



ISSUE 45 - July 2024

FEPA NEWS



Coleccione Selos
de Macau

澳門郵票收藏

Collect
Macao's Stamps

18/06/2024

澳門郊野步行徑
Trilhos de Macau
Trails in Macao



集郵檢碼 QRcode



快分享到朋友圈
一起關注澳門郵票！

澳門議事亭前地 LARGO DO SENADO, MACAU

電話 Tel.: (853) 8396 8513, 2857 4491 傳真 Fax.: (853) 8396 8603, 2833 6603

電郵 E-mail: philately@ctt.gov.mo

網址 Website: <http://philately.ctt.gov.mo>



澳門郵電 CTT
Correios e Telecomunicações de Macau





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.

Head Office: FEPA, Sutherland House, 40 Culverden Down, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9SG, United Kingdom

Layout: Phil*Creativ GmbH, Vogelsrather Weg 27, 41366 Schwalmtal, Germany

Printer: EUROGRAFIS D.O.O., Puhova ulica 18, SI-2000, Maribor, Slovenia

ISSN: 2218-516x

CONTENTS

Letter from the President	4
News from FEPA	
News from the FEPA Board	6
FEPA Congress, 19 th October 2024	8
The FEPA Awards 2023	9
Philatelic Activities of the Union of Philatelists of the Republic of Moldova (UPRM)	11
News from FEPA Members	
News from FEPA Members	12
The Royal Spanish Academy of Philately and Postal History elects new academicians	13
Closer cooperation between Norway and Sweden on websites	14
Exhibition News	
“DOBRICH FILEX 2023” – with hope for the birth of a tradition	15
Commemorating Sarajevo’s olympic glory – philatelic exhibition marks 40 th anniversary	16
Paris: European Youth Sport Philately Challenge 2024	16
EFIRO 2024 World Exhibition 16-19 April 2024	17
NORDIA 2024	19
Forthcoming Exhibitions	
MARE BALTICUM 2024	20
HAFNIA 24	21
International Stamp Fair at Ulm, 24 th – 26 th October 2024	23
BALKANFILA XX in Thessaloniki	24
International Exhibition “YEREVAN 2024” 18-22 November 2024	25
MONACOPHIL 2024	26
EUROPHILEX Birmingham 2025	27
STAMPEX	28
LIBEREC 2025	29
FEPA Exhibiting	
Postal history exhibiting in Europe	31
The introduction Page – Advice on preparing a good introduction page for an exhibit	33
Notes on FIP guidelines for picture postcard exhibits	41
Developments in Philately	
Engaging the next generation: How record-setting sales can promote philately	44
Energy Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy (ED-XRF) – Spectroscopic and chemical examinations of the red and brown vignettes of the Orient Express	47
Danish postal reform: Something is shocking in the state of Denmark	51
The World of Research	
Postal History, a vital element of the history of communications – the 3rd international congress on postal history from multidisciplinary and diachronic perspectives, Prato, Italy, 20 th -22 nd June 2024	58
The evaluation of philatelic literature	60
Book Review: Jesús Sitjà Prats - Pacific Steam Navigation Company Mail 1840-1854	61
Nominations for the FEPA Medal 2023 for exceptional philatelic study and research	62
Benin in Nigeria, one place or two?	64
The first regular stamps in independent Slovenia	67
The Republican Academic Battalion in the monarchy of the north Portugal	74
FEPA Family and FEPA Board	
FEPA Family	78
FEPA Board	81
Events Calendar	82
Advertisers: Macao (2), Croatia (30), Correos (57), Christoph Gärtner Auctions (83), Postiljonen (84)	

On the Front Cover: King Christian IV of Denmark c. 1612. Painted by Pieter Isaacs. The painting is part of The Royal Danish Collection located at Rosenborg Castle, Øster Voldgade 4A, DK 1350 København

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Philatelic Friends,

Welcome to the latest issue of FEPA NEWS, the Journal of European Philately that keeps you up to date with what is going on in European philatelic organisations and discusses developments in philately generally and in the world of philatelic research in particular. Once again, we can offer a wide range of news items and articles and I hope you will all find something here to interest you.

FEPA is privileged to have a large number of national philatelic organisations as Members and we are delighted that the Union of Philatelists of the Republic of Moldova (UPRM) has recently applied to join us. Their application will be on the agenda at the FEPA Congress in Copenhagen on 19th October 2024 and we look forward to welcoming them into the FEPA Family. FEPA exists to support its Members in promoting philately and the institutional and personal links between us have always been strong. Our top priority will be to ensure that these links remain vibrant and effective.

I am constantly amazed to see how collectors are able to use philatelic and postal historical material to shed light on any topic, narrow or broad, local or universal. The depth of their research and the breadth of the knowledge they acquire are extraordinary. The results are visible in exhibitions, literature, club displays and in collectors' relentless enthusiasm for building their collections. It is no surprise to philatelists when doctors tell us that lifelong learning is good for our health and well-being. They knew that already. With all its diverse branches and world-wide scope for exploration, philately offers a perfect way to follow that advice.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and I would be very pleased to hear from you if you have any comments or suggestions on how we might improve it in future.

BILL HEDLEY

LETTRE DU PRÉSIDENT

Chers Amis Philatélistes,

Bienvenue dans le dernier numéro de FEPA NEWS, le journal de la philatélie européenne qui vous tient au courant de ce qui se passe dans les organisations philatéliques européennes et traite des développements dans la philatélie en général et dans le monde de la recherche philatélique en particulier. Une fois de plus, nous pouvons vous offrir un large spectre d'informations et d'articles, et j'espère que vous y trouverez tous quelque sujet qui vous intéresse.

La FEPA a le privilège de compter parmi ses membres un grand nombre d'organisations philatéliques nationales. Nous sommes heureux que l'Union des philatélistes de la République de Moldavie (UPRM) ait récemment demandé à nous rejoindre. Cette demande sera à l'ordre du jour du Congrès de la FEPA à Copenhague le 19 octobre 2024 et nous nous attendons à les accueillir au sein de la FEPA. Nous nous réjouissons de les accueillir au sein de la famille FEPA. La FEPA existe pour soutenir ses membres dans la promotion de la philatélie et les liens institutionnels et personnels entre nous ont toujours été forts. Notre première priorité sera de nous assurer que ces liens restent vivants et efficaces.

Je suis constamment étonné de voir comment les collectionneurs sont capables d'utiliser le matériel philatélique et postal historique pour éclairer n'importe quel sujet, qu'il soit étroit ou large, local ou universel. La profondeur de leurs recherches et l'ampleur des connaissances qu'ils acquièrent sont extraordinaires. Les résultats sont visibles dans les expositions, la littérature, les présentations des clubs et dans l'enthousiasme sans faille des collectionneurs pour constituer leurs collections. Les philatélistes ne sont pas surpris lorsque les médecins nous disent que l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie est bénéfique pour la santé et le bien-être. Ils le savaient déjà. Avec ses diverses branches et son champ d'exploration mondial, la philatélie offre un moyen parfait de suivre ce conseil.

J'espère que vous apprécierez ce numéro, et je serais très heureux de recevoir vos commentaires ou suggestions sur la manière dont nous pourrions l'améliorer à l'avenir.

BILL HEDLEY

OFFENER BRIEF DES PRÄSIDENTEN

Liebe philatelistische Freunde,

Herzlich willkommen zur neuesten Ausgabe der FEPA News, der Zeitschrift zur europäischen Philatelie, die Sie auf dem Laufenden hält über das, was in den europäischen philatelistischen Organisationen passiert und Entwicklungen in der Philatelie allgemein und speziell im Bereich der philatelistischen Forschung bespricht. Erneut können wir eine große Bandbreite von Neuigkeiten und Artikeln anbieten, und ich hoffe, dass Sie alle dabei etwas finden, das Sie interessiert.

FEPA hat das Privileg, eine große Anzahl von nationalen philatelistischen Organisationen als Mitglieder zu haben, und wir sind erfreut, dass die Union of Philatelists of the Republic of Moldova (UPRM) kürzlich um Aufnahme gebeten hat. Ihr Antrag wird auf der Tagesordnung des FEPA-Kongresses in Kopenhagen am 19. Oktober 2024 sein, und wir freuen uns darauf, sie in der FEPA-Familie willkommen zu heißen. FEPA existiert, um ihre Mitglieder bei der Werbung für die Philatelie zu unterstützen, und die organisatorischen und persönlichen Beziehungen waren immer stark. Unsere oberste Priorität wird es sein, dafür zu sorgen, dass sie lebendig und effektiv bleiben.

Ich bin immer beeindruckt, wenn ich sehe, wie Sammler es schaffen, mit philatelistischem und posthistorischen Material Themen zu beleuchten, seien sie eng oder breit, lokal oder universell. Die Tiefe der Forschung sowie der Umfang des Wissens, das sie sich aneignen, sind außergewöhnlich. Die Ergebnisse sind sichtbar in Ausstellungen, in der Literatur, in Präsentationen in Vereinen und in der anhaltenden Begeisterung der Sammler beim Aufbau ihrer Sammlungen. Es ist keine Überraschung für Philatelisten, dass Ärzte uns erklären, dass ein lebenslanges Lernen gut für unsere Gesundheit und unser Wohlbefinden ist. Sie wussten es bereits. Philatelie bietet mit allen ihren Bereichen und den weltweiten Möglichkeiten zur Erkundung einen perfekten Weg, diesem Rat zu folgen.

Ich hoffe, dass Ihnen diese Ausgabe gefällt, und ich würde mich sehr freuen, von Ihnen zu hören, falls Sie Kommentare oder Vorschläge haben, was wir in Zukunft verbessern können.

BILL HEDLEY

CARTA DEL PRESIDENTE

Queridos amigos filatélicos,

Bienvenidos al último número de FEPA NEWS, la Revista de Filatelia Europea que os mantiene actualizados sobre lo que sucede en las organizaciones filatélicas europeas y analiza los avances en la filatelia en general y en el mundo de la investigación filatélica en particular. Una vez más, podemos ofrecer una amplia gama de noticias y artículos y espero que todos encuentren aquí algo que les interese.

FEPA tiene el privilegio de contar con un gran número de organizaciones filatélicas nacionales como miembros y estamos encantados de que la Unión de Filatelistas de la República de Moldavia (UPRM) haya solicitado recientemente unirse a nosotros. Su solicitud estará en la agenda del Congreso de la FEPA en Copenhague el 19 de octubre de 2024 y estamos deseando darle la bienvenida a la familia FEPA. FEPA existe para apoyar a sus miembros en la promoción de la filatelia y los vínculos institucionales y personales entre nosotros siempre han sido fuertes. Nuestra principal prioridad será garantizar que estos vínculos sigan siendo vibrantes y eficaces.

Me sorprende constantemente ver cómo los coleccionistas son capaces de utilizar material filatélico y de historia postal para arrojar luz sobre cualquier tema, ya sea amplio o específico, local o universal. La profundidad de su investigación y la amplitud del conocimiento que adquieren son extraordinarios. Los resultados son visibles en exposiciones, literatura, presentaciones en clubes y en el incesante entusiasmo de los coleccionistas por construir sus colecciones. A los filatelistas no les sorprende que los médicos nos digan que el aprendizaje permanente es bueno para nuestra salud y bienestar. Eso ya lo sabían. Con todas sus diversas ramas y su ámbito de investigación mundial, la filatelia ofrece una manera perfecta de seguir ese consejo.

Espero que disfruten de este número y me encantaría saber de ustedes si tienen algún comentario o sugerencia sobre cómo podríamos mejorarlo en el futuro.

BILL HEDLEY

News from the FEPA Board



Bill Hedley writes:

Since January 2024 the Board has held five meetings, four by video conference and a weekend conference in Munich. The purpose of the Munich conference was to review FEPA's priorities for the next three years. The question posed was:

'How can FEPA best help its Members to promote philately in Europe?'

The assumption was that FEPA's role is summarised in its four stated objectives (*Right*).

The meeting started with a review of likely developments in the period up to 2030. This looked at the changes taking place in postal communications and philatelic organisations, the impact of further advances in technology, and the evolving pattern for exhibitions and philatelic events in the face of rising costs. Among many predictions made were the following:

<p>Sharing Information</p> <p>Promoting Innovation and Cooperation</p> <p>Supporting Exhibitions</p> <p>Rewarding Achievements</p>
--

- The era of the postage stamp is coming to an end and they will become objects of the past. However, the timing of this development will vary from place to place.
- There will continue to be a large number of collectors but, as predicted in the 2013 FEPA study on the future of philatelic organisations, the number of societies with a mainly social purpose will continue to decline. Societies with a specialist purpose will have more endurance, and their digital platforms will acquire greater importance in their work.
- This will further reduce the number of people willing to help run philatelic organisations and events as volunteers.
- The target group for new philatelists will be 40-60 years old, and they will often have specific needs such as support in a particular collecting area or the opportunity to join online discussion groups.
- Rising costs and shortage of volunteers may drive a move towards fewer live exhibitions and the combination of live and digital formats in which exhibitors show a selection from their collections. Literature is also likely to go digital.
- Artificial Intelligence will be a vital tool for identification and description, providing instant answer to questions and simultaneous translation. Technology costs will fall and the internet will provide access to data and information on philatelic matters for most collectors. On the other hand, there could be new risks from forgery and counterfeiting.
- Use of the printed word will decline as publications move online.

None of the above was surprising as it merely followed the trends of recent years. Nevertheless, it pointed towards the urgent need for philatelic organisations at all levels to embrace innovations if they wish to survive. These include:

- Making full use of new technology in all its various forms,
- Listening to members, and adapting in the light of feedback,

- Actively promoting a positive image of philately to the wider world,
- Cooperating with other organisations, and engaging with people who are not philatelic collectors in the traditional sense but want to understand how philatelic material can help them to develop their particular subject of interest.
- Regularly renewing governing bodies to bring in younger faces.

This led on to a discussion about the role that FEPA can play in helping Member organisations to adapt to what was described as, 'Their biggest change ever: Handling the inevitable decline of membership'.

A number of concerns emerged:

- Members tend to seek national solutions to problems and rarely ask for advice or share information on best practice.
- There is still scope for extending the reach of FEPA's communications to wider audiences.
- Many readers prefer to have the printed version of FEPA NEWS but the costs of printing and distributing it have risen substantially.
- The FEPA seminars, as currently organised, require too much effort for too little reward.
- FEPA's resources are extremely limited and plans must be tempered by realism as to how much it can do.

An analysis was then carried out to find out what the Board regarded as its most urgent priorities. On the one hand, it was felt that our communications are strong and make a helpful contribution to our Members' activities. On the other hand, we thought that our links with Members were less close than we would like and this restricted our ability to make the most of our limited resources.

We concluded that our priorities should be to:

- Involve our Members more actively in FEPA business with the aim of improving cooperation on the central goal of promoting philately. Our intention is to start this in Video Conference meetings with groups of 8-10 representatives nominated by our Members and topics for discussion defined in advance. Lars Engelbrecht will lead this work and a proposal will be prepared for discussion at the 2024 FEPA Congress in Copenhagen.
- Maintain and, if possible, extend our existing communications which are vital to meeting our objectives 'Sharing Information' and 'Supporting Exhibitions'.
- Continue with the Awards programme as it is now, although there may be minor changes to the process from time to time.
- Take a fresh look at our seminar programme, and at FEPA NEWS, to make sure we are getting the best value from them.

Conclusion

I will review this programme in my presentation to the FEPA Congress on 19th October when there will also be an opportunity for delegates to comment on it.

FEPA Congress, 19th October 2024

Bill Hedley writes:

The Danish Federation kindly invited FEPA to hold the 2024 FEPA Congress in Copenhagen to coincide with the HAFNIA exhibition. This invitation was gratefully accepted.

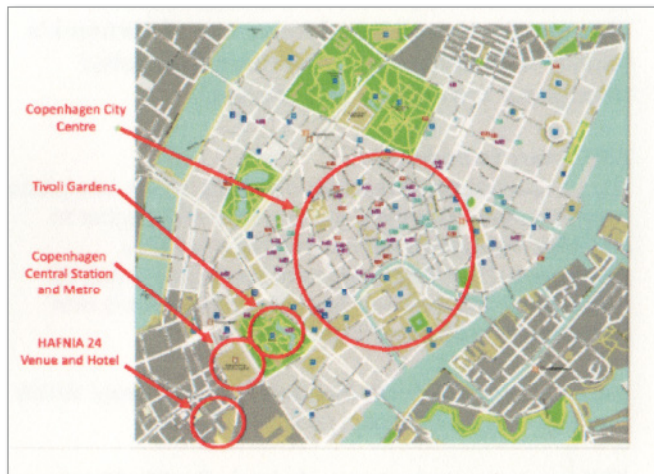
The Congress will be held

at 3.00pm

on Saturday, 19th October 2024 in:

Anteroom next to the Exhibition Hall

The meeting will end by 5.00pm.



The preliminary agenda for the Congress is as follows:

1. Welcome.
2. Roll Call and choice of Tellers.

Presentations

3. FEPA Gold Pin to Presidents of Members present who had not previously received it.
4. FEPA Medals.

FEPA Business

5. Approval of the minutes of the 2023 FEPA Congress.
6. Receipt of reports of Board Members.
7. Approval of the Financial Statements for 2023 and of the Auditor's report.
8. Consideration of the application for FEPA membership from the Union of Philatelists of Moldova (SFRM).
9. Report by the Treasurer on FEPA's financial position in 2024 and budget for 2025.
10. Presentation by the President on FEPA's future plans.
11. Report by the Vice-President on proposals for revision of the Guidelines on the evaluation of Philatelic Literature.
12. Consideration of motions from Members (if any).
13. Date and Venue for the 2025 FEPA Congress.

