked MFs to give it their full support.

Pedro Vaz Pereira commented that, as postage stamps were no longer available on Post Office counters for postage purposes, young people were no longer aware of the purpose that stamps were primarily designed to serve.

### 6. Receipt of reports of FEPA Board members

All reports were accepted unanimously.

### 7. and 10. Financial Statement and Auditor's report

In the absence of the Treasurer due to illness the President introduced the Statement on FEPA's financial position as at 31.12.2021 which was supported by the Auditor's report. The Statement showed a marginal surplus of income over expenditure. The Financial Statement for 2021 and the Auditor's report were approved unanimously. The President also introduced the Forecast of Outturn for the current year. The current expectation was that income and expenditure would be in balance.



## 8. Draft Budget for 2023

The President introduced the budget for 2023. On current forecasts, expenditure would be a little higher than income because of planned activities in the field of digital strategies.

## 11. Application for FEPA membership from the Lebanese Association of Philatelists

The President invited Billy Karam, President of the Lebanese Association of Philatelists, to present the LAP's application for FEPA membership. Mr Karam said that Lebanon had always had strong ties with Europe, and this should be reflected in Lebanon's philatelic life through membership of FEPA. He confirmed that they would respect all values and regulations of FEPA. The President informed the delegates that according to the Statutes a decision on the application could be made by a majority vote. A vote was held. Out of the 29 votes cast, 26 were in favour, 1 against, and 2 delegates abstained.

The President then welcomed the Lebanese Association of Philatelists as the 45<sup>th</sup> member of FEPA.

## 12. Forthcoming FEPA events

The President introduced this item by saying that the FEPA Board had received three requests for patronage of European exhibitions. As Patronage requires the approval of Congress he invited the organisers to present their proposals.

1. EFIRO 2024      Ion Chirescu presented the Romanian Federation's proposals for an exhibition to be held in Bucharest in April 2024. The exhibition is expected to have 2000 frames and to include all exhibition classes.
2. HAFNIA 24      Lars Peter Svendsen said that the Danish Federation wished to hold a traditional European exhibition to mark the 400th anniversary of the Danish Post. It would have 1300+ frames on 5000 sq. metres. The venue and official hotel are in the centre of Copenhagen, close to transport connections by car, bus, train, or air. Newsletters would be published at [www.hafnia24.com](http://www.hafnia24.com)
3. EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025      Jon Aitchison, Chairman of the Exhibition, said that the exhibition would be held from 8th – 11th May 2025 at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham where up to 10000 sq. metres were available. Most classes would be included, and the intention was to have a large number of dealers present. He added that the Centre is close to Birmingham airport with excellent air connections.

The Congress confirmed FEPA Patronage for EFIRO 2024, HAFNIA 24 and EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025 unanimously.

NORDIA 2024 – The Norwegian delegate Frank Gilberg informed the Congress that NORDIA 2024 will be held from 2nd – 4th June 2024 in Norway. FEPA Recognition will be requested.

## 13. Motions from FEPA Members

No motions had been received or were raised from the floor.

## 14. Address by the FIP President

Prakob Chirakiti thanked the President for the invitation to attend the Congress along with two members of the FIP Board – Yigal Nataniel and Peter Suhadolc. He was delighted to be present and expressed his desire that the FIP and FEPA would work even more closely together in future in pursuit of their joint goal to promote philately. The FEPA President then presented the FIP President with a FEPA gold pin.

## 15. Approval of date and venue for the next FEPA Congress

The President reported that the Board had received a generous offer to host the 2023 Congress in Tarvisio, Italy from the Italian Philatelic Federation and the Tarvisio Philatelic Society during the Alps Adria Philatelic Exhibition to be held in Tarvisio from 21st – 24th September 2023. A brief presentation was given by Italian Delegate Claudio Manzati on the exhibition venue, the place itself and accessibility by various means of transport, including the nearest airports. The delegates decided unanimously to hold the 2023 Congress in Tarvisio, Italy.

The President then presented FEPA Medals and Certificates for 2021 (reported separately).

Concluding the Congress, the President thanked the delegates for their contributions to the Congress and, there being no other business, concluded the meeting at 3.55 p.m.

## FEPA AWARDS for 2021

**Bill Hedley writes:**

At the end of a very successful FEPA Congress in Liberec it was a great pleasure to present three FEPA medals for exceptional achievement and three Certificates of Appreciation. In keeping with FEPA tradition, the awards were made following nominations from Member Federations for the previous year, although they all took account of long and distinguished records of service given to philately in various ways over many years.



**Left: The FEPA Medal for exceptional service to organised philately for 2021 was presented to Bernard Jimenez.**

**The FEPA Medal for outstanding philatelic study and research for 2021 was presented jointly to Pedro Vaz Pereira for: *Os Correios Portugueses 1853-1900* (middle) and Lars Engelbrecht for: *Postal Stationery of Denmark – The Bi-Coloured Issue 1871-1905* (right).**



**Certificates of Appreciation were presented to (from left to right): Andrea Mori on behalf of Unione Filatelica Subalpina, Torino, Italy, Frank Blechschmidt on behalf of Verein für Briefmarkenkunde Frankfurt am Main 1878 e.V., Germany and Julius Cacka on behalf of Odborná společnost KOSMOS, Prague, Czech Republic**

We congratulate all the winners and thank them for their magnificent contributions to philately, which are very much appreciated. We also encourage Member Federations to nominate more deserving candidates for future awards.

Special congratulations go to Pedro Vaz Pereira who, besides being Honorary FEPA President, became a 'three-times' European Champion on the same day at the exhibition in Liberec. As well as receiving the FEPA Medal for exceptional study and research, his books 'Os Correios Portugueses 1853-1900' were judged best in the Literature Class at Liberec with 96 points and a Special Prize for Research. As if that were not enough the Académie Européenne de Philatelie awarded its Medal for the best magazine in Europe in 2022 to 'Filatelia Lusitania', of which Pedro is Director. Well done, and we hope there was enough room in his suitcase to carry all these prizes home.



# Sharing Information – FEPA Website

***Costas Chazapis writes:***

## News Posts and Newsletters

Last year, in the wake of the pandemic, most organised philately returned to its pre-Covid customs and practices. We all rushed to join our society's meetings, philatelic shows, dealers' shops or auctioneers' rooms. During 2022 we witnessed the unique phenomenon of six FIP or FEPA exhibitions, all in a single year. In addition, we attended many other events in a packed calendar with its regular entries, plus the ones originally scheduled for 2020 or 2021 but postponed.

Naturally, all this activity produced a lot of interesting news to report. The FEPA website ([www.fepanews.com](http://www.fepanews.com)) was there to pick up each piece of news and immediately share it with the philatelic community. Every post was repeated in the subsequent Newsletter, released every other Monday and automatically landed at each of our subscribers' inboxes. With roughly 200 posts uploaded during the year it is fair to assume that readers are already acquainted with the posts we deal with.

What was missing were posts on new books. This is going to change in 2023 when we aim to share information on as many new publications as we hear about. The output from philatelic research is vitally important and should be permanently recorded in the FEPA website archive.

If you received Newsletter No.48 on 28th November, you may have noticed that we brought the time of release forward from 6:00 pm to 11:00 am CET as we have a slightly better percentage of opened emails during the first day. If that continues, we'll keep sending at the new time. Monday will still be our delivery day. Most philatelic events end on a Sunday and often produce interesting news, so it is good to have a fresh top story in our Monday Newsletter. The news channel seems to be working smoothly and during 2022 the Newsdesk of European Philately, as we like to call it, delivered more than 0.50 news posts per day and one Newsletter every other week. We have also added a button to the website homepage where interested readers can ask to be added to the distribution lists for the Newsletter and the FEPA NEWS magazine.

## Sharing information goes far beyond news posts

The FEPA website is intended to share information with its readers that is not available elsewhere so we have started supplementing its content with useful material as it becomes available. FEPA has a unique role in European philately: to anticipate and lead, build strategy, collect raw data from all European communities and return the results in processed form. Take for example the most recent presentation by President Bill Hedley in Liberec on the current state of philately and the initiative needed to improve its image. Another example is the round table discussion during Monacophil 2022, meticulously prepared by Director Thomas Höpfner, on "Bringing Philately out of the Shadows". These are exactly the questions that leading philatelic institutions should be concerned with, and this material is already on the website. Additional examples are two continuously-updated lists, both curated by Director Lars Engelbrecht: the first records the results at exhibitions under FEPA Patronage and the second shows FEPA-accredited jurors. The presentations given at seminars in London 2022 and HUNFILEX 2022 have also been uploaded. Other material on the FEPA website such as the sections on awards and awardees, and on past and forthcoming events have also been upgraded.

## Let's keep our lines of communication open

I ask you once again kindly for your cooperation. It is much more credible for us to post a piece of news based on your direct input rather than from social media or elsewhere. In the case of new publications, we rely a lot on your input. So please have FEPA in mind when a new philatelic book hits the shelves.

Please tell us if you cannot find something and you think it should be uploaded on the FEPA website, or if you find errors or missing links in the website pages. We would also like to know if you think there is something we should improve. We can be contacted at [info@fepanews.com](mailto:info@fepanews.com) and we always listen!

# ‘PHILATELY, FOREVER IN THE SHADOWS?’

**FEPA ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION AT MONACOPHIL, 25 NOVEMBER 2022**

*Thomas Höpfner writes:*

FEPA has drawn attention to the changes taking place in philatelic organisations since 2013 when Giancarlo Morolli presented the results of a survey based on data from many FEPA Members to Congress. It showed a decline in membership, especially in local societies, and an increasing average age of members of societies. It also pointed to the increasing impact of digitisation on collecting and the large number of collectors who are not involved in organised philately. Since 2013 the process of change has continued, raising questions about the future of philately and how its appeal can be extended to a wider audience. In November we took advantage of MONACOPHIL, attended by many leading figures in the philatelic world, to hold a Round Table discussion with audience participation on the strengths and weaknesses of philately and how it might evolve in the 21st century. The host was Charles Epting, CEO of Harmers New York, with a panel of five participants from different philatelic backgrounds. We are publishing a record of the discussion here and the event can also be viewed on YouTube via the FEPA website ([www.fepanews.com](http://www.fepanews.com)).

## Panel Discussion

Opening the discussion, the Chairman invited each member of the panel to summarise the position as they saw it today. Bill Hedley (FEPA President) said that he saw a paradox in philatelic activity that reflected changes in philately and in society at large over a long period. On the one hand the philatelic market was strong and there appeared to be plenty of collectors. The standards attained in philatelic literature and exhibits had probably never been higher, and philately had expanded its horizons widely. The use of digital technology had spread rapidly and there was an emerging recognition of philately as part of our shared cultural heritage. On the other hand, membership in many philatelic organisations was falling and the attractions and benefits of philately were not well understood in the wider world where postage stamps were going out of use for their primary purpose. He was concerned that the loss of traditional organisations could undermine many of the improvements of recent decades and thought more attention should be given to improving philately's public image.



Adriano Bergamini (Philatelist and exhibitor, Chairman of HELVETIA 2022) said that the pleasures of collecting and social interaction derived from philately were undimmed and he was not pessimistic about the future for philately and postal history. So far as exhibitions were concerned he had found no difficulty in persuading dealers and visitors with an interest in philately to come to HELVETIA. However, it had proved impossible to persuade anyone from outside the philatelic world to visit the exhibition. He had found a complete lack of interest, even among local people from Ticino, and he thought it was necessary to find new ways of communicating with the wider world to persuade people that philately deserved attention.

Dieter Michelson (CEO, Heinrich Koehler) was concerned that the apparent strengths in philately might also be weaknesses. He thought the marketing of philately was not sufficiently professional and that it had to be improved. How could the wider public be involved in philatelic auctions? There was no value to be gained from discussion of technical details. What was needed was continuous publicity focused on stories. In Koehler's experience this had the best chance of attracting wider attention.

Rüdiger Weng (A recent newcomer to high-level philately) said he had left philately for a long period, having become bored with catalogue collecting, but had recently returned because of an interesting story attached to a particular



cover. He prefers to build a collection that suits his interests, so buys what he likes, and enjoys the social interactions that philately brings. With a background in the fine art market he was not pessimistic about the future. All collecting fields were on the way down because there were more collecting fields. He saw no point in nostalgic reminiscing about 'the good old times'. The base was smaller but more people were now ready to pay more for top items. He thought that a major change in presentation was needed. Stories about people, including buyers and sellers, were what was most likely to generate interest in the wider world. He thought philatelic auctions were generally boring with too much attention paid to philatelic detail and not enough to human interest aspects. To illustrate the point, he said that he had never read anything on Bloomberg about stamps even though by value 90% of philatelic sales are at the same level as fine art sales. In his view the fundamentals of philately are strong but its marketing needs to be improved. People want to be part of something that exudes confidence. We should focus on placing stories on social media outlets such as Instagram and YouTube that explain why philately and postal history are interesting.

Wolfgang Maassen (President of AIJP and expert in philatelic literature) saw philately and postal history as a means of preserving our cultural heritage. They are a mirror of history and consequently it is important to keep them alive. He agreed that an improvement was needed in the presentation of philately to the wider world and suggested that a focus should be placed on special topics with human interest such as conflicts and epidemics. He also favoured drawing more attention in publicity to social stories that would generate interest in the wider world.

## Audience Participation

In response to the observations by the panel, members of the audience offered a range of comments:

Alex Haimann saw no need for pessimism as he thought the golden era of philately is still to come and we have the tools, digital and otherwise, for this to happen. Regarding organised philately he asked how we would structure it if we were starting now.

Peter Cockburn was disappointed to hear that no philatelic information had been seen on Bloomberg, which is very widely viewed, and commented that there is a huge market for new collectibles such as Pokémon cards, indicating that people's desire to collect is still strong.

Patrick Maselis wanted to see articles being written specifically for use by the non-philatelic press. He would also like to see more exhibitions in museums as postal history is the easiest way of attracting interest from the wider public.

Birthe King agreed that philately needs to change its public image. Postal history has relevance for the wider population and social stories are interesting. She also drew attention to the need for philatelic organisations to be more inclusive, pointing to the large male majority in the room. A goal for organised philately should be to attract more women into philately.

Gordon Eubanks thought that more work was needed with academics to understand why people collect. Was there a 'collecting gene'? He suggested that this would help in formulating a new approach to positioning philately ['Positioning' refers to, 'the place that a brand occupies in the minds of the customers and how it is distinguished from the products of the competitors and different from the concept of brand awareness.']

The last intervention came from Lars Boettger who said that he is involved in running three organisations that, on current expectations, will not be in existence in five years' time. For him the top priority was how to involve some new people in these organisations before they disappeared.

Summing up, Charles Epting thanked the contributors for what he thought had been a very useful discussion that had helped to give some perspective to where the priorities should lie for those involved in promoting philately.

## Note

You are invited to let us have your views on this important subject, both in terms of where we are today and of what we should be doing to promote philately in Europe in a new age. Please send your comments to us at [info@fepanews.com](mailto:info@fepanews.com)

## DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANISED PHILATELY

**Lars Engelbrecht writes:**

### Philately in the Future

There has been a very large growth in the volume of philatelic activity on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and YouTube in recent years and this is most likely to increase further in the future. During the Covid period many philatelists became familiar with Zoom meetings and virtual exhibitions, and this has raised the urgent question of how organised philately – Federations and Societies – can make the best use of digital opportunities now available to improve services and increase the number of members.

The FEPA Board believes that the successful application of digital opportunities will play a significant part in the future development of philately in Europe and that there should be an international dimension to digital developments to provide some consistency between FEPA Members. Consequently, we have started to investigate ways in which we could contribute to digital development for Federations and Societies in Europe. The Board recognises that this initiative must be carried forward in cooperation with FEPA Members since all face the same challenges and opportunities and some Federations already have significant experience in using social media and digital platforms. FEPA's contribution can be to share knowledge about digital possibilities and to assist in the development of tools that can be used by all countries - instead of each country needing to develop its own tools separately.

### FEPA Project

To start the ball rolling the FEPA Board commissioned a project on "The Digital Opportunities for Organised Philately" that, after initial discussions in the Board, organised a virtual preliminary meeting with some Federation Members on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The purpose of this virtual meeting was to start a dialogue between FEPA and the Federations regarding the status of the digital activities in the federations and on what we in FEPA should prioritise to support the federations. Of course, our intention is to involve all FEPA Federations in the project but at this initial stage we needed preliminary advice from a few Members. The agenda for the virtual meeting was:

- Short presentation by the participants on their digital activities
- Presentation by FEPA of ideas on digital opportunities:
  - Virtual meetings and exhibitions.
  - The use of social media.
  - Creating a digital strategy plan for Federations and Societies.
  - Creating on-line resources for collectors.
- Discussion:
  - What digital activities have there been already? And what have we experienced?
  - What would be the best opportunities for cooperation between the FEPA countries?
- Agreement on priorities.

The participants from Member Federations at the meeting were:

Denmark:	Lars Peter Svendsen
France:	Vincent Lourdin
Germany:	Eric Scherer
Greece:	Costas Chazapis
Italy:	Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi
Slovenia:	Peter Kramar
Spain:	Rafael Acuña
United Kingdom:	Simon Richards

Finland was also invited but, being unable to participate on that day, is taking part in a follow-up session.

From FEPA the participants were:

President:	Bill Hedley
Vice President:	Giancarlo Morolli
Director:	Thomas Höpfner
Director:	Lars Engelbrecht (Facilitator)

FEPA put forward four suggestions that it believed could be beneficial to pursue together with all FEPA Member Federations.

#### FEPA Activity Suggestion 1: Help societies with virtual guides

Philatelic societies are on very different levels when it comes to digital solutions. Some societies have excellent experience with virtual meetings, while others have not had any. In some countries virtual exhibitions replaced physical exhibitions during Covid, but they have now reverted to the status quo ante. In other countries virtual exhibitions are now a supplement to the physical exhibitions. A third group of countries has not held any virtual exhibitions.

FEPA Opportunity: To prepare guides for Societies on arranging and holding virtual meetings and exhibitions.

#### FEPA Activity Suggestion 2: Inspire societies regarding social media

Some societies and Federations are using social media, but many are not active in this field. However, it is apparent that many philatelists who are not members of a philatelic society are actively searching for material and for answers to questions on social media. Virtual displays of stamp collections and exhibits are also starting to appear in social media - outside organised philately.

FEPA Opportunity: To facilitate cross-country cooperation for optimising the use of social media for organised philately. Goal: To gain new members.

#### FEPA Activity Suggestion 3: Help Federations & societies with their "Digital Strategy"

Our dialogue with Federations indicates that most of them could benefit from a plan for development of their digital activities. Key questions they face are: How should we as a Federation support the societies digitally? What should be our Federation's presence on social media? What is the role of our Federation website? And there are more. The same goes for the societies: How should our society be present on social media? Are we going to have virtual meetings? And so it goes on.

FEPA Opportunity: To develop a Digital Strategy Tool: Gather experiences and create an inspirational list of possibilities for the Federations and societies. This inspirational list would provide a basis for discussions in Federation Boards and society committees.

#### FEPA Activity Suggestion 4: Use the FEPA website as a digital resource

Today there is no overview of digital philatelic activities in Europe. Obvious questions that philatelists might have are: What virtual meetings are coming up? Where can I see videos on how to construct an exhibit? Where can I find information on my chosen topic?

FEPA Opportunity: To use the FEPA website as a platform for providing information to all Federation/society members on digital activities such as:

- Virtual meetings in Europe.
- Information on on-line philatelic sources.
- Online resources for research.
- Guidance on mounting of exhibits. (video)

#### Statements from the Federations on their digital activities

After the presentation from FEPA each Federation described its own digital activities. All said that they have a well-functioning website and that a lot of information can be found there. Most were active on a few social media – mainly Facebook - and one mentioned that they were gaining new members from the social media.



They then commented on the four suggested activities, and there was in general support for FEPA's initiative to promote the exploitation of digital opportunities. It was also the general opinion that this project would be an excellent opportunity for the FEPA members to work together in a practical way to promote philately in Europe. Project 4 (Use of the FEPA website as a digital resource) gained the most support followed by project two on the social media. Furthermore, there was a request for FEPA to develop a web-based platform for virtual exhibitions so that it is not necessary for each Federation or society in Europe to develop their own virtual exhibition website.

### Activities to be pursued

The input from the virtual meeting was extremely valuable for the FEPA Board, and at its meeting in November 2022, it decided to focus on two of the suggested activities:

- Use of the FEPA website as a digital philatelic resource: The FEPA Board will initiate a plan for developing the FEPA website under the leadership of Costas Chazapis. The plan will identify how the FEPA website can be developed to provide information to all federation/society members on digital activities such as virtual meetings in Europe, on-line philatelic sources, on-line resources for research and guidance on mounting of exhibits (videos).
- Virtual exhibitions: The FEPA Board will initiate the development of European regulations and guidance for virtual exhibitions - both for national and European use. The Board also decided to start a feasibility study on the potential benefits and costs of developing a European website platform for virtual exhibitions that could be made available for all FEPA members and societies to use. A working group led by Lars Engelbrecht will be formed and, as part of its work, it will look at existing national solutions to see if they could be drawn on to provide a European solution.

We will keep you informed of progress in FEPA NEWS and on the FEPA website: [www.feapanews.com](http://www.feapanews.com).

## NEWS FROM THE FEDERATIONS

### ROMANIAN FEDERATION: NEW PRESIDENT

Mr Ion Chirescu was elected President of the Romanian Philatelic federation at its meeting in June 2022. A new Board was also elected.



### NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE SWISS UNION

Dr Roberto Lopez (above) was elected as President of the Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies at its annual meeting in November 2022. He replaces Rolf Leuthard who stepped down in August for health reasons.



### BELGIAN FEDERATION: NEW PRESIDENT

Mr Filip Van der Haegen (above) was elected Chairman of the Belgian Philatelic Federation (K.L.B.P. – F.R.C.P.B.) at its meeting on 15th October 2022. He takes over from Mr Willy Monfils who had acted as interim President pending the election.



### CYPRUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY HAS A NEW BOARD

The Cyprus Philatelic Society held elections for a new nine-member Board of Directors on 19th November 2022. The new President is Costas Athanasiou.



## Lebanon and Europe: more than a Historical relationship

**Billy Karam writes:**

To say that Lebanon and Europe have been linked since the dawn of time is an understatement, as this passionate relationship has defied time, history and even geography. Lebanon, a small country located on the shores of the Mediterranean, holds its' name (which means "white"), from the snowy peaks of its' mountains. It has a rich history that spans over millennia and that left traces all over its territory. With 18 communities living together, the Lebanese have managed to make this diversity a major asset.

From the numerous civilizations that set foot on the Lebanese shores, one after the other, the country has kept stones, traditions and beliefs. But also some tenacious legends, like the beautiful story of Europa, the remarkably beautiful daughter of Agenor, King of Tyre (city located in southern Lebanon). Having heard her play the flute, Zeus, God of Olympus, fell madly in love with her. Eager to conquer her, he took the appearance of a white bull with golden horns. Europa was completely seduced by the animal, so she mounted it, only to find herself prisoner of the God who took her away to Crete. Agenor was furious, so he sent his son Cadmos (whose name comes from Qdm, which means East) in search of her, and the latter travelled for so many months before reaching the Greek coast. He then founded the city of Thebes and spread the Phoenician alphabet, which was to give birth to the Greek alphabet and then to the Latin alphabet. Alas, he never managed to find his sister who gave her name to the continent, and whose love affair with Zeus gave birth to the famous Minos, well known in Greek mythology.



This is a perfect illustration of this millennial relationship that saw daylight on the shores of Lebanon and conquered the heart of Europe with no end in sight.. and it is since then that the Mediterranean Sea, known to be a gathering spot, making it a source of great wealth. Indeed, this small sea, baptized Mare Nostrum "Our Sea" by the Roman, is the cradle of Western civilization. From the Phoenicians who were the first to set sail towards Europe on their ships, either for discovery or for exchange, to the numerous and regular interactions today, thanks to non-stopping flows of young Lebanese immigrants seeking fortune in friendly European countries, one can hardly deny the happy complicity between a Lebanon so open to the sea and to others, and a Europe that succeeded so well in building a salutary bridge between East and West.