We are looking forward to seeing as many Members as possible represented at our Congress.

Members are entitled to send one delegate to the Congress and in addition they can nominate up to two observers.

The FEPA Awards for 2023

Giancarlo Morolli writes:

The FEPA Board wishes to express its profound gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the recognition of exceptional achievements in the world of European philately by nominating individuals and societies for the FEPA Medals and Certificates of Appreciation for 2023.

The Board has made the following awards:

THE FEPA MEDAL FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO ORGANISED PHILATELY, 2023

ELI WEBER (ISRAEL)

Eli Weber has served as President of the Israeli Philatelic Federation for the last 30 years. Under his leadership it has reached exceptional heights of achievement, including hosting three International stamp exhibitions and a European exhibition. Since 1984 he has served the international philatelic community as a jury member. As a group leader during this remarkable 40-year period he has trained many fellow jury members, a large proportion of whom completed their apprenticeship under his guidance. He served as President of the jury at no less than six international exhibitions from Tel Aviv 1998 to the recent EFIRO 2024. He was also President of the jury at the "Jerusalem 3000" European stamp exhibition in 1995. It speaks highly for the regard in which he is held that five different European federations considered him to be the most suitable person to lead their jury.



THE FEPA MEDAL FOR EXCEPTIONAL PHILATELIC STUDY AND RESEARCH, 2023

COLIN TABEART (UK)

The medal is awarded for his work on 'British Long Distance Mail Packets Volume 2 - The Harwich Packets 1816-1834, Rates Routes and Ships Out and Home'.

Colin Tabeart has studied maritime postal history for many years and published a series of books to guide collectors seeking to understand how letters were carried by sea, especially between Britain and its overseas empire. This work, based on original research, breaks new ground and will be an invaluable reference point for collectors who want to study mail services between the UK and Northern Europe during the 19th Century.



A Certificate as Runner-Up has been awarded to Stavros Andreadis (Greece) for: 'Large Hermes Heads - Printing and Shades'.

Certificates of Appreciation have also been awarded to:

- Fabio Bonacina & Beniamino Bordoni (Italy) for 'Creatività per un francobollo'.
- Semaan Bassil (Lebanon) for 'Mail in the Levant. Beirut: A Case Study in the early age of steamship and globalisation 1835-1914'.
- Eugenio de Quesada (Spain) for 'El Correo sin Correos en España, siglos XV a XVIII'.

Reviews of all these excellent works are at Pages 62-63.

THE FEPA CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION 2023

The following societies were awarded Certificates of Appreciation.

Triestingtaler Briefmarkensammler Verein Hirtenberg, Hirtenberg, Austria

The Triestingtaler Stamp Collectors Club, founded in 1967 and gathering 92 members, is one of Austria's most active clubs. They host the "HIBRIA" event nearly every two years, featuring class 1 and 2 exhibitions, special themes, and philatelic competitions with dealers and foreign postal administrations. The club has also hosted the Austrian exhibition ÖVEBRIA twice with FEPA recognition. In 2023, ORF's broadcasting coverage of their Stamp Collectors Day generated significant public interest and new memberships. The club's success is further complemented by cultural and social events, including excursions and gatherings for members and friends.

Klub filatelistu 04-01, Liberec, Czech Republic

In recent years, the Philatelic Club 04-01 Liberec has significantly promoted Czech philately both domestically and internationally. Key achievements include organizing major exhibitions such as LIBEREC 2022 and LIBEREC 2019 and having members on the PRAGA 2018 board. Club members took a successful part in FIP exhibitions and exhibited philatelic literature at FEPA shows. They contribute to philatelic literature, write for national magazines, and publish for professional societies. Members are involved in digitizing philatelic literature, serve as experts for the Union of Czech Philatelists, and offer free advice on stamp valuation. The club, founded in 1887, also organizes monthly regional stamp exchanges.

Circolo Filatelico "Giacomo Puccini", Viareggio (Lucca), Italy

This society, established in 2007 by a small group of people very fond of stamps, postcards, coins, and other collectibles, is based in a town in Tuscany famous for its seaside resort but also as the home of the composer Giacomo Puccini. The society, currently with 80 members, has always been very active in promoting philately in the local community and the region, especially among young people and in schools. The society, currently with about 80 members, has linked philately to the town's most important events, first and foremost Carnival, with philatelic exhibitions and other initiatives.

Royal Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society, Royal Tunbridge Wells, United Kingdom

The Royal Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society, established in 1945, attracts members from various regions and holds daytime meetings twice monthly, except during July and August. Facing declining attendance in 2018, the society shifted to all daytime meetings in 2019. During the 2020 Covid pandemic, they successfully transitioned to Zoom meetings, maintaining participation levels. The society's activities focus on sociable and inclusive philatelic meetings, including displays and an annual Stamp Fair in Crowborough. Future plans involve enhancing their website as a philatelic resource and potentially adding social-philatelic displays to attract a broader audience.

THE FEPA CERTIFICATE FOR SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS 2023



Awarded to **SINISHA PAVLESKI** (North Macedonia)

For his outstanding service to philately at the national and international level over 30 years.

Philatelic activities of the Union of Philatelists of the Republic of Moldova (UFRM)

The UFRM recently applied to become a Member of FEPA and its application will be submitted to the Congress in October 2024 for approval.

Andrei Adam, President of the UFRM, has kindly provided us with some information about the Union and its activities.



The UFRM is the legal successor of the Society of the Moldavian Republican Branch of the Union Society of Philatelists of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, created in 1966. In 1989 it was renamed the Union of Philatelists of the Moldavian SSR within the Union of Philatelists of the USSR. Current activities were supervised by the Central Directorate of the USSR Federation Council.

In connection with the collapse of the USSR and its structures, the cessation of the activities of the Union of Philatelists of the USSR, the dissolution of its elected bodies and the receipt of a written notification about this from the central board of the Federation Council of the USSR No.122 dated February 21, 1992, The independent Union of Philatelists of the Republic of Moldova was proclaimed and created at the general meeting (conference) of Moldovan philatelists on March 22, 1992. A new text of the provisions of the Charter was approved and new governing bodies were elected: Chairman, Board, Audit Commission.

On 1st January 1992 the UFRM numbered 1018 philatelists, organized in 4 cities (Chisinau, Balti, Bendery, Tiraspol) and 7 regional branches (Cahul, Comrat, Rybnitsa, Soroca, Ungheni, Falesti, Floresti). Between 1992 and 2016, the activities of the Philatelists Union began to decline. The loss of its headquarters, restrictions on social activities, and weak management led to a sharp reduction in the number of collectors which led the Union to self-liquidation. On October 29, 2016, however, an Extraordinary General Meeting of the UFRM was convened. During the meeting, the problems of its current activities were considered and a decision was made to update the leadership, develop governing documents, unite all branches of the republic into one single association and change the strategy for philately in Moldova. Adam Andrei was elected President.

In compliance with a new law (No. 86 of June 11, 2020) and HG No. 220-XVI dated October 19, 2007, the UFRM was re-registered and entered into the state register with the right to official activity. There are now 56 affiliated philatelists in the Association and 4 candidates.

Since 2016 we have held 10 national exhibitions with international participation and participated in 17 international exhibitions of various levels. Most recently these have included the internationals IBRA 2023, BANGLADESH 2023 and EFIRO 2024, as well as the National MOLDFILEX 2023 held in Chisinau.

At the moment our main priorities are:

- Attracting more collectors to the association, especially among young people.
- Participation in exhibitions under the auspices of FEPA, FIP.
- Establish relationships with collectors from other countries.
- Distribution of Moldovan philately around the world.

Editor's Note: We thank Mr. Andrei and his colleagues sincerely for their work to promote philately and we look forward to meeting them at the FEPA Congress.

News from FEPA Members

EGYPT

At the general assembly of the Philatelic Society of Egypt held on 8th December 2023 a new Board of Directors containing six new members was elected for the next four years. Later, it held its first meeting at which Hany Salam was elected President. It is:

President: Hany Salam
 Vice-President: Hisham Bassyouny
 Treasurer: Hassan Elbadry
 General Secretary: Akram Toubar
 Members: Sherif Elfar, Samir Nabih, Ali Abdelmegeid, Mohamed Omar, Sherif Hamza.

A national exhibition was organised immediately and held successfully in January in partnership with the Egyptian Post.



SERBIA

Vladimir Milič was elected President of the Union of Philatelists of Serbia at the Assembly held on 9 January. At the same session, a new Board of Directors was elected for four years, until December 2027. In addition to the President, it includes:

Vice-Presidents: Zoran Stepanovic
 Dragan Krstic
 Secretary: Ugljesa Stepanovic
 Members: Filip Kulic
 Zeljko Popovic



NORWAY



The Norsk Filatelistforbund has elected Øistein Bø as President of the new Board.

ITALY



The Italian Federation (FSFI) has re-elected Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi (Left) as President for another 3-year term with 156 votes. Umberto Cavallaro (Right) received 85 votes.

Our warmest congratulations and best wishes to all the newly-appointed officers. We look forward to continuing our close cooperation with them towards the promotion of philately.

The Royal Spanish Academy of Philately and Postal History elects new Academicians

José Ramón Moreno writes:

The Real Academia Hispánica de Filatelia e Historia Postal is the most prestigious philatelic institution of the Spanish-speaking countries. Its objectives are research, study and promotion of everything related to the philately and postal history of Spain and its former possessions, dependencies and protectorates.

The Academy has a maximum number of 50 Académicos de Número (Full Academicians) as well as an unlimited number of Académicos Correspondientes (Corresponding Academicians). Lists of the Full and Corresponding Academicians can be found at <https://www.rahf.es/academicos-de-numero/> and at <https://www.rahf.es/academicos-correspondientes/>.



A General Assembly of the Academy was held in Madrid on 8th March 2024 under the Chairmanship of its President, Eduardo Consejo, along with Vice-President Fernando Aranaz and Secretary José Manuel Rodríguez. Its first task was to review the Academy's activities in 2023 which included an impressive 34 presentations given in Spain and beyond as well as several Academic Sessions.

A secret ballot was then held to elect candidates for Full and Corresponding Academicians, and the following were elected:

Académicos de Número	Académicos Correspondientes
Walter Britz Julio César Ponce Lozada	Rafael Acuña Castillo Miguel José Casielles Marcelino González Fernandez Reinaldo Estevão de Macedo Carlos Malpica Lizarzaburu Aldo L. Samamé y Samamé

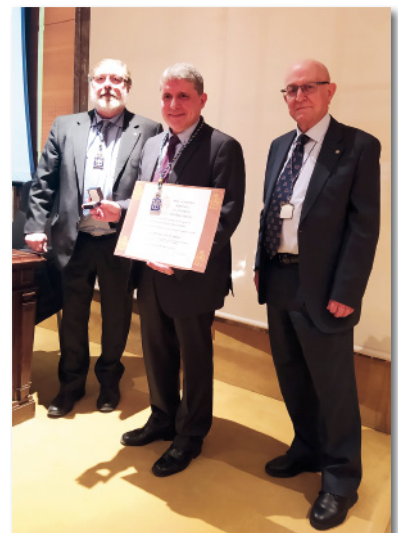
Two Academicians (Juan Antonio Llácer and Raimundo Almeda) then gave admission speeches before receiving their Certificates and Medals as Académicos de Número.

Right: Juan Antonio Llácer is presented with his certificate and medal by the President and Secretary

In conclusion two new Academy publications were presented on:

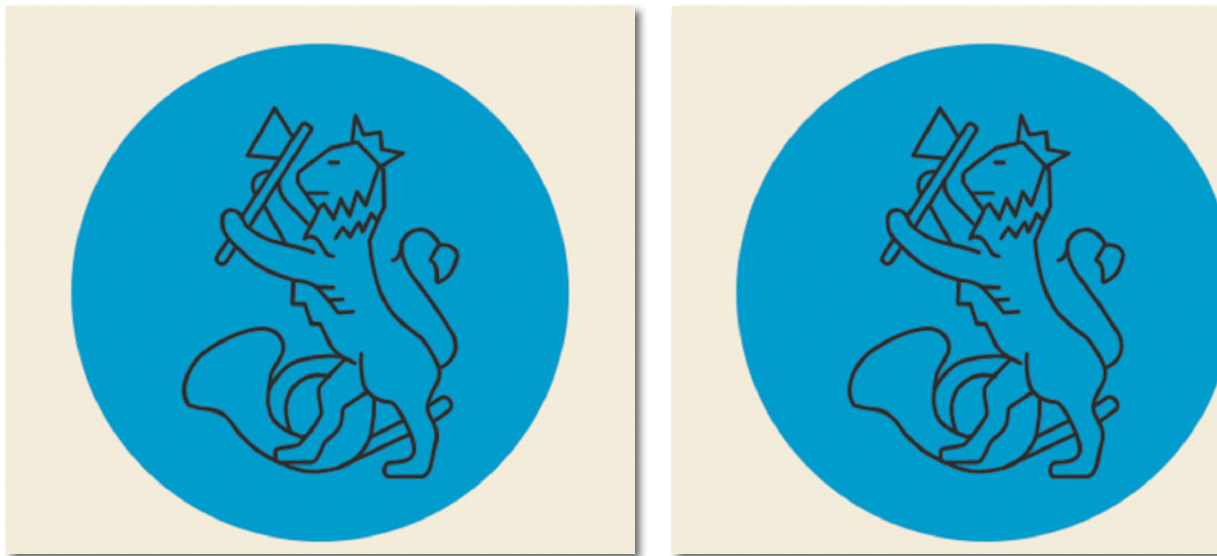
- The Lordship of Vizcaya postal history 1520-1870, by José Maria and Rafael Raya Sanchez, and
- Spanish Airmail and Aerophilately 1870-1970 Vol. III by Fernando Aranaz del Rio and Eduardo Consejo Prieto

The Assembly was then concluded.



Closer Cooperation between Norway and Sweden on websites

Bill Hedley writes:



Earlier this year we were pleased to hear that on 16th January 2024 the Swedish and Norwegian Philatelic Federations signed a cooperation agreement by which they committed themselves to use the same host for their websites. In due course they expect that this will provide cost advantages for both associations. The Swedish Federation has also donated its website to the Norwegian Federation which means that in future they will be able to offer new functionality and other benefits at lower cost.

The two Federations are also discussing other areas for cooperation including memberships and literature. Conscious that many philatelists in each country collect the other one, they want to make membership of each other's societies as easy as possible by using the same platform. Their hope is that this cooperation may eventually extend to other Nordic countries though this is still an aspiration.

Øistein Bøe, recently elected as President of the Norsk Filatelistforbund, kindly added a comment:

The cooperation on website and digital strategy is formalised through a cooperation agreement with cost sharing. We launched the new Norwegian site based on the Swedish one in March and we are gradually building new functionality. The technology used is WordPress, which enables us to add functionality by apps. This means that good solutions developed by one country could easily be adopted by another country.

The vision is, for example, to allow access to club auctions, digitized journals and handbooks, databases of cancellations etc. and sales products through the site along with necessary information (news, regulations, guidelines etc). A dilemma going forward is also to keep the balance right between social meetings and digital meeting rooms (we are a social and friendly hobby).

The Sveriges Filatelistförbund (SFF) website is at filatelisten.se and the Norsk Filatelistforbund is at <https://filatelist.no/>

“DOBRICH FILEX 2023” – with hope for the birth of a tradition

Boncho Bonev has kindly sent us this report on an innovative exhibition in Bulgaria:

The city of Dobrich hosted the philatelic exhibition “Dobrich Philex 2023” from 20th-26th October 2023 in the halls of the “Dora Gabe” Regional Library. 100 exhibition frames presented the best Bulgarian exhibits in the classes “Thematics”, “Maximaphilia”, “Open Class” and “One Board - Maximaphilia”. The exhibition was organised by the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists and “Bulgarian Posts”.

The most obvious characteristic of this philatelic event was the extremely saturated accompanying programme which turned it into a kind of philatelic show. Particular attention was drawn to the daily validations of new issues during the first three days of the exhibition, accompanied by special programmes. For example, the stamp “125 years since the birth of the writer Dimitar Talev” was put into use after the theatre group at the “Dimitar Talev” Secondary School in the city presented to those present a dramatised part from his works. The series “People’s Awakeners” was presented to the audience by specialists - teachers in higher education institutions who are engaged in the study of the activities of the personalities in question from Bulgarian history. Students recited poems and offered congratulations to the Bulgarian philatelists.



The Vice President of the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists with the Director of the City Library of Dobrich and the Director of the regional Post.

Although it did not have a competitive character, “Dobrich Filex” turned into a review not only of previously known exhibits, but also of a number of new ones from these classes. Of course, there is still much to be desired in their construction, but the fact is that aspiration and desire exist.

And children, many children, visited the exhibition in those six days. If there was one thing that made the strongest impression, it was the numerous organised groups from the schools of the city and the region that were constantly in front of the frames. There were special philatelic gifts for everyone, provided by the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists and the magazine “Philatelin Review”. The hope is that some of these children will carry over the years the memories of this philatelic exhibition and, as adults, will become serious collectors and stamp lovers.