Lebanon proved to be a magnet for other civilizations. The Assyrians, Egyptians, Persians, Greeks, and after them the Romans, Byzantines, Umayyads, Mamluks, Ottomans, up to the French Mandate, have all left their traces, influences, and vestiges, granting the Lebanese people a cosmopolitan dimension that made them open-minded, but also curious, both culturally and intellectually.





This is all evidenced by the remains exposed at the National Museum of Beirut, at the Museum of the American University of Beirut, but more importantly, everywhere in the country, namely with the columns of Baalbek, which date back to the Roman era, when Emperor Augustus (27 BC-14 AD) built a grandiose temple on an acropolis in honor of Jupiter Heliopolitan. Baalbek, known for its international festival, or the temples of Fagra, which Ernest Renan considered as “the most spectacular group of ruins in the mountains”, and also the Sea Castle, or the Beaufort fortress, which date back to the Crusader period.



Under the Roman Empire, the famous School of Law, whose remarkable and excellent teaching is still widely remembered today, saw students from all over the region come to it as early as 190 AD. The professors of this institution contributed to make Berytus the “mother of laws”, thanks to the exponential quality of the knowledge it provided. Ulpian, Demosthenes, Anatol, and especially Justinian, who was at the origin of the famous Code in his name, exalted their knowledge in this small Mediterranean city, which acquired a truly unique reputation, and whose School surpassed that of Constantinople or Rome. The motto “Berytus Nutrix Legum”, Beirut Mother of Laws, is inscribed on the coat of arms of Beirut City.

And what can one say about the arrival of many missionaries who contributed to the establishment of schools and universities, whose excellence quickly made the reputation of Beirut City. In Lebanon, people speak English, French and Arabic, and these three languages, or rather these three cultures, created a capacity to adapt that mostly characterizes the Lebanese, and that quickly made the country a choice destination for travelers and a prime touristic pole.



With the visit of Orientalists who came to discover the Levant region, a much coveted travel destination after the Napoleonic expedition in 1798, those people, all great artists, men of literature, and men of science of the time, succumbed to the infatuation and the attraction of these oriental travels. From Lamartine, who exclaimed when he saw Beirut: “I had dreamed of Eden, I can say that I have seen it”, and all the way to hundreds of illustrious travelers,

including Kaiser Wilhelm II, who arrived at the port of Beirut on November 5, 1898, and fell in love with Baalbek, to the point that the German Archaeological Institute inaugurated a museum there 100 years later.

Lebanon asserted with no hesitation its desire to position itself as an indispensable bridge between the East and the West: first by founding the Lebanese Red Cross in June 1945, which became, in 1947, a member of the International



Red Cross (timbre croix rouge), then by hosting the third UNESCO Conference in November 1948, the country being one of the signatories of the Declaration of Human Rights adopted for the occasion. After Lebanon joined the Francophonie in 1973, the IXth summit of the Francophonie was inaugurated for the first time in Beirut, on October 18, 2002, and in October 2009, the VIth edition of the Games of the Francophonie was the ultimate occasion to gather, in Lebanon, 3000 athletes and artists from 43 French-speaking countries.



In 1960, the election of Miss Europe was held for the first time outside of Europe, in Lebanon, at the Casino du Liban, and starting 1962, the European Bridge Championship was held in the country for five consecutive years, without forgetting the "Bal des Petits Lits Blancs", which was organized in the country in 1964, and many of the people who attended it confirmed that the event was "a fairy tale".



And let us not forget the domain of sports, with the European Shooting Championships, which have become a tradition, and whose first part took place in 1962, with more than 75 shooters from 13 countries; the International Water Skiing Championship, held since 1952; the Fencing Championship; the International Ski Week, organized since 1964; and last but not least, the Tennis Championships, going on since 1956, with the participation of the best international champions.



It is a dynamic Lebanon, an innovative Lebanon, a message Lebanon, a welcoming Lebanon, a country that has never quenched its thirst to be as close as possible to Europe, even at the height of the turmoil that has shaken it. Europe that is only a few kilometers away, separated by the Mediterranean Sea that we share, and whose name comes from the Latin medius, the middle, the happy medium between you and us...

## Lebanese Postal History

When Lebanon was occupied by the Ottoman Empire, the terrestrial postal network was less than basic. The country had to wait until Trieste-based Lloyd Austria Co, which inherited the commercial ties of the old Venetian Republic, and Les Paquebots de l'Administration des Postes, a French company based in Marseille, decided to set up their own postal infrastructures in the Eastern Mediterranean, to see an acceleration and a development of the postal process. Both companies were born from the tacit will of the their countries of origin to make them instruments of economic penetration and political influence in the Levant territories. One must say that commercial exchanges were going

well, especially with regard to silk. This was followed by the expansion of French interests in silk farming across the region, with businessmen from Lyon supplying mulberry seeds and buying silk. The silk trade with the city of Marseille was a turning point for the establishment of maritime transport agencies in Lebanon. Today, Beirut and Marseilles are united by a cooperation and twinning agreement, and Marseilles hosts a monument representing the Abduction of Europa.

But let us dwell again on postal exchanges in Lebanon: in addition to the Austrian and French postal offices, there were Russian, Egyptian, British, Greek, Italian, Romanian and German offices. France, with its shipping company "Paquebots de l'Administration des Postes", later renamed "Paquebots de la Méditerranée", set up post offices that started their regular operations in Beirut starting 1845, in Tripoli Mina (Port) starting 1852, and in the City of Tripoli starting 1896. Russia simultaneously established postal offices in Beirut and Tripoli starting 1867. Great Britain and Germany, however, had their postal activities limited to Beirut, as they established their postal offices in the city in early 1873 for the first, and on March 1, 1900, for the second.



During the Ottoman occupation, Turkish, French and British stamps were used in the Lebanese provinces with overprints stating "Piasters", "Beirut" and "Levant", some of the times. From 1919 onwards, French stamps took over, with a T.E.O. (Territoires Ennemis Occupés) overprint. Apart from the special series, there were mainly three types of vignettes for low value stamps, the "white" type vignettes representing the goddess of Liberty holding the scales of Equality and Fraternity, symbolized by two cherubs, and the Sower of Roty ("La Semeuse de Roty") inspired by the goddess Ceres. The most important values were represented by the vignettes of the "Merson" type showcasing "The Republic sitting, guardian of the peace." Among the stamps of France overprinted "Syria - Great Lebanon", we note the introduction of stamps with the effigy of Louis Pasteur, issued in France in 1923.

It was not until 1925 that an exclusive issue of Greater Lebanon stamps appeared, with 12 Lebanese views of different regions, of course with a cedar on a blue background. The Cedar, the emblem of Lebanon, which appears on the Lebanese flag, is far more than a tree. It is a symbol. So much so that its name is often capitalized to emphasize its importance. Cedars are symbols of eternity, majesty, and survival, but are also threatened with neglect. They are closely linked to Lebanon. According to some writings, they were planted by the hand of God himself. They were quoted more than 100 times in the Bible. They are venerated by the three religions, and upon seeing them, Lamartine exclaimed: "The cedars of Lebanon are the relics of the centuries and of nature, the most famous natural monuments of the universe. They know the history of the earth, better than history itself."



With the promulgation of the Lebanese Constitution in 1926, and the election of the first president of the Republic, Charles Debbas, a black "Lebanese Republic" overprint was imposed on the stamps, in both French and Arabic.

The first series of stamps issued by the Lebanese Government was about the Sericultural Congress that took place in 1930. It was followed by a series highlighting the beauty of various Lebanese regions. The first Lebanese personality to appear on a postage stamp was President Emile Edde, elected in 1937. The 10th anniversary celebration of the first Marseille-Beirut air flight also had its own stamp. A key date in Lebanese history, the proclamation of Lebanon's Independence in November 1943, was illustrated by stamps depicting Bashir Chehab II and landscapes of the country. From 1944 onwards, the stamps issued in Piasters became those of an independent Lebanon, with frequent reminders of the close relations that the country had with Europe, such as in 1946, with the issue of a series of stamps commemorating the Great Victory, representing Lebanese soldiers fighting for Free France at Bir Hakeim 1942.

## The Lebanese Association of Philately, LAP

The Lebanese Association of Philately, LAP, and its members, are very proud to have joined the esteemed FEPA family. A big thank you for all the FEPA members at the Liberec congress for their support and for the warm welcome we received during our presence there.

Lebanon is a Mediterranean country with geographical proximity to Europe. The Lebanese association with Europe started with the Phoenicians, our ancestors who sailed around the Mediterranean and deep inside the European mainland. This continued through the coming centuries, whereas many Lebanese emigrated to different European countries and ended up with dual Lebanese-European nationalities and a multilingual culture. Being under French Mandate for more than 20 years in 1924, Lebanon was diversely affected by the French culture. Lebanon remains the only French speaking country in the Levant and a member of the Francophonie. This cultural association was reflected in Philately, where the first 2 sets of Lebanese stamps issued in 1924 were actually French stamps of the period, overprinted « Grand Liban » (Greater Lebanon). The French and European influence on Lebanese Philately continued and has remained till now, in the form of European topics, of the release of common Lebanese-French stamps, and frequent travels of the Lebanese to Europe.



The Lebanese stamps, issued by Libanpost, the national post operator, have captions in two official languages: Arabic and French. Libanpost is a member of the Euromed postal union and releases, on a yearly basis, a Euromed stamp based on the theme decided by Euromed. After Issuing the stamp, Euromed holds a competition to choose the country that designed the best stamp. Lebanon has not won yet! We hope, with LAP help, we will win soon.

The members of LAP are multi-cultural, active members of the society, and frequent travelers to Europe. Amongst them are the most renowned philately collectors, the founder of the only philately auction house in the country, and an assembly of authors about Lebanese philately and philatelic history who have edited more than 11 books about Lebanese stamps, postal history, philately and numismatics in addition to many articles in philately magazines. The latest publication was a book by the first LAP president about the history of Lebanese stamps, spanning over more than a century of Lebanese stamps.

Lebanon was described as a message to be preserved. With the esteemed FEPA we hope to mirror the role of Lebanon and inspire others with our multicultural and multi-language society. Since Philately spreads culture across borders, we hope that the LAP-FEPA philatelic association will strengthen the connection and bonding between our countries and people.

## Our Objectives:

- Become active participants in all FEPA activities
- Promote philately and stamp collecting among the young generations
- Organize common events with Lebanese post operators (Currently Libanpost)
- Provide advice to Libanpost about future themes, designs, and forms of postal stamps
- Increase our multilingual philatelic publications
- Expand LAP membership through attracting new serious collectors of good standing



## PHILATELIC WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SLOVENIA

***Dr. Veselko Guštin writes:***

The Slovenian Philatelic Association (FZS) often receives collections and philatelic material as gifts from members of the Association and external patrons for the benefit of our young philatelists. About 20 philatelic circles / clubs for children have been created in elementary schools in Slovenia although, despite being the largest city, Ljubljana unfortunately only has one circle. Frequently we are invited by a school to give a philately lesson integrated into its curriculum. For several years in Ljubljana (Skupna točka) we have also participated in philatelic workshops for children and young people during the school holidays.

The workshops are designed to encourage children to start looking at letters more carefully - what stamp is on the letter today, where it comes from? They learn how to handle stamps and to realise that there is always an interesting image (theme) on each of them. They are provided with philatelic accessories such as tweezers, magnifying glass, and albums and they can choose stamps from a box based on the chosen theme. Among other things we show them old, folded letters, envelopes with letters inside, a postal stationery item, a postcard. Since scissors are not philatelic accessories, they always have to consider whether or not to detach the stamp from the letter. Even better, they should ask for advice from an expert philatelist to avoid doing a lot of damage! If it's a beautiful envelope, with its nice stamp, they are encouraged to save it entire in the album.

The content of our workshops was as follows:

**Prepare the postage stamps:** The children collected fragments of letters with stamps, and then put them in water. After about half an hour, when dry, they were added to the album.

**Make your own first stamp albums:** We need: white paper, transparent paper, glue, cutter or scissors. The children created a simple notebook where stamps were attached with hinges. They loved doing this job, especially the final part. From a box they could choose stamps based on the theme, which they then fixed with hinges in their "first album". They had even more fun looking for other curiosities: names they did not know the meaning of, or shapes (triangle, circle etc).



***Personalised stamp  
"30 years of Repu-  
blic of Slovenia"***

**Design your personalised stamp:** We need: an A4 sheet with the frame of the Slovenian personalised stamp - red, blue, green, grey coloured pencils. The children were given a stamp frame with a common theme, "30th anniversary of the Republic of Slovenia". With enthusiasm they began to draw. We explained that their only "mistake" was that some designs contained very small details which, when reduced to the size of a postage stamp, could only be seen with a magnifying glass.

**Write a letter or a postcard:** We need: coloured pencils, stamps, envelopes, A4 sheets, a home address for each one. What did we find? They had trouble writing the title because it had to be placed in the lower right half of the letter. We solved the problem of "non-standard" written addresses by attaching a postage stamp for B (non-standard letter) and hoping that the postman would be able to decipher the address. The next week, the children said the letters had arrived and at home they were very happy.



***Searching for stamps  
for the album is always  
a pleasure!***

**Put the stamp on the map:** The children had to find the right stamps and glue them, without error, in the exact spot on the map of Europe. We observed that it was a complex operation to link the name to the country by deriving it from the postage stamp and placing it in the right position on the map. Countries south of Slovenia dominated the map.

Make an illustrated text with stamps: The children wrote a story in which some words were replaced by stamps. Our main comment was too much text, and few stamps. Some children also had difficulty writing.

How is the collection valued? How much is a stamp worth? I don't know why, but the prevailing question was always: how much is this stamp worth? Having seen and considered it, we brought them a catalogue, chose a stamp and said: now look for it in the catalogue and tell us how much it is worth. They soon realised what a set of stamps is, and we pointed out that the ones we usually receive on a letter are placed at the beginning of the set and thus are the most common and cheapest! Above all, we tell them that philately is a hobby to be enjoyed!



*The choice of stamps to cover the map of Europe was quite challenging.*

## “TWO MEMBERS ...”

***Dimitar Belchev, President, and Viktor Gaber, Secretary of the Union of Philatelists have sent this article on their work to extend knowledge in North Macedonia of how its international relations are recorded on stamps.***

We are accustomed to read about philately in specialized magazines or as a short article in newspapers, but it is quite rare and surprising to find a text that deals with our hobby published in a magazine that is focused on political topics. Two prominent members of the Union of Philatelists of Macedonia have produced a remarkable article on themes used on stamps that demonstrates a link between two different subjects, philately and diplomacy. Both are members of the Diplomatic Club in Skopje, a citizen's association established as an NGO by former and current diplomats. The article has been published in the biannual “Diplomatic Chronicle” edited by the Club that deals mainly with diplomatic affairs of the country. The topic of the article, published in the 2022 summer edition of the Diplomatic Chronicle, is a description of how international events related to the country have been shown on stamps issued by the Post of North Macedonia. Dating back as far as 1991, when the country declared its independence from the then Yugoslavia, items commemorating events related to the culture and history of the country have been presented on stamps. The motif of the very first stamp was musicians dressed in national costumes and playing a type of trumpet, an instrument used specifically for the festivities.

Initially “Macedonia” was written on stamps in Cyrillic but this was later changed to Latin letters. The turbulent process of gaining international acceptance of the country's name influenced the inscription with the result that the new constitutional name of the country was eventually printed on stamps in three versions, Macedonian language written in Cyrillic letters, Albanian and English in Latin alphabet.

As a new member of the international community, the country also issued stamps to celebrate its accession to international organizations, so the symbols of the United Nations, Council of Europe and NATO, as well as UNICEF and UNESCO, are to be found on stamps. When hosting meetings and gatherings of these organisations the country also took every opportunity to commemorate them with targeted stamp issues. When the country had declared its aspiration for membership of the European Union, different stamp issues marked the steps taken to achieve this goal. Besides the regular issue of EUROPA stamps in May each year as a reminder of European unity, the National Post has issued stamps twice annually depicting the capitals of the two countries that hold the Presidency of the Union during that year. When the United Kingdom decided to leave the Union, a decision that coincided with its term of Presidency, the Post swiftly adapted its Annual Publication Plan. The stamp showing Big Ben remained in circulation, followed by two others representing the capitals of Croatia and Germany.

It is worth mentioning that symbols of other international organizations are present on stamps, such as the UPU, UIC, WWF and Red Cross and Red Crescent. The Olympic Games, World, European and Balkan Championships have also provided opportunities for commemorative issues, as have joint technological achievements such as putting the Trans-Balkan Telecommunication Cable in operation.

## OBITUARIES

### DR WOLF HESS RDP 1945-2022

Wolf's passing on 31 July 2022 has left a huge hole in European philately and postal history.

He was a distinguished surgeon, and a philatelist with eclectic interests and vast knowledge. A renowned author, exhibitor and international juror, he created many collections and exhibits and was an international judge in traditional philately, postal history, thematics and postal stationery. He won many high awards, and Grand Prix in thematics at HAFNIA in 2001 and in postal history in Sofia in 2009 with 'Finland Postal History'. He was elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2010 and in 2020 became a member of the Consilium Philatelicum.

He was a great friend and helper to many and will be greatly missed.

R.I.P.



### PAOLO VACCARI 1940-2022

Paolo Vaccari, a life devoted to philately in all its facets. He was a collector from the age of 6, then a student of the Italian States becoming one of the most excellent experts in this area, especially in the Duchy of Modena, his homeland. In 1977 he started his trade activity, focusing on classical items but expanding in several directions including sales on offer, participation in trade conventions and exhibitions, auctions, and publishing philatelic literature.

The "Catalogo Vaccari francobolli e storia postale 1850-1900", the biannual "Vaccari magazine" and the daily web journal "Vaccari News" are the cornerstones of his engagement as a publisher. He was a member of the Consultative Committee for Philately of Italy's Ministry for Economic Development.

R.I.P.



### BEATRICE BACHMANN FRPSL 1932-2022

Beatrice Bachmann was a founding member of the Society of Space Philatelists in Zürich, Switzerland, in 1969, and started her career as a successful exhibitor at World exhibitions and leader of the new FIP Section for Astrophilately in 1985.

Her commitment, knowledge and dedication resulted in her reaching the FIP Championship Class with her exhibit, and leading the FIP community of astrophilatelists towards a commonly shared concept. Her seminars and publications were very effective in promoting Astrophilately, educating collectors, exhibitors, and jurors and gaining the confidence of the whole philatelic world. She chaired the FIP Section for Astrophilately until 2000, and her achievements were recognized with the FIP Medal of Service.

She continued her work in the Astrophilately Section as the delegate for Switzerland until 2013.

R.I.P.





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## FEPA EXHIBITION PROCEDURES – A NEW PACKAGE

*Giancarlo Morolli writes:*

At the request of its members, FEPA gives Patronage or Recognition to exhibitions and other philatelic events, like seminars. They are regulated by the **FEPA Regulations for Exhibitions (FREGEX)**, established at the Congress in Amsterdam in 2002 and then revised in Madrid in 2013<sup>1</sup>.

### The FREGEX

The structure of the FREGEX was designed explicitly to be dependent on the GREX, the FIP document that governs the organisation of exhibitions. The second sentence of the Introduction reads, “The FEPA Regulations for Exhibitions (FREGEX) are governed in general by the GREX and these GREX are an integrated part of the regulations of the exhibitions of FEPA. In the same way the GREV and SREV and Guidelines for the duties and accreditations of national Commissioners appointed for FIP Exhibitions are also valid for European exhibitions”. Furthermore, to keep the document short some articles in the FREGEX actually make reference to the GREX as the governing document (e.g., “as determined in the GREX” or “as described in general in article XY GREX”).

This explicit dependency creates a problem of governance for FEPA since the GREX is dynamic. It was approved in 2000 in Madrid and has since been amended at subsequent FIP Congresses, most recently in Jakarta in August 2022. According to our Statutes, the FEPA Congress has total responsibility for decisions regarding FEPA but changes to the GREX automatically have an impact on the FREGEX without any involvement of the FEPA Congress. Furthermore, on the practical side, the continuous reference to the GREX requires simultaneous attention to both documents, vitiating the intention to keep the FREGEX short. Consequently, the FEPA Board is preparing the draft of a new text for the FREGEX that will be self-standing. It will be circulated to Members soon so that they can contribute to it. Our aim is to obtain approval for it at the next Congress.

In recent decades exhibitions in Europe have changed geographically and in size and duration, both of which have reduced significantly. Budget is always a constraint, as most postal administrations do not play the supporting role that made many events possible in the past. Timing is often an issue, as in most cases exhibitions are announced at best two years before the event takes place. Organisers need maximum flexibility to optimise the limited resources available whereas, by its nature and history, the FIP GREX is focused on the whole, large, traditional exhibition.

The proposed revision of the FREGEX reflects the various innovative approaches introduced in the organisation of international exhibitions in the last decades, particularly with the adoption of information technology in multiple activities from enrolling to judging. It addresses in-depth Patronised exhibitions. Recognised exhibitions require some further attention although their distinctive characteristics make it less easy to prepare a more detailed definition of their scope, participation and needs.

The new Art 3.5 states, “FEPA Patronage is requested in writing to the Board, who may give temporary approval, as the final decision is subject to the vote of Congress”.

### The Exhibition Package

FEPA Patronage requires:

- The appointment of a consultant by the Board.
- The definition of specific regulations for the exhibition (IREX).
- The stipulation of a contract between FEPA, the Member Federation and any third party.

When granting Patronage, the Board assigns one of its members the task of consultant for the exhibition, a permanent interface that will support the organisers till the end of the event. The first task of the consultant is to collect the data concerning the exhibition in a form suitable for the next steps of the process. For this purpose, a **questionnaire** will

be made available soon. A **Consultant's Guide** is also being prepared, presenting in detail the activities deriving from the FREGEX with the relevant deadlines.

The first step of the consultant is to assist the organisers in defining the details to be circulated to Members and their prospective exhibitors on how to apply and send in entries. These details are set out in the Individual Regulations for the exhibition (IREX), which are published as the first step when making a public announcement about the event. The FEPA Board has already prepared the draft of an **IREX template** that will act as a guide for organisers by defining all the aspects that must be communicated to the general public and, in particular, to Member Federations, their national commissioners and prospective exhibitors. At the same time, to facilitate the preparation of new agreements the Board is working on a **template for a Contract** based on those signed with the organisers of the FEPA Patronised exhibitions in the last eight years: London 2015 Europhilex, Notos 2015 and 2021, Finlandia 2017 and Liberec 2022,. The contract may involve a third party not familiar with the peculiarities of FEPA exhibitions, and the Member Federation management may also need some guidance in understanding all the steps concerning the event's administrative and organisational aspects.

One of the first activities is the allocation of frames in response to applications proposed by the organisers and reviewed by the consultant. Some data - in particular, whether the exhibit is qualified to enter the exhibition - need careful attention and, to assist this, the organisers will be provided with the **FEPA Awards database**<sup>2</sup> to have a more comprehensive and reliable source of data on previous results. Another significant task in exhibition preparation is the appointment of jurors and experts. The updated **List of FEPA jurors** has already been made available for download on the website<sup>3</sup>, as well as the **forms** for evaluation of the performance of apprentices and for recording doubtful items reported by the Expert team. The consultant will bring in requests for apprenticeship that, in accordance with the FREGEX, the Board has allocated to that exhibition.<sup>4</sup>

In summary, the main effort of the Board is to put together a set of documents defined as “**the exhibition package**” that will help all the parties involved to work together, having the same understanding of the process they are undertaking. We hope these documents will also turn out to be useful for Member Federations, which may want to adapt their provisions and methodologies to their national exhibitions.

## Future Development

The Board is fully aware that rewriting regulations offers the opportunity to establish provisions that look into the future. Eventually we envisage that the FREGEX provisions and processes will be extended to cover virtual and regional exhibitions, aiming at better cooperation at the continental level. For the moment, the Board's priority is to establish order and create the tools considered necessary for future development. In due course it is our intention to ask Member Federations for proposals on how to design an international exhibition model that will make FEPA exhibitions at all levels more appealing and better oriented towards future needs.

1 Forms available at <https://fepanews.com/jurors/>

2 A pdf file with the 2015-2022 awards is available at <https://fepanews.com/exhibitions-results/>

3 Forms available at <https://fepanews.com/jurors/>

4 Forms available at <https://fepanews.com/jurors/>

## FEPA APPRENTICE JURORS – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The FEPA Board strongly encourages its Member Federations to nominate apprentice jurors at FEPA Patronage exhibitions to help us to maintain sufficient numbers of international jurors in Europe for the future.

The procedure is as follows:

1. Download an application form from the FEPA website ([www.fepanews.com](http://www.fepanews.com)) – it can be found by going to the ‘FEPA Jurors’ tab which is under ‘About FEPA’.
2. Complete the form (applicant and Member Federation) and send it to the FEPA President, **NOT** to the Exhibition Organisers.
3. Applicants will be allocated by the FEPA Board to forthcoming exhibitions taking account of preferences expressed and the needs of each exhibition.



## NEW FEPA JURORS

**Lars Engelbrecht writes:**

We are pleased to report that the following judges undertook a jury apprenticeship successfully at the FEPA exhibition in Liberec and are now FEPA jurors in their respective classes:



**Andrea Mori**  
**Italy**  
**Postal History**



**Julius Cacka**  
**Czech Republic**  
**Astrophilately**



**Paal Berg Helland**  
**Norway**  
**Postal History**



**Petr Fencel**  
**Czech Republic**  
**Thematic**



**Veni Ferant**  
**Slovenia**  
**Open Philately**  
**& Picture Postcards**

A big “congratulations” to all of them!

FEPA holds a list of qualified jurors for FEPA exhibitions that is used to help form juries according to the FEPA FREGEX. It is important that newly accredited jurors have an opportunity to participate as full jury members quickly, and we ensure that this is discussed in the dialogue between the FEPA Consultant for an exhibition and the organising committee.

### Help! We need more Team Leaders

When forming juries for the upcoming FEPA exhibitions, we face the problem that there are not enough team leaders in Europe. This is especially the case if the exhibition has also asked for FIP recognition in which case all team leaders need to be qualified FIP Team Leaders for the results to count in the FIP records. The problem is less apparent with FEPA Recognition exhibitions or FEPA Patronage exhibitions without FIP recognition, where we also can use experienced FEPA jurors as team leaders.

The numbers of qualified FIP Team Leaders among the FEPA members currently stand at:

Thematic Philately:	9
Postal History:	8
Traditional Philately:	8
Youth Philately:	5
Postal Stationery:	2

This is not enough for the exhibitions we will have in Europe over the next few years, and in the smaller classes the problem is even greater. With new classes like Open Philately and Picture Postcards we also need team leaders.

To help overcome this problem we urge all qualified jurors who are participating in forthcoming FIP exhibitions to ask for a team leader apprenticeship. The qualification for applying is that a juror needs to have served on three juries. If that is you, then please apply!!

# European Stamp Exhibition and Polar Salon LIBEREC 2022

*Jiri Kraus writes*

Under the patronage of FEPA, and with the recognition of FIP, a unique exhibition called the European Stamp Exhibition and Polar Salon Liberec 2022 was successfully held in Liberec (Czech Republic) from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in the exhibition halls of the Wellness Hotel Babylon. The exhibition was held under the patronage of the Governor of the Liberec Region Mr. Martin Půta and the Mayor of Liberec Mr. Jaroslav Zámečník.



The exhibition enjoyed great international interest, as evidenced by the participation of the President of the FIP Prakob Chirakiti (Thailand), the President of FEPA Bill Hedley (GB), members of the FEPA Board and many other presidents and representatives of European associations and federations.



*Opening Ceremony*



*Exhibition Hall – European Stamp Exhibition*

**The LIBEREC 2022 exhibition was divided into two parts.**

The European Stamp Exhibition LIBEREC 2022 was attended by 198 exhibitors and presented 52 exhibits in the literature class. The European exhibition included almost 1.000 exhibit frames with exhibits from more than 30 countries both European and from further afield including Australia, Oman and UAE. The complete results are listed in Palmares on the website [www.liberec2022.eu](http://www.liberec2022.eu).

11 Large Gold and 40 Gold medals were awarded. The Grand Prix Championship Class was awarded to Terje Heskestad of Norway for his exhibit «The Postal History of the Southern Coast of Norway from 1719 to UPU». The Grand Prix International was awarded to Jan Huys-Berlingin of Liechtenstein for his exhibit „Belgium’s 40c Imperforate Medallions (1849-1863)“. The Grand Prix National was awarded to Tomáš Mádl of the Czech Republic for the exhibit „Czechoslovakia 1918-1939 (philatelic interests and rarities)“.



*President of the FIP Prakob Chirakiti*





*Ladies who helped the exhibition to run smoothly  
led by Zuzka Kunášková*



*President of the FEPA Bill Hedley  
and President of the O.C. Jiří Kraus*



*FEPA Board led by Bill Hedley*

Along with the exhibition, the FEPA Congress took place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October and was attended by almost all participating countries.

On display in the Court of Honour was the Red Mauritius-POST OFFICE, which is owned by a Czech investor. There was also a display of the 1 pence „Penny Black“ stamp used on the first day of its validity and many other interesting items from the Postal Museum including gems of Austrian classic stamps.





The second part of the exhibition was the **Polar Salon LIBEREC 2022**, with 35 exhibits and one literature exhibit from all over the world in almost 200 frames.

7 Large Gold Medals and 5 Gold Medals were awarded. The Polar Multiframe Grand Award went to Jiri Kraus for his exhibit „Finding Antarctica-Then Finding More of It“. The Polar Single Frame Grand Award went to Daniel Bringer for his exhibit „The Scottish National Antarctic Expedition 1902-1904“.



**Exhibition Hall – Polar Salon**

Visitors could admire, for example, rare letters from the first polar expeditions of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of these are unique and unavailable today, for example, the only preserved letter sent by Amundsen from Antarctica, or letters sent and stamped by Robert Falcon Scott. The exhibition also brought visitors closer to this frozen region with unique preserved artefacts from the first expeditions to Antarctica.

A rich programme had been organized to accompany the exhibition, including an autograph session of Pavel Sivko, author of the stamps issued on the occasion of the exhibition, an autograph session of the first Czechoslovak and two Slovak cosmonauts, or interesting lectures on polar topics.



***Expo, a sales exhibition, attended by Czech and German Post, leading auction houses and other dealers, also accompanied the exhibition.***

The European Stamp Exhibition and Polar Salon LIBEREC 2022 was a unique opportunity to see both philatelic materials from all over Europe and polar materials from all over the world in one place.

For more information, please visit [www.liberec2022.eu](http://www.liberec2022.eu)

## ULM STAMP FAIR, OCTOBER 2022 – A HUGE SUCCESS!

### *Thomas Höpfner writes:*

The expectations were quite high, especially among dealers and other commercial booth holders, who wanted to recover the cost of their presence in Ulm. But there was also a fear that Covid-19 related restrictions might be imposed and that many previous Sindelfingen visitors may not be willing to visit large events again. The fears proved to be unfounded.

At the end of the three days of the Ulm stamp fair this event had seen huge visitor numbers and massive turnover at all stamp dealers, and you could hear extremely positive comments from all those who were there.

Starting on 26<sup>th</sup> October, the pre-event phase was in full swing from early morning. The booths had to be built and the frames put up. After that the booth holders had to bring in their things, and the philatelic exhibitors started to mount their exhibits. By mid-afternoon much of the work was already done, and the two jury teams of the REMSMA exhibition and the Postgeschichte Live (PGL) competition were able to begin judging.

Next morning, on the opening day, long queues had formed at the building entrance. One hour after the fair had opened the hall with the dealers and postal administrations was packed with people, and some booths were virtually overrun with potential buyers. Rumours had it that the Deutsche Post was out of stamps before the end of that day. And during lunch time all the seats of the large cafeteria were taken.

At the end of the three days from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October we were able to look back on extremely high total visitor numbers and very satisfactory sales results in the trade hall. The second hall with the philatelic exhibits offered around 600 frames of very interesting displays and saw numerous visitors as well.

The Postgeschichte Live (PGL) competition and the PGL Symposium were an almost seamless transition from the Sindelfingen period and underlined Ulm's claim to be a high-quality international meeting place for those who are interested in postal history.

The final good news is that the stamp fair in Ulm for 2023 is already fixed and will take place from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October.





# MONACOPHIL 2022

## **Bill Hedley writes:**

Attending MONACOPHIL is never a great hardship, so it was a pleasure to be back in the Principality after three years. The weather was also perfect for the time of year.

The exhibition was held, with FEPA Recognition, from 24th-26th November at the Terrasses de Fontvieille and was very well attended with visitors from many countries around the world. As usual the members of the Club de Monte Carlo made contributions to a display of 100 iconic pieces in the Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies, and the exhibition in the Top Car Museum, coordinated by Paolo Bianchi and Markand Dave, covered two major themes – ‘The Postal History of Napoleon’s Grande Armée’ and ‘India’. There was also a selection of dealers and auction houses in the Espace Léo Ferré.



As is customary the opening of the exhibition was attended by Prince Albert II of Monaco who viewed the displays and spoke to many people present. MONACOPHIL is strongly supported by other philatelic institutions. The AIJP held its Annual General Meeting there as did the Académie Européenne de Philatélie, and FEPA organised a Round Table discussion on the future of philately (reported elsewhere in this issue of FEPA NEWS). Also important were events organised by the auction houses Christoph Gärtner and the Global Philatelic Network, and the internet portal operator Sebastien Delcampe, at which awards were made and books were launched. This was a coming-together of the philatelic family to celebrate achievement and excellence that showed it at its very best.



**Prince Albert meeting exhibitors**



**Patrick Maselis received an engraving of himself.**

MONACOPHIL 2022 was also the occasion for a changing of the guard, in more senses than one. After 14 years at the helm Patrick Maselis RDP is standing down as President of the Club de Monte Carlo and it was confirmed at the Club’s Annual General Meeting that he would be replaced by Olivier Stocker, Chairman and CEO of the Spink auction house, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. Patrick’s contribution to the success of MONACOPHIL has been immense and there were many expressions of gratitude to him for what he has done to make this a landmark in world philately. Among these was a presentation by the Académie of an engraving of himself that had been specially produced for the occasion (right photo). FEPA NEWS would also like to add its thanks to Patrick Maselis for the help and support that he has given to FEPA – he is a true friend of philately.

Additionally, it was the last occasion when the exhibition will be held at the Terrasses de Fontvieille as the site will shortly be redeveloped; this is a project that has been in the offing for some time but is now imminent. Members of the Club de Monte Carlo were reassured to hear that an alternative venue has been identified and that planning will proceed for the MONACOPHIL sequence to continue in 2024 in the normal way.



# IBRA WORLD EXHIBITION IN ESSEN, 25 – 28 May 2023: The Final Countdown!

*Thomas Höpfner writes:*



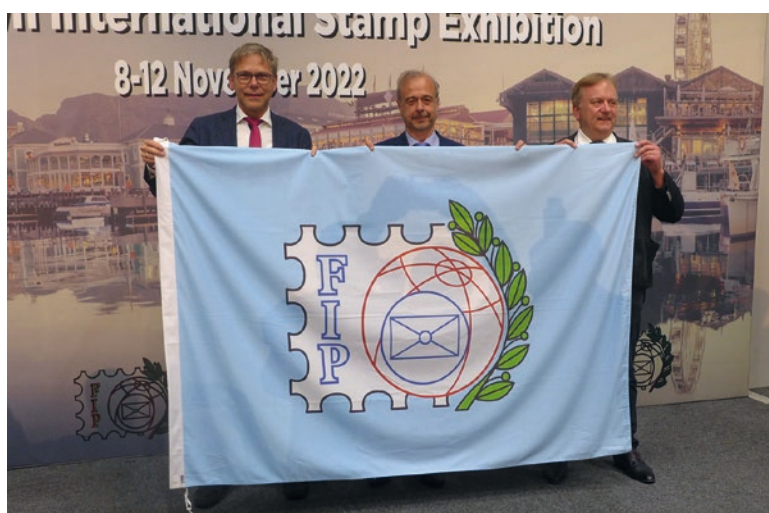
Many IBRA jurors, commissioners and exhibitors have already started their travel preparations. If you are planning to come to Essen for the World Exhibition starting on 25th May, please make sure that you do not leave it too late, especially when it comes to hotel bookings. More on that later on. IBRA 2023 will be a huge four-day-show with 3,400 frames of competitive philatelic exhibits, special shows, non-stop live programmes on two stages and a massive commercial area with dealers, postal administrations and much more.

If you want to know more about IBRA 2023, please visit the website [www.IBRA2023.de](http://www.IBRA2023.de). You will find a lot of information on the IBRA location, Messe Essen, the various offerings in Halls 7 and 8 and even the detailed layout of the Zentrum Philatelie and the Literature area. In case you want to make a personal contribution, you can find the details and a list of supporters and patrons – it is not too late to come on board!

Travelling to Essen is not too difficult. You can take a flight to Düsseldorf or book an ICE train, and going by car is another option. The detailed information can be found on the IBRA website. As far as hotel accommodation is concerned, it is recommended to consider an early booking, especially for groups or longer stays. There are numerous hotels in and around Essen in various price categories, but it is likely that many of them will be fully booked once we are getting closer to the IBRA date. You can check the availability using hotel booking platforms such as [booking.com](https://www.booking.com) or [hotel.de](https://www.hotel.de). If you go to TOURISM on the IBRA website, you will see much more on things you can do in Essen and the Ruhr Area plus the respective websites showing location information, opening hours and booking advice.

IBRA will be a World Stamp Championship exhibition with FIP Patronage and FEPA Recognition. Our FIP Consultant Reinaldo Macedo has been available since the signing of the FIP contract in May 2019 to help the IBRA Organising Committee with matters from the creation of the IREX to the composition of the jury. The FIP flag was handed over during the FIP Exhibition in Cape Town in November 2022.

Visitors to IBRA should pay an early visit to the Zentrum Philatelie where the Bund Deutscher Philatelisten (BDPh) – the German Philatelic Federation - and its partners will be located. For IBRA 2023 a dedicated concept has been developed and the plan on the IBRA 2023 homepage gives an idea of what visitors can expect. The Zentrum Philatelie is planned to have a space of nearly 100 square metres. Apart from the BDPh the German Youth organisation Deutsche Philatelisten-Jugend (DPHJ), the Dealer Association APHV and the Auctioneers' Association BDB will be there.



**Handover of the FIP flag in Cape Town to Alfred Schmidt and Walter Bernatek. Reinaldo Macedo (FIP Consultant) is in the centre.**

Those who are interested in the BDPh or in BDPh membership can visit the booth marked „BDPh“ where Managing Director Reinhard KÜchler will be ready at any time to hand out information and answer questions around the services the BDPh is offering. If anyone wants to offer support to the BDPh by personal collaboration, financial contributions or donating a philatelic collection, this will be a perfect starting point.

At the booth marked „IBRA“, visitors will be able to buy special covers and cards as well as the exhibition catalogue. Hans-Werner Salzmann will be in charge. The sales programme is available on the IBRA homepage, and there will be postcards and envelopes with and without imprinted stamps on offer. IBRA will partner with a well-known graphic designer who has already produced several drafts for IBRA 2023 – these covers will for sure be in high demand. During IBRA you will also be able to go to the booth of Deutsche Post, have the prepared covers stamped with one of the special postmarks and send them to friends and colleagues.

A very special offer will be available at the second BDPh booth. This will be consultations around the fight against forgeries as well as the protection of collectors. This will be in addition to what the Bund Philatelistischer Prüfer (BPP; philatelic experts) will be offering at their booth in Hall 8. The BDPh's presence in the Zentrum Philatelie will be rounded off with a display of rarities in showcases dedicated to the development of philately, the history of the stamp trade and organised philately.

Of course, there will be tons of other things to do and see at IBRA 2023. As well as the exhibits in the competitive area, several special shows and the Rarity Cabinet are not to be missed. There will be lectures and seminars on the two IBRA stages, and the programme will include graphic designers presenting their draft stamp designs, auction professionals giving tips on what buyers and sellers should consider and what rules exist, while further activities will cover the changes brought about by digital philatelic products as well as anti-counterfeiting and the protection of collectors.

While all this will happen in Hall 7, Hall 8 will present the 33rd International Stamp Fair, the commercial part of the World Stamp Exhibition IBRA. The hall is now fully booked, which was not necessarily to be expected in view of the upheavals caused by the Corona pandemic, but it also confirms the high ranking that the Essen stamp fair has earned over decades. Visitors can expect an international trade presence that should leave nothing to be desired. Numerous foreign postal administrations will be lining up around the large Deutsche Post stand. There will be dealers and auction houses not only from Germany and other European countries (including the UK!), but also from overseas. Companies from the U.S., South Africa and Australia will travel many thousands of miles to offer their material in Essen.



***Hard work: IBRA meeting with Walter Bernatek, Alfred Schmidt, Wolfgang Leupold and Reinaldo Macedo in Cape Town.***

The organisers are leaving no stone unturned to make IBRA 2023 a vibrant meeting place for stamp collectors and philatelists from all over the world – do not miss the chance to enjoy these four days in Essen. And one final note: there will be no admission charge. See you all in Essen from 25th to 28th May 2023!

Photographs. © Wolfgang Maassen



# BRATISLAVAFILA 2023

National philatelic exhibition  
with international participation with FEPA recognition



We are proud to announce that the forthcoming National philatelic exhibition with international participation BRATISLAVAFILA 2023 has received FEPA Recognition.

BRATISLAVAFILA 2023 is being organised by the Union of Slovak Philatelists in the heart of Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, from 1st - 4th June 2023. The main exhibition venue will be the Slovak National Museum on the left bank of the Danube River. Such a central location, close to historic Bratislava Town, Bratislava Castle, several museums and galleries, high quality hotels and other places of interest will be a promising occasion to spend a pleasant visit and enjoyable time with friends and stamps. You are all warmly welcome.



The status of international participation allows us to invite philatelic and literature exhibits of FEPA Members to participate. As the exhibition is organised on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the independent Slovak Republic, the organisers warmly welcome especially exhibits that are in any way related to the territory of Slovakia in some historical context. However, since BRATISLAVAFILA 2023 is a national exhibition, we will not be asking for participation of national commissioners of foreign federations. Exhibits are to be delivered via the post, by exhibitors in person, or in some cases, by agreement the organising committee could appoint a responsible person to pick them up and hand them over in person.

The exhibition is open to competitive philatelic exhibits of all competition classes including youth, literature, postcards and open philately. Standard-sized 5-frame / 8-frame exhibits will be accepted as well as small-sized 1-frame exhibits. In addition, to promote Slovak and Czech exhibitors, new first-time exhibits from both countries will be shown in a separate competition section. Of course, in addition to competitive exhibits, many world rarities as well as a cross-section of the history of philately in Slovakia will be presented non-competitively at the exhibition.

A national exhibition is a good opportunity to attract the attention of the wider public as well as prospective collectors and stamp lovers. Among such activities, we have to mention at least the Final round of the Philatelic Olympics for young philatelists as well as the presentation of works, or even small exhibits, prepared by the students of the University of Third Age – Collecting and Philately project.\* Both events are part of the official exhibition programme, with successful participants to be awarded diplomas or even medals during the official exhibition palmares.

Finally, yet importantly, it is worth mentioning that the exhibition is taking place parallel to the already established Bratislava Collector's Days 2023 fair on 2-3 June, 2023 in the INCHEBA exhibition centre, situated within sight of the Museum on the opposite bank of the Danube River.

We are looking forward to meeting you then! You can find more details about the BRATISLAVAFILA 2023 exhibition on the official exhibition website: [www.bratislavafila2023.sk](http://www.bratislavafila2023.sk)

\* The University of Third Age – Collecting and Philately project running since 2020 under the supervision of the Union of Slovak Philatelists will be introduced in more detail in the next FEPA News issue.



# NAPOSTA 2023: JULY 2023

## German National Exhibition in Trier

### *Lars Böttger writes:*

The Deutsch-Französischer Briefmarkenclub e.V Trier will celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a national stamp exhibition from **20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023** at the "Messepark Trier", just outside the city centre and easy to reach by public and private transport. Parking spaces are available around the hall.

The hall floor is 2,750 m<sup>2</sup> and we expect to have up to 1,200 frames. In addition, to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reichspost's foundation and the issue of Small and Large Eagle stamps, the study group on "Brustschilde und Nachverwendete Altdeutschland-Stempel e.V. " (study group on the 1872 German stamp issue and the continued use of German States' postmarks) will hold a salon. Literature will not be neglected. In cooperation with the AIJP, a reading area will be set up for visitors to view literature exhibits.



The Verein Philatelistischer Arbeitsgemeinschaften (VPhA) will have a large booth and many study groups (ArGen) will be there. The study and research groups will be able to meet an interested professional audience and a 135 m<sup>2</sup> room will be available for public events, seminars and symposia. The ArGe Belgium-Luxembourg and the Ring der Liechtenstein-Sammler will hold their annual general meetings and there will be a demonstration of how the letter centre in Trier works - a letter is tracked from the moment it is dropped into the letterbox until it is delivered. If you would like your study group or internet forum to have a stand or to hold an event, we will be happy to accept your registration.

What would an exhibition be without dealers? So far, eight have registered who will bring a wide range of stamps and covers - some with a strong focus on the Palatinate and Saarland. We expect more dealers to register by July.

As well as inviting German collectors to participate as exhibitors and / or visitors, we hope to attract many exhibitors from other countries to take part in NAPOSTA 2023 in Trier. Luxembourg and France are close by, and Belgium and the Netherlands are not far away. The regulations can be downloaded from our website **[www.briefmarkenclub-trier.de](http://www.briefmarkenclub-trier.de)** in French and Dutch as well as German. Registration forms can also be downloaded. One reason to participate might be to qualify for international exhibitions. Although this depends on whether the exhibitor's national association recognises points awarded in a foreign national exhibition, it is never a mistake to obtain feedback from a national jury.

The city of Trier has a lot to offer. Its most famous landmark is certainly the Porta Nigra, the "black gate". Fans of the Roman era can visit numerous excavations and museums in Trier and the surrounding area, as will friends of the Middle Ages. The Moselle attracts visitors with its excellent gastronomy and vineyards. Where better to enjoy this than on a summer evening with a glass of wine on the banks of the Moselle in Zurlauben? France and Luxembourg are not far away. An additional attraction will be a flea market. The Deutsch-Französischer Briefmarkenclub, with the Trier Tourismus und Marketing GmbH, are putting together an interesting and varied programme for visitors.

As an exhibitor and juror myself, I know the recipe for a successful exhibition - experienced team, attractive city, easily accessible exhibition venue and a well-balanced jury. Working with the Bund Deutscher Philatelisten e.V. and the Landesverband Mittelrhein, our aim is to make sure that NAPOSTA 2023 in Trier is a success for you. Be there, please register!

## MULTILATERALE 2023 EXHIBITION IN KOPER (SLOVENIA)

**Peter Suhadolc writes:**

In the first week of September 2023 the Slovenian Philatelic Association (FZS) will host the Multilaterale (ML) exhibition in the seaside town of Koper. It will be the first time that Slovenia hosts this international exhibition of the ML community comprising seven countries of Central Europe: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, The Netherlands, Luxemburg and Slovenia.

The first exhibition of the ML, which at that time was called the Trilaterale group with Germany, Austria and Switzerland as members, was held in Salzburg in 1988. In 1994 the group was enlarged to include Liechtenstein and The Netherlands and in 2014 it also brought in Luxemburg and Slovenia.