“Dobrich Filex 2023” is already history but the philatelists from Dobrich, the representatives of the postal administration, all who in one way or another were involved in the construction of the exhibition, are already looking to “Dobrich Philex 2024” to continue the good start set in the October days in the city - the centre of the beautiful area of Dobrudja.

Commemorating Sarajevo's Olympic glory. Philatelic exhibition marks 40th anniversary

Omer Merzić writes:

After a successful four-year period the Society of Philatelists and Numismatics of the Canton of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) enthusiastically started the year with a new Board and new events. To mark the 40th anniversary of the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, the Society hosted a special exhibition in cooperation with the City of Sarajevo and the Mayor, Benjamina Karić, as well as the Bosnian Cultural Center, and Artis - Cultural society. The photograph (below) shows members of the Society at the opening ceremony.



The exhibition showcased stamps, first day covers, and commemorative coins celebrating the Games and their enduring legacy. The exhibition was part of a wider celebratory festivity organised by the city, featuring cultural and music events that resonated with the community. This broader programme helped draw even more attention to the exhibition, fostering its standing and significance.

Paris: European Youth Sport Philately Challenge 2024

Pascal Bandry writes:

The Youth Sport Philately Challenge exhibition was held with FEPA Recognition in Paris from 30th May - 2nd June. The aim was to take the opportunity of a major global event in Paris – the Olympic Games – to promote philately. There were fourteen entrants from six nations - Spain, Germany, Romania, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and France. Alix Wolf of France came top of the list with an exhibit on 'La Gymnastique'. When the scores of the competing countries were added up the results were close but Spain emerged as the overall winner.

We send our warmest congratulations to all the young exhibitors, and thanks to everyone who contributed to making the exhibition a success.

EFIRO 2024 World Exhibition

16-19 April 2024

Costas Chazapis writes:

After a smooth and relaxing flight from Athens, the plane landed at the Henri Coandă airport in Bucharest. Before I realised it I found myself comfortably sitting in a bus heading to Piața Unirii (Union Square), one of the largest squares of the Romanian capital. Although it was almost midday, the traffic to the city centre was unexpectedly dense, and the ride lasted nearly an hour. I couldn't complain, as I had enjoyed a long city tour for just 3 lei or 0.60 euros.

Bucharest is perhaps the most beautiful city in Southeast Europe. Long boulevards, spacious pavements, bicycle routes, tall trees, and greenery are all-in-one. Impressive buildings of the late 1800s and early 1900s, of the earlier period of monarchy, are mixed with later, Soviet-type, huge constructions that remind visitors of an era the Romanians prefer to forget.

After a few minutes' walk from Piața Unirii, I arrived at the National Library, the venue of EFIRO 2024, a modern, big ten-story construction with a style of its own. The exhibition was spread over two levels, the ground floor and the mezzanine, interconnected with several staircases and escalators.

More than 2,600 frames were employed, most of which have been manufactured recently in Romania, property of Ion Chirescu, President of the Romanian Federation, Chairman of the Organising Committee, and owner of the Museum of Romanian Records. Having

realised the opportunity of the huge space available in the National Library, the Organisers sought to bring in additional frames from neighbouring countries, and they did: 600 frames from Bulgaria.

Following a quick stroll around the frames to find out what was where, I figured out that, because of the bulky columns that supported the tall building, the frames were developed in many small-sized islets, each comprising a handful of exhibits. However, architect Chirescu designed these islets to contain either 5- or 8-frame exhibits exclusively. The result was that all exhibits started and finished at the two ends of a single row of frames.

My first impression of EFIRO 2024 was its opening ceremony. The stage was set as simple as it could be, with three speakers that did not waste anybody's time. Ion Chirescu welcomed the visitors, Prakob Chirakiti RDP, FIP President, came next, and Florin Valentin Stefan, a Posta Romana representative, followed. All three addressed the audience in less than ten minutes combined!



Speaking of impressions, the Romanians did a marvellous job, considering their late start and lack of updating of the philatelic community until only a few months before the opening. Not only did they succeed in attracting a considerable number of frames but they also designed an exhibition which was easy to attend, housed in a nice venue which was generally well-lit, without annoying delays or other setbacks. The national commissioners, jurors, and many visitors were accommodated in three hotels at walking distance from the venue. Everybody could enjoy sitting at restaurants and cafes along the north bank of the Dâmbovița River, very close to the exhibition. Even the Museum of Romanian Records, where the hosts offered evening receptions on every single day of the exhibition, was close by.

The hosts, whether members of the Organising Committee, employees of the National Library or the Museum of National Records, volunteers, or any other Romanian we met, were genuinely friendly to the visitors. Although he had a double role as Juror and General Commissioner, Francisc Ambruș was always around, answering all kinds of questions, and led a well-managed team, getting lots of help from Assistant General Commissioner, Romeo Minc .

The Jury President was Eli Weber and the Secretary Bernard Jimenez. The big winners were Joseph Hackmey RDP with “Classic Baden” (Grand Prix International), and Ion Chirescu with “Foreign Posts in the Romanian Territories 1811-1878” (Grand Prix National). Gerard Louis Van Welie with “The Maritime Mail Connections with the Netherlands East Indies 1788–1877” was also a very close contender for the Grand Prix International. The Awards Dinner took place at the impressive Le Château.

At the AIJP (Journalists) annual Congress, Wolfgang Maassen RDP announced that EFIRO 2024 was the first FIP exhibition with digital literature exhibits. He added that AIJP members will have the opportunity to meet again later in the year, in Ulm in October and Monaco in December. His proposal for the 2025 Congress to take place in Bern, during the Bernaba and Multilaterale exhibitions, was unanimously passed. At the second part of the AIJP session, President Maassen made a presentation about the latest FIP Regulations and Guidelines, posing several questions indicating various critical points, which he proposed to be reconsidered. Wolfgang Maassen finally announced that he had decided to step down at the 2025 Congress, following twenty fruitful years in the President’s chair.

The AIEP (Experts) meeting was centred on the presentation of the new Yearbook 2024, which includes information about the AIEP members and activities, all the prominent philatelists awarded with the “Hunziker Medal”, the rules for auction companies wishing to include the AIEP “Quality label”, as well as the new Statutes of 2022, following the new AIEP address in Vienna. The event, first with physical presence after the Covid-19 pandemic was followed by a reception kindly offered by the Museum to AIEP members and guests.

Twelve two-frame exhibits presented by European Academy members were mounted during a two-hour AEP meeting. A forty-minute PowerPoint presentation by AEP member Oral Avci, entitled “Iraq, a State crafted in stamps”, was the meeting’s highlight.

Tobias Huylmans and Jonas Hällström RDP, both Managing Directors of the Global Philatelic Network, staged the presentation of three new books:

Edition d’Or vol. 71: Joseph Hackmey, ***Barbados and Grenada***.
The two collections were presented in a single-volume, tête-bêche format, the first of the so-called White Line Series, which is dedicated to the author’s outstanding collections.

Edition d’Or vol. 72: Eddie Leibu, ***Romania Outbound Mail***

Edition Spéciale: Fritz Heimbuchler, ***The First Stamps of Brazil 1843-1870***



I feel obliged also to mention the remarkable Museum of Romanian Records, with thousands upon thousands of trivets and pressing irons, corkscrews and vintage cameras, as well as the 800 large-sized frames where 50,000 copies of items of Romanian philately are on display. I was also stunned by the outstanding memorabilia collection of all the FIP patronaged or recognised exhibitions, a lifetime accomplishment of the tireless Alexandru Bartoc.

NORDIA 2024

Hallvard Slettebø writes:

NORDIA 2024 took place in Langesund, Norway between May 31 to June 2 and encompassed 115 exhibits in around 500 frames.

Norway Post issued two postage stamps and a miniature sheet with topic Underwater Flora and Fauna. The surtax for the semi-postal souvenir sheet was for the benefit of NORDIA 2024, for which we are very grateful. Four postage stamps for Festival Summer were also issued.

Based on the feedback received, NORDIA 2024 was a success. Postal administrations, dealers and visitors enjoyed the weekend in Telemark. The Federation of Norwegian Philatelists held their general assembly, and Øistein Bøe took over from Frank Gilberg as president for the federation.



Jon Pieter Flølo, Mayor of Bamble, reveals one of the new postage stamps just before opening the exhibition. (Photo: Tor Arne Lundquist)

As usual, most of the exhibitors were pleased, and some were disappointed. The Grand Prizes were won by Benny Winther (Nordic Champion) for The Classic Stamps of Denmark 1851-1863, Klaas Biermann (Grand Prix National) for Norway – the First Issue 1855, Kai Nieminen (Grand Prix Nordic) for Grand Duchy of Finland 1856-1875 and Eivind Lund (Grand Prix International) for Ecuador, The First Perforated Issue 1873-1881. Full awards list at www.nordia2024.no

The philatelic programme at NORDIA 2024 spanned presentations, guided tour of exhibits, meetings for collectors of postal history, war- and fieldpost, postcards, ship mail, railway mail and thematic philately.

Based on an idea from IBRA 2023, Philatelic clubs and societies were offered free information and promotion stands and nine clubs took up this offer.



General assembly for the Federation of Norwegian Philatelists. (Photo: Yngve H. Lundblad)

Looking forward, Stavanger Philatelic Society invites to national stamp exhibition in 2025 on the occasion of the centenary of the society. Stavanger received the 2018 FEPA Award for best European philatelic club.



INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION MARE BALTICUM 2024 26-28 July 2024 - TARTU, ESTONIA



coins.ee



www.hellmanhuutokaupat.fi



omniva



MARE BALTICUM



- **Venue and dates:** Estonian National Museum, Tartu, ESTONIA, 26-28 July, 2024.
- **Exhibition:** One of the largest Philatelic Exhibitions in the area in 2024 with over 500 frames.
- **International exhibitors:** The participating countries are: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and of course Finland. Also invited countries Norway, Great Britain and the United States of America. Literature class is open worldwide for participation. Also all exhibits dealing with Estonia are welcome to apply to the exhibition from all countries.
- **Support:** Mare Balticum 2024 has FEPA Recognition.
- **Sponsorship:** Mare Balticum 2024 has been granted FIP 2023/2024 sponsorship.
- **Leading theme:** Cooperation between the Baltic Sea philatelists. 27. November 2023 it has been 85 years from the Philatelists Day in Tartu (Day of the Stamp).
- **Competitive Exhibition classes:** Traditional Philately, Postal History, Aerophilately and Astrophilately, Postal Stationery, Thematic Philately, Open Philately, Modern Philately, Revenues, Picture postcards, Youth Philately and Philatelic Literature.
- **Most important date:** The opening ceremony is 26.07.2024 - 11:00

MARE
BALTICUM
26-28 July 2024

More information at www.marebalticum.ee
Contact us info@marebalticum.ee



HAFNIA24 – FEPA exhibition in Copenhagen 17-20 October 2024

On the 24. 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 Danish Post the Copenhagen Philatelic Klub (KPK) hold a FEPA exhibition in Copenhagen, Denmark.



The Exhibition

The FEPA exhibition HAFNIA 24 will take place from 17 to 20 October 2024 in the center of Copenhagen.

No less than 42 of the 44 FEPA countries are attending the exhibition plus Scandinavian Collectors Club, USA. The 43 country commissioners are bringing in total 1.502 frames of the most fantastic philatelic material in 269 exhibits plus 60 literature exhibits to be shown at HAFNIA 24.

The HAFNIA 24 organizing committee has invited 35 international well qualified judges plus 7 apprentices to judge the many exhibits in the 11 exhibition classes.

There will be shown 15 European top exhibits in the HAFNIA 24 Grand Prix Class covering the best Traditional-, Postal History- and Thematic exhibits you can imagine.

You will enjoy to spend time in front of the frames at this European exhibition.



The Exhibition Hall

The venue for the exhibition is the old Ox hall “Øksnehallen” build in 1901, which today is one of the most iconic exhibition halls in Copenhagen. The hall is in total 5000 square meter. In the hall in addition to the exhibits there will be place for booths for 31 dealers, auction houses and postal administrations.

There will be many philatelic events during the four days with presentations from the large scene in the hall and in a presentation room inside the hall.

Support the philatelic event

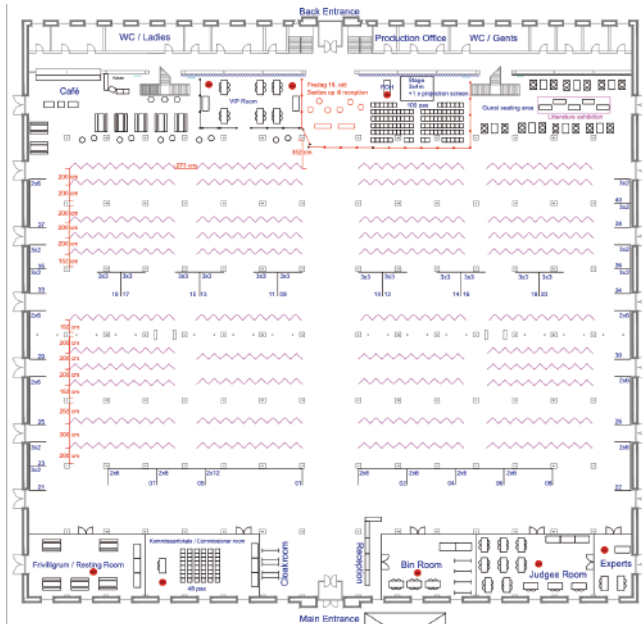
You have the opportunity to sponsor the exhibition event by joining the HAFNIA 24 Club where there are 3 levels of club memberships at different support levels.

You will find detailed information about the exhibits, the jury, HAFNIA 24 Club, the dealers and much more at the Exhibition Web-side: www.hafnia24.com

Palmarés

The Large Gold medals and the Grand Prix's will be handed over at the Palmerés feast on Saturday 19 October in the conference center next to the exhibition hall. You can order Palmarés tickets by writing to: treasurer@hafnia24.com. Please state the name, address and telephone number of the person ordering in order to clarifying questions. See more on www.hafnia24.com/palmares/

The floor plan



HAFNIA 24 Main Sponsors

AuctionHouse international
Postiljonen
We value your collection

SKAN-LOG

H.R. HARMER
FINE STAMP AUCTIONS

HEINRICH KOHLER
Germany's Oldest Stamp Auction House

JOHN BULL
INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONS

The Global Philatelic Network
Sell your stamps where your stamps sell best

**Danmarks Filatelist Forbunds Fond
Danske Filatelisters Fællesfond
Københavns Kommune –
Kultur- og Fritidsudvalget (KFU)**

Visit the exhibition and visit Copenhagen

There are more than 15 hotels within walking distance from 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 and from the square you enter directly into the shopping street “Strøget”.

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

Copenhagen is a unique city with a wide range of activities waiting to be discovered. Modern museums, beautiful historic castles, world-class shopping and innovative high-tech architecture are just a few reasons to visit Copenhagen.



HAFNIA 24 is looking forward seeing you in Copenhagen in October.

International Stamp Fair At Ulm, 24th – 26th October 2024

Lars Böttger writes:

The International Stamp Fair will once again be held at the Exhibition Hall, Böfinger Str. 50, 89073 Ulm, Germany from 24th–26th October 2024. For three days visitors will be able to rummage through the dealers, auction houses, publishers and postal administrations in Hall 1 and to view the exhibits in no less than three competitive exhibitions in Hall 2. The Arbeitsgemeinschaften (specialist working groups) and Libraries will also have stands in Hall 2 along with the Southwest Germany Philatelic Association, the Southwestern Youth Organisation, the Bavaria Association and the Bund Deutscher Philatelisten (the German Federation).

Following last year's fair there was a strong move to bring in more postcard and coin dealers and this will be a feature this year. Around 70 dealers, auction houses, publishers and postal administrations will be present and anyone who wants advice on the authenticity of their material will be able to consult the Federation of Philatelic Experts at their stand. They can give valuable reassurance on whether collectors can take their purchases home with a light heart or if it would be better to return them to the vendor.

Collectors have a range of choice on which competition to enter. Anyone wishing to gain experience with an exhibit by putting it in at the regional level can enter 'REMSMA 2024'. Space is limited so early entry is advisable. Another highlight will be the final of the BDPH team competition. Nine teams began the 'Exhibiting' adventure three years ago and the exhibitors will be able to show what they have learnt in what will now be the last round of the competition.

Then there will be the legendary competition for the Golden Posthorn organised by the German Society for Collectors of Old Letters (DASV) that is a pinnacle for all postal historians. The exhibits are evaluated by an international jury team and the Posthorns are awarded in accordance with a special regulation in seven classes – Pre-philatelic; Philatelic before the UPU; Philatelic post-UPU to 1945; Postmark, Regional and Local Studies; Historic and Special collections; One Frame exhibits; and Literature. Any exhibitor who owns a postal history exhibit can enter without qualification. Unofficially the competition is the 'German Championship' in postal history.

There will also be interesting presentations to attend. Under the guidance of its President, Klaus Weis, the DASV is inviting three internationally recognised experts in postal history to talk about interesting aspects of their special subjects on Friday afternoon. The specialist working groups will also hold meetings and visitors may find that they have to make choices on which lectures and presentations to attend.

This year the Southwestern Association will once again organise a special competition among the younger school children in Ulm. Last year 50 children rushed into the Exhibition Hall for this event and each was given a basic set of equipment for stamp collecting. Beyond philately Ulm can offer visitors a picturesque town centre with the famous gothic Ulm Münster (Cathedral) which still holds the world record for the church with the highest spire.