The ML group was always characterized by a friendly atmosphere, active collaboration among the federations, and the fostering of philately. Since 2004 the group has been joined by the postal administrations of the member countries, which have both their own meetings and common meetings with the federations.



The 2023 exhibition will be held in the period 7th to 10th September when the summer season is still going on offering great possibilities for swimming in the sea, visiting wineries in the countryside or beautiful small towns, like Piran, along the coast.

The venue will be the large sports hall of the Koper elementary school, whereas the official hotel will be the Grand Hotel Koper, located at walking distance from the exhibition venue. This recently renovated four-star hotel in front of the sea is situated at the rim of the old town centre. We plan a welcome dinner at a renowned ecological winery in a small nearby village and the Palmares in a restaurant on the surrounding hills.

The exhibition will have about 700 frames and we have invited both the postal administrations of the member countries and several dealers to be an active part of the exhibition.

Koper can be reached via aeroplane connections to several regional airports: the nearest ones being Trieste (TRS) in Italy, and Ljubljana (LJU). Koper can then be reached by shuttles, buses, trains, or rent-a-car.

The ML exhibition has been granted FEPA Recognition and it will certainly be a pleasant cosy experience for all participants. You are cordially invited to the sunny side of the Alps at the Adriatic Sea in beautiful Slovenia!



# ALPE ADRIA EXHIBITION 2023

## VENUE FOR THE FEPA CONGRESS 2023

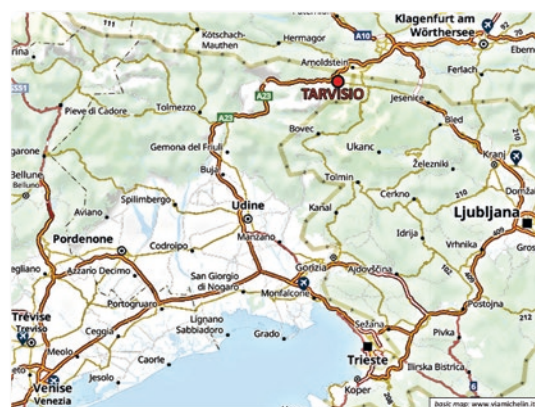
*Alessandro Agostosi writes:*

Preparations are underway for the 26<sup>th</sup> Alpe Adria 2023 Philatelic Exhibition which will be held in Tarvisio, Italy from 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September 2023. At the invitation of the Italian Federation (FSFI) the FEPA Congress will also be held there.



Tarvisio is a beautiful and peaceful Alpine town in a particular position: close to the border with Slovenia and Austria, a border that does not divide but unites and enhances different cultures and popular traditions. In September the weather is still mild, the woods are starting to be covered in the splendid autumn colours and the whole big family of Alpe Adria Philatelists is preparing once again to exhibit the efforts of its exhibitors in all competitive classes.

In Tarvisio, well known for its tourist attractions, there are ample accommodation options in hotels, pensions or holiday apartments (why not stay a bit longer after the exhibition?). It is not difficult to travel to Tarvisio: by air to the three Italian airports: Venezia-Tessera (209 Km), Venezia-Treviso (204 Km), Trieste-Ronchi dei Legionari (133 Km), to the Slovenian airport, Ljubljana (106 Km) and to the Austrian one, Klagenfurt (71 km), then by train, bus or car.



For further information, go to the Alpe-Adria website at <http://www.alpeadria.eu/>

AlpeAdria Philately awaits you in Tarvisio!  
 AlpeAdria Filatelica vi aspetta a Tarvisio!  
 Alpen-Adria-Philatelie erwartet Sie in Tarvisio!  
 Alpe Jadran Filatelija vas pričakuje v Tarvisio!  
 Alpe Jadran Filatelija očekuje vas u Tarvisio!  
 Alpok Adria Filatélia várja Önt Tarvisióban!



## 82<sup>nd</sup> JOURNÉE DU TIMBRE – TAG DER BRIEFMARKE – DAY OF THE STAMP

### National Exhibition in Echternach, Luxembourg (30<sup>th</sup> Sept–1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2023)

#### *Lars Böttger writes:*

The Philatelic Circle of Echternach is inviting exhibitors to take in its 82<sup>nd</sup> 'Tag der Briefmarke' in the last weekend of September. This national exhibition takes place annually in the autumn and is organised by one of the clubs in the FSPL (Federation of Philatelic Societies of Luxembourg). The 'Tag der Briefmarke' in Luxembourg is focused on the following exhibition classes for young people and adults:

Regional collections • Aero and Astro Philately • Postal History • Revenue philately • Literature

The 'Tag der Briefmarke' is not intended to be purely for Luxembourg exhibitors. As every eager exhibitor knows an exhibit can be improved in two ways. On the one hand the quality of an exhibit can be improved with better material. On the other the exhibitor can look for ways of improving the structure, text and presentation of the exhibit. In terms of value for money it is here in my experience that the biggest gains can be achieved. 'Steal with your eyes'. There is no shame in copying if that helps the exhibitor to achieve more points at the next exhibition. Truth to tell, in my opinion a good presentation is more than half the job. What could be more helpful, therefore, than to enter a competition with foreign exhibitors and to learn from them?

There will be no frame fees and exhibits only need to be qualified for national exhibitions. One important point is that frames in Luxembourg hold 15 sheets in 3 rows of 5 sheets (DIN-A4). As always literature exhibits can be sent in without prior notice. One copy is sufficient which will be returned to the exhibitor on request. The Philatelic Circle of Echternach would be grateful for applications from Luxembourg and other countries to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023. An offer will follow shortly after the exhibit has been accepted. Collections can be mounted by exhibitors in person during the afternoon before the exhibition opens, or they need to be sent to us by post at least one week in advance. The exhibits will be dismantled around 16.00 on Sunday. The announcement of the results and award of prizes will take place on Saturday morning.



The address of the event is: The Trifolion, 2, Porte St Willibrord, 6486 Echternach, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

The rooms are well suited for exhibitions. To mark the event the Post will issue a stamp showing the Trifolion (Left). This is a Luxembourg speciality. Each society that leads on a 'Tag der Briefmarke' can request a particular theme from the Post. For our club the Trifolion was an obvious choice as we have already organised several exhibitions there successfully. We will also try to attract some dealers to Echternach to provide more good reasons for visiting the exhibition. Echternach is the central point of a region in the Grand Duchy. This charming little town with many monuments, museums, a Roman villa and the walking district known as 'little Luxemburger Switzerland' nearby invites visitors to linger.

If you would like to apply for 'Tag der Briefmarke' please contact: Robert Grosch (Secretary), 1A rue C.M. Spoo, 6483 Echternach, Luxembourg (e-mail: groschr@pt.lu) or Lars Böttger, 10, route de Grundhof, 6315 Beaufort, Luxembourg (e-mail: lars.boettger@bdph.de). We look forward to hearing from you.

# BALKANFILA XIX Belgrade, October 2023

## ***Vladimir Milic writes:***

The next year, 2023, will be very important for Serbian philately for at least two reasons: it's the 150th anniversary of the first Serbian stationery and Belgrade will once again host the exhibition BALKANFILA after several decades.

BALKANFILA XIX will be held in Belgrade from 12th to 14th October 2023 and it will be completely sponsored by the Serbian Post and supported by the Serbian Philatelic Federation. Participating countries are Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey and invited countries are Cyprus and Hungary.



The BALKANFILA XIX exhibition will be placed in 600 frames and is free for all participants. The IREX was approved and uploaded in August 2022 and the competition includes all popular Classes: Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately. Thematic Philately, Maximaphily, Revenue Stamp, Picture Postcard, One-Frame/Two-Frames/Three-Frames Class and Philatelic Literature.

The organisers of the exhibition are working intensively on organisational details and are currently in negotiations regarding the venue of the exhibition at a representative location in the centre of Belgrade.

A major innovation is that the organisers have ensured the availability of all exhibits online (if the exhibitors agree with it), in parallel with the physical exhibition. The Union of Philatelists of Serbia already has experience in organising online exhibitions (SOFIZ 1, 2020), so in this way an important regional exhibition, as BALKANFILA is, will take a step forward.

Seminars from various philatelic fields are also planned as an integral part of the exhibition. The organiser will make an effort to be available through the Zoom application for all interested parties.

In addition to all this, we will schedule guided tours of the city and monuments of Belgrade for our guests.

We wait for all you in Belgrade. Welcome.

For further information, go to our website at <http://www.philaserbia.com/>



***'The Victor' monument at Belgrade Fortress.***





FEPA  
Patronage

**EFIRO**  
**2024**

FIP  
Recognition



# International Stamp Exhibition

EFIRO 2024 17th - 20th April

Bucharest, Romania

2000 exhibition frames  
to be allocated to the best exhibits!

The **EFIRO 2024** will include an EXPO sales exhibition and a Collectors Fair, which will be attended by dealers from all over the world and major auction houses will be invited.

On show:

- rare stamps from private collections and great rarities from museums;
- various shows and events and philatelic competitions for youth;
- scientific philatelic presentation sessions and seminars.

Visits:

- The world's largest private collection of Romanian philatelic pieces, displayed on 2000 FIP frames;
- The Museum of Romanian Records with over 100 different collections, seven of which are Guinness book awarded;
- The Palace of the Parliament is the second largest administrative building in the world.

Entertainment:

- The historical center of Bucharest (little Paris), is less than 15 minutes' walk, there you can spend pleasant moments and enjoy traditional Romanian cuisine.

for further information: <http://www.efiro.ro>



# HAFNIA24 – FEPA EXHIBITION IN COPENHAGEN

## 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### *Lars Peter Svendsen writes:*

On 24<sup>th</sup> December 1624 the Danish King Christian IV signed a new regulation about implementation of delivery of mail in the Kingdom of Denmark. The Danish Post was thereby established.

In celebration of 400 years of the Danish Post the Copenhagen Philatelic Klub (KPK) has decided to hold a FEPA exhibition in Copenhagen from 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

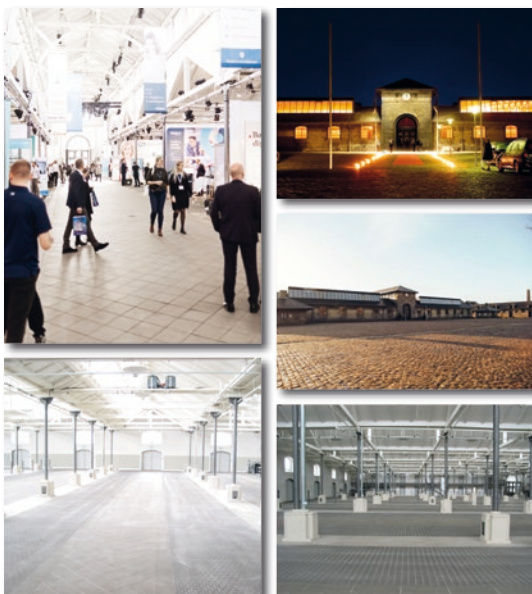
FEPA Patronage to the exhibition was given at the FEPA Congress in Liberec in October 2022.

The exhibition will take place in the very centre of Copenhagen in the old Oxhall "Øksnehallen" build in 1901, which today is one of the most iconic exhibition halls in Copenhagen. The hall has in total 5000 square metres of space for the 1300+ frames, dealers and other attractions.

There is a hotel located in connection with the exhibition hall, and also a conference centre where the Palmares will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

There are more than 15 hotels within walking distance of the exhibition – ranging from 2 to 5 stars.

The famous amusement park TIVOLI is less than 500 m away and Copenhagen Town square is 1 km from the exhibition. From the square you enter directly into the shopping street "Strøget".



You can find more information about the exhibition at our WEB-page [WWW.HAFNIA24.COM](http://WWW.HAFNIA24.COM)

Here you can find the IREX for the exhibition and sign up for newsletters.

Copenhagen Airport is only 8 km from the exhibition and there is train and metro between the two places every 20 minutes.

It is more than 22 years since the last HAFNIA exhibition in Copenhagen and we are very much looking forward to seeing all FEPA countries taking part in this event.



# EuroPhilEx BIRMINGHAM 2025

European Stamp Exhibition with FEPA Patronage 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May 2025

*John Aitchinson writes*

EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025 will be the United Kingdom's mid-decade international stamp exhibition. For the first time ever, Britain has decided to move its international exhibition out of London. Birmingham is the country's second city, located in the centre of England and surrounded by a massive population and several other large cities.



The National Exhibition Centre is Britain's premier purpose-built exhibition facility. The site includes Birmingham International Airport with direct flights from many European countries. The commute time from the airport to the exhibition centre is only two minutes by free monorail. The international train station is alongside, there are thousands of car parking spaces, and it sits at the heart of the motorway network. Birmingham is a vibrant city with diverse nightlife, huge numbers of restaurants and inexpensive hotel accommodation. It is close to stunning areas of natural beauty, historic buildings and William Shakespeare country.

The organisers intend to make this a memorable exhibition. There will be over 3,000 frames and we hope to have all FIP classes represented. Economical meeting rates will be offered to encourage attendance by specialist societies and there will be an excellent programme of social activities. We are also confident of having many diverse dealers' stands as well as an auction.

EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025 will be one of the largest, best and most enjoyable exhibitions of the decade. Please put the dates in your diary now. The exhibition website is still under development, but you can now register your interest to receive updates and important new announcements at <https://www.europhillex2025.co.uk>.



We look forward to seeing you at EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025.





**Philately**

The Spanish essence  
through its stamps

More information:  
[atcliente.filatelia@correos.com](mailto:atcliente.filatelia@correos.com) • [correos.es](http://correos.es)

From Spain





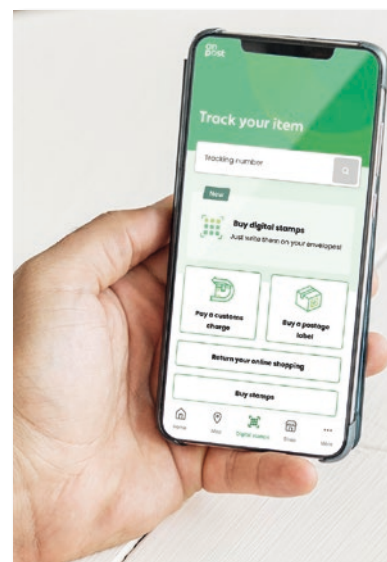
# DIGITAL STAMPS – RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

**Giancarlo Morolli writes:**

At the recent FEPA Congress, Pedro Vaz Pereira remembered with nostalgia the old times when people who received letters franked with lovely stamps were attracted by them. It was a kind of invitation to save and collect them... Nowadays, buying stamps is a challenge even at post offices, where they have been replaced with labels printed by the system running the counter operations. However, all major postal administrations look into the future, pointing to a kind of stamp 2.0. Rowland Hill's postal reform introduced stamps as the clever, easy-to-implement solution for switching from postage collection on delivery to payment in advance. Almost two centuries later, the digital reform of the postal system is introducing new forms of stamp associated with processes that exploit networked communications and the smartphone, with users/customers involved through an app provided by the postal service.

Postal operators with universal service responsibility in their territory have long been studying new lines of development in the face of technological progress and the logistics revolution of the last period to maintain and possibly strengthen their competitive position in the market. Many have created groups with companies specialising in logistics. They now intend to apply the know-how gained as parcel carriers, under the pressures of big business driven by e-commerce, to their mail services, especially those for which customers are prepared to pay a premium for greater efficiency and functionality. After all, hasn't express, registered, and insured mail always implied costlier postage? In the last few years, I have followed the evolution of stamp-issuing policies in different countries, mainly through the press releases of the administration concerned and the philatelic press, noticing new business strategies presented in France, Germany, and United Kingdom. Other countries have taken more limited initiatives, and others are just looking as, at present, the investments needed exceed by far the return, given their lower business volumes. Anyway, the history of implementing new technology shows that over time cheaper and more viable solutions have become available, which should also happen in our case.

The "immaterial stamp". The first strategy, in order of time, is based on the "immaterial stamp", i.e., a code made up of numbers and/or characters received on the customer's smartphone after ordering a "stamp" on the Post's app, specifying the amount needed. The customer writes such code on the top right of the envelope and mails it. At the sorting centre, preparatory machines check the validity of such code, print a cancellation, read the address, and add a more detailed postal code on the envelope, which is then used to sort and forward it to the specific destination area. Ordering the stamp has automatically linked the customer account and the envelope, whereas the main sorting machine links it with the destination address, ensuring full traceability of the envelope. The user can track the process on the app or the Post website or require notification, an SMS text or an e-mail informing about delivery. This service has been implemented in Germany, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, and Ireland, and France will be joining soon. A year ago, France's La Poste group created the Consumer and Digital branch headed by Nathalie Collin, Deputy General Manager of the Group. She announced that La Poste would invest €300 million over five years on innovation where physical and digital meet: franking mail with a digital stamp from a smartphone. Currently being tested for becoming available in 2023, this stamp is a single-use alphanumeric code of 8 characters to be written in pen on an envelope. To develop the secure code generator, La Poste relied on its subsidiary Probayes, which specialises in artificial intelligence, to create algorithms based on cryptography. The objective is "to strengthen omnichannel services and synergies between the post office network and its digital ecosystem based on the laposte.fr website and the La Poste mobile application".



The “Digital Matrix” The second strategy is based on a “Digital Matrix” printed on the side of the stamp image. Customers have to scan the matrix with their smartphones to establish the link. The rest of the process is the same, with the machine checking the genuineness of the stamp. “Let’s revive the mail - conquering new horizons” was the slogan of France’s La Poste, which first introduced two stamps of the “Marianne” type with a digital matrix in 2015 and, over the following years, has refined its approach by issuing four stamps of the same type in parallel with revision of the postal rates. The Deutsche Post emphasised stamps with a data matrix in a press conference on 3rd March 2020 as a part of its “Digital Change” announcement, and the first stamp was issued on 4th February 2021. Since then all ordinary, semi-postal, and commemorative issues have been characterised by the data matrix with the sole exception of the phase-out of an ordinary series started in 2005 devoted to Flowers.



The Royal Mail made an initial launch of stamps with a digital matrix on 18th March 2021. On 2nd November 2021 the Christmas stamps were released, four standard and four with a digital matrix. However, the announcement was so low-profile that some users even cut out the part with the matrix, considering it superfluous for franking. On 1st February 2022, the advent of the “New Era” based on ordinary stamps (“everyday”, linked to the level of service and not face value) and Christmas stamps with a digital matrix was announced. The association of ordinary stamps with Christmas is due to the widespread use of Christmas stamps for greetings mail, which is still very popular across the Channel. Commemorative stamps will also be released in the future, but without a matrix. Hence, they will have regular postal validity without benefiting from the services rendered through the matrix. Royal Mail announced an extensive “Swap Out” programme that was supposed to end on 31st January 2023 but has recently been postponed to 31st July 2023 because of the massive quantity of stamps that will lose postal validity, a hundred million stamps according to press sources.



From a philatelist’s standpoint, there are some considerations.

- Because of their nature, documents franked with immaterial stamps are not appealing to philatelists. As a matter of fact, they have been defined as “a blow to stamp collecting”.
- By involving the customer and the smartphone, the labels currently produced on the fly by a clerk at a post office counter will substantially decrease, at least for ergonomic reasons, but mainly because they do not offer any tracking.
- In both cases, the sorting machine checks the genuineness of the stamp and invalidates the code to prevent a second utilisation, addressing today’s major issues, namely the use of counterfeit stamps and the reuse of stamps. **Unfortunately, on the web it has been reported that some web dealers are selling fraudulent Royal Mail data matrix stamps, which cannot be detected as the machines have not been made fully operational yet.**
- In the British model, commemorative stamps are likely to become less attractive, and their printed quantity would inevitably go down, and they will mainly be purchased by philatelists.
- In 2021 France presented 72 issues with a total of 286 stamps; in 2022 (as of 15th October), 66 issues and 257 stamps. How much will the digital stamps impact on these quantities?
- In the German approach, firmly based on the data matrix, there are signs of interest because the two steps print has produced some exciting varieties with the matrix missing. The first findings were sold at auctions at attractive prices.
- In the case of large quantities, the data matrix might be printed by different vendors. Minor differences between the lots are expected to be detected using a scanner and a large display instead of the traditional magnifier.

Postal administrations will undoubtedly look at these first steps with particular attention, as that will provide the feedback needed to reach their objectives. Philatelists have a big question: are most of these new stamps becoming just collectables, like stickers and trading cards, produced by a postal administration without any real connection to the postal service?

**Editor’s Note:** We would be interested to hear from readers about their experience with these important developments which will change the philatelic landscape for coming generations.

## NARROW THEME EXHIBITS

Conclusions of the experiments with two- and three-frame exhibits in international exhibitions

### *Giancarlo Morolli reports:*

There has been steady progress towards the definition of well-tested Guidelines for 'Narrow Theme' exhibits. This term includes one, two and three frame exhibits.

The background is as follows:

1. In **FEPA News 38**, on page 51, Rainer Fuchs FRPSL asked the FEPA community, "Could we include Two and Three Frame exhibits in international exhibitions?" making a case for reviewing the FIP / FEPA regulations.

2. The Board took immediate action and launched a survey of opinion among its members. Responses were received from 30 national Federations and 11 individuals (Newsletter subscribers). A comprehensive summary of such action was published in the following issue of FEPA News, on page 20, followed by two articles presenting the experiences in Finland and Spain. The lengthy document with the detailed answers was circulated separately. However, the conclusions of the survey were:

- 2-3 frame exhibits at international exhibitions are highly welcome as an extension of the One Frame class – the same criteria as today.
- However, some members argued that the One frame class is enough for exhibits on very narrow subjects and that 2-3 frame exhibits would raise intricate and multifaceted problems in international philatelic life.
- 2-3 frame exhibits at national exhibitions are widely accepted as a prerequisite for entering the above-described international class once established. (The term 'national' does not imply a level (Rang) but the acceptance of such a class at all exhibition levels).

3. The Board then approved a request from the organisers of NOTOS 2021 to have these exhibits accepted at their exhibition on a test basis. After the show, a second survey was conducted among the team leaders, some jurors and exhibitors.

4. At the 2021 Congress, the organisers of LIBEREC 2022 confirmed that they were prepared to include such exhibits in their show, already granted by the Board on an experimental basis.

5. In May 2022, based on such input, a first draft of Guidelines was presented to the Board. The discussion on the proposed text resulted in a final document, addressing together one, two and three frame exhibits, that was made available to the exhibitors and the jurors of Liberec 2022 some weeks before the show.

6. Some weeks after Liberec 2022, team leaders were asked for feedback. They reported a very positive response but gave some advice:

- Highlight the need to use the introductory (plan) page and the synopsis to explain factually why the concept cannot be developed in a standard five frames exhibit.
- Evaluate the suitability of the subject for 'Narrow Frame' under treatment. Any weakness in that context may attract a "penalisation" that could reach 10 points in the worst cases.
- Give full responsibility to the Teams to apply such penalisation if necessary, without subsequent assessments by other jury members.
- Have jurors explain the reasons for penalisation to the exhibitor during the jury-exhibitors session in front of the frames by bringing sound and detailed facts, not generic feelings.

7. In view of the generally-favourable response to this initiative, the Board considers that the time for experiments is over. It is reviewing the text of the Guidelines with a view to presenting them to the next Congress for final approval.



# REGULATION OF OPEN PHILATELY CLASS

***Dr. Witold Mikołajczyk, Delegate Polish Philatelist Union Open Philately Commission of FIP, writes:***

I'm glad that the meanderings of the Open Class are becoming the subject of lively discussion. Two articles were published in FEPA News No 40.[1] Mrs Birthe King then gave a presentation at the HUNFILEX 2022 exhibition on „Open Philately and the Importance of the Non-Philatelic Material” [2], and another text was published in FEPA News No 41 by Mr Chris King on “Emerging from the Dark: Postal History and Open Philately at European Exhibitions”. [3]

I would like to comment on some points that in my opinion weren't noticed or are so obvious that they have not received attention in the discussion. First, I draw attention to the idea present in the Guidelines for Open Philately [4] which state that:

“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. /.../ 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.”

The provision of the regulations regarding the participation of philatelic material in Open Class exhibits don't raise any doubts – including:

“3.1 All types of philatelic material included in all other exhibiting categories (see SREVs).”

“3.4 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.”

In regard to the participation of non-philatelic material in an exhibit, the provisions of the regulations concerning diversity are understandable. The Guidelines say:

“2.2 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’.”

“3.2 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.”

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

“7.3.2 It is expected that exhibitors exploit the possibilities available with the use of non-philatelic material in the development of the topic, and that they use a variety of non-philatelic material and not just postcards and other pictorial matter.”

In the structure of the exhibit I have created on „Bojanowo Commune – my little homeland” there is 53% philatelic material and 47% varied non-philatelic material including 26 groups of objects like: documents, maps, photos, badges and coins. Is that enough variety?

I would also like to comment on Point 7 in the regulations on Condition and Rarity which states:

“7.2.1. All philatelic material must be original”,

But, in regard to non-philatelic material, it says:

“7.3.1 All non-philatelic material, including photographs, should be original where at all possible.

As Open Philately is first and foremost a philatelic class, I consider it is not legitimate to allow non-philatelic material to be posted in the form of copies, scans or other forms of reproduction. Behind the creation of Open Class Philately was an idea to interest multi-collectors in philately and to increase the attractiveness of exhibits. The wording of Para 7.3.1 allows for the inclusion of a copy in the exhibit with an indication of its source. In my opinion non-philatelic material should also be original.

The argument is heard that copies of non-philatelic material can be used when the genuine items will not fit in exhibition sheets due to size, but this raises doubts. Showing material that is not original in exhibits breaks rules and the entire tradition of philatelic exhibitions. After all, every collector has more material than it would be possible to place on only 80 sheets. The regulation allowing for the introduction of copies could lead to the devaluation of this class.

Another suggestion for changing the guidelines refers to the synopsis. Due to the limited space in the exhibit and brief descriptions, it would be reasonable to include in the Open Class regulations an obligation on the author of the exhibit to prepare a synopsis. The beginning of a new class always tests the boundaries. A synopsis attached to the exhibit would provide a form of guide for judges. Additional information can be provided about the rarity and uniqueness of the non-philatelic material shown. The extended version of the synopsis would become an additional tool allowing judges to make an objective assessment of the value of the non-philatelic material shown in the Open Class exhibit.

In conclusion. As an exhibitor in the Open Class, I am showing a selection of sheets from my exhibit "Bojanowo Commune – my little homeland" "with only original non-philatelic material.



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W. Mikołajczyk, Can we appreciate Non-Philatelic material properly in Open Philately exhibits?

FEPA News Nr.40, January 2022, Pages 43-49 – <https://fepanews.com/fepanews-40-jan-2022/>

[2] Presentation B. King, Open Philately and the Importance of the Non-Philatelic Material

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[3] Ch. King, Emerging from the Dark: Postal History and Open Philately at European Exhibitions

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4) <https://www.f-i-p.ch/wp-content/uploads/OPEN-PHILATELY-Guidelines-2018-Sofia.pdf> – [witold.mikolajczyk@gmail.com](mailto:witold.mikolajczyk@gmail.com)

## ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIP LITERATURE CLASS REGULATIONS

***Note by the Editor: We are very grateful to Ari Muhonen for providing this interesting and comprehensive article on the current problems in judging Literature at philatelic exhibitions. We hope it will give rise to a fresh discussion on this issue, but we need to make it clear that the views expressed in the article are Ari's own and do not necessarily reflect FEPA's position.***

***Ari Muhonen, AIJP, FRPSL writes:***

The FIP literature class special regulations have been practically the same since the 1980s. The Commission for Philatelic Literature has not been able to revise them even though the whole publishing world has changed radically during the past two decades. FEPA could lead the way and take the initiative to continue the development work.

An update of the FIP literature class regulations and guidelines was approved by the 76th FIP Congress in Jakarta, Indonesia, in August 2022. The changes made to the regulations were minor, the main emphasis was an addition to the guidelines concerning the evaluation of the digital entries. It was a compromise resulting from criticism which the members of the Commission for Philatelic Literature gave to the Commission Board's draft for a fundamental reform of the rules. Why is it so difficult to change the literature regulations?

### Long road to a lean outcome

The FIP Commission for Philatelic Literature (from now on the Commission) had already woken up to electronic literature in the 1990s. The long-time Chairman of the Commission's Board Charles Peterson started a competition for philatelic websites in 1999 and Francis Kiddle, the new Chairman from 2000, continued it until 2002. However, in 2003 he concluded that websites were impossible to judge because they could be thousands of pages in size, and they keep evolving in time. "It is this lack of long-term stability that makes a competitive judgement on the level of achievement meaningless", was Mr. Kiddle's conclusion (1). So, the competition was shelved.

At the beginning of the new millennium, CD-ROMs were an important platform for digital documents. Kiddle was asked to form regulations for the evaluation of CDs (but not websites) for the Brno 2004 FEPA exhibition. He did that and continued the work with the Commission with a view to incorporating these into the FIP literature class regulations. The Commission failed, but instead it was able to update the supplementary rules, which were approved by the 69th FIP Congress in Malaga in 2006.

In 2008, Tony Virvilis took over chairmanship of the Commission, and under his leadership, the literature regulations were supplemented with guidelines for the evaluation of CDs in 2011. The evaluation criteria and the breakdown points were kept the same as for printed entries. The only exception was the category of technical matters such as search capability, one of the key criteria for judging digital literature.

The FIP Commission Board, elected in 2018, identified the need to change the special regulations (SREV) and took action in 2019. The result was a fully revised SREV draft, published by the AIJP (2). However, the draft received a very lukewarm reception from members of the Commission. A new version was drawn up based on the old SREV and guidelines for judging electronic material prepared originally for the LONDON 2020 exhibition and was approved in the FIP Congress in Jakarta. This SREV can be found on the FIP website (3).



***Participants at FIP Commission for Philatelic Literature in Bangkok, 2018.***



### Progress elsewhere

In 2011, the Philatelic Federation of Germany (Der Bund Deutscher Philatelisten e.V., BDPh) drew up its own regulations for the literature class (4). They included digital entries on an equal footing with printed ones. However, the breakdown points differed slightly between the two types of material. Printed literature was judged in the same way as in the FIP regulations, but digital literature was given more weight for technical characteristics. The German regulations were updated in 2014 and are still in force. In 2017, the FEPA Congress held in Tampere, Finland adopted new regulations and supplementary rules for the literature class (5). Digital literature is included. Breakdown points are equal for both types, but the difference lies again in assessing the technical matters as well as presentation.

At the Royal Philatelic Society London's 150th Anniversary exhibition in Stockholm in 2019 there was a formidable literature class including digital entries. Special regulations and guidelines were formed for the evaluation of electronic literature exhibits (6). According to literature class jurors these proved difficult to use.

Based on experience in STOCKHOLMIA 2019, new experimental FIP guidelines for evaluating electronic literature were prepared by a group of experienced literature jurors under the leadership of Gary Brown (Chairman of the Commission at that time) for the LONDON 2020 FIP exhibition. That exhibition was postponed, but the experimental guidelines were used in the LONDON 2022 exhibition. Although they proved to be incomplete, they became the standard and ended up in the FIP's own literature class regulations in 2022.

Charles Verge, LONDON 2022 literature team leader, and his team found the criteria lacking in interpretation, guidelines, and definition. The same FIP experimental guidelines were applied at CAPEX '22 with a different team of judges that included Charles Verge and the author resulting in the same difficulties as in LONDON 2022. Both teams judged the guidelines to be inadequate and in need of change, but the different composition of the teams brought forward different interpretations of the guidelines and of changes needed.

The American Philatelic Society (APS) updated its own literature guidelines in August 2021. They give highly detailed information on how to evaluate different types of literature, including electronic materials (7).

### Problems in the FIP literature class regulations

A lot of work has been done to include electronic materials in the literature class regulations. The results have just not



*The Commission meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, 2022 was well attended.*



*Literature reading room at STOCKHOLMIA 2019 (Photo courtesy of the STOCKHOLMIA 2019).*



*Literature jurors at work at STOCKHOLMIA 2019. From left: Gary Brown, Charles Verge, Erik Hamberg, Frank Walton. (Photo courtesy of STOCKHOLMIA 2019).*

been good enough. I see two major problems with this situation. First, the guidelines for the evaluation of electronic materials are not general enough to cover different types of entry. Secondly, the development has been one-sided leaving the evaluation of printed entries untouched for the last 37 years.

The Commission seems to face a difficult task in revising the special regulations for literature (SREV) and the Guidelines. Many delegates still count on the regulations created by the legendary Commission chairman Charles Peterson in the 1980s which were approved by the 54th FIP Congress on 5 November 1985 in Rome. However, I and some of my fellow jurors find them very problematic for judging modern philatelic literature. The very premise is a problem. In the General Principles section of the Guidelines, it says that, "Literature must be judged by its content, and obviously the judges have to be familiar with that content before the start of the exhibition". In practice literature judges usually have one or two days maximum at a show to go through the entries. Each juror has only a few minutes to leaf through each exhibit, making it impossible to become truly familiar with the content.

Literature judges are usually given the list of entries months ahead of judging and are expected to review the entries that they have access to. In practice, most judges do so. However, their consultation rate is usually limited to about 25% of the entries unless they have access to a major library like that of the Royal Philatelic Society London or the Collectors Club of New York.

The current breakdown of points is calibrated mainly to the evaluation of research monographs. This makes it difficult to apply points to other areas of philatelic literature which often suffer by comparison though their contribution may be highly useful. For example, how do you assess "How well is the story identified & told?" for the treatment of journals when one journal has dozens of stories written by many different authors?

This problem is further complicated by the fact that the SREV now include not only research publications but also ones that are related to "the documentation, the education and the promotion of philately" (Article 2.1). How do you assess "Degree of original discoveries, research and analysis" for them?

## Problems with digital publications

First and foremost, digital publications are not sufficiently well defined. For example, how do you classify electronic copies of printed literature? They cannot have the technical features required of electronic materials because these cannot be added to the scans of the printed originals. On the other hand, they lack physical form which is evaluated in the case of printed entries. Furthermore, they are frequently used as a transmission vehicle to avoid the high costs of postage that printed literature incur.

The focus for developing new guidelines for digital entries has been on their technical characteristics, as if that were the main issue in their evaluation. The present Guidelines concentrate on listing different features a digital entry should incorporate. That is the case even under "Treatment of contents", which is interpreted as "Authorship" when evaluating printed literature.

Under the current SREV, the "Treatment of contents" and "Originality, significance and depth of research" of printed and digital literature are evaluated according to different criteria. If the same work has been published in both printed and digital format, the intellectual content is the same. This being the case, shouldn't these two biggest breakdown point categories give the same result for both formats?

In general, it is difficult to talk about digital entries since its definition is so technology-specific. How can we write regulations when technology is moving so fast that we cannot keep up with it ourselves?



***In Bangkok 2018 the exhibition reading room was combined with the area for kids.***

### Supplementary Rules and Guidelines

The Supplementary Rules for the Philatelic Literature Class in FIP Exhibitions are a curious relic of the past. In general, they are needed because literature differs from exhibits of all other classes since it is not placed in frames. However, the Supplementary Rules concern the organisational aspects of the exhibition, not judging, so they should be included in the GREV and GREX. In no other class are there such rules to guide the organising committee (OC) so it is reasonable to assume that the OC will not remember to look at these rules when they are preparing the exhibition. This was the case in at least one of the major exhibitions in 2022.

The SREVs for many FIP classes have been updated and approved this year by the FIP Congress in Jakarta. The trend has been to extend the Guidelines to clarify and harmonise interpretation of the regulations. Literature is an exception. Its Guidelines are short, consisting mainly of bullet lists. It is interesting to compare this with the APS Literature Class Judging Guidelines, where 12 pages are devoted to interpretation of the regulations.

The lack of proper Guidelines leads to a breakdown in the work of the judges, who apply their own interpretations. This is reflected in the results. There are examples where the results for the same literature exhibit have differed significantly from one exhibition to another. This is unacceptable for the exhibitor and should be remedied quickly. Judging should be made systematic and consistent. Training for judges in the literature class is urgently needed. Selection of Team Leaders and judges should be made from the list of qualified FIP Literature judges. Too often this is not the case.

### Reality check

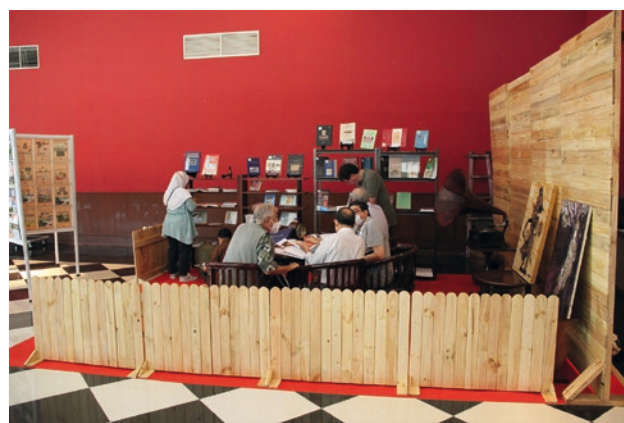
When the FIP Literature Commission approved the current regulations, it was agreed that further work was needed to update them. That work remains to be done. The current regulations are fundamentally outdated and the guidelines for digital entries do not yet work. The regulations should be completely rewritten.

What changes need to be made? I would put intellectual content and the relevance of the work to the target reader group at the top of the list. A written document is considered important if readers feel that it provides the information they need or is relevant to the promotion of philately. This is true whatever the document, be it a research monograph, a society magazine or a website. Of course, this is an important part of the current SREV but the approach could do with a change. The breakdown points are currently too coarse for any real content analysis. They should be broken down into smaller units to better evaluate the entries.

It also must be admitted that the time allowed for evaluation of the entries at exhibitions is too short. The jurors simply cannot read through everything and familiarise themselves with the content. New ways must be found to achieve well thought out and consistent evaluations of literature entries.

The regulations should be generic enough to avoid the need for constant updates as the publishing world changes. They must also be suitable for evaluating different types of literature and formats. Consequently, evaluation must be carried out according to general principles. The guidelines may provide more specific instructions for the evaluation of each type of literature. In this way, the rules can ensure continuity, while the guidelines are flexible to meet changing needs.

Literature on picture postcards is not included in the current SREV yet books on postcards were judged, at least in the FIP exhibition Indonesia 2022 and FEPA exhibition Liberec 2022. Now, when the picture postcard class has been approved as one of the FIP classes, literature on postcards should also be included in the SREV.



***Reading area of the Indonesia 2022 exhibition***



## Format should not matter

The format is just a platform that conveys the intellectual content and meaning of the work to the readers. Technical matters themselves are not important. I would like to avoid a checklist that simply looks at whether a certain feature is present in the document. I would rather evaluate how easy it is to use and find the relevant information in the document in question. This would consider, for example, table of contents and indices in print format as well as searchability and links in digital format. I would call this characteristic “usability”.

A distinction must be made between “born-digital” and “digital for print” literature<sup>8</sup>). Born-digital documents originate in digital form and can be produced to contain technical features that help their usage. “Produced for print” documents are originals (usually pdf’s) which the printing houses use for printing physical items (books, magazines etc.) but can also be used as digital documents themselves. They don’t contain any special technical features as they are irrelevant in their original purpose.

If we accept the idea that format is a platform, there is no point in separating printed and digital publications in the regulations if the intellectual content is the same. The same evaluation principles apply to both. Only technical matters or “usability” distinguish between the two formats, and this is covered in the Guidelines.

Presentation – the general layout and clarity of the exhibit - is not relevant per se to adoption of the information the exhibit gives but it affects the attractiveness of the exhibit. I would keep the presentation in its current form in the regulations. This also rhymes with the regulations of the other exhibition classes.

## FEPA

FEPA has its own regulations for the literature class, largely following those of the FIP. Only two substantial changes have been made. In Article 2.1 the philatelic literature exhibits are classified as publications related to “investigative research” and “the documentation, the education and the promotion of philately”. Article 2.2 divides the publications into two forms, printed and digital.

These additions have resulted in changes to the breakdown points. A sentence about the evaluation of the promotion of philately has been added to the original. For digital entries, separate criteria have been created for technical matters and presentation. It is significant that, unlike the FIP regulations, FEPA regulations have no Guidelines. This is a major shortcoming, as the interpretation of the rules is left entirely to the jurors.

FEPA has also adopted the supplementary rules from the FIP regulations. They have been modified, but in practice the content is almost the same as in the FIP SREV. They even refer to FIP GREX and GREV. FEPA would need its own GREV or an extension to the FEPA Regulations for Exhibitions (FREGEX) to break the link.

As the FEPA regulations are very similar to the FIP ones, they also suffer from the same problems even though they were drawn up only a few years ago. Digital publications are defined only by the storage medium, so the problem of scanned documents, for example, has not been addressed, let alone solved. Philatelic games and applications are also included, even though they are not really literature as such.



***In Liberec 2022 FEPA exhibition the literature exhibits were placed on a long table.***

Maybe FEPA could set up a working group to look at solutions for the current problems in literature class regulations. It would provide a peer group for the FIP Commission and in this way help both organizations out of the current situation.

## Conclusions

The FIP Commission on Philatelic Literature and FEPA have both relied on regulations dating back to the 1980s even though the publication world has moved on by leaps and bounds. Reform work has been done, but despite twenty years of work, the results do not meet the needs. Other organisations have moved at a faster pace to reform their regulations, and these can serve as references for further work.

In future work attention should be paid to at least the following points:

- Intellectual content and the relevance of the work should be prioritised in a new way.
- Breakdown points should be broken down for better evaluation of the literature entries.
- New ways should be found to increase the time allocated to the literature jurors.
- Regulations should be generic enough to avoid the need for constant updates as the publishing world changes.
- Literature on picture postcards should be included into the SREV.
- Printed and digital entries should be treated equally with the same principles.
- The category of “technical matters” should be replaced with “usability”.
- Born-digital items should be separated from digital for print items.

In recent years FEPA has led the way in forming new exhibiting classes and creating their regulations. This time it could join forces with the FIP Commission of Philatelic Literature.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the comments provided by Lars Engelbrecht, Bill Hedley, John Hotchner, Thomas Höpfner, and Charles Verge.

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# LITERATURE CLASS SPECIAL REGULATIONS – SOME REFLECTIONS

*Giancarlo Morolli writes:*

Ari Muhonen's report, published in this issue of FEPA NEWS, contributes significantly to bringing to FEPA members attention the unsatisfactory situation concerning the Regulations for evaluating Philatelic Literature. His recommendation that FEPA should take some action to make progress on this problem is also welcome and requires the attention of the FEPA Board.

In reviewing what action needs to be taken, we need to look carefully at what has been done before now. This gives me a good opportunity to summarise FEPA's lengthy involvement with the problem of producing Guidelines for the evaluation of literature and to make some suggestions for FEPA's future action.

- When I joined the FEPA Board, I was just fresh from judging literature exhibits at PRAGA 2008, where, probably for the first time, a jury team was devoted to digital literature. The team members were Tony Virvilis (leader), Manuel Portocarrero and myself, while Charlie Peterson led the team in charge of paper publications, including the three of us. We parted with the clear understanding that new regulations were needed as soon as possible.
- The FEPA Board decided to take on the challenge with the AIJP and the BDPh at its patronised exhibition of Philatelic Literature IPHLA 2012 in Mainz, allowing the adoption, as an experiment, of special regulations based on the scheme developed by the BDPh. The exhibition was a great success. The preparation was model, and the fact that each team was able to prejudge the paper entries, thanks to their circulation from one juror to another via parcel post, was very important. The Jury President, Peter Fischer, assessed all publications in advance so that the jury effectively evaluated the exhibits thoroughly and tested the new criteria. A comprehensive article in FEPA NEWS 22, December 2012, reported this experience in detail.
- At the 2014 FEPA Congress, I was charged with contacting the Member Federations, circulating a document based on the German regulations used at the recent Multilaterale in Haldensleben and on a Spanish proposal, so that it could be agreed and presented to the Commission's Chairman, Mr Virvilis. All federations were requested to send their comments within one month of receipt.
- In January 2015, a comprehensive article was published on FEPA NEWS 26, page 76, titled "Summary about the need for new regulations in Literature" to amplify the message. Together with Thomas Höpfner and José Ramón Moreno we prepared the draft of a new SREV, and I started preparing the relevant guidelines.
- In June 2016, another article in FEPA NEWS 29, page 79, updated the Members on progress and reiterated the clear character of FEPA Special Regulations for Evaluation of Literature (SREV), seen as a temporary solution ahead of a shared and up-to-date FIP special regulation for literature.
- At the 2016 FEPA Congress it was decided to study the subject in more depth. FEPA Members would be involved in assessing the proposed documents via their national delegates to the FIP Commission for Philatelic Literature. Mr Virvilis asked all national federations to study the aforementioned documents carefully and then send their comments to the FEPA Board. The delegates unanimously agreed to put the approval of the FEPA SREV for Philatelic Literature on the agenda for the next Congress and to have these SREV used on an experimental basis at FINLANDIA 2017.
- The SREV was reviewed by a group of experts composed of José Ramón Moreno, Pedro Vaz Pereira, Istvan Glatz, Frank Walton, Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi, Ari Muhonen, Gerald Heschl, Thomas Höpfner, Károly Szücs, Costas



Chazapis, and the AIJP President Wolfgang Maaßen. Based on their comments, the SREV and the Supplementary Rules were reviewed again, aiming at a shorter, more straightforward, and more effective text.

- At the 2017 Congress in Tampere, the proposed Literature SREV were accepted unanimously after a comprehensive discussion led by José Ramón Moreno and were tested successfully at Finlandia 2017.
- The FEPA SREV was tested again in Verona for Italia 2018 by a large jury, with a prejudging session in Milan involving six jurors. More comments were recorded for the guidelines. A report was published in FEPA NEWS 34, page 46.
- In the same FEPA News issue, on page 75, the question was raised. "Philatelic Literature Exhibitions: after IPHLA 2012 and Italia 2018 -What next?"
- We prepared the Supplementary Rules only because they were in the FIP document. Still, I made clear that almost all the provisions were inappropriate as their content did not concern the evaluation (SREV) but the organisation (GREX). Hence, such a paper would have been a relevant appendix to the GREX, hopefully, to be incorporated in the latter on the first occasion, and I pointed out which GREX article was appropriate.
- The chairman of the FIP Commission, the late Gary Brown, was informed on separate occasions by myself, Tony Virvilis, Chris King, and Wolfgang Maaßen, and his answer to me in early 2019 was, "I have been examining the FEPA rules and agree that 90% of them are satisfactory, but some questions have been raised about the score sheet by a couple of jurors at recent exhibitions that had electronic literature" and added "I am hopeful that a full set of "electronic rules" will be presented to the Congress at Bangkok."
- Then, at Stockholmia 2019, which I could not attend for family reasons, Gary agreed with Frank Walton on some temporary regulations because London 2020, being a FIP show, might not be governed by the experimental SREV of a continental federation. Unfortunately, we could not get more in-depth in this discussion. Sadly, the postponement of the exhibition, Gary's and then Frank's sudden deaths have halted the process that was supposed to merge all experiences.
- In Bangkok 2022, the new Board of the Literature Commission's election coincided with the approval of the FIP SREV for Philatelic Literature, with no involvement of FEPA as such.
- Given the final text of the SREV, I have frozen my work on the Guidelines. I have drafted an extensive text that needs refining, but it is better first to reach a joint action plan with FIP.
- I have already informed the FEPA Board that a suitable action plan must be defined to clarify the situation, as FEPA members face two regulations. FEPA rules were considered a necessary, temporary step towards a future agreement with the FIP. We have success stories in acting as catalysts for change concerning the Open Philately and Picture Post Card classes, and we hope to have another with the Narrow Theme exhibits.