The Southwestern Association is giving financial support to group tours to Ulm by bus or train. The Exhibition Hall offers free parking and can easily be reached from the main railway station by tram. The nearest airport is Stuttgart-Echterdingen. From there it is a half-hour ride to the Stuttgart train station and the train connection between Stuttgart and Ulm takes less than an hour. The airport in Munich is also only a two-hour train ride away. Whether novices or old hands, all philatelists should set aside the last weekend in October for Ulm. It will be well worth a visit.





BALKANFILA XX
WELCOMES you
in Thessaloniki

BALKANFILA XX : an International Philatelic Exhibition

Balkanfila XX hosted in Thessaloniki, from 13-16 November 2024, welcomes the participating countries from the Balkan region as well as Cyprus, Israel and Italy in an exhibition of international standards with emphasis on the cultural and social importance of Philately.

The Exhibition has already been endorsed by prominent institutional bodies such as the Municipality of Thessaloniki, F.E.P.A (the European Philatelic Federation) and F.I.P (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie).

as well as a Cultural Event for Thessaloniki and the Balkans

A cultural event - consisting of an exhibition of important documents and a series of lectures - will take place, during the International Philatelic Exhibition Balkanfila XX, at the same exhibition hall.

The aim of this cultural event is to highlight the history of the city and communicate the decisive role of the ethnic communities of Thessaloniki and the wider region which have lived, prospered and left their indelible imprint on the modern metropolitan centre.

A group of renowned collectors-scholars and academics are contributing to this effort aiming to present documented historical knowledge based on collectibles to the general public.

Under the AUSPICES of



FEPA RECOGNITION



F.I.P SPONSORSHIP



[**balkanfilaxx@gmail.com**](mailto:balkanfilaxx@gmail.com)

International Exhibition “YEREVAN 2024”

18-22 November 2024



Hovik Musayelyan, President of the Armenian Philatelists Association, writes:

Last year, from 4th-14th December, a philatelic exhibition devoted to “Christian values” took place in Yerevan. The postcard issued by the Postal Service (Haypost) of Armenia and the official cancellations are shown below.



Various collections were presented by 30 philatelists, including exclusive stamps, envelopes and postcards dedicated to the Armenian Apostolic Church and various branches of Christianity (Catholicism, Orthodoxy, Protestantism).



Following this an international philatelic exhibition devoted to postal history will take place this year in Yerevan from 18th-22nd November. An organisational committee was formed, headed by Araik Harutyunyan, the Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister of the RA. The Vice-Presidents are Hovik Musayelyan, President of the Armenian Philatelists Association, and Arayik Abrahamyan, the General Director of Haypost. Philatelists from Germany, Russia and the USA have already applied for participation.

Haypost will issue a special postcard devoted to the exhibition, which will be released for circulation during the official opening ceremony of the exhibition. The agenda, the official logo of the exhibition, the design of the medals and the new stands have been confirmed by the Organisational Committee.



The exhibition will be open to all exhibiting classes.

The Armenian Philatelists Association, which is the main organiser of the exhibition, invites Member Unions of FEPA to participate.

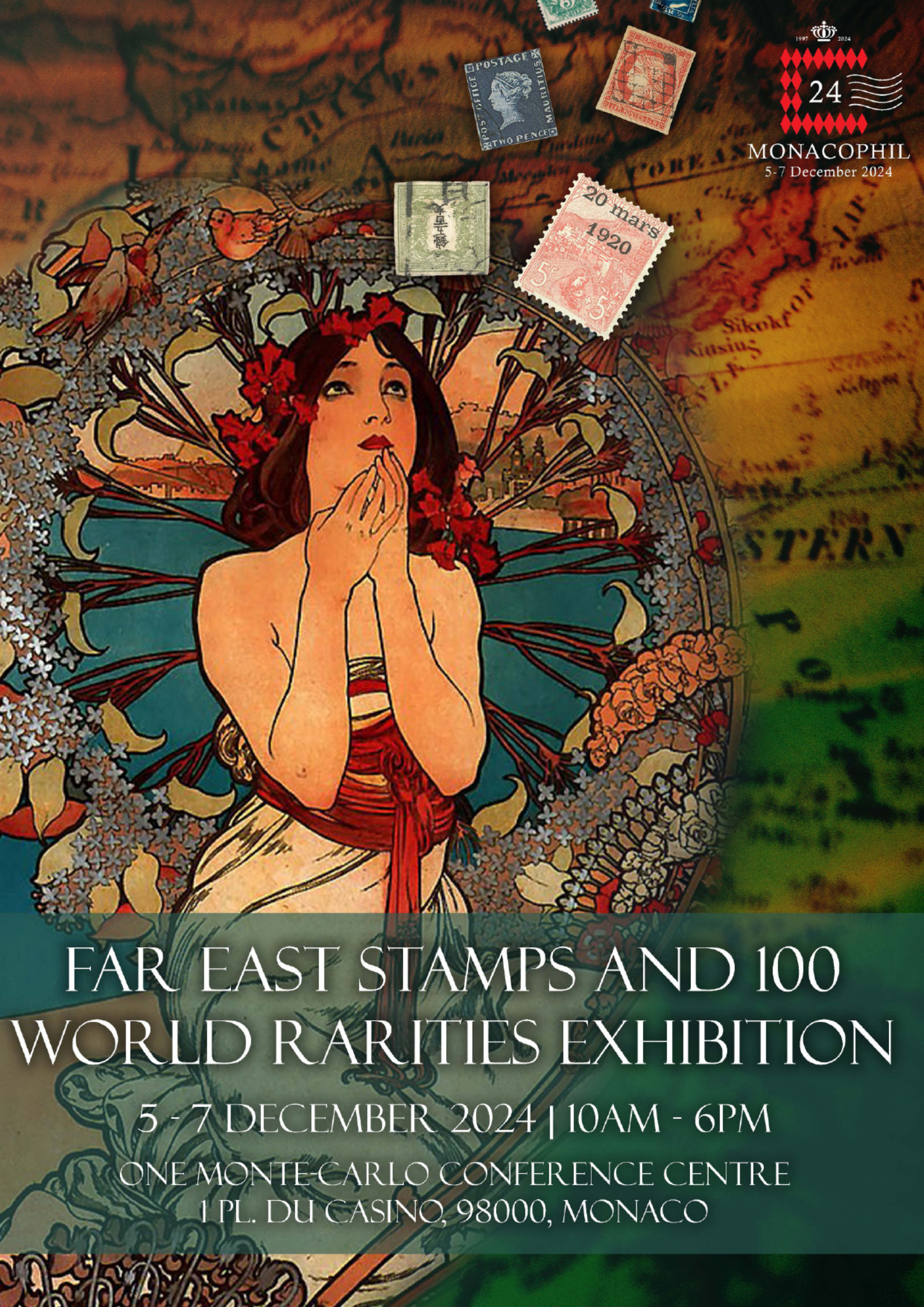
We also expect that this international exhibition will be recognized by FEPA.



1997 2024

24

MONACOPHIL
5-7 December 2024



FAR EAST STAMPS AND 100 WORLD RARITIES EXHIBITION

5 - 7 DECEMBER 2024 | 10AM - 6PM

ONE MONTE-CARLO CONFERENCE CENTRE
1 PL. DU CASINO, 98000, MONACO

EUROPHILEX Birmingham 2025

Jon Aitchison, Chairman of the EUROPHILEX Organising Committee, writes:



We are pressing ahead fast with preparations for EUROPHILEX BIRMINGHAM 2025 which will be the premier philatelic event in Europe next year. The National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, which will be the venue for the exhibition, has almost unlimited space available for display frames and trade stands. We are taking full advantage of it with more than 2,000 frames and as many members of the philatelic trade as want to come. As well as the exhibition itself there will be society stands and meetings, seminars, special displays (including the 1 cent British Guyana stamp of 1856), excursions and many other events to provide something for everyone. These will include the FEPA Congress, the ABPS Congress and the RDP Ceremony.

Don't miss it. When you have enjoyed the philately to the full, there is an infinite variety of places to go and things to do in Birmingham and the surrounding area.

Full information on travelling to Birmingham and on hotels convenient to the National Exhibition Centre are at <https://europhilex2025.com>.

For a full presentation on what to expect at EUROPHILEX, go to:
<https://europhilex2025.co.uk/europhilex-one-year-to-go>



For Collectors of Exhibition Memorabilia: In the run-up to EUROPHILEX in May 2025 a series of 12 free souvenir sheets is being given away each month from June 2024 with Stamp Collector magazine. Each sheet depicts a different philatelic subject related to the Birmingham area. All are gummed so they can be attached to envelopes and a range of hand stamps will be available to cancel them at the exhibition.

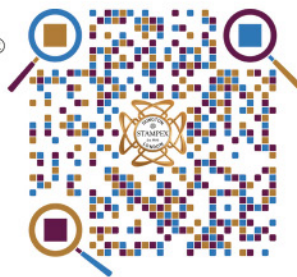
The first two sheets were issued on 15th June 2024 and are illustrated above.

BUY | SELL | LEARN | EXPLORE | CONNECT | SHOWCASE



STAMPEX[®]

INTERNATIONAL



23 - 26 OCTOBER

FIND OUT MORE AT: WWW.STAMPEXINTERNATIONAL.COM



@PTSANDSTAMPEX



PRESENTED BY



THE
Philatelic Traders'
SOCIETY LTD
#lookfortheshield

LIVE EVENT AT

THE BUSINESS DESIGN CENTRE
52 Upper St, The Angel,
London N1 0QH

SPONSORED BY

SPINK

WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

STAMPEX also held a virtual exhibition from 2nd- 4th May 2024

Suzanne Rae sent us this report:

Virtual Stampex 2024 attracts thousands from around the world.

Virtual Stampex 2024 attracted visitors from 93 different countries, with attendance figures up on last year.

Booth interaction was also busier than last year as was activity across the online experience including Auditorium Talks, Show Specials Shop, APS Collectors Lounge Sessions, Display Your Way, and Video Vault Downloads.

During a Roundtable at the show, Simon Carson, PTS Chairman shared his bold vision for Virtual Stampex, requiring collaboration with like-minded organisations to make and keep philately relevant in today's digital age. The Philatelic Traders' Society has already secured dates for Virtual Stampex 2025. Get ready for 3 live days from the 6th to the 8th March 2025.

For the PTS's in person event, Stampex at the Business Design Centre, London takes place from the 23rd to the 26th October 2024 this year. The show is free to enter on all four days, with no need for tickets or pre-registration.

More information at stampexinternational.com and @ptsandstampex across social media.

19th June - 22nd June 2025

Stamp Exhibition
Liberec
2025
19. - 22. 06. 2025

National Stamp Exhibition Liberec 2025

Venue: MCU KOLOSEUM, Liberec



Specialized National Stamp Exhibition

with international participation and FEPA recognition.

It is an exhibition of the 1st and 2nd level, which will include competitive classes of traditional philately, postal history, stationery, thematic philately, philatelic literature, open class, youth class, postcards and single frame exhibits.

Exhibits from the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia will be presented on 400 exhibition frames. If you are from another country and are interested in exhibiting, please feel free to contact us.

Rare stamps from the collections of Postal Museum, world rarities, such as a postal facing slip from the R.M.S. Titanic or a letter that travelled around the world in 100 days, as well as exceptional letters from Antarctica will be on display.





A wonderful journey through the world of Croatian Post Mostar's philately

In the Annual Philatelic Stamp Collection 2023, Croatian Post Mostar presents 21 stamps with various international and domestic themes and motifs. Stamps preserve the spiritual, cultural, historical, and natural wealth of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Stamps with international themes make us part of the international philatelic mosaic. The annual philatelic stamp collection is a beautiful and unique gift for friends and business partners.

All stamps may be purchased simply online at www.epostshop.ba



www.epostshop.ba

email: stamps@post.ba

telephone: ++387 (0)36 445 094

Croatian Post Mostar, Tvrtka Milosa b.b.

88000 Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Postal History Exhibiting in Europe

Gerald Heschl is a well-known postal historian who has specialised in Austrian pre-philatelic letters and transit-mail. He recently joined the Bureau of the FIP Postal History Commission as a FEPA representative and has carried out a survey of postal history exhibiting around Europe. He kindly accepted our invitation to let us know the results of this survey. He writes:

Every year, national delegates to the individual exhibition commissions are invited send reports to the FIP on activities in their countries during the previous year. They are asked about the number and types of exhibitors in their respective countries, whether activities such as exhibitions and seminars are taking place, and much more. For us at the FIP Commission Bureau for Postal History, it was interesting this year to learn beyond these numbers how the new guidelines for exhibiting and judging postal history exhibits were received. Are they widely known, and are they helpful for both exhibitors and jurors? In recent years, we have also seen recurring difficulties in evaluating Class 2C ("Social Philately") exhibits. Additionally, exhibitors have registered their exhibits under 2C but they did not meet the criteria. Therefore, we wanted to know from our delegates how this class is perceived in their countries. Are there experiences in evaluation, and are there any exhibits in this group at all?

I can report with great gratitude that 18 delegates from FEPA Members have returned their questionnaires. This represents a sample of more than 40 percent of all member countries. A trend has emerged across all reports: unfortunately, the pandemic still has a noticeable impact on European philately. Compared to previous reports, the number of events and exhibitions has significantly decreased. In many countries, there are no longer any national exhibitions, or at most, only one.

However, a new trend has emerged in some countries: from analogue to digital. The number of digital exhibitions is steadily increasing. It is also encouraging that some countries are focusing heavily on seminars. As two examples, I would like to mention Italy and Germany, where seminars are regularly held either analogously as part of exhibitions or digitally. The participation rate in digital seminars is pleasingly high.

Almost half of all countries that responded suffer from a significant decline in jurors. It is becoming more and more difficult to inspire young (or even middle-aged) collectors to become jurors. For this reason, it is feared that this trend will continue and there is no end in sight. This is also evident in the number of FIP jurors from Europe. It is urgently necessary for more European jurors to qualify at the FIP level.

We divided our survey regarding the guidelines into two levels. First, we wanted to know how helpful the guidelines are for building a good postal history exhibit or for jury work. For this, we opted for a point system: 1 point means not very helpful, while 10 points mean extremely helpful. It turned out that most countries are working with the guidelines. The grading was very good: On average, the revised guidelines received a rating of 8 points. The minimum was one of 5 points, the maximum one of 10 points. The familiarity with the guidelines also seems to be very high. They have already been translated into most FEPA languages, are available online for jurors and exhibitors, and seminars have been held on them in many countries. The guidelines have also been published in numerous magazines of federations.

As a second point, we asked about experiences with the guidelines in practical jury work and resulting recommendations. The online offerings of the FIP that are already available were often emphasised positively. Valuable hints could be obtained for the individual evaluation criteria. However, because of a lack of exhibitions most federations had not yet had sufficient experience with evaluating according to the new guidelines. Therefore, it was often noted that it was too early to give a definitive answer to our question.

But I was also asked why new guidelines are needed at all and what the essential differences to the old guidelines are. On the positive side it was noted that the guidelines have been clarified and serve to standardise judging of PH exhibits. Exhibitors also note positively the improved clarity of the revised guidelines, particularly in the presentation

of rarity. The explanations regarding the evaluation of importance are warmly welcomed by the jury. Many federations have proposed that to the SREV should be adapted accordingly.

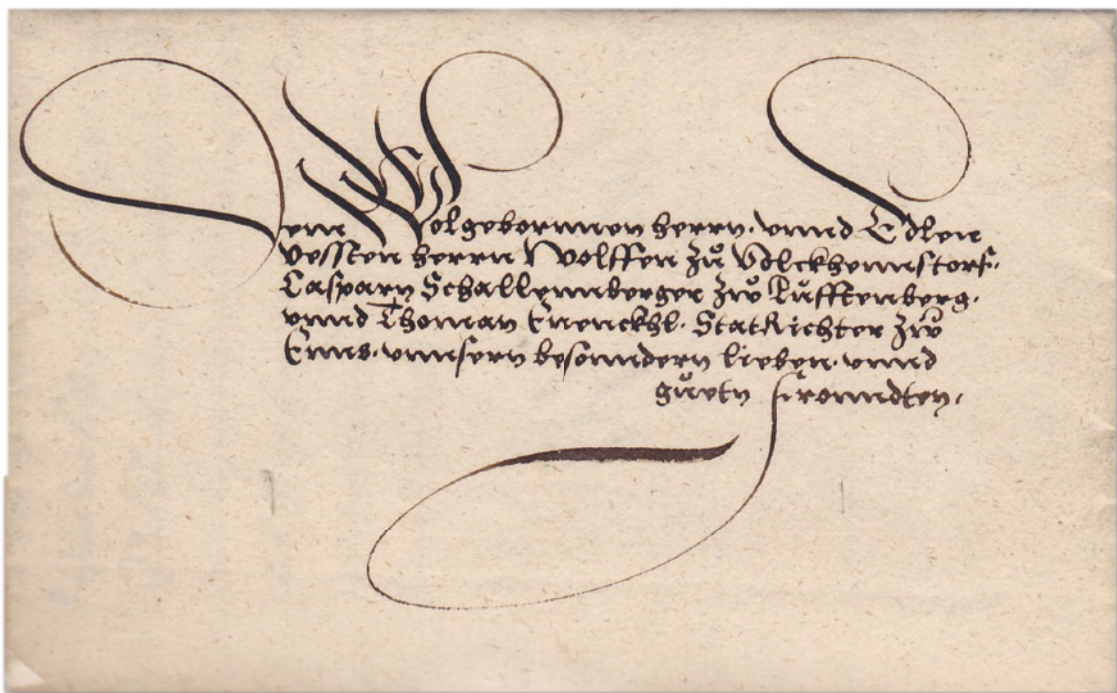
But there were also critical voices: Some collectors do not see the guidelines as helpful, but rather as restrictive. In their view the guidelines are seen as too technocratic. The presentation of historical contexts fades into the background. It is also feared that the achievements of a freer exhibit design will be lost again due to these guidelines. In this regard clarifications are expected in the newly adapted SREV, which will again focus more on a historical-postal direction and less on pure data material.