In conclusion, I am very grateful to Ari for re-starting the discussion, especially in the light of the most recent jury experience. There is no doubt whatsoever that further consideration of the regulations for evaluation of literature is needed.

I will propose to the FEPA Board that we should again consult the experts who were involved in the development of the FEPA SREV as well as others who have served in recent juries (e.g., London 2022) to check whether the new FIP rules satisfy all the requirements set when the FEPA effort was started, as it was not limited to the evaluation of digital publications.

Meanwhile, I propose that the Board should define the best approach with the FIP and its Literature Commission.

# FIFTEEN CLASSES ENTERED IN ONE SHOW

**Editor's Note:** At the recent UK National Exhibition at Stampex in London Graham Winters FRPSL entered all the exhibition classes except Youth, for which he is no longer eligible! So far as we know this is a record and we invited Graham to tell us how he did it. Here is what he said.

## *Graham Winters FRPSL writes:*

I would like to say that this was the culmination of a three-year master plan, but the truth is more mundane. Like so many things in our recent philatelic world, it all started with Covid. At that time, I was Chairman of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) and it was obvious that something had to be done to help philately adapt and continue. I decided to create some one frame exhibits which were filmed to make short YouTube presentations. Links were then placed on the ABPS website - philately in the absence of meetings.

Among these short YouTube offerings were exhibits from classes less often seen in the UK. Perhaps the most significant of these was Maximaphily. Here I turned to what had been Francis Kiddle's collection of Goats which he sold to me just before he died, partly because he wanted someone to "take it forward". I doubt that Maximaphily was what he had in mind, but it was interesting to find that, amongst the postcards in his collection, there were just enough to make a single frame in the class.

The problem of course, is that the subject is really too big for a single frame. However, I did what all exhibitors should, and looked at the rules and regulations for the class. There are certainly plenty of them, and they are not exactly 'bed-time reading'... unless that is, you really do want something to put you to sleep! I did get one important thing from them though... the word "Concordance" ... the guiding principle for organising a Maximaphily exhibit. It means simply that the three elements of the class: the Picture Postcard; the Stamp and the Postmark should be linked. It does not mean that they should be identical, or that they should be part of a first day cover. In fact, the use of First Day, or Special Presentation covers is discouraged. I took my general plan from Francis' Thematic exhibit and away I went.



*From the front page of the Maximaphily exhibit.*

<u>PLAN.</u>	
P.1. INTRODUCTION/THE CAUCASIAN TUR.	P.10-11. BREEDS : IBEX.
P.2-4. DOMESTIC GOATS.	P.12. BREEDS : THE ENDANGERED WALIA.
P.5. GOATS & SCIENCE.	P.13-14. NATIONAL PARKS.
P.6-8. BREEDS : CHAMOIS.	P.15. GOATS IN ART & LITERATURE.
P.9. BREEDS : MOUNTAIN GOATS.	P.16. CONCLUSIONS : CHRISTIANITY & CAPRICORN.

*Plan of Maximaphily Exhibit (also from front page)*

"Google" was very helpful, but alongside Francis' collection were several key books including "The Book of The Goat" by H S Holmes-Pegler... certainly all I needed to know and more! The short exhibit included several scarce early items... scarcity indicated by Francis' notes and information.

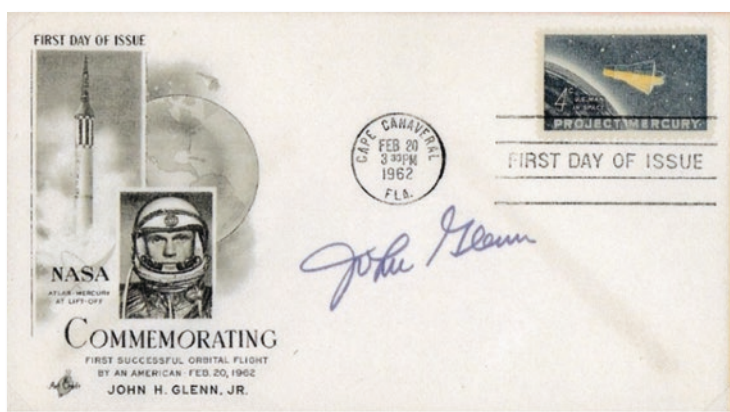


***Domestic Goats from Albania, 1968.***

Two mad ideas at the same time seem quite appropriate! I am indebted to two real enthusiasts for helping me. First, Umberto Cavallaro, whom I first met in Milan in 2012, an international Astrophilately judge who acquired much of the material and gave useful advice about the storyline. Secondly, Nigel Harpham of the Wakefield and Barnsley Philatelic Societies, who filled in many details and answered my questions. The result was also a pleasing if somewhat surprising 78 points - another Vermeil medal.

At this point I should explain that I have no intention of detailing each of the 15 frames here. I don't think there is enough space in FEPA NEWS for that. After I had completed Maxi' and Astro', I realised that I already had material for several other classes either from writing about them or collecting and exhibiting them: Postal History;

Traditional; Postal Stationery; Thematic; Open; Picture Postcards; Revenue and Cinderella. I had just completed a book, published by the Royal Philatelic Society London, so that dealt with Literature. I had also been working on an Aerophilately exhibit of Illustrated Airgraphs and the Airgraph Service for some time.



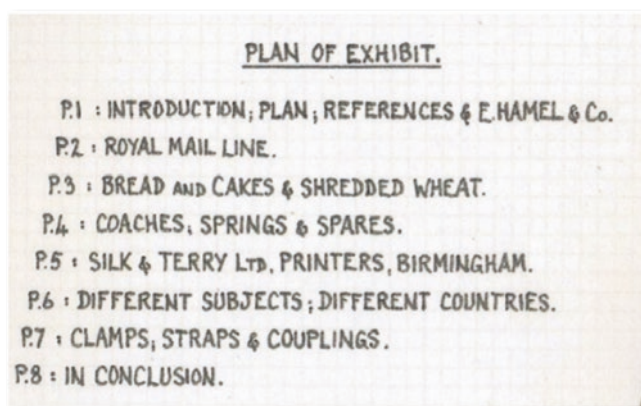
***Cover signed by a very famous Astronaut.***



***Airgraph form reduced to microfilm, from page 2 of exhibit.***




That left Modern; Ephemera and First Day Covers. My friend John Sussex RDP let me loose on some of his modern Registered Covers, my wife Yve supplied the Machin First Day Covers, which left Ephemera. As luck would have it, when we were able to go out and visit places again, I went to a local House Clearance Warehouse, which often has a few postcards and stamps. I purchased a box of colourful Blotters for not very much money, partly because they were pretty, and partly because there were enough of them to make a little exhibit. And what an exhibit... 82 marks, a Large Vermeil medal... I was delighted...and a little surprised!



*From the Front Page of the "Blotters" Exhibit.*

Finally, was it all worth it? Of course, it was, I learnt a lot about classes not on my regular judging lists. I would recommend everyone to have a look at one class at least with which they are not familiar. It certainly makes one think about different approaches, methods of presentation and treatment. It also makes for reading the rules carefully, never a bad idea for exhibitors or judges.

Finally, the full list of titles and classes: 1 x 8 frames; 2 x 5 frames; 1x 2 frames; 10 x 1 frame plus a Book = 15 classes.

				Jury Secretary's Special Award			
				Mr Graham Winters			
Title of the Exhibit	Class	Points Awarded	Medal Awarded				
A Good Walk Spoiled	Open Philately	93	Large Gold				
Ceylon Postage Dues to 1936	Postal History	90	Large Gold				
Illustrated Airgraphs	Aerophilately	88	Gold				
Ceylon: The 3C Postal Commission 1888-1893	Revenue	87	Gold				
Ceylon: 1884-94 5C Provisional Postal Stationery Envelopes.	Postal Stationery	86	Gold				
Ceylon King George V Silver Jubilee 1935	Traditional	83	Large Vermeil				
The End Of Registration?	Modern Philately	83	Large Vermeil				
Advertising Blotters.	Ephemera	82	Large Vermeil				
Ceylon Postal Stationery. Another Look at King George V Postal Stationery Envelopes	Philatelic Literature	80	Large Vermeil				
Getting There	Astrophilately	78	Vermeil				
Goats	Maximaphily	76	Vermeil				
The Philatelic "X"	Thematic	75	Vermeil				
Ceylon Anti TB Seals.	Cinderella	72	Large Silver				
Just One Look.	Postcards	72	Large Silver				
The Reason Why John Sussex RDP Collects and Exhibits Machins	First Day Covers	68	Silver				

*The Jury Secretary's Award.*

## “Postal History: Multidisciplinary and Diachronic Perspectives” 2nd International Congress, Prato, Italy.

***Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi RDP, President of the Istituto di studi storici postali “Aldo Cecchi”, writes:***

23rd-25th June 2022. A short span of time, in which a very important international conference (the second edition, actually) took place in Prato, a lovely historic town not far from Florence.

### What was it about, and why Prato?

Prato is where, in 1982, a group of scholars from both the academic and the philatelic world joined together and established a private research institution that was to reorient postal history by defining it as the study of the techniques and objects of organised postal communications. A place where the rigour of academic scholarship and the enthusiasm of collectors could meet. This was the beginning of the Istituto di Studi Storici Postali “Aldo Cecchi”, founded by Aldo Cecchi and, after his death, named after him.

The Institute is presently located in the Palazzo Datini. Next year, in 2023, we will move to a less historic but more functional location. Still in Prato, of course.



***Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi addressing the Congress.***

Palazzo Datini is the former home of Francesco Datini (1335-1410) – the “Merchant of Prato” – who at his death in 1410 gave all his possessions to the city’s poor. Datini’s bequest marked the beginning of Casa Pia dei Ceppi, a mediaeval version of a modern charitable foundation. Casa Pia dei Ceppi still exists. In addition to its charitable work, it has continuously preserved Datini’s business records – intact – in its original location: a precious treasure of 150,000 letters, 600 ledgers, and 6,000 credit accounts that make it the world’s most important archive for the economic history of the Middle Ages. A treasure of 150,000 letters that never left the building in all these centuries and is in perfect and very fresh condition.



***June 2022: On the first day the Congress assembled at the Datini Palace in Prato.***

In its 40-year life the Institute has been:

- Improving the knowledge of postal communications through the study and documentation of postal networks past and present.
- Developing an in-depth knowledge of the organisation and operation of postal networks.
- Collecting, classifying, and preserving documents relevant to the study of postal history (either originals or copies).
- Disseminating information about postal-historical topics through publications, courses, conferences, workshops, exhibitions and other events.

There was a time when historians regarded collectors with suspicion, both because they were believed incapable of carrying out and using the historical method, and because they might possibly have stolen documents from the archives. On the other hand, philatelists regarded historians as “bigwigs”, old-fashioned professors who were interested in big political-economic-social issues, but not in the beauty and materiality of documents.

In Italy, for some time now, this mutual mistrust has been greatly attenuated, partly thanks to the forty years of work by the ISSP institute. Today many academic scholars and engaged philatelists are cooperating to reconstruct a great European postal panorama from different points of view: historical, economic, social, infrastructural, material, technical, philatelic.

Last but not least, the Institute has been seeking to increase the involvement of universities in postal-historical research while suggesting lines of research that might prove useful to philatelists, not only in Italian universities but to date, also in some Greek, Spanish and French universities. Against this background it is easy to understand why Prato, and the Institute, in 2019, organised an international conference dedicated to “Postal History: Multidisciplinary and Diachronic Perspectives”. It saw the participation of scholars and interested people and was so successful that the Institute decided to organise another one in 2021. The pandemic delayed it to 2022, but this only made it an even happier, and more anticipated meeting among friends.

This conference is an example of the Institute’s commitment. Scholars and researchers as well as philatelists participated, and we are now working on the creation of a disciplinary statute for postal history.

Italy is a pioneer in Europe in these relations between the academic world and the world of philatelists, but there are also many similar signs in France, the UK, Spain and, I hope, other countries. I would like to emphasise that this and the previous conference in Prato were attended by university professors, researchers and philatelists from Italy, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Spain, Switzerland, UK, USA.

Our next conference will be in June 2024. The Call for Papers will be available by mid-2023 on request.

Contact: Bruno.crevatoselvaggi@gamil.com

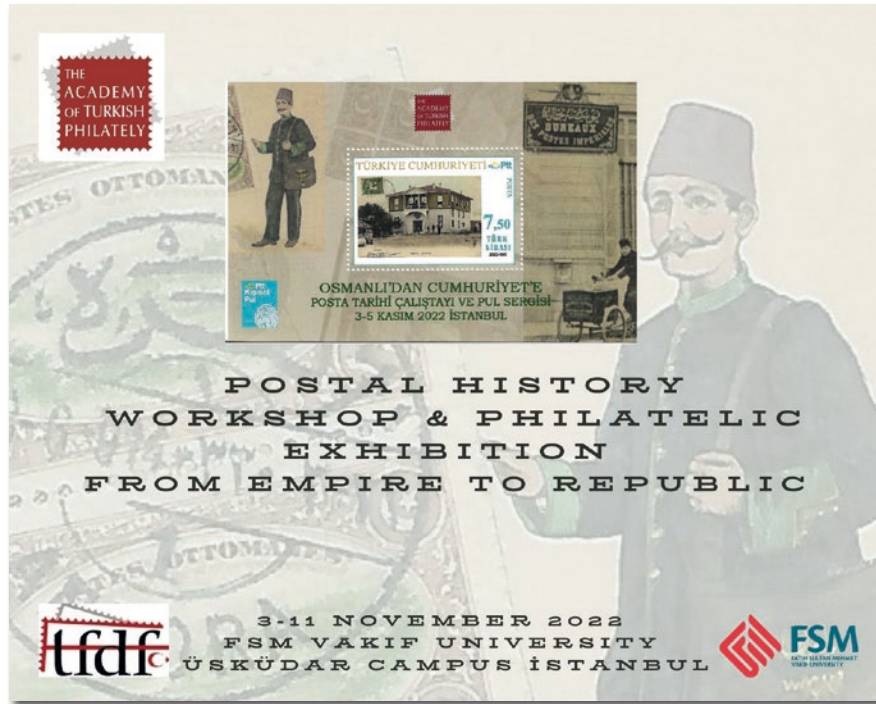


***Participants in the Congress at the Prato Town Hall on the third day.***



# Turkish Philatelic Academy: Postal History Workshop & Philatelic Exhibition

*Mehmet Akan\* writes:*



Philately is a phenomenon that takes place mostly in a closed environment. We philatelists understand each other and are very happy to be together. Although this closed environment is preserved in many parts of the world, there are philatelists with a new perspective and a young mindset. This new generation, which we can call “the new face of philately,” is also interested in disciplines that can become stakeholders with philately.

The Turkish Philatelic Academy in Turkey with its member and management profile represents the new face of philately. The Academy has organised events with different institutions and individuals. It organised the national philately exhibition exclusively on ephemera, postcards and Open Class in cooperation with Koç University in 2018 within the scope of the International Ephemera Seminar. \*\* Ephemera was also accepted as a class of philately.

Although international organizations such as FIP and FEPA are also opening up on different topics beyond postal history collecting, ephemera was not yet a competition class. In 2020, as the Academy, we held a seminar called “The New Face of Philately” (Left) and opened this new perspective to discussion with members. Here, we are not only dealing with the current definition and limits of philately, but also bringing new suggestions to technical issues.



*December 2020 seminar: ‘  
The New Face of Philately’*

For instance, Timur Kuran, a professor of economic history at Duke University, modelled a jury system along the lines of peer-review in academic work for stamp exhibitions where collections could be assessed using a different method. While the Turkish Federation preserves the traditional structure, it supports all kinds of innovative work through the Turkish Philatelic Academy.

As an example of the studies carried out with different disciplines this year, Sultan Mehmet Foundation University (FSMFU) and the Turkish Philatelic Academy held an initial workshop called 'A Postal Competition'\*\*\* between 3rd – 5th November 2022. The programme of events will continue into 2023. These will include micro-philatelic exhibitions, presentations, and philatelic articles that will be published later and followed by an international competitive philatelic exhibition which will be held in late 2023. The objective of this work is to establish a Postal History Research Centre within the Middle East and Africa Studies and Research Centre (ORDAM), FSMFU.

In the opening speech at the workshop, as the President of the Academy, I talked about the transition from being a stamp collector to become a philatelist and the interdisciplinary permeability we are discussing today. In his speech, University Dean Prof Zekeriya Kurşun (Picture 3) said that they attach great importance to such relationships and that the most important discovery of his scientific career was thanks to a lot he stumbled upon in an auction catalogue. He added that stamps, postal documents, postcards and ephemeral documents are as important to academics as the documents in archives. It is a great good fortune that Prof Kurşun understands us very clearly and has a similar vision.

In the first workshop, a total of 16 researchers, 8 academicians, 5 philatelists and 3 from the PTT administration, presented papers in 4 different sessions. In the exhibition, which was opened with the workshop, 10 high-level collections and literature published in the last 5 years were exhibited. Unlike the collaborative work we have done with universities in the past, philatelists and academics made presentations in the same sessions in the seminars. This method has been very useful in terms of communication. The event, which was planned as 3 days, was extended by one week upon request.

The first seminar was held under the name of 'from empire to republic' with a general definition for the parties to get to know each other. We will plan the next workshops together with the evaluation meeting we will hold in December. Other workshops will be more specific and themed. Researchers and exhibitors who are interested in this subject can reach us via email: [turkfilateliakademisi@gmail.com](mailto:turkfilateliakademisi@gmail.com)

We hope to share the outputs on these pages as much as possible.

[Editor's Note: We thank Mehmet for this article and look forward to publishing further reports on this very interesting initiative].

## Footnotes

\*Mehmet Akan is President of the Turkish Philatelic Academy

\*\*<https://feapanews.com/ankara-2018-exhibition-ephemera-in-philately/>

\*\*\* <https://feapanews.com/turkish-philatelic-academy-workshops-a-postal-competition/>



**Prof. Zekeriya Kurşun addressing the workshop (Top left). Mehmet Akan (Top Right)**

## THE ROYAL HISPANIC ACADEMY OF PHILATELY AND POSTAL HISTORY CELEBRATES ITS GREATEST ACADEMIC SESSION OF THE YEAR 2022

**José Ramón Moreno RDP writes:**

On Saturday 19th November the Academic Session of the Royal Hispanic Academy of Philately and Postal History took place at the “Casa de la Moneda Museum” (Spanish Royal Mint). Academicians and guests filled the Museum’s conference room, their main aim being to present new discoveries reached by their research.



After welcome words from the Academy’s President, Jesús Sitjá, the presentations began, all of high interest. The topics presented were:

- Receipt notices in the 19th century. José Manuel Rodríguez presented a study on this type of item, always scarce and often not completely well-interpreted by researchers and collectors.
- The Mirambel (Teruel) surcharge. Alejandro Abadía showed various items providing a greater degree of knowledge about this little-known surtax.
- The 1941 indigenous issue of the Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea. Enrique Viruega presented an analysis of the issue, printed in lithography, including report blocks and failures.
- Letters between Spain and Lombardo-Veneto through the Kingdom of Sardinia 1844-1857. Two members of the Italian Association of Postal History (AISP) Angelo Teruzzi and Paolo Zavattoni provided valuable information with special details on the rates at the points of origin and destination, and the treatment carried out by different administrations.
- Handwritten annotations of delivery of the Central Post Office 1830-1860. Alfredo Miguel Martínez described his research into the internal workings of the post offices in Madrid, clarifying the “inexplicable” postmen’s notes on covers when making deliveries in their assigned areas.
- The American Bank Note Company and El Salvador: 80 Years of Issues. Guillermo Gallegos explained with every detail of the operation of this North American company that produced high-quality postage stamps and was commissioned by numerous countries.
- From Manila to Salamanca... against all obstacles. Eduardo Consejo analysed in depth an air letter damaged in 1937, with special attention to its itinerary from the Philippines, as well as the origin, arrival and transit marks in such special circumstances.
- That stamp is for two reales! When the files speak. José Antonio Herráiz made the most important discovery in Spanish philately in many years. That’s why the next page is devoted to the result of his research on the famous error of the “2 reales blue of 1851”.
- Letters of fraud and out of pouch prior to the Real Renta de Correos. Eugenio de Quesada presented items from the well-known “Carminati Archive” showing tricks to avoid paying postage.



*Some participants before, during the presentations and at the end of the sessions.*



- Theory on the scope and meaning of free correspondence in the 18th century. David González Corchado explained the concept of franking correspondence at a time when postage was generally paid by the recipient.
- The great and unrepeatable “father of Philately” Doctor Thebussem. José Ramón Moreno presented documents never seen before from his researches on the Federico Joly Hörn Foundation and at the home library of the great grand nephews of Mariano Pardo de Figueroa (real name of Thebussem), included in the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists as one of the “Fathers of Philately”.

## THE “2 REALES” BLUE OF 1851” THE GREAT JEWEL OF SPANISH PHILATELY, FINALLY EXPLAINED



The blue 2 reales of 1851 is an icon of Spanish Philately and a worldwide rarity. A stamp on which great experts have written hundreds of pages, but without anyone giving a complete explanation of what happened so that, instead of the usual red-orange colour, it appeared stamped in blue, the same as the 6 reales. Only three items are known; one is in the British Library in London and another two in Spanish private collections. In the event that any of them were put up for sale, the prices could become astronomical.

After almost one hundred and seventy-two years of mystery and numerous controversies, what seemed almost impossible has happened: the academician of the Royal Hispanic Academy of Philately and Postal History, José Antonio Herráiz, has revealed the secret. The discovery was presented at the Session of the Royal Academy held on 19th November, 2022 at the Museum of the Spanish Royal Mint (Casa de la Moneda, Madrid).

In front of an important attendance of academicians and special guests, José Antonio Herráiz presented copies of the original documents from the Archive of the Provincial Council of Zaragoza, found during his researches in July 2022. These undoubtedly indicate that, in each of the twenty-five sheets of one hundred and seventy 6-reales stamps that arrived at Zaragoza at the end of December 1850 for the mail postage in 1851, there was a wrong 2-reales stamp. The governor of Zaragoza did not have a “philatelic” problem, but an accounting one, since each sheet had a price difference of 4 reales, totalling a shortfall of 100 reales, a not insignificant amount at that time.

On 30th December, 1850, the governor wrote to Bartolomé Coromina (author of the design and engraver of the stamps issued in 1851 and also director of the National Stamp Factory) warning him of what had happened. Coromina immediately replied that the twenty-five wrong stamps should be returned to Madrid in exchange for new ones of 6 reales to balance the accounts. The same situation had to be repeated with complete certainty in the rest of the Spanish provinces.

Everything indicates that the problem was noticed when the sheets were already being distributed to the points of sale so that they would be available on the following 1st January. Unfortunately, and despite the efforts of the governor, not all the blue 2-reales stamps could be returned to the Stamp Factory.

The summary of this and the rest of the interventions of the aforementioned Academic Session has been available since December on the website of the Royal Academy [www.rahf.es](http://www.rahf.es)



***José Antonio Herráiz, author of the Manual of Postal Rates for Spain and its overseas territories, first finalist in the FEPA Award for the best Research in 2015.***

## A TEAM APPROACH TO RESEARCH

***Elmar and Ute Dorr are a well-known husband and wife team who have made many contributions to European philatelic research in the last decade on topics as diverse as Hungarian submarine mail and the Orient Express. Here they describe how they work together to achieve good results.***



On one of the particularly hot days in early August 2022 Bill Hedley, our FEPA President, asked us to write an article for “FEPA NEWS”. The article was to shed light on our personal approach to philatelic research for the interested public. We gladly agreed since the special and challenging thing about it was not to describe a philatelic fact, but to make ourselves and our work the subject of the investigation.

There are such things as - let us call them (decisive) primary parameters or factors. These are, in our opinion, circumstances over which we probably have no control but can be essential for the result of a research. Some of them seem to be in our genes, others we received in childhood and in our environment. Together, this is our “equipment”, our “rucksack” of abilities. In addition, there are parameters that we can determine and influence ourselves in philatelic research. Both taken together are the prerequisite for usable - and by this we mean first and foremost publishable - results. But let us proceed one after the other and look first at what the primary parameters are for us - Ute and Elmar Dorr.