As a second important matter we asked about experiences with exhibits in group 2C, which provides an opportunity for exhibitors to present special historical studies, and received almost uniformly the information that there are only very few exhibits from this group. The results of 2C exhibits would vary greatly from exhibition to exhibition. There is an urgent need for training among jurors, as they apparently know too little about 2C. However, difficulties were also seen in classifying and evaluating the historical material in these exhibits correctly.

We were also curious about innovations in Postal History. With few exceptions, hardly any innovations were reported from the federations. Innovative approaches in the exhibition sector are interesting, such as in Prague, where new forms of postal history presentation have been achieved through cross-border cooperation. The German "Postal History Live" has a long tradition with its Golden, Silver, and Bronze Posthorns, which has moved from Sindelfingen to Ulm. Despite its age, it still represents one of the more innovative paths of postal history.

Digital media have also entered postal history, and many federations organise seminars and even exhibitions exclusively online. Numerous participants show that this is a step in the right direction.

My thanks to all delegates of the national federations who have sent us their reports. All feedback will be collected in the Postal History Bureau and will help us to map the future of postal history exhibitions. And finally, a nice example of how postal history can contribute to understanding of the wider historical context.



This letter was sent in 1506 by the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I to Enns in Lower Austria, using the early Taxis post. The content is unremarkable but organised postal services were just beginning to spread across Europe at this time and would change the history of communications for ever. This marks the start of a revolution.

The Introduction Page

Advice on preparing a good introduction page for an exhibit

Lars Jørgensen RDPSA FRPSL writes:

This article is written to provide help and advice for preparing a good introduction page for philatelic exhibits. It is aimed at exhibits in the traditional class, but much of the information is directly or indirectly transferrable to other classes.

The introduction page is the first sheet of an exhibit and introduces the viewer to the collection. It is known under a wide range of names: Introduction Page, introductory statement, title page, introductory sheet, first sheet, front page... it is all the same thing.

Some refer to the introduction page as **'the most important page of an exhibit'**, and although this is open to discussion, it is certainly true that it is an essential page. A good introduction page can make the difference between two medal-grades so it is wise to invest some thought and time preparing it.

The introduction page should not be confused with the "synopsis". The synopsis is a document, not shown in the frames, which can provide additional information such as the history of the collection, new additions and context information to aid or guide the jury. I am not a fan of the synopsis and certainly do not like the inflation it has been subject to; moving from one page to one page printed on either side and even several pages. In my opinion what should be judged is what is shown in the frames. My opinion might be that of the minority, but it is worth noting that the FIP "General Regulations of the FIP for the Evaluation of competitive exhibits at FIP exhibitions" (GREV) reads (Article 2, paragraph 2.2):

"The evaluation of exhibits will only take into consideration the material and information displayed" (my underlining).

At any rate, the introduction page is compulsory requirement whereas the synopsis is voluntary.

Rules and Guidelines

Philatelic exhibitions at all levels follow the same general rules and guidelines as laid out by FIP. The most fundamental rules common to all exhibition classes are laid down in 'GREV' (General Regulations for the Evaluation) and are supplemented by more specific rules by class in 'SREV' (Special Regulations for the Evaluation) and 'Guidelines for Judging'. In GREV paragraph 3.3 it reads:

"The exhibit shall show a clear concept of the subject treated.....The concept shall be laid out in an introductory statement,"

In the SREV for traditional philately exhibits it reads in article 3:

"The title page must contain an introductory statement, which explains the aim of the exhibit. It must be followed by a logical plan leading like a red thread through the exhibit."

Finally, the Guidelines for traditional philately read in paragraph 2.3:

"All traditional philately exhibits must include an introductory sheet. This introductory sheet should consist of:

The title of the exhibit

- Short, precise and relevant general information on the subject
- A description of the purpose of the exhibit (What is included in the exhibit and what is omitted)
- A description of the scope of the exhibit
- A plan of the structure of the exhibit – chapters or sections etc.– rather than a “frame by frame” or “page by page” description
- A list of personal research by the exhibitor within the subject (with references to articles or literature)
- A list of the most important literature references”

Many exhibitors choose a very free and outdated interpretation of the above that condenses the guidelines into: “The requirement for the introduction page is a plan and literature references.”

This is an over-simplification, and goes a long way towards having an unappealing, uninspired and uninformative introduction page – when the plan becomes an index-numbered ‘shopping list’ (See Fig. 1).

The Purpose of the Introduction Page

The introduction page serves two purposes:

1. To explain and promote the structure and qualities of the exhibit.

And in doing so:

2. Induce the spectator to spend time looking at the entire exhibit.

The introduction page is the only place where you really can reach out to the spectator. A shopping list plan does not achieve that. To explain (and promote) the collection in narrative format is much better suited than a rigid and unappealing index listing of what is shown.

The spectator can be neutral visitors, or members of the jury. Personally, I like to exhibit for the interested visitor, not necessarily for the jury. But exhibiting is after all a competition and you would do yourself a disservice if you did not also use the introduction page to “talk” to the Jury. Remember this is the only sheet of the collection that you can be sure the jury reads.

Abbreviation should be avoided in the introduction page, but if you are using abbreviations in the collection, it is worthwhile ‘translating’ these in the introduction page. However, philatelic abbreviations in widespread use such as the English ‘wmk’ (watermark), ‘cnds’ (circular date stamp), ‘ERD’ (earliest recorded date), ‘LRD’ (latest recorded date) do not require explanation.

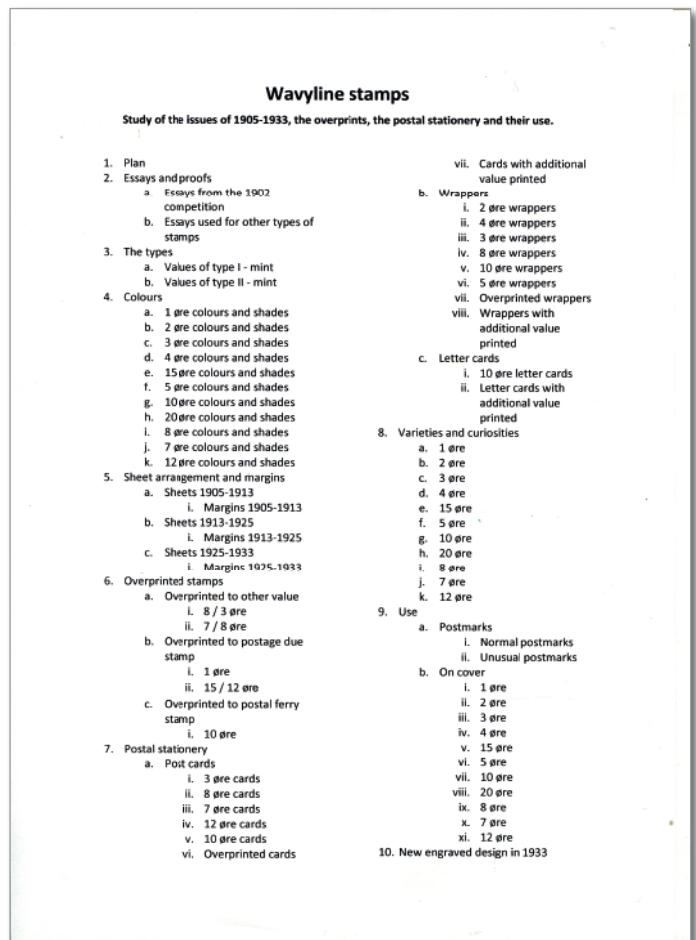


Fig.1. How NOT to do it – An index-numbered list.

To whet the appetite the introduction page should be inviting. It should not be written using too small a font, it should be clear in structure and where possible the text should be supported by visual elements. But do not go overboard with illustrations. Neither the title of the exhibit nor illustrations should take up half the page. There is much to deal with in the ideal introduction page and the space should be used efficiently. It is hard work to condense all the messages you want to convey into short, readable sentences and it takes good balancing skills to find space for small illustrations or diagrams.

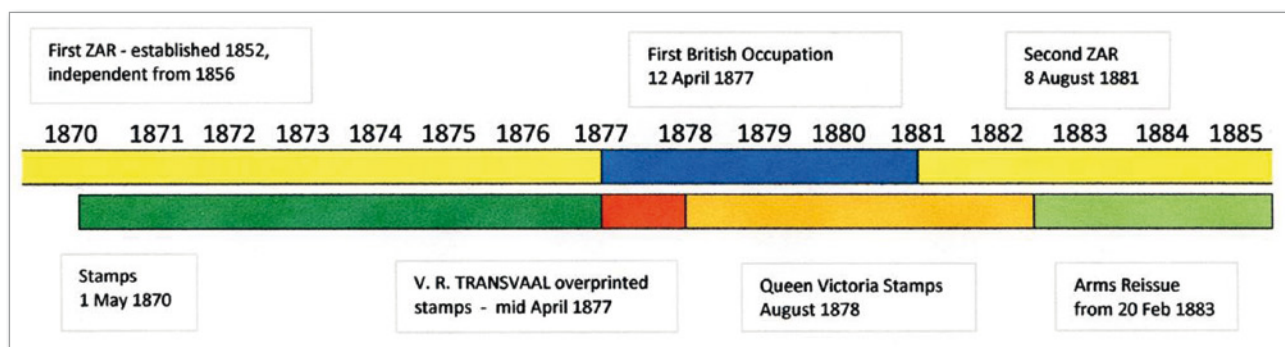


Fig. 2. Example of a visual element that could, if relevant, be included in the introduction page: a double timeline showing political and philatelic developments in the country being exhibited in parallel during the relevant period.

The introduction page should be well written as well as informative. Specifically, it must:

- Provide the title of the exhibit.
- Specify the objective & scope of the exhibit.
- Give some context or general information.
- (Provide literature references).
- Provide explanatory comments in relation to all criteria for which points are awarded, viz:
 - Treatment & importance
 - Knowledge & research
 - Condition & rarity
 - Presentation

Title of the exhibit

A typical collection in traditional philately is dealing with the stamps of a country from a certain period or issue. This should be made clear in the title. Calling a collection: “The surface printed issues” does not give the spectator much idea of what to expect. Is it stamps from China or from Luxembourg? is it about last year’s engraved miniature sheet or is it a collection on a classic issue? A much more telling title would be “The surface printed issues of Great Britain 1855-1901”, or better still when leading with the country name, i.e. “Great Britain 1855-1901: the surface printed issues”. Being precise with the name of the country in the title is especially important if exhibiting internationally.

If the collection is only dealing with part of an issue, it is very important to make this clear in the title and to justify the choice in the introduction page. For instance, “Belgium, the Portman Leopold III stamps issued prior to World War Two (1936-40)”, if the stamps issued during and after the war are not included. In this case the introduction page must explain why this limitation has been made and how the cut-off has been applied. The Portman 10 francs brown-violet was first issued in 1936 but was reprinted several times before, during and after the war. Will only the early pre-war printings be part of the collection or also the printings of the 10 francs made during or after the war?

Never, I repeat never, make use of catalogue numbers in the title, in the introduction page or anywhere else in the collection. In the context of exhibiting, stamps should always be referred to by name of issue, watermark etc. and not by catalogue number. You may favour Michel catalogue numbers while others refer to Gibbons or Yvert et Tellier.

Finally, it is very important that the title of the exhibit is consistent with what is shown in the exhibit and the explanations in the introduction page. Use only very little space in the introduction page (if any) to discuss earlier or later issues not shown in the exhibit.

Objective and Scope

When doing something it is always good to be conscious about what you are aiming to achieve. This also applies to the presentation of a stamp collection, even if it is just to present the stamps of a given country/period and share the collection whilst competing for the highest possible medal. It is also very important to explain the scope of the collection.

An explicit and sound reasoning for the chosen period/issue must be provided. There should be a defensible logic to the start and the end point. Typically, a natural cut-off point is a new design, new currency or new regime. In a traditional exhibit the cut-off should be based on a philatelic reason (such as a change of printer or watermark) and not on postal history logic (e.g. a postal reform or change of postal rates).

One should always be prudent with leaving something out of a given period or issue. If the high/difficult values of a series are not part of the exhibit, the spectator (jury) will immediately suspect that these have been left out because the collection is weak with regard to these stamps. If there is no good argument for excluding the stamps, points will be dropped for 'treatment' – and probably also for 'rarity'. Again, if something has been left out the decision should be justified.

Context and General Information relevant to the subject

It is useful to provide some background information to place the stamps exhibited in a social historic context. Were the stamps issued by a rich society with a highly developed infrastructure or was it rather the opposite - perhaps a society recovering from war? Were the stamps printed by professionals or was the setting much more rudimentary or experimental? The spectator's mind set should be aligned with the reality of the material shown to appreciate the general rarity. 'Setting the scene' in words can be supplemented by numbers such as the number of inhabitants or volume of mail that can be compared with effect to similar data from more widely known countries.

Similarly, various specifics relevant to understanding of the area shown can be pointed out, e.g.:

- Some countries/issues offer a lot of proof material whilst it is almost unknown from others.
- Quality is relative. 'Full margins' represents much higher quality when it is a collection of Thurn und Taxis as opposed to a collection of early Austria.
- The stamps of, for example, most British Caribbean possessions were printed in significantly smaller quantities than stamps of Great Britain during the same period.

Literature references

The official line is that "A list of the most important literature references" must be included in the introduction page. I am a bit at odds on this one.

Why does the jury want to see such a list? The off-the-shelf answer is that it is to indicate that the exhibitor has consulted the most relevant writings on the subject shown. But frankly, this should be evident from the treatment in the display. If the literature provides guidance to distinguish different printings and this aspect is not covered in the collection there is obviously a shortcoming in the treatment. A literature list is not needed to reach this conclusion.

Another argument often brought forward for the inclusion of a literature list is that it serves to help the jury identify and potentially consult relevant reading in preparation of the judging. I do not find that it is the exhibitor's job to provide this "service". If the jury is not capable of finding relevant literature for themselves, I am not convinced that it is capable of judging the exhibit in the first place.

Nonetheless, to be pragmatic I tolerate using a couple of lines in the introduction page to refer to the key literature references. But in so doing, bear in mind that the purpose is to make the literature search easy for the jury and there is no point in listing basic stamp catalogues or broad-brush references such as "articles from the London Philatelist" or "own studies".

What you should do is to list any relevant writing you may have published yourself. It provides a literature reference and more importantly it sends a strong signal about your own level of knowledge and research – which should also be reflected in the exhibit itself.

"Influencing the Points"

Rather than 'wasting' space on a shopping list-style plan and an over-detailed literature list, I strongly recommend promoting the exhibit by positioning it in relation to the various criteria against which points will be awarded, i.e. put in words what distinguishes the collection from those of others. The most important of these to address in the introduction page is 'treatment' followed by 'knowledge and research'.

Treatment

In the ideal collection, the storyline is so evident that the spectator can immediately understand and 'read' it without needing a plan. This logic also applies 'by degree'. In other words, the better the treatment and structure of a collection, the less need there is for a detailed plan. However, very few collections are truly self-explanatory and clarifying the structure/logic of the treatment is paramount for easy 'reading' of the exhibit. The introduction page is the place to do so. Comparatively, there is less need for outlining the treatment in traditional exhibits than in exhibits in the postal history and thematics classes.

It should be explained where the collection puts the emphasis, e.g. deals in detail with different printings but less so with platable varieties; mint is shown rather than used; or perhaps the emphasis is on large units, proof material ...). Ideally it should deal with all philatelic aspects of the stamps exhibited, but it is completely legitimate to focus more on some aspects than on others – especially when the choice is logically explained, or it provides some new insights in the subject.

It is equally important to explain the chosen structure for presenting the stamps. It should be made clear what the principal criteria are for different sections of the exhibit.

- Are the stamps shown in different sections on the basis of different perforations, watermarks, printing plates, or some other features ...?
- Should surcharged issues be treated in conjunction with the original stamps or should they be dealt with in a separate chapter?
- Are the different values treated one after another across all the changes in perforation etc.?
- Or is another different and perhaps innovative criterion for structure chosen ?

For instance, most collections of the Belgium Medallion issue (1849-65) tend to present first all values printed from plates of 200 subjects (2 x 100), followed by the stamps printed from plates with 300 subjects. They also show the imperforate stamps first followed in a separate section on the perforated stamps: the four values line perforated 12½, comb perforated 12½ x 13½ and finally comb perforated 14½.

An alternative would be to deal with the 10 cents value through all the plates imperforate and perforated, followed by the 20 cents and the 40 cents to end with the late arriving (1861) 1 cent value. One could also start with the 40 cents since this was the first value to be issued. Or start with the 1 cent since this is the lowest value of the issue.

In the introduction page it should be made clear what the chosen sequence is, and there should be an explanation of why this is a good way to deal with the stamps.