First, there is the fact that we have been a well-established team for over two decades, long before we started to devote ourselves to philately as an activity in our leisure time. For Ute it was 2011 and for me (Elmar) it was the end of 2006. Not too long a time as it may seem to some readers, but the length of time is not the decisive factor. The important point is how to use the available time efficiently and sensibly for oneself.

Ute and I were already working together as a team in the nineties on the content of YMCA camps. Later, after our marriage in August 1999, we were active together in state politics in Rhineland-Palatinate, where we both worked together in committees for university and church politics. In addition, we have been active in city and municipal councils. In 2006, Ute ran for the state parliament. We planned and choreographed appearances together during that time, and reports to regional newspapers were always agreed upon together. Ute was the front woman during this time while I, together with others from our party, wrote the election programme and, above all, the texts. As you can see, we were already writing and publishing a lot at that time. During this time we learned how to work efficiently together, which means that we first discussed everything together and decided on a common approach. We have retained this approach in philately from the beginning. The advantage was always obvious to us: together we can achieve more, and the partnership gives the necessary security. Since leisure time should contribute first and foremost to quality of life, and all our philatelic activities fall under leisure time, this togetherness is a piece of quality of life for us - what more could we wish for?

What else is there? Probably a little talent is also needed for research and publishing. We cannot always measure that exactly ourselves but I (Elmar) know that I liked writing texts even at school, and that is still the case today. There is also a certain interest in language and the possibilities of expression. Ute is also enormously skilled when it comes to preparing and displaying graphics, even entire collections. She is also by far the more talented part when it comes to the use of software.

One of the first, if not the first step, for us is to structure a subject. One of our teachers in Hungarian philately - Dénes Czirik RDP FRPSL - once said to us: “If you don’t have a structure in your head, you cannot put a structure on paper”. We think this outlines the cognitive process well. Recognising structures and putting them on paper - I think that suits us quite well. Of course, a scientific education is also helpful here, where this is practised and internalised in principle.

Two further points that we consider indispensable are networked thinking and making social contacts in philately. Take a subject like the Orient Express: here the subject of Constantinople and its post offices play a role. You need to know something about the history and postal history of the Ottoman Empire, the colonial powers such as Great Britain, Austria, Germany, and so on. In addition, knowledge of the philately of Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary is necessary. One thing leads to another, and everything is interdependent and interwoven. Such topics want to be discovered and broken down - a wonderful intellectual adventure for both of us.

Dealing with complex systems does not only play a role in physics and biology. It is also indispensable in research philately. Ultimately, writing a contribution or even a book is nothing other than the result of a complex networked thought process. A limited view is like an imaginary barrier in the mind. From the perspective of a single colonial post office in Constantinople, the subject of the Orient Express is not tangible let alone describable. All these contexts want to be discussed and reflected upon in an appropriate manner so that new views, perspectives and insights can emerge. Conversations and contacts with like-minded people in philately are, therefore, very important and represent a quality factor that should not be underestimated.

However, it is important to learn from other perspectives and views and to integrate them into one's own thinking. We call this the ability to learn. We are very fortunate today to have contacts in several countries, but contacts must also be cultivated, and new ones must be made. It is impossible to conduct meaningful philatelic research without intellectual exchange.

Finally, curiosity and creativity are of course a driving force! Albert Einstein already said that these two qualities are more important than knowledge! The latter is, of course, indispensable - without knowledge there is no way - but we can acquire knowledge on our own so we do not count it directly among the primary factors in research philately. But how to acquire knowledge and deal with it is primary for us. So, one should have an idea of how to deal with knowledge, what knowledge is needed and how to expand it in a meaningful way. Knowledge management in philatelic research is an area that has been little illuminated so far!

Other factors such as data and facts which ultimately form knowledge, we want to call secondary. We must be ready and willing to acquire knowledge and to deepen it. Philately is clearly a learning subject (!) with strongly branched and interconnected sub-fields. So, we must be willing to learn and to do so as diligently as possible – we all know this already from school. We learn a lot from books, but also from clever and instructive conversations. So, we need illustrative material, literature and, again, teachers. The only difference to earlier times at school or elsewhere is that now we must take care of it ourselves and it is up to us how big the private philatelic library should become, which discussion partners we choose and which teachers and role models we take. There are study and expert groups and respected associations around the world. Almost every field of interest is supported in philately. So the good news is that everything is basically in front of us, but we must make a choice. To be content with one or two stamp catalogues and a monthly association magazine in philately is basically to sit at a richly laid table and feed on breadcrumbs.

Once a selection has been made, we should also try to work actively on the chosen topic, to share our knowledge and to develop the area together with others. If this happens with different philatelic topics, networked knowledge also creates a fascinating cognitive process that is not to be underestimated.

We say this deliberately to emphasise that limiting ourselves to pure consumption does not really help. Anyone who does not know what was covered in a lecture or YouTube two weeks later and cannot draw anything from it for themselves has wasted their time. The reason for this can, of course, be on the sender and/or receiver side. The digital age can have its dark sides in this respect!

Now that we have tried to outline what the prerequisites for research philately would be from our point of view, we want to move on to showing how, based on our experiences, philatelic research can produce a publishable result. We should be clear right from the start that philatelic research needs to have a goal, which can be an article, a lecture, or a book, sometimes also an exhibition collection. Depending on inclination, the researching philatelist will have a preference for one of these. Hardly any philatelist will master all the "instruments" - if you will allow the comparison with music - equally



well. A few will achieve true mastery in one or another instrument. Most people will manage to make respectable music at home with their instrument, but the concert halls of the metropolises will be reserved for only a few.

We usually start with the idea for a topic. This is actually the preliminary phase of a philatelic project, the result of which is a more or less extensive publication. Not every idea becomes a project or even matures into a publication, for that it needs preliminary work which in our case usually exists already with us and is worth developing further and thus being brought to publication maturity. For us, preliminary work is the breeding ground on which ideas can flourish. Examples are usually parts of our own collection which are always already prepared and documented in one way or another. We have never started a publication from the ground up. So we have always had our own philatelic material and existing knowledge. Of course, some knowledge is added through research, but the topic is always already at a certain stage of maturity in the “intellectual drawer”, but not yet at the stage of maturity for a publication. These drawers are existential for us. They are fed by our own collections, existing literature, our own results, notes, copies of other documents, good conversations with other philatelists who are doing research and so forth. At some point the idea is ready and can be developed into a publication.

Determining how mature the research is depends on one's own experience and probably also intuition. In any case, we get better at it over time. We notice this regularly in ourselves and usually start with a kind of brainstorming. This is particularly enjoyable for us, for example, at the weekend over a nice breakfast and later comfortably on the sofa. We also like to go to a good restaurant and usually by the time we reach the dessert we have come up with something useful. At the beginning we talked about the fact that the whole thing means “time of life” for us together so it should of course give us pleasure and be enriching. Once the idea is in place, the actual project phase begins. A structure is needed. What do I want to say, what is the structure, what should be shown or presented? With a book project, this is of course much more time-consuming than with a two-page article. It can happen that we go through the whole process of the preliminary and actual project phase in one morning.

Let us stay with the example of the Orient Express. Ute and I spent a Sunday in Zurich creating a table of contents with the help of MS Word. This was the basic structure we started with. A table of contents is a powerful structuring tool; another is, for example, a table. It sounds simple at first, but what matters is how we design the structure. For us, this is the decisive step for everything else. Sometimes, as in the case of our new book on the postal history of Hungary (1900-1914), for a while there were tables with all kinds of postmarks of Hungarian post offices, which were then worked out in more and more detail. Only then did a structure for the book emerge. In our current book project the British troop movements and battles in British Somalia at the beginning of the twentieth century form the basic structure. Once this has been worked out and presented in a graphically and chronologically comprehensible way, the table of contents is the logical consequence. In the case of our first book on the local and postal history of Neustadt an der Haardt, by the way, tables were also created initially.

Once this step has been taken, the real work begins for us. Now all the knowledge and expertise as well as the available material from our own collections and additional material from other sources must be processed in the structure and find its place there. In doing so, it is indispensable to assess critically what has been achieved again and again. As a rule, one of us writes the publication and the other reads and contributes, for example, with graphics and scanning. But the exchange is always close and takes place almost daily. With our Hungary book, for example, Ute read for days while I continued writing. Afterwards the changes were discussed and incorporated together. In the case of the Orient Express Ute had already done all the preliminary work, so she compiled the data on the Orient Express covers while I thought about an evaluation in parallel. This time together was wonderful and intellectually very stimulating! Almost daily, theses were formed and substantiated (verified) or rejected (falsified) based on further empirical material from Ute's research. The gain in new insights and knowledge was terrific. It was tedious but gave us both a lot of pleasure. It was important for us always to stick to the facts and to make them as plausible as possible. We are not friends of mere conjecture, but we can also make mistakes.



There are still things to mention that are helpful and useful from our perspective and should be mentioned here at the end. We live and work in two countries - Germany and Switzerland - which is only good for our contributions to philately and research. My personal dream would still be a cottage in Cornwall in England. Who knows one day? ... The advantage is obvious: you can change desks and continue working in different surroundings. Much bigger authors than we have always used this option. Besides, in our case it is wonderful to talk about philately for a long time in the evening during a phone call. After a busy day, it is downright refreshing. We maintain quite an extensive philatelic, historical, and literary library. Those who write books should also pay close attention to them. The study of literature - and not only about philately - is one of the most important and stimulating pursuits for us, to which we devote far more time than to writing and publishing. Anyone who writes should also be interested in languages and their possibilities. With a suitable knowledge of foreign languages, philatelic research is much easier.

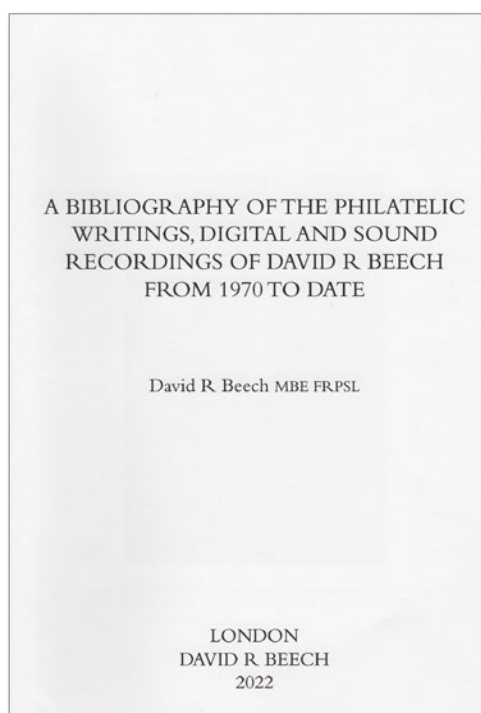
Dear readers, there would certainly be much more to report, but we are getting very close to the intended scope in FEPA NEWS. We fully support Bill Hedley's idea of reporting on philatelic research. Who knows, maybe there will be a personal conversation or two on the subject.



***We wish you much success in your own research.***

***Ute and Elmar Dorr***

## David R Beech : A Bibliography of his Writings, Digital and Sound Recordings from 1970-2022



David Beech, well known in philatelic circles as a former curator of the British Library Philatelic Collections, is also one of the leading philatelic writers of our age. In a career of more than 50 years, he has logged no fewer than 245 publications covering a vast range of philatelic topics that will be of interest to the general reader and the specialist alike. The list includes such essential reading as, 'How to Look after your Collection – A Basic Guide', 'A Guide to Philatelic Research at the British Library', and 'Philatelic Research- A Basic Guide'.

David has been a consistent advocate of the importance of bibliography to provide a starting point for research and he has now produced a list of his own works on philatelic subjects since 1970 which fills 23 pages. It is accompanied by a useful index to help readers find their way round the list.

The bibliography has been published in paper form as a pamphlet and is available free of charge from David at: [DRBeech@btinternet.com](mailto:DRBeech@btinternet.com)

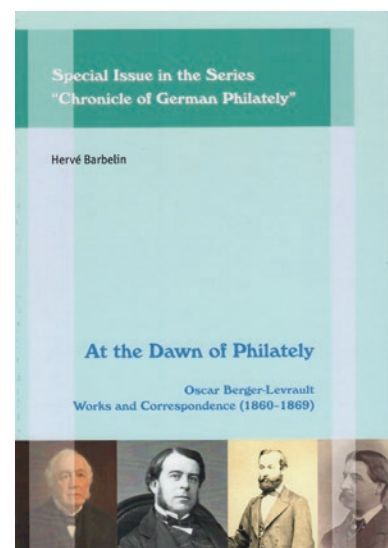
## Hervé Barbelin: A l'Aube de la Philatélie, Oscar Berger-Levrault, Ouvrages et Correspondances (1860-1869) / At the Dawn of Philately. Oscar Berger-Levrault, Works and Correspondence (1860-1869).

Academie de philatelie, Paris, 2018. English Translation by Rainer von Scharpen, 218 pages, ill., col, Phil\*Creativ Verlag & Agentur, Schwalmtal, 2022. [Price: 58 Euro + shipping, contact: faktura@philcreativ.de

For anyone interested in the history of philately this is a seminal work. Based on previously undiscovered archival sources, mainly from the period between 1860-1869, it describes the work of Oscar Berger-Levrault, a Strasbourg printer and publisher, who produced the first list of postage stamps in September 1861. It starts by describing how he acquired an interest in stamps. It then goes on to describe his 'Lists' and, from 1864, his catalogues published initially in German and subsequently in French.

Part II of the book gives a deep insight into his contacts with leading philatelists in France and other countries during the 1860s, many of whom were interested in drawing on his catalogue to enhance their collections.

This is a most interesting and valuable addition to the literature and it provides an excellent reference source on the international group of philatelists who, starting from nothing, built the foundations of philatelic study and created an organisational framework that still broadly survives today.



## Jesús Sitjà Prats: Barcelona, 1850-1875. Historia Postal y sus Marcas (Barcelona, 1850-1975. Postal History and its Marks)

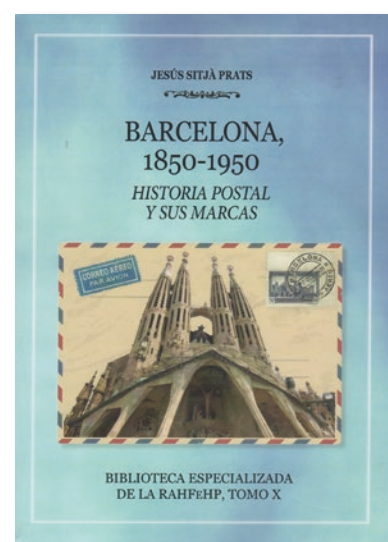
566 pages, ill., col., RAHFeHP, Specialised Library, Volume X, Madrid 2022, info@rahf.es

These 566 pages by Jesús Sitjà Prats represent the first part of a research devoted to the postal history and the postmarks of Barcelona in the hundred years since the issue of the first Spanish stamp in 1850. It follows his greatly appreciated studies on the postmarks of Madrid published in 2010 and 2015.

A comprehensive presentation describes the various subjects and approaches used for describing the postmarks, their size, rarity, description and codification, routes and rates. The author then confirms his serious attention to the historical background, devoting a detailed chapter to the organisation of the postal service in Barcelona.

The body of the work, published within the Specialised Library of the Royal Spanish Academy of Philately and Postal History, describes the various entities involved with the mail service in Barcelona: agencies, post offices and postal services of different kinds, till maritime, submarine and air mail are covered in the last chapters. For each of them, the book provides details about the service as well as the description and image of the postmarks and covers cancelled with the same. Several tables are used for displaying various situations and rates effectively. The research involves peculiarities not mirrored in other Spanish towns, like the submarine mail.

The wealth of information is accompanied by a constant reference to the sources and a rich bibliography at the end of each section and on the book's last pages.





## Federico Borromeo: 1770-1850 Trentino Alto Adige, Catalogo delle Timbrature (1770-1850 Trento and Alto Adige Region, Catalogue of Postmarks)

ISBN 978-88-945287-4-9, pages 202, ill., col., Post Horn, Milan 2022; 80€ + postage, [segreteria@cifo.eu](mailto:segreteria@cifo.eu)

Federico Borromeo is well known for his exhibits and studies, much appreciated for their rigour and his ability to bring new life to his subjects. This time he has addressed a region, Trentino-Alto Adige, and a well-defined historical period: 1770-1850. In historical-political terms this covers the transition from Austrian rule to French occupation, the subsequent detachment of North Tyrol to Bavaria and the creation of the department of South Tyrol within the Kingdom of Italy, until the return to Austria after the Napoleonic turmoil. Borromeo presents this evolution, enriching it with postal historical references, following what was presented by Augusto Zoppelli as an introduction to his catalogue, shown in the book's third chapter.

He then draws on the Merz archive, in the Bolzano Chamber of Commerce, which documents these vicissitudes of postal history through the correspondence of a wealthy Bolzano family of bankers, merchants and moneychangers.



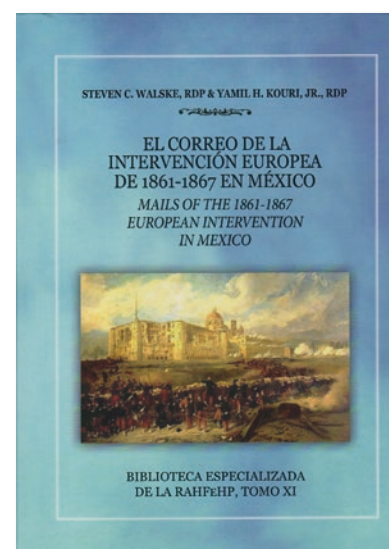
The author presents four aspects of postal relations in the area: 'graphs', i.e., place names written in pen or pencil, revenue stamps, registered mail, and military mail relating to Napoleon's armies that operated in those territories. Each chapter details the various types of locality concerned. Halfway through, the reader is confronted with 100 pages cataloguing the stamps used in 52 localities, sorted alphabetically from Ala to Weisberg-Monguelfo. It provides in-depth postal-historical insights, a wealth of detailed information, pictures and reproductions of postal documents, and rarity quotations. A substantial bibliography completes the volume, which is an essential reference and a methodological stimulus for those wishing to undertake postal-historical cataloguing. The graphic presentation is impeccable.

## Steven C. Walske and Yamil H. Kouri Jr.: El Correo de la intervención europea de 1861-1867 en México – Mails of the 1861-1867 European intervention in Mexico.

pages 314, ill., col, RAHFeHP, Specialised Library, Volume XI, Madrid 2022, [info@rahf.es](mailto:info@rahf.es)

This book deals with a critical period in Mexico's turbulent history, that of European military intervention between 1861 and 1867, i.e., when the European powers assumed that, because the United States was preoccupied with its Civil War, they had an opportunity to occupy the country and recover their debts. For the first time, the matter is treated in a comprehensive, systematic way presenting postal communications within the historical background. Its nine chapters cover the Spanish and British expeditions, the initial French mobilisation, the Mexican civilian postal system (1861-1863), the French advance to Mexico City, the Imperial Postal System, the French invasion of Central and Northern Mexico, the retreat and withdrawal of the French.

This bilingual work in English and Spanish comprises six appendices, tables, maps and hundreds of colour illustrations of covers. The six appendices include the following topics: Census of the Spanish campaign Post Office covers; Census of the French Field post Mail; Chronology of the French Field post-Bureaux; The Mexican Republican Army; the Austro-Belgian Legion; 1862-1867 Packet Sailing tables. Their content is a precious tool for identifying military units and ships involved in these operations. Like Jesús Sitjà Prats' work on Barcelona's postal history and postmarks, this book is nicely presented and is published in accordance with the style of publications of the Royal Spanish Academy of Philately and postal History's Specialised Library.



## Forensic Philately: Exploring the potential use of a Video Spectral Comparator

*Paul Leonard BSc. (Hons)., CSci., FRPSL writes:*

### Summary

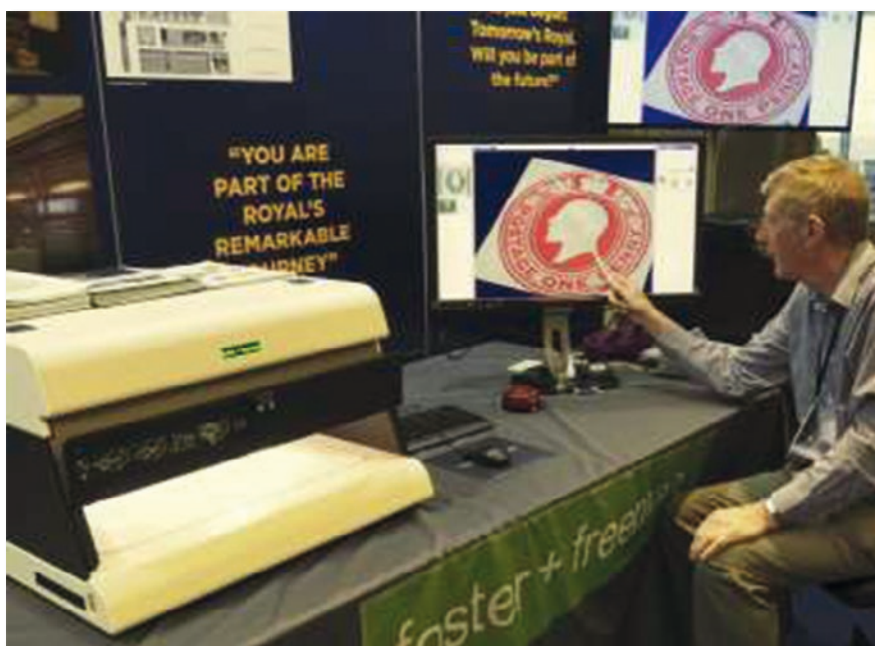
Whether you are a serious collector or dealer in philatelic material, the opinion of an Expert Committee supported by forensic analysis should help ascertain the item to be genuine or have some fraudulent modification to potentially enhance its value.

Forensic analysis takes a variety of approaches at the Expert Committee for the Royal Philatelic Society London, RPSL Ltd, and the use of a video spectral comparator is shown to have specific uses in conjunction with reference material and specialist knowledge.

### Introduction

Video Spectral Comparators (VSC) are primarily used to detect fraud in bank notes and passports. For over twenty years, the Expert Committee has liaised with Foster Freeman, one of the leading manufacturers of such equipment.

The international conference, Stockholmia, held in 2019, was an ideal opportunity to utilise the Foster Freeman VSC8000HS, the current model of the VSC as used today by the Expert Committee. This machine allows overlaying of images and with the strobing facility, this helps ascertain differences in stamp usage. Light sources from ultra violet (254, 312 & 365nm) to the visible spectrum in bands (from 380 nm to 685 nm) and infrared (to 925nm) aid detection of potential fraud that cannot be detected by eye. Aided by a motorised stage, with side lights for determining tears and repairs as well as 3D options, the equipment is very versatile. However, there are challenges that cannot currently be resolved, and these include the determination of watermarks on stamps attached to an envelope and the determination of an internationally acceptable standard for the determination of 'shades' or 'colour'.

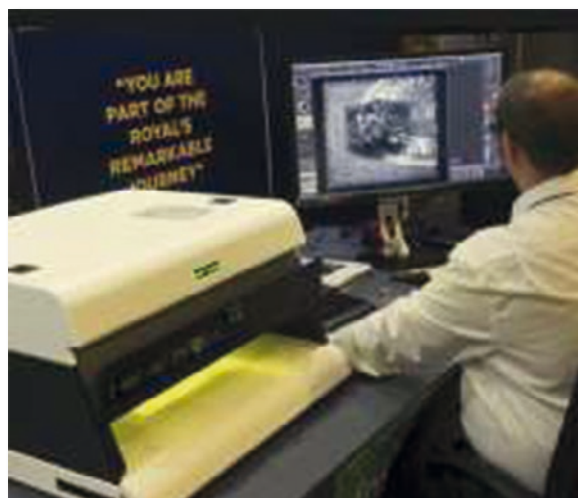


*Figure 1. The author at Stockholmia using the 3D facility of the VSC8000HS.*

This paper has been written as an introduction to the use of video spectral comparators and primarily utilises material that may be easily obtained, to illustrate a specific, non-destructive approach. Further information about the VSC8000HS can be found at : <http://ffsupport.co.uk/Brochures/VSC8000HS.pdf>. Previous examples of publications on forensic philately are given in the references.

### Example One

High value stamps are often used on legal documents for land and house purchase for example but are very rarely used postally. The temptation for fraudsters is to create a postally used item that will be rare and hence have a high value. Therefore, there is a need to remove the stamp and clean it to remove a pen or fiscal cancellation. While this may fool a potential purchaser, with the use of the VSC, it can show that the item has been cleaned.



**Figure 2.** Studying a potentially high value stamp from Zanzibar where the fiscal cancellation has been removed by cleaning.

### Example Two

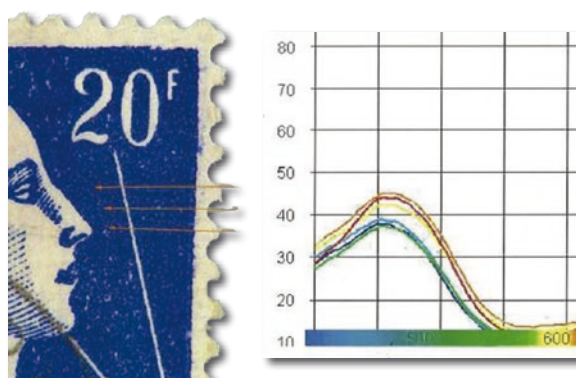
The spectrometer can measure certain colour differences of stamps. As an example, two French 20F stamps can be compared visually.

To ascertain the spectral difference between the two stamps, a comparative area not obscured by a post mark is selected. Three readings that are less than 3mm apart were selected in front of the nose and eye from each stamp.



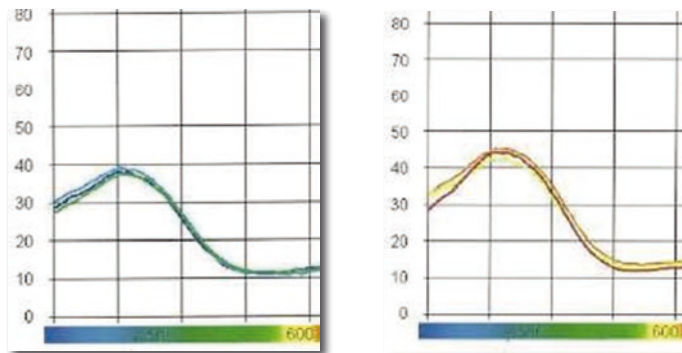
**Figure 3.** The French 20F stamp is a lighter blue colour on the left than on the right.

**Figure 4.** Location of the sampling area and a combined graph of the readings





The VSC takes individual readings that can be kept separate and the six measurements shown above, show slightly differences in the intensity of the colour.



**Figure 5.** *The lighter blue left stamp has a lower reading than the right-hand stamp.*

### Example 3

It is possible to enhance or reduce colours to ascertain further features. By selecting a suitable wavelength, the black postmark is much easier to read on the two French 20F stamps.



**Figure 6.** *Both 20F French stamps have postmarks that could be difficult to read without using the VSC.*

### Example 4

The VSC is very useful to check whether high value stamps used for fiscal purposes have been cleaned to remove the fiscal cancellation and to have a postmark added. The Zanzibar 40 rupee stamp was provided by John Shaw FRPSL.



**Figure 7.** *The 40 Rupee stamp appears to have a Zanzibar cancellation but using the orange filter 565nm, the remains of the fiscal cancellation can be seen*

### Example 5

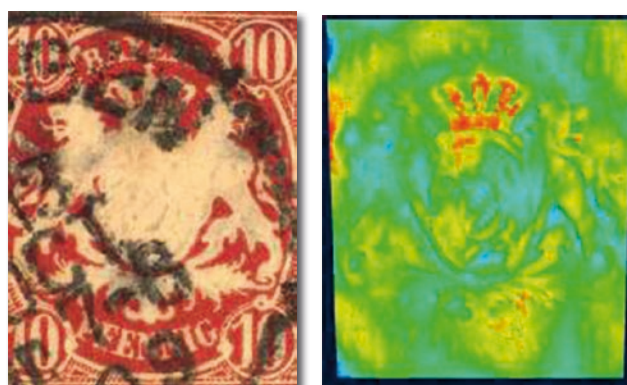
Even if only part of a circumference is available, it is possible to select three points on the stamp from which the diameter can be assessed. Some stamps may be reperforated and even with such small areas, it is possible to analyse individual perforations.



**Figure 8. The perforations on this Finnish stamp have been measured using the three point analysis method and found to both measure 0.38mm.**

### Example 6

By capturing three different illumination angles, it is possible to use the VSC 3D software to measure the height of different features on embossed stamps. This Bavarian stamp has a heavy cancel that obscures the embossing.



**Figure 9. A 10 Pfennig stamp that when the 3D feature is used is able to show the embossing where the height of the features is shown, red highest and blue lowest.**










### Conclusion

The Video Spectral Comparator is a digital workstation for the forensic examination of documents. It is an extremely useful tool that should be used in conjunction with reference material and colleagues who have an extensive knowledge of philately. The Expert Committee works closely with other philatelic organisations and, besides extensive museum and research facilities, has photographic and written records of over 235,000 items since the committee was set up in 1894. Forensic philately continues to evolve and the Institute of Analytical Philately is a useful source of information. <https://www.analyticalphilately.org/>. Items for expertisation should be sent to Ms Lucy Caulfield, Expert Committee, RPSL Limited\*, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW. E – mail [experts@rpsl.limited](mailto:experts@rpsl.limited) Web site: [www.rpsl.limited](http://www.rpsl.limited)









Note: RPSL Limited\* = the Expert Committee for the Royal Philatelic Society.

## Federation of European Philatelic Associations

## FEPA Family

<b>ALBANIA</b>  Julian Demeti President	Association of Collectors of Albania P.O.Box 2972 Tirana-1001  Phone +355 692093393  Email <a href="mailto:julian.demeti@gmail.com">julian.demeti@gmail.com</a> website <a href="https://www.shksh.al/">https://www.shksh.al/</a>
<b>ARMENIA</b>  Hovik Musayelyan President	Armenian Union of Philatelists P.O.Box 50 375010 Yerevan  Phone +374 98888333 Fax +374 10492696  Email <a href="mailto:hovikm@synopsys.com">hovikm@synopsys.com</a>
<b>AUSTRIA</b>  Helmut Kogler President	Verband Österreichischer Philatelisten-Vereine Getreidemarkt 1 1060 Wien  Phone +43 1 5876469 Fax +43 1 5877026  Email <a href="mailto:office.voeph@voeph.at">office.voeph@voeph.at</a> website <a href="https://www.voeph.at/">https://www.voeph.at/</a>
<b>BELARUS</b>  Sergey Pilipovich President	Byelorussian Union of Philatelists P.O. Box 3 BY-220049 Minsk-49  Phone +375 29 7043060 Fax +375 29 7787821  Email <a href="mailto:blits@tut.by">blits@tut.by</a>
<b>BELGIUM</b>  Filip Van der Haegen President	Fédération Royale des Cercles Philatéliques de Belgique Dam 38 BE-8870 Izegem  Phone +32 51308509 Email <a href="mailto:vdhaegen.f@outlook.com">vdhaegen.f@outlook.com</a> website (F) <a href="https://www.frcpb.be/">https://www.frcpb.be/</a> website (D) <a href="https://www.klbp.be/">https://www.klbp.be/</a>
<b>BULGARIA</b>  Spas Panchev President	Union of Bulgarian Philatelists P.O. Box 662 1000 Sofia  Phone +359 2 9586374  Email <a href="mailto:spaspanchev@abv.bg">spaspanchev@abv.bg</a> website <a href="https://philatelyunion.bg/">https://philatelyunion.bg/</a>
<b>CROATIA</b>  Julije Maras President	Croatian Federation of Philatelists Hrvatski savez filatelista Ul. Tadije Smičiklase 22 HR-10000 Zagreb  Phone +385 92 3022666  Email <a href="mailto:julije@maras-filatelija.com.hr">julije@maras-filatelija.com.hr</a> website <a href="https://hsf.hr/">https://hsf.hr/</a>
<b>CYPRUS</b>  Costas Athanasiou President	Cyprus Philatelic Society P.O. Box 23396 1682 Nicosia  Phone +357 99662506  Email <a href="mailto:costathan@cablenet.com">costathan@cablenet.com</a>
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>  Julius Cacka President	Union of Czech Philatelists Opletalova 1337/29 110 00 Praha 1  Phone +420 603587593  Email <a href="mailto:sekretariat@informace-scf.cz">sekretariat@informace-scf.cz</a> website <a href="http://www.informace-scf.cz/">http://www.informace-scf.cz/</a>
<b>DENMARK</b>  Lars Peter Svendsen President	Danmarks Filatelist Forbund Priorparken 860 DK-2605 Brøndby  Phone +45 32501886  E-mail <a href="mailto:danfil@danfil.dk">danfil@danfil.dk</a> website <a href="https://danfil.dk/">https://danfil.dk/</a>
<b>EGYPT</b>  Dr. Eng. Sherif Samra President	Philatelic Society of Egypt 16, Abd El-Khalek Thawat Street P.O.Box 142, Cairo  Phone +20 2 23927540 Fax +20 2 33027630  Email <a href="mailto:egyptianphilatelicsociety@gmail.com">egyptianphilatelicsociety@gmail.com</a>
<b>ESTONIA</b>  Rein Karl Loide President	Estonischer Philatelistenverband Tehnika 15-5 10149 Tallinn  Phone +372 5012246  Email <a href="mailto:kaido@erim.ee">kaido@erim.ee</a>
<b>FINLAND</b>  Petteri Hannula President	Suomen Filatelistiliitto c/o Hannula Norokuja 5 L SF 02770 Espoo  Phone +358 406805025  Email <a href="mailto:sfff@filatelisti.fi">sfff@filatelisti.fi</a> website <a href="https://www.filatelisti.fi/">https://www.filatelisti.fi/</a>
<b>FRANCE</b>  Philippe Lesage President	Fédération Française des Associations Philatéliques 47, rue de Maubeuge 75009 Paris  Phone +33 1 42855025  Email <a href="mailto:ffap.philatellie@gmail.com">ffap.philatellie@gmail.com</a> website <a href="https://www.ffap.net/">https://www.ffap.net/</a>










<p>GERMANY</p>  <p>Alfred Schmidt President</p>	<p>Bund Deutscher Philatelisten Mildred-Scheel-Str. 2 53175 Bonn</p> <p>Phone +49 228308580 Fax +49 2283085812</p> <p>Email info@bdph.de website <a href="https://www.bdph.de/">https://www.bdph.de/</a></p>
<p>GREECE</p>  <p>Nikos Mallouchos President</p>	<p>Hellenic Philatelic Federation P.O. Box 3505 10210 Athens</p> <p>Phone +30 6944385672</p> <p>Email info@efo.gr website <a href="https://www.efo.gr/">https://www.efo.gr/</a></p>
<p>HUNGARY</p>  <p>Laszlo Polgar President</p>	<p>National Federation of Hungarian Philatelists P.O. Box 4 1387 Budapest</p> <p>Phone +36 1 3327300</p> <p>Email titkarsag@mabeosz.hu Email polgar.laszlo@mabeosz.hu website <a href="http://www.mabeosz.hu/">http://www.mabeosz.hu/</a></p>
<p>ICELAND</p>  <p>Gísli Geir Harðarson President</p>	<p>Icelandic Philatelic Federation P.O. Box 8028 128 Reykjavik</p> <p>Phone + 354 8230236</p> <p>Email stamps@internet.is website <a href="https://www.postsaga.is/">https://www.postsaga.is/</a></p>
<p>IRELAND</p>  <p>Patrick Casey Honorary Secretary</p>	<p>Federation of Philatelic Societies of Ireland P.O. Box 12624 Rathfarnham Dublin 16</p> <p>Phone +353 1 8422610</p> <p>Email fedphilsocirl@gmail.com</p>
<p>ISRAEL</p>  <p>Eli Weber President</p>	<p>Israel Philatelic Federation P.O. Box 3301 Tel Aviv 6103201</p> <p>Phone +972 3 6295547 Fax + 972 3 5259716</p> <p>Email ipf@netvision.net.il website <a href="http://www.israelphilately.org.il/main_e.asp">http://www.israelphilately.org.il/main_e.asp</a></p>
<p>ITALY</p>  <p>Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi President</p>	<p>Federazione fra le Società Filateliche Italiane Presso Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi CP 45, I-30126 Lido di Venezia</p> <p>Phone +39 041 5267617 Phone +39 338 2926572 Email: bruno.crevatoselvaggi@gmail.com Email: info@fsfi.it website <a href="http://www.fsfi.it/">http://www.fsfi.it/</a></p>
<p>LATVIA</p>  <p>Raimonds Jonitis President</p>	<p>Latvian Philatelic Society Brivibas gatve 234 1039 Riga</p> <p>Phone +371 7541150 Fax + 371 2528948</p> <p>Email raimonds.jonitis@gmail.com</p>

<p>LEBANON</p>  <p>Nabil Karam President</p>	<p>Lebanese Association of Philately Hotel Sofitel Le Gabriel Att Nabil Karam - Chairman Independence Avenue P.O.Box 167197 Ashrafieh - Beirut 1100 2190 Phone: +961 1 203700 Email: billykaram@billykaram.org website: <a href="https://lapse.org/">https://lapse.org/</a></p>
<p>LIECHTENSTEIN</p>  <p>Helmut Furer President</p>	<p>Liechtensteiner Philatelisten Verband Postfach 460 9490 Vaduz</p> <p>Phone +423 2300065 Fax + 423 2300066</p> <p>Email helmut.fuerer@gmx.ch website <a href="https://www.lphv.li/">https://www.lphv.li/</a></p>
<p>LITHUANIA</p> <p>Vygintas Bubnys President</p>	<p>Union der Philatelisten Litauens Theatro 9B-14 2009 Vilnius</p> <p>Phone +370 69801772 Fax +370 37351271</p> <p>Email vygintas.bubnys@gmail.com</p>
<p>LUXEMBOURG</p>  <p>Jos Wolff President</p>	<p>Fédération des Sociétés Philatéliques du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg Foyer de Philatélie, Rue du Curé 38 1368 Luxembourg</p> <p>Phone +352 621277325 Fax + 352 26370741 Email wolffh@pt.lu website: <a href="https://www.fspl.lu/">https://www.fspl.lu/</a></p>
<p>MOLDOVA</p>  <p>Constantin Ciobanu President</p>	<p>Association of philatelists, maximaphilists and cartophilists from the Republic of Moldova 206 Alba Iulia Street, Fl. 79, Chişinău, MD-2071</p> <p>Phone +373 69368465, +373 69285754</p> <p>Email promarcosedit@gmail.com Email ciobanumuzeu@yahoo.com</p>
<p>MONACO</p>  <p>Olivier Stocker President</p>	<p>Club de Monte-Carlo c/o Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies 11, Terrasses de Fontvieille 98000 Monaco</p> <p>Phone: +44 2075634089</p> <p>Email OStocker@spink.com</p>
<p>MONTENEGRO</p>  <p>Tomo Katuric President</p>	<p>Union of Philatelists of Montenegro Njegoseva 31 85340 Herceg Novi</p> <p>Fax +381 8824030</p> <p>Email tomokaturic@t-com.me</p>
<p>NETHERLANDS</p>  <p>Victor Coenen President</p>	<p>KNBF Bonds bureau Nieuwe Schaft 23 3991 AS Houten</p> <p>Phone +31 30 3075469</p> <p>Email knbf@knbf.nl website <a href="https://www.knbf.nl/">https://www.knbf.nl/</a></p>

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<p><b>NORWAY</b></p>  <p>Frank Gilberg President</p>	<p>Norsk Filatelistforbund Box 2700, St. Hanshaugen NO-0131 Oslo</p> <p>Phone +47 22208053</p> <p>Email nf@filatelist.no website <a href="https://filatelist.no/">https://filatelist.no/</a></p>
<p><b>POLAND</b></p>  <p>Henryk Monkos President</p>	<p>Polish Philatelist Union Main Board al. Wilanowska 115 lok. 41 02-765 Warszawa</p> <p>Phone +48 226252052 Fax +48 226252052</p> <p>Email zgpf@wp.pl website <a href="https://zgpf.pl/">https://zgpf.pl/</a></p>
<p><b>PORTUGAL</b></p>  <p>Pedro Vaz Pereira President</p>	<p>Federação Portuguesa de Filatelia Rua Cidade de Cardiff 36 B 1170-095 Lisboa</p> <p>Phone +351 218125508 Phone +351 933825950</p> <p>Email fpf-portugal@netcabo.pt website <a href="https://fpfportugalia.wordpress.com/">https://fpfportugalia.wordpress.com/</a></p>
<p><b>ROMANIA</b></p>  <p>Ion Chirescu President</p>	<p>Romanian Philatelic Federation Str. Boteanu 6, Sector 1-010027 Bucharest</p> <p>Phone (President) +40 741 327 527 Phone (Federation) + 40 721 240 424</p> <p>Email federatia_filatelica@yahoo.com website <a href="http://www.federatia-filatetica.ro/">http://www.federatia-filatetica.ro/</a></p>
<p><b>RUSSIA</b></p>  <p>Alexey Borodin President</p>	<p>Union of Philatelists of Russia SFR bid. 2, Tverskaya Street 12, stroenie 2 RU-125009 Moscow K-9 GSP-9 Russia</p> <p>Phone +7 495 6503452</p> <p>Email filately1@yandex.ru</p>
<p><b>SERBIA</b></p>  <p>Nikola Ljubicic President</p>	<p>Union of Philatelists of Serbia Kosovska 47 11000 Belgrade</p> <p>Phone +381 113230929 Fax + 381 113230929</p> <p>Email sfs@ptt.rs website <a href="https://www.philaserbia.com/">https://www.philaserbia.com/</a></p>
<p><b>SLOVAKIA</b></p>  <p>Dr. Pavol Lazar President</p>	<p>Union of Philatelists of Slovakia Ul. Radlinského 9 812 11 Bratislava</p> <p>Phone + 421 259325742 Fax + 421 7354737</p> <p>Email zsflazar@gmail.com website <a href="https://slovenskafilatelka.sk/">https://slovenskafilatelka.sk/</a></p>
<p><b>SLOVENIA</b></p>  <p>Bojan Bračič President</p>	<p>Slovenian Philatelic Association P.O. Box 1584 1001 Ljubljana</p> <p>Phone +386 41410398</p> <p>Email bojan.bracic@triera.net website <a href="https://fzs.si/">https://fzs.si/</a></p>
<p><b>SPAIN</b></p>  <p>Miguel Ángel Garcia President</p>	<p>Federación Española de Sociedades Filatelicas Secretary General of FESOFI Mr. Jose Antonio Arruego Sanz Asalto, 69 3ºb 50002 Zaragoza</p> <p>Phone +34 610403445 Email joseantonioarruego@gmail.com website <a href="https://fesofi.es/">https://fesofi.es/</a></p>
<p><b>SWEDEN</b></p>  <p>Rikard Azelius President</p>	<p>Sveriges Filatelist-Förbund Glasfibergatan 8, 2tr SE-125 45 Älvsjö</p> <p>Phone +46 37070566</p> <p>Email info@sff.nu website <a href="https://filatelisten.se/">https://filatelisten.se/</a></p>
<p><b>SWITZERLAND</b></p>  <p>Roberto Lopez President</p>	<p>Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies Buzibachring 10, 6023 Rothenburg</p> <p>Phone +41 44 3122827 Fax + 41 44 3122877</p> <p>Email vsphv@bluewin.ch website <a href="https://www.vsphv.ch/">https://www.vsphv.ch/</a></p>
<p><b>TURKEY</b></p>  <p>Ziya Ağaoğulları President</p>	<p>Fédération des Associations Philatéliques de Turquie Secretary General Arman Arıkan Safak Sk. No. 4/4 34371 Nisantasi-Istanbul</p> <p>Phone +90 212 2405052 Fax + 90 212 2303878 Email: arman_arikan@hotmail.com website <a href="https://tfd.org.tr/">https://tfd.org.tr/</a></p>
<p><b>UKRAINE</b></p>  <p>Dmitry Frenkel President</p>	<p>Association of Philatelists of Ukraine Panteleymonovskaya str. 20 apt. 1 65014 Odessa, Ukraine</p> <p>Email: dmitry-f@ukr.net</p>
<p><b>UNITED KINGDOM</b></p>  <p>Simon Richards Chairman</p>	<p>Association of British Philatelic Societies c/o The Royal Philatelic Society London 15 Abchurch Lane London EC4N 7BW</p> <p>ABPS Exhibitions and International Committee (Chairman Simon Richards) Email Simon@sidebell.co.uk website <a href="https://www.abps.org.uk/">https://www.abps.org.uk/</a></p>

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# Events Calendar

2023		
14-15 April	PERTH 2023, United Kingdom	National with open participation
19-23 April	EXFILNA 2023, Teruel, Spain	National with invited countries <a href="https://exposicionesfesofi.es">https://exposicionesfesofi.es</a>
25-28 May	IBRA 2023, Essen, Germany	General World, FIP Patronage, AIJP Patronage, FEPA Recognition <a href="https://ibra2023.de">https://ibra2023.de</a>
1-4 June	BRATISLAVAFILA 2023, Slovakia	National with international participation, FEPA Recognition
2-4 June	NORDIA 2023, Ásgarður, Garðabær, Iceland	Multinational
20-23 July	NAPOSTA 2023, Trier, Germany	National with international participation
21-22 July	YORK 2023, United Kingdom	National with open participation
7-10 September	MULTILATERALE 2023, Koper, Slovenia	Multinational, FEPA Recognition
21-24 September	FEPA CONGRESS 2023	Date and Time TBA
21-24 September	ALPE-ADRIA 2023, Tarvisio, Italy	Multinational, FEPA Recognition
21-24 September	TIMFILEX 2023, Timișoara, Romania	National with international participation, FEPA Recognition
27-30 September	STAMPEX 2023, London, United Kingdom	Stamp show <a href="https://www.stampexinternational.com">https://www.stampexinternational.com</a>
12-14 October	BALKANFILA XIX, Belgrade, Serbia	Multinational
23-28 November	THAILAND 2023, Bangkok, Thailand	Specialised World, WSC, FIP Patronage
2024		
17-20 April	EFIRO 2024, Bucharest, Romania	European, FEPA Patronage, FIP Recognition <a href="http://www.efiro.ro">http://www.efiro.ro</a>
2-4 June	NORDIA 2024, Norway	Multinational, FEPA Recognition
26-28 July	ESTEX 24, Tartu, Estonia	International
15-19 August	PHILAKOREA 2024, Seoul, Korea	Specialised World, WSC, FIP Patronage
5-14 September	ENAJSTO OKNO KRANJ 2024, Kranj, Slovenia	One-Frame International
17-20 October	HAFNIA 24, Copenhagen, Denmark	European, FEPA Patronage <a href="https://www.hafnia24.com">https://www.hafnia24.com</a>
2025		
8-11 May	EUROPHILEX BIRMINGHAM 2025, United Kingdom	European, FEPA Patronage <a href="https://europhilex2025.co.uk">https://europhilex2025.co.uk</a>
2026		
23-30 May	BOSTON 2026, Massachusetts, United States	General World, FIP Patronage <a href="https://boston2026.org">https://boston2026.org</a>

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Steinbeisstr. 6+8 | 74321 Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany | Tel. +49-(0)7142-789400  
Fax. +49-(0)7142-789410 | [info@auktionen-gaertner.de](mailto:info@auktionen-gaertner.de) | [www.auktionen-gaertner.de](http://www.auktionen-gaertner.de)

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