Such an explanation is a lot more valuable than a long index-numbered listing of what is shown. After all, 90% of traditional collections are chronologically structured organised by sequence of issue and/or moving from the low values to the high values. There is little added value in stating that section 2.2.1 deals with the different shades of colour of the 10 cents value and section 2.2.2 deals with varieties on the 10 cents whilst section 2.2.3 shows unusual postmarks and section 2.2.4 provides examples used on cover. This is rather evident for the spectator when looking at the sheets in question.

Knowledge & Research

As already discussed, documenting knowledge is not best done by providing a long reference list of literature consulted. It what is more important to demonstrate how you master the knowledge. This is, of course, first and foremost is happening in the collection, but a word of explanation can help in passing on the message. It is easier to write about if knowledge is used in a new and untried combination, e.g. knowledge of the occurrence of different varieties is combined with knowledge on colour shades to establish a printing sequence. Such innovative elements in the collection need explaining and emphasis in the introduction page.

Using established knowledge in new ways is also approaching research and, as I have said, your own research should be highlighted in the introduction page. The results of your research can be listed and reference should be made to where in the collection the new insights are described. References to research, or general articles, published by yourself are more useful than quoting a list of well-established titles and references.

Importance

“Importance” remains, in spite many attempts to explain exactly how points are gained here, a highly subjective matter and variation in the judging is almost unavoidable. These variations may be undesirable, but also means that a jury can be influenced with the ‘right’ arguments. This is why it is essential to explain what is important about your exhibit. The difficulty lies in making the explanation convincing.

A common way of making the judgement more objective is to break it down to a number of elements which are scored individually to arrive at an overall score. Elements that are part of any definition of what is understood by ‘importance’ are: size, originality, place in history, legacy/impact, popularity, difficulty.... It is these elements you should focus on and use to stress how important your stamps are.

Stamps of a larger area will mostly be considered more important than those of a small area. The first stamps produced in photogravure will always have a place in history, but so have the early stamps of the small island nation of Mauritius due to their legacy.

Condition – Rarity

Condition and rarity are two different topics that need to be addressed. Both are rather matter-of-fact but you can use the facts to your advantage by comparing them with other areas/countries of philately.

If you are collecting the departmental stamps of South Australia, it is worth your while reminding the viewer (jury) that these stamps were overprinted on stamps that were basically waste, stamps of inferior centring etc., that were not considered worthy of selling to the public as normal postage stamps.

If you are collecting the stamps of Samoa it may be difficult even with the best of wills to score high on importance because of its small size and remote location that was not a calling point for the principal shipping routes. But the stamps will have been printed in much smaller numbers than stamps of the same era from one of the 'important' big countries. In my own case, even the more 'common' stamps from Transvaal were issued in far smaller numbers than several of the internationally known 'rarities'. For example, 21,440 copies were issued of the Transvaal 1877 1d printed on blue paper, compared to 21,844 copies sold of the USA 1893 Columbus \$5 stamp – and on top of that the survival rate of Transvaal stamp is much lower than of the Columbus \$5.



Fig 3. 21,440 copies of the 'common' Transvaal 1877 1d printed in red on blue paper were printed against 21,844 copies sold of the 'rare' USA 1893 Columbus \$5 stamp.

If you make use of rarity statements in the collection, space should be found on the introduction page to explain what "rare" means (e.g. "less than ten known copies") and explain what the source is of this information – and if it is based on your own registration of items.

Presentation

Presentation is the one judging criteria one might choose not to comment on in the introduction page. Presentation is purely about aesthetics and does not require philatelic insight to judge. It follows that it can be hard to say anything meaningful to explain the mounting of the exhibit. It is perhaps better not to try.

Changing your introduction page

The above reflections are not something I have arrived at overnight. It is a result of a process and the process will continue as new views and trends in philatelic collecting and exhibiting develop. Once you engage in the process of modernising your own introduction page you will also come to new realisations that may impact the collection on a whole. You may find that there is a lack of logic to the treatment in part of your exhibit or you may realise that what you show is unbalanced. At the same time, you are very likely to develop new ideas for enhancing the introduction page when busy with remounting a section of the collection. Working seriously with the introduction page can indeed renew your interest and revitalise your collection. All the same time, it is also hard work.

Over many years of exhibiting, my own introduction pages have undergone a dramatic evolution. When I look back at some of my earlier efforts, I can clearly see that the introduction was not of much help to the spectator but I am quite sure that, at the time, it was the best I could come up with. In all modesty, I believe that today I have a rather good, telling and constructive introduction page. But without all the preceding versions I would never have reached this point.

I have on occasion had the opportunity to work with collectors on improving their introduction page in preparation for international exhibiting - always a stimulating experience. The fact that there are two of you to discuss the topic is very useful for the process. Bouncing of ideas and opinions off each other speeds up matters, but still, coming up with a good introduction page is not something you do in one attempt. I here present (with the permission of the collector) three versions of an introduction page to the same collection: a 'before', a radically improved introduction page arrived at some years ago, and a very recent result with further revision and rethinking.

The Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek - Transvaal 1869-1885

Objective. This presentation of the stamps of the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR) / Transvaal aims to revitalise the royal disciplines of traditional philately; i.e. the classification of stamps according to papers, colours, separation and plating of stamps.

Scope. The main focus of the exhibit is the Arms stamps that dominated the ZAR/Transvaal for 15 years (1870-85). They were issued by the first ZAR (1870-77), overprinted to reflect the British rule (1877-80) and ending their life with the stop-gap reissue of the 1d, 3d and 1s values without overprint by the second ZAR 1883-85. The Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. engraved Queen Victoria stamps (1878-80) form an integrate part of the exhibit, but are purposely given less emphasis and space.

The last Arms stamps were, as it is shown, perforated either 11.9 or 12.2. Otherwise the focus is on the wear of the plates and the centre pieces are the complete plate reconstructions of all values. Throughout all sections covers demonstrating usage and a number of rare and unusual postmarks are included.

Importance. Transvaal was a huge country important for its gold and diamonds. The stamps are different to other countries' and are second to none in terms of philatelic difficulty. The area was keenly collected by such prominent collectors as King George V, Tapling, Yardley and Curle. Combination covers and largest known units on/off cover are amongst the important objects shown. But it is the tête-bêche varieties that are the most iconic philatelic items.

Knowledge & research. Use has been made of the existing literature including the works by R.B. Yardley, J.N. Luff, and Alan Drysdall. Evidence of research and discovery items is omnipresent in the exhibit and the exhibitor is author of many research publications:

- "The Transvaal 'Spread Wings' 6d stamps 1870-1878" (216 pages, ISBN 978-1-9997203-0-8, 2017) - detailed study of the issues and complete plate description.
- "Early Covers from the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek / Transvaal" (64 pages, 2010) - census, analysis and the first comprehensive compilation of postal rates.
- Prove that there are two rather than the previously presumed three settings on the 3d on green paper of 1879. The Transvaal Philatelist No. 182.
- Discovery of the 1878 Queen Victoria 1 shilling showing the paper-maker's watermark. TP No. 195.
- Plating work to achieve complete sheet reconstruction of the 1883 re-issue 3d black on rose paper and the 1s of the same issue. The Transvaal Philatelist No. 185 respectively No. 181.

Context. The ZAR/Transvaal state administration was always weak and there was little or no infrastructure to hold together the vast and thinly populated nation. In 1869, the year before the first stamp was issued, the three principal 'towns' Potchefstroom, Pretoria and Rustenburg had respectively 1200, 300 and 200 inhabitants. At best a wheel track connected these towns/villages. "Post men" were not professionals and a "post office" was mostly a "cigar box" with a few stamps and perhaps a cancelling device at a trading post.

Treatment. The exhibit is set out chronologically.


Frame 1 Stamps of the First Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR) (1869-77)	Frame 2 Provisional stamps of the First British Occupation (Transvaal) (1877-78)	Frame 3 Queen Victoria stamps (1878-80)	Frame 4 Last use of the Arms plates during the first years of the Second ZAR (1883-85)
Frame 5 Queen Victoria stamps and the last provisional stamps of Transvaal (1878-1880)	Frame 6 Arms stamps (1870-85)	Frame 7 Arms stamps (1870-85)	Frame 8 Arms stamps (1870-85)

The stamps of the first ZAR are principally classified by printer and for each printer by paper. The stamps printed by Otto and Celliers are also classified according to 'separation'. Shades are noted and stamps are plated. The overprinted stamps of the first British occupation are principally treated by setting (of which there were 4 respectively 15). Classification by paper still plays a role for the first overprinted stamps. For all overprinted issues 'separation' and shades too are specified. The Queen Victoria stamps are separated in printings and technical aspects such as transfer guide marks are demonstrated. For the '1 Penny' overprinted stamps the main focus is on the different overprint fonts used.

Condition. ZAR/Transvaal stamps were mostly printed on low quality fragile paper. The exhibited material is well above average quality.

Rarity. Very little proof material for the Arms issues exists, and only from Otto's preparatory work. No proof material exists for the locally printed Arms stamps. The stamps were printed in very small numbers the 'basic' rarity is high. Units of any kind are rare. Rarest of all are the tête-bêche units with only 16 on private hands. Both the 6d and the 1s are shown in tête-bêche units as is a 3d tête-bêche proof pair. In addition the important inverted electro of the 6d and 1s is shown for most of the existing issues as single stamps. Covers of any nature are rare. A number of stamps are unknown on cover and in total there are less than 500 known covers for the period - 10% of which are shown. This is not a collection easily duplicated. **Rarity statements** in the collection are based on own records of known material.

Presentation with care for detail and visual appeal.



Tvl 00 2019 ZAR Intro - new concept in two columns font 10 - sharp 12/02/2019 p 1

Fig. 4. The most recent version of my own introduction page.

Notes on FIP Guidelines for Picture Postcard Exhibits¹

Dr. Witold Mikołajczyk, Polish Philatelist Union, writes:



I made my debut in the Picture Postcard Class at the EFIRO 2024 World Philatelic Exhibition in Bucharest with the exhibit “Bojanowo Commune. Sentimental postcards”. Based on this experience, I wanted to share my comments on the presentation of material in the exhibits.

A postcard is not only the interesting view on its obverse, but also its reverse. In the case of the obverse, studying a postcard involves determining the graphic technique in which it was made. This area is probably the most difficult. It is necessary to have knowledge of the graphic techniques themselves and also the appropriate instrumentation, allowing a close-up of parts of the postcard, to “try” to determine the technique used to produce it. The reverse, on the other hand, identifies the publisher of the postcard, the year of issue, the print run and the registration number of the postcard in question. In the case of photographic postcards, it is information about the author of the photograph itself and the manufacturer of the photographic paper used to issue it.

This entire area, as far as equipment and literature allow, was used by the authors for the descriptions of the postcards presented in the exhibit at EFIRO 2024.

The Description

I would like to draw your attention to the description as an element of an exhibit. In the case of my exhibit, descriptions were based on Polish and German literature on philately, studies in art, graphics and printing, as well as state archives, official records and address books in search of information on postcard publishers. For every collector of postcards, the rarity of the postcard including the (printing) technique, the author of the print, the print run and the publisher are important. In the case of the publisher it is extremely difficult to obtain additional information such as whether this particular publisher had a printing house or printing plant, if he was a trade entrepreneur or only ran a shop, if he published books or magazines or if he was a photographer or maybe a public institution. Did he specialise in postcard publishing or was he just an occasional postcard publisher? What was a quantitative estimate? In what languages and what types of postcards did he publish?

The organisers of an exhibition of illustrated postcards, held in 1922 at the Brussels Book Museum, divided them into the following categories:

1) news, i.e. advertisements and announcements	13) official, i.e. issued by the government
2) charity postcards	14) political
3) commemorative postcards	15) portraits of famous people
4) flowers and fruit	16) propaganda
5) war postcards	17) miscellaneous
6) humorous postcards	18) sporting
7) illustrations of books and journal	19) theatrical and musical
8) events of the day	20) uniform
9) art (salons, museums)	21) with views
10) flirtatious and romantic	22) pornographic
11) fashions	23) with animals
12) national, i.e. heraldry, folk costumes	

¹ <https://www.f-i-p.ch/wp-content/uploads/FIP-PP-Guidelines-2018.pdf>

Later, there were various attempts to build a classification of illustrated postcards. Most classifications more or less did not go beyond this “Brussels classification”.

Whole bunches of postcard collectors look through address books in search of publisher information. Most of the address books, if they still exist, are available in libraries or archives. Many websites and online portals provide all possible information about publisher or edition which allows collectors to fill information gaps about their collection. Just take a look at the website: <http://www.tpa-project.info/>.

When we are looking at paintings in a museum, we are interested in all details related to the techniques used as well as information about the painter. The same is true with the postcards.

In my exhibit, I provide the following expanded publisher information.

Key: font style, size and colour indicates different information:

Storyline/Narration: *Regular italic font in brown colour*

Description of the postcard: **Semibold**

Technical info: **Regular font in blue colour**, *history of postcard*



Obverse (the front side) = **O**.

Reverse (the reverse side) = **R**.

Additional publisher information = **AIP**.

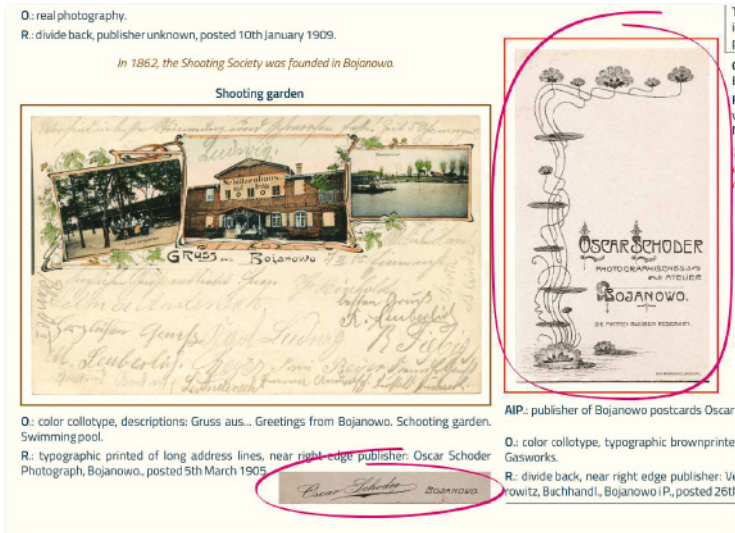
Rare postcards are show by a red frame (only example seen by exhibitor in over 20 years of looking) 

Where I have been able to find other material that allows a more in-depth identification or description, I have included the logos of the publishers, the headquarters of the publishers, vignettes of their letterheads or advertisements. Here are some examples which I have included on the exhibit cards.

 <p>O: collotype, typographic overprint: Bojanowo. Hotel z. Krone Richard Matton. R: divide back, along the left edge publisher: Verlag. M. F./B., posted 13th January 1903. AIP: Friedländer Max, Sonnenstrasse, Breslau ran a shop and was a publisher of postcards from 1905 to 1913.</p>	<p>Bojanowo – Trading House and The Schmückert Monument</p>   <p>O: collotype, typographic printed: Bojanowo. The Crown Hotel, Telephone No. 4, Electrical system. R: divide back, along the left edge Publisher: Verlag Oscar Schoder, Photograph, Bojanowo, posted 3rd November 1906.</p>	<p>Hotel to Crown</p>  <p>O: collotype, brown typographic printed: Bojanowo. Hotel to Crown Richard Matton. R: divide back, along the left edge publisher: Verlag: Paul Franz, Photogr., Bojanowo., posted 27th January 1910.</p>
 <p>O: collotype, typographic printed: Schmückert Monument. Trading House, Bojanowo. R: divide back, along the left edge publisher: Verlag: Warenhaus M. Krause, Bojanowo, near right edge at bottom number: 52 1, posted 20th August 1908.</p>		

(Above) The vignette of the Department Store letterhead shown on the obverse, also the publisher of this postcard, is circled in red.

(Right) Vignette of the letterhead of the Max Bernhardt printing works, publishers of many postcards of Bojanowo and Schmückert (Bojanowo's name during the Second World War).



(Left) The reverse of the photograph from the atelier of the publisher of the Bojanowo postcard on the left is circled in red.

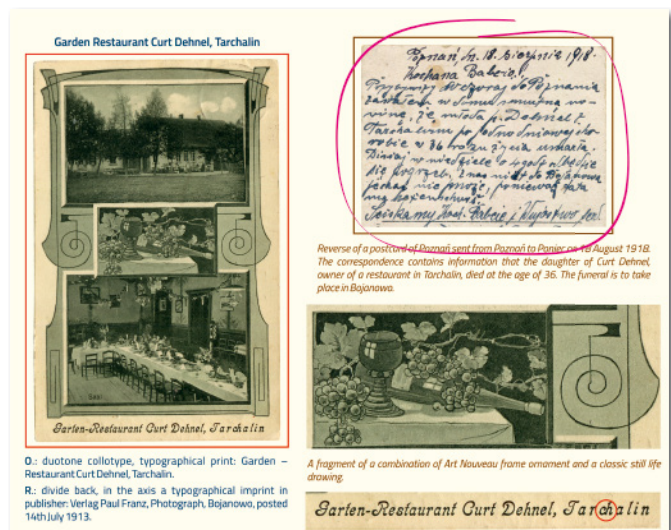


(Right). The stamp on the reverse of the postcard showing the pharmacy is shown in red.

I'm including a piece of correspondence on one of the pages of the exhibit, relating to the people whose objects are depicted on the postcard below.

The information presented above is an asset - in my case I 'acquired' the originals - that enriches the content of the exhibit's narrative. Such additions also document the knowledge and personal research of the author of the exhibit. In my opinion this enhances the exhibit's visual impression as this information has a direct reference to the postcards in it. I am curious to hear the opinions of philatelists who undertake exhibit building in the postcard class on the issues raised above and can be contacted at witold.mikolajczyk@gmail.com.

(Right). Dashed in red is an excerpt from the message on the reverse of a postcard from Poznań which contains information about the death of restaurateur Dehnel's daughter.



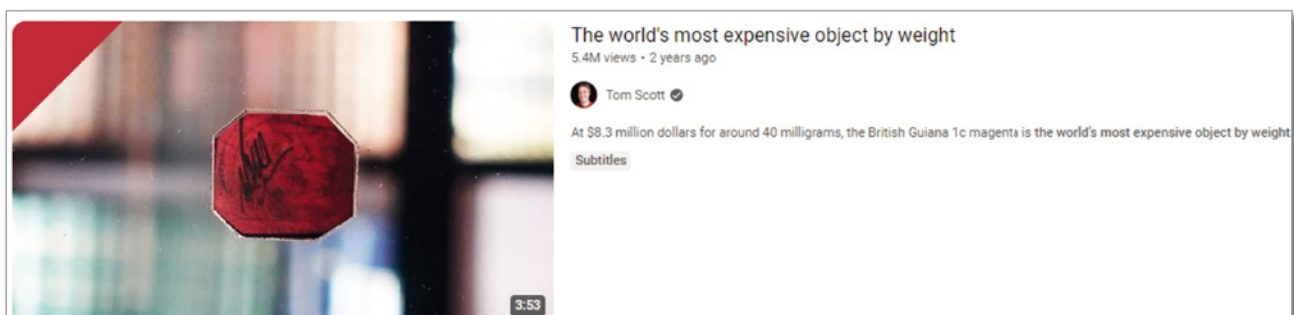
Engaging the next generation: How record-setting sales can promote philately

Jack Preuveneers, an up-and-coming philatelist in the UK, offers a point of view:

In FEPA News 43 I wrote a short article on 'Engaging the Next Generation: Empowering Youth in Philately'. This article seeks to be a follow-up after a year of mulling on thoughts.

Something I have been pondering is that most philatelists abstain from talking about money. It is well documented that the past has been marred with philatelic investment schemes that have bombed, but the nature of money involved in philately is inherently fascinating and draws in a wide audience. It is my belief that discussion of money within philately should not be taboo but should be encouraged and promoted. Pieces of paper selling for millions is inherently interesting, right?

Take the video below by Tom Scott on the 1c Magenta. It received over 5 million engagements (views), 250,000 people rated it positively, and over 7,250 took the time to comment. Numbers of this sort are unheard of in philatelic media, so why did it do so well? The simple answer is it was talking about money.



A glance at the comments shows that there is interest in this intersection of philately and finance. Each of these comments had hundreds to thousands of positive engagements.



It's very common for the media to publish articles about monetary world records. On 14th June 2023 the BBC had a trending news article entitled "Sale of Roger Smith pocket watch sets new world record of £3.8M". It's an inherently interesting read but did the BBC or any other major news outlet report on David Feldman selling the Inverted Mon for €5.4M a week earlier? No... I am sure if articles were published and they received 100,000 views then at least 100 would consider collecting in hopes of finding the next big item. This might need to be pushed by governing bodies or auction houses more so than the individual but I am certain that if major media outlets received one article a month about philately relating to record-breaking sales or history with relevance to current affairs, they would be very willing to clickbait the title for their engagement too.

In the period after FN43, during which I was thinking about why the Inverted Mon hadn't received an article, I saw that Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, had hired the young and energetic team of Charles Epting, Alison Sullivan and Alyssa Baumgardner. Speaking to Charles I learnt that Siegel seek to engage newer collectors with their sales. He commented:

"I think the stigma surrounded extraordinary prices is a shame and is something that I haven't seen in any other collectible field. Record-setting auction realizations are oftentimes the most newsworthy events in philately and can be a great way of letting people know that the hobby is not only alive but doing quite well in many respects. If somebody collects expensive cars or watches, we believe that an Inverted Jenny breaking the \$2 million mark, or the sale of the 1-cent Z-Grill (with an estimate of \$4-5 million) is a perfect way of introducing them to the highest echelons of stamp collecting."

Articles from nearly all major news outlets were published on the sale of the Inverted Jenny Block:



With the upcoming Bill Gross sale, several newspapers have picked up on the Z Grill potentially being a record setting stamp.

So why is this important for getting non-collectors collecting? In today's economic turmoil young members of society want to see either a return or stability with their purchases. It is a lovely idea that collecting is not about the money but frankly, for younger members of society, it is – this is clearly seen across the Trading Card and Art collectibles markets. Within my age group of 21-30, we are feeling the pinch and certainly don't want our purchases to depreciate in value.

In November 2023 Deloitte published their biennial Art and Finance Report. It notes that "younger collectors seem even more motivated by financial benefits surrounding ownership



compared with collectors from previous generations. This year, 83% of younger collectors said that investment returns were a key motivation (up from 50% in 2021); 61% said that portfolio diversification was important (up from 51% in 2021); and just over half (51%) said that they saw art as a safe haven in times of uncertainty (up from 34% in 2021). This tells us about how the new generation of collectors may relate to art as an alternative capital asset class, both now and in the future." Despite divergences between art and philately, art being more 'set and forget' and philately being about detailed research and study of the medium, there are parallels within the collectibles market. While we don't want to repeat the failed schemes of the past, we certainly don't want to tell newer collectors that their stamps will be, or are, worthless. Without the next generation, there won't be a stamp market. At the same time, we also don't want to promote philately in a similar vein to the art market where it can become a "pure investment" for some people. Those individuals are not collecting for any reason relating to the art; it is in essence a financial instrument.

There is an up-front cost to engagement in philately, as there is for most activities. A cinema buff has to buy a movie ticket, a fan of golf has to pay for the round, and a model builder needs to buy kits and materials. Stamp collecting is the same, but the cost per hour can make it one of the cheapest activities around. To convert those collectors into philatelists does, however, require additional spending on their part - on rarer stamps, philatelic literature, and better supplies such as higher quality albums and mounts. At this point we do not wish to discourage this spending by implying that the market will die or is already dead.

A classic tale that most collectors will have encountered is the inherited collection with a conversation going somewhat along the lines of:

Inheritor: I have inherited a collection from my Grandfather, is it worth anything?

Philatelist: Sorry, worthless, this is a schoolboy collection.

This comment, albeit accurate, completely disenfranchises the would-be collector. All it takes is a small addition of "BUT if you find this [show picture of a Penny Black] then you are looking at potentially £100-£1,000" to show the potential value that there is to be had in collecting. Which may, or may not, invigorate the new owner to go through their inherited collection, learn what it is there, and perhaps seek out the stamps that they know to be more valuable. The education behind why there is a difference between £1/£100/£1000 stamps is also crucial so newer collectors don't overpay and become disheartened at their mistakes.

Speaking to young members of an online worldwide philately society that I run, the following comments were made:

- "We should promote the sales. It is one facet of the many-sided hobby of stamp collecting".
- "Money is important to all people and is substantively a way of "keeping score" in the hobby. Celebrating expensive stamps is desirable."
- "I've always felt there was a taboo about mentioning the value of one's own stamps but I would love to break it. Seeing stamps with catalogue values might encourage or interest others."

Likewise, as youthful collectors care more about what it is they're spending on, it makes the breakthrough into exhibiting harder. At 25, would I prefer to spend £475 on an international exhibition entry without a tangible return, or on new material for my collection? I think my answer is a given. Perhaps handed a 'free-trial' until I am 30 would draw me in, so that when I do have the disposable income to pay the exhibit fees, I will.

Ultimately, the goal is to foster a sustainable and vibrant philatelic community. This involves not only attracting new collectors but also transforming them into dedicated philatelists. We can achieve this by providing resources and guidance on how to build meaningful collections, invest wisely, and appreciate the broader context of the stamps. This approach will ensure the longevity of philately, preserving its rich heritage while adapting to the interests and needs of a new generation.

As we look to the future, it is clear that financial discussions should no longer be taboo within philately. Embracing the economic aspects of the hobby can empower young collectors, foster greater engagement, and secure the future of philately for generations to come.

Energy Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy (ED-XRF)

Spectroscopic and chemical examinations of the red and brown vignettes of the Orient Express

Ute Dorr FRPSL and Dr. rer. nat. Elmar Dorr FRPSL write:

1 This examination arises from a question addressed by Prof. Dr. Ulrich Ferchenbauer in the fourth volume of his Austria Monography. Was there a brown vignette of the Orient Express or is this a result of environmental influences? Ferchenbauer speaks of oxidation.

2 The scientific method

2.1 Spectroscopy of the red colour

With the help of modern spectroscopy, which made possible a non-destructive examination of the vignette, so that no parts of the vignette had to be dissolved and thus irreparably lost, the method presented here leaves the vignette undamaged and in its original condition. It is based on the fact that atoms of a chemical element each have a distinctive electronic structure. This electronic structure (as, by the way, also the structure of the nucleus of the atom) is characterised by the position of the element, and thus the atom representing it, in the "Periodic System of the Elements" (PSE). The Danish physicist, Nils Bohr, recognised this at an early stage and used this knowledge to formulate his findings in the similarly named atom model, in that he postulated the energy level of the electrons as shells around the atomic nucleus. The nearer the shell, in which the electron is located, is to the core of the atom, the lower is its (electron) energy. Therefore, the electron shell further out represents correspondingly higher energy levels – always depending on the distance from the core of the atom. From Konrad Röntgen's work, we know that electrons of the lowest energy level – the electrons which are the closest to the atomic nucleus – can be knocked out of this shell through high-energy radiation (high-energy electrons or also X-radiation). One then speaks of a K-electron emission. One may say that a hole then occurs in the K-shell and an electron from the next shell (next higher energy level) – that of the L-shell – can now leave its higher energy level and occupy a place in the energetically more favourable, and thus more stable, K-level. The atom concerned emits the difference in energy (ΔE) between the K- and L-shells in the form of X-radiation (characterised by the wavelength and frequency (ν), where h is the Planck effect quantum and c the speed of light in a vacuum) which can be measured by an energy-dispersive spectrometer. We thus get a characteristic X-ray fluorescence spectrum.

The following illustrations present the above principle schematically:

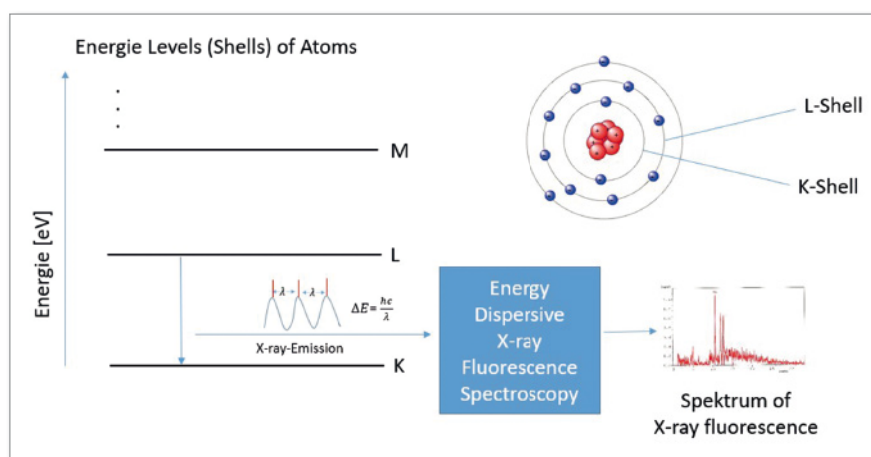


Fig. 1a: Schematic energy level (term scheme) of an atom for the energy difference between the L- and K-shells

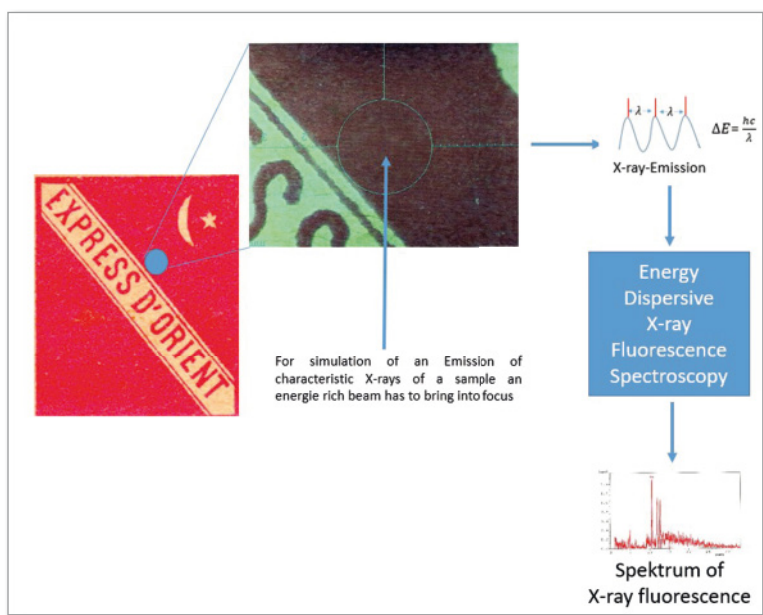


Fig. 1b (left): Diagram of the experimental procedure and use of samples (Orient Express vignettes) during the measurement.

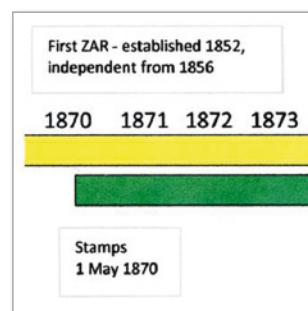


Fig. 2 (above): Three-dimensional structure of red lead (lead (II, IV)-oxide or Parisian red) – oxygen in red, lead in grey. Source: Open-source, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2171936>

2.2 Chemical proof of the occurrence of the brown colour

Red lead, or Parisian red, is an inorganic dye in which lead is present in oxidation stages II (Pb²⁺) and IV (Pb⁴⁺) and is bridged via oxygen (O²⁻). The three-dimensional structure of an elementary cell then appears as follows: In the case of lead (II, IV)-oxide, a darkening to a brown colour can arise through the building of lead sulphide as a result of the effect of hydrogen sulphide. Thus, in the case of red lead, the lead (Pb²⁺) in the oxidation-stage II reacts with the sulphide anions (S²⁻) and brown lead sulphide results. Pb²⁺ + S²⁻ → PbS (brown).

3 Experimental results

3.1 X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy on red vignettes

The authors arranged for a spectral-analytical examination of three samples of Orient Express vignettes using X-ray fluorescence (Energy Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy (ED-XRF)) with a Fischerscope XAN-DPP. For each of the three samples, the measurements were made at three different points of the red vignette in order to achieve secured data collection. Each measurement had a timespan of 90–100 seconds. The average size of the measured area was 1 mm.



Fig. 3a: Red Orient Express vignette. (Collection Ute Dorr, FRPSL)

Fig. 3b: Registered letter dated 6 July 1896 from Constantinople to Berne in Switzerland. (Collection Ute Dorr, FRPSL)



Fig. 3c: Postal card dated 9 August 1883 from Constantinople to Chaux-de-Fonds in Switzerland. (Collection Ute Dorr, FRPSL)

The following illustration is a compilation of the X-ray fluorescence spectra of samples A, B and C. The energetic transitions are given in keV (= kiloelectronvolts). The red arrows mark the transitions for the lead in red lead dye. At the extreme left of the spectrum is the lowest energy transition – the so-called K-transition of the lead (2.4 keV). Further transitions for the lead in red lead, at higher radiation intensity, at 10.5 and ca. 12.6 keV are clearly shifted to the right in the spectrum. One further recognises the elements potassium, calcium, iron, copper, bromine and strontium in the samples. Calcium, for example, suggests calcium sulphate, which is often used as a filler in paper.

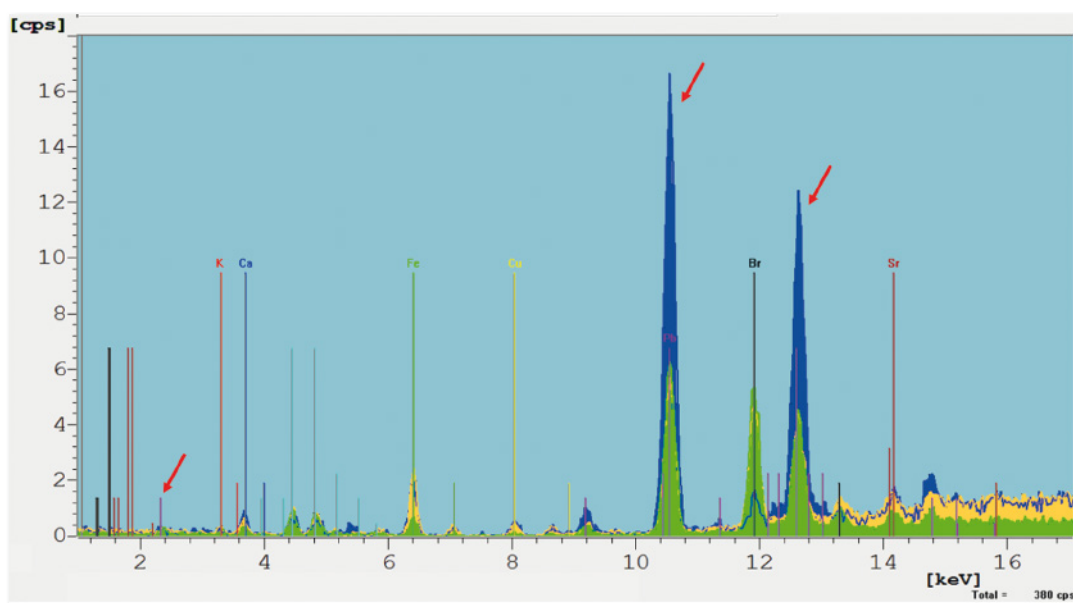
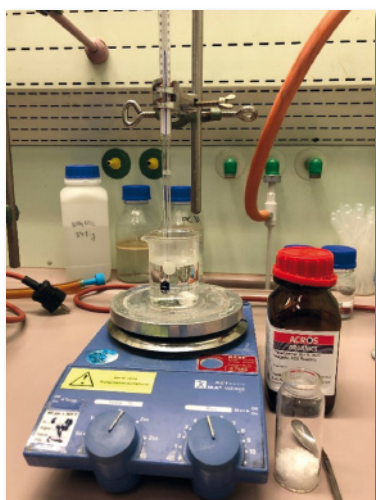


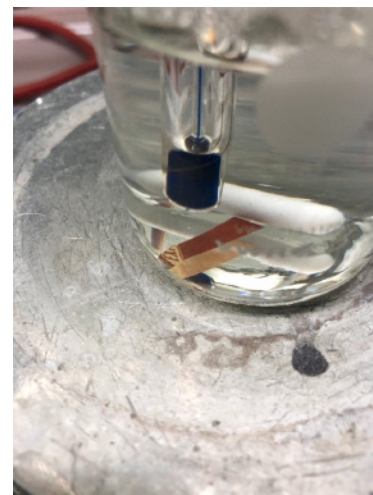
Fig. 4: X-ray fluorescence spectra in the three samples (Sample A: ____; Sample B: ____; Sample C: ____)

3.2 Chemical proof of the formation of the brown colour

Some of the authors (Uwe Diehlmann, Stefanie Clade, Dr. rer. nat. Stefan Marx) carried out this proof with a part of a red Orient Express vignette in a chemical laboratory. First, 6g of thioacetamide was dissolved in 60ml of distilled water at a temperature of 70–75 C under constant stirring. After a clear solution was achieved, a strip from a red Orient Express was placed in the solution. Then 5 ml of 5% hydrochloric acid was added in portions/drops to the aqueous thioacetamide solution, whereby hydrogen sulphide was released (in-situ) in the solution. The created hydrogen sulphide gradually reacted chemically with the Pb^{2+} cations present, causing a clear colour change of the vignette.



(Left) Fig. 5b: Magnification of the lower part of a glass beaker with the strips from a red Orient Express vignette.



(Left): Fig. 5a. Set-up of the experiment in a chemical laboratory. The bottle at the right and the glass in front contain the thioacetamide, which, in an aqueous solution, releases hydrogen sulphide when hydrochloric acid is added.

With this experiment, the brown colouration of the red Orient Express vignette appeared after a time and was due to the formation of lead sulphide through the following reaction: $\text{Pb}^{2+} + \text{S}^{2-} \rightarrow \text{PbS}$ (brown).



Fig. 6: Comparison of an Orient Express vignette discoloured brown by lead sulphide in the above experiment with an (original) red vignette.

4 Discussion of the results

Through the use of X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy, the authors were able to show that the colour of the red Orient Express vignettes is due to red lead (also known as Parisian red) and thus lead (II, IV) oxide, which was a typical and frequently used dye at that time. The variation in the intensity of the spectra was to be expected in view of the inhomogeneous colour distribution.

The authors were, therefore, also able to contribute to colour determination in philately through spectroscopic means. They are convinced that spectroscopic methods will increasingly be used in the future, ultimately leading to more reliability for the collector as regards colour determination.

It was demonstrated that lead in oxidation stage II (Pb^{2+}) reacts with hydrogen sulphide to give lead sulphide, which results in a brown discolouration of the red Orient Express vignette. From this the authors conclude that the colour of the brown Orient Express vignettes is explained by environmental influences. Therefore, the authors also present the theory that the colour of the brown Orient Express vignettes is not a colour in its own right but merely results from the formation of lead sulphide.

The examination presented here, with its results, is consistent with discussions held for years concerning lead sulphide damage to classic stamps.

5. Literature

- [1] G. Herzberg, Atomic Spectra and Atomic Structure, Dover Press New York, Reprint 1990
- [2] Dr. U. Ferchenbauer, Österreich 1850-1918, Band IV, Vienna 2008
- [3] Ute Dorr (FRPSL), Elmar Dorr (FRPSL), Der Orientexpress 1883–1914, September 2019
- [4] Wolfgang Maassen (FRPSL), Wider die Zerstörung in der Philatelie. Zur Aufbewahrung und Bewahrung philatelistischer Schätze, Band 12 der Reihe „Ratgeber für Briefmarkensammler“, Schwalmtal 2016
- [5] Udo Groß, Fahndung nach Bleichromat, DBZ, 3/2019

Acknowledgement

The authors express also their thanks for the support provided by:

© Helmut Fischer GmbH, Institut für Elektronik und Messtechnik, Sindelfingen/Germany

Danish Postal Reform: Something is shocking in the State of Denmark

Chris King RDP, Hon FRPSL has been investigating changes being introduced by the Danish Postal Service as it adapts to the digital world and his discoveries are of interest to philatelists across Europe. His article was originally published in Vol 133 No. 1513 of the London Philatelist in March 2024 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of the Editor of the LP.

Post Danmark in its present form was founded in 2009 after merging with the Swedish postal company Posten AB. Following the merger, a holding company PostNord AB was created, which is jointly owned by Sweden with 60% of the shares, and Denmark with 40% of the shares. Voting rights are split equally. Until 31 December 2023 the company held the universal service obligation to deliver post under license from the Danish State. This obligation required the company to “ensure accessibility to all universal postal services, including e.g. the delivery of letters up to 2 kg and that of parcels up to 20 kg, at affordable prices, throughout the whole territory of Denmark for at least five days a week.”

Between 2017 and 2019, the Danish and Swedish authorities had granted Post Danmark about €160 million (£138m or US\$175m) to support change and to deliver the Universal Service Obligation. From 2020 the company received compensation from the Danish state to cover the losses due to the universal service obligation. For 2023, the compensation is estimated to be DKK 150m (£17.3m or US\$22m).

Letter mail in Denmark has fallen by more than 90% since the millennium. So said a PostNord press release dated 30 November 2023.

One reason for this is the national adoption of a common digital mailbox accessed through a digital identity (MitID - MyID) which all Danes over the age of 15 possess. The Danish Parliament adopted the Act on Public Digital Post in June 2012, which stated that citizens and businesses must have a digital letter box for receiving digital messages, letters, documents, etc. from public authorities rather than receiving paper-based letters by traditional postal service. It came into force on 1 November 2013 for businesses and on 1 November 2014 for citizens and enables communication between government at all levels and for all services with businesses and citizens, and vice-versa. Throughout the public sector paper communication is the exception rather than the norm with digital communication expected to be above 80% of the total at the end of 2023.

However, there are on average still 600,000 letters posted every day. Post Danmark guarantees delivery of domestic letters within five days, meaning that most Danish households receive deliveries only twice a week at best.

On 27 June 2023, the Danish three party coalition government, supported by five opposition parties, proposed a change in the postal law in which “the universal service obligation will cease, which specifically means that neither PostNord nor any other company is obliged to deliver mail throughout the country.” The Minister for Transport, Thomas Danielsen, also said that he expected the Danish public to get cheaper postal services as a result. He said, “I do not do pricing for any private companies, but I have an expectation that the competition will ensure better and cheaper prices and service, just as we have seen in the parcel area, the telecommunications area and much else.” He added, “It is very important that we make it equally attractive for all letter and parcel deliverers to provide this service - also in rural areas. The alternative is that we end up with an A and B team between rural and urban areas, where you cannot experience the same service in rural areas.” At present (May 2024), with no new contracts let, Denmark has probably the highest postal rates in the world, both domestic and international.

The legislation was finally approved on 30 November 2023, giving only one month to implement this radical change which came into effect on 1 January 2024. At the same time inland postage became subject to VAT which has caused

all Danish stamps issued from 1933 to 2023 to be declared invalid for domestic mail. Demonetisation at such short notice created a furore in both business and domestic circles, which included the Danish Philatelic Federation, the consumer ombudsman (Forburgerombudsmanden), and lawyers.

Subsequently Andreas Brethvad, Press Officer at PostNord told Danmarks Radio that it will be possible to exchange stamps purchased in 2022 and 2023 with a total value greater than DKK 120 for a fee of DKK 50 until 30 June 2024. At the time of writing this concession extends only to stamps with a face value of DKK 12 and DKK 36.

However, PostNord still has a universal service obligation for international mail, which is not subject to VAT, meaning that all Danish stamps issued from 1933 remain valid for foreign mail. VAT (Value Added Tax), known as MOMS in Denmark and GST (Goods and Services Tax) elsewhere, is levied on the price of a product or service at each stage of production, distribution, or sale to the end consumer. The standard rate in Denmark is 25%.

These changes have had other consequences which include:

- PostNord plans to reduce the already thin network of 6000 letterboxes by a further 1000 in the coming year.
- Bjarne Heck of Fyns Frimærke Service - a well-known Danish dealer and auction house - had DKK 200,000 (£23,000 or US\$30,000) in unused postage stamps for his own postal needs. Almost all of these were made worthless overnight. This story has been on television and in the newspapers resulting in Post Danmark - the wholly owned subsidiary of PostNord - calling in Danmarks Frimærkehandlerforening, an organisation which represents the thirty-two Danish philatelic businesses, for urgent discussions. The first meeting was held on 11 January 2024, but no progress is believed to have been made, and many dealers are still out of pocket.
- DAO, also known as Bladkompagniet A/S, a company founded in 1920, whose business includes the distribution of close to 400,000 newspapers and magazines every night, has offered to deliver letters for 20 Kroner - inland only with printed labels for prepaid postage. Details are sketchy, but their website states that they, "deliver letter post every night - 7 days a week - throughout Denmark." However, the present consensus is that DAO offers insufficient security for domestic mail for philatelic businesses.
- Sending Birthday and Christmas cards has become increasingly uncommon, especially to overseas destinations, and the current changes are expected further to reduce domestic and overseas letter mail.
- There's always been a floor under the price of modern commemorative and definitive stamps, represented by their face value, and the discount at which commercial organisations have been prepared to buy them for postage. Now that most mint Danish stamps have no commercial value, the only likely buyers are collectors, and where does that leave the catalogue price?
- The Danish Government intends to put the delivery of three elements of the postal services out to tender, but no timetable has yet been fixed. These include postal services to island communities, free deliveries for the blind, and international mail. Otherwise, domestic mail is to be served by the open market with no universal service obligation.
- PostNord has agreed a temporary arrangement to continue its letter services, including the three elements subject to tender, but has made it clear that the company "continues to strengthen its focus on the parcels market." Nikolaj Ahrenkiel, acting CEO of Post Danmark, commented, "During the political process, we have drawn attention to the consequences of abolishing the universal postal service - both for Danes and for our presence in the letter market." He added, that "PostNord's mail business as we know it today will not be part of the business in the long term." Furthermore, "The digitalisation of society means that it is no longer an economically viable business to deliver letters throughout the country."
- Mailbox services, mail-holding and delivery of newspapers and magazines seem also likely to be terminated by the end of 2024.
- The Danish postal regulator will increase its monitoring to ensure that the market provides a nationwide uniform service. If any shortcomings are identified the Ministry of Transport can designate a postal operator to provide these services.

The annual compensation paid by the government to PostNord has been abolished and new domestic postal rates came into force on 1 January. These are:

Old rates (2023): No VAT		New rates(2024): Including VAT	
0-50g	DKK 12	0-100g	DKK 25
50-100g	DKK 24	100-250g	DKK 50
100-250g	DKK 48	250-2000g	DKK 75
250-2000g	DKK 60		

Domestic rates have more than doubled to DKK 25 (£2.89 or US\$3.65) while simplifying the basic weight to a single rate for a letter of up to 100g. The basic foreign rate for letters of up to 100g is DKK 50 (£5.78 or US\$7.31), with no VAT, an increase from DKK 36 before 1 January 2024. Letters greater than 100g, and up to 250g cost DKK 100, with the next step up to 2000g priced at DKK 150. The consequence is that Denmark is probably the most expensive postal service in the world. Danes using the domestic postal service are paying an up to 110% price while businesses can reclaim VAT, so their price increase is 'only' 70%.

Two new stamps have been issued designed by Bertil Skov Jørgensen, taking their inspiration from the long running wavy line stamps first seen in 1905. DKK 25 for INDLAND (domestic use) and DKK 50 for UDLAND (international mail).



Fig. 1: Inland and foreign postage stamps with new postal values issued 2 January 2024.

Torben Lethrabort, Editor of Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift, commented in issue 6 of 2023, "You might think that you can use the DKK 50 stamp for domestic mail weighing between 100 and 250g - but you can't, as VAT is not included in the DKK 50. You must therefore pay with two DKK 25 stamps. And it's even worse if you put two DKK 25 stamps on a letter abroad for DKK 50, because then PostNord gets DKK 10 too little for the service, as VAT must be paid for the two DKK 25 stamps."

Another consequence of the abolition of the universal service obligation is that PostNord is no longer allowed to call its new DKK 25 franking labels 'stamps'. The Danish word is 'Frimærker', and in the consumer tax legislation paragraph 13, stamps (Frimærker) are exempt from VAT. The new stamps, including the HAFNIA block, must be described as 'Postmærke' (postal labels) in order to comply with taxation law.

This has led one Danish humourist to plagiarise Magritte ...

Of course, the DKK 50 labels can be called stamps, because they do not attract VAT!

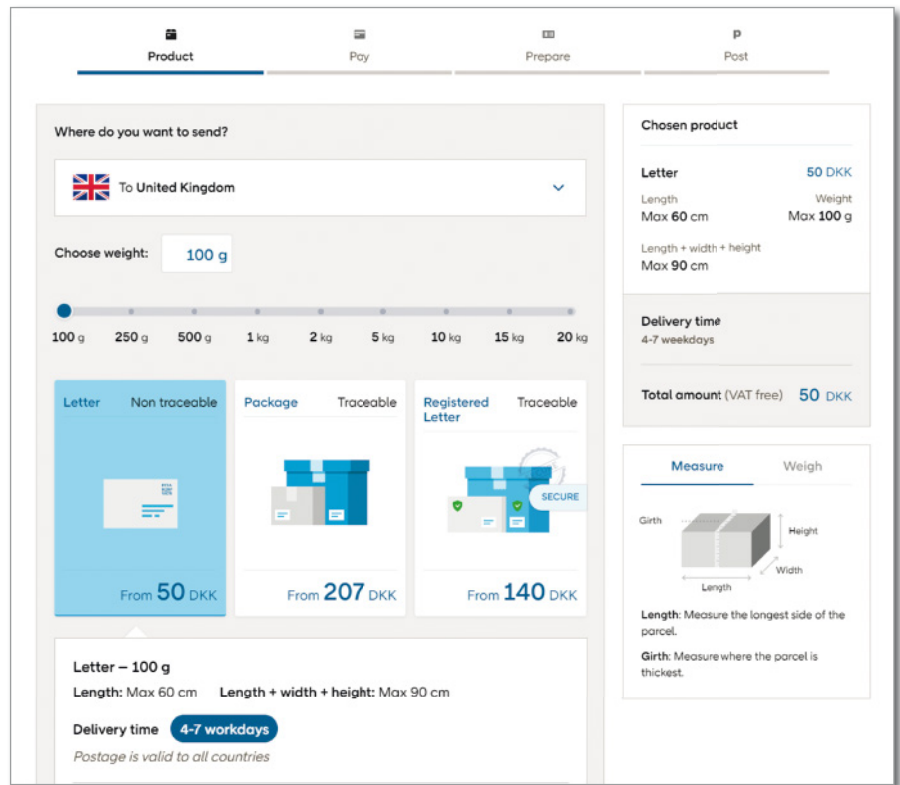
Denmark has experienced rapid change through digital and online services in the past two decades, and postage is already commonly purchased online through the PostNord website.

Buying postage in this way gives the user a twelve-digit alphanumeric code which can be printed on standard Avery L7159 type address Labels, 63.5 x 33.9 mm. Alternatively the code can be handwritten on an envelope in the format shown in Fig. 3.



Fig. 2: Inland postage label with new postal values issued 2 January 2024 used in a pastiche of René Magritte's The Treachery of Images (French: La Trahison des Images).

Fig. 3: PostNord website for purchase of postage to foreign countries.



Buying postage in this way gives the user a twelve digit alphanumeric code which can be printed on standard Avery L7159 type address Labels, 63.5 x 33.9 mm. Alternatively the code can be handwritten on an envelope in the format shown in Fig. 4.

It is possible to buy postage from post offices in Denmark in the same way, and the counter staff print the labels on demand as in Fig. 4.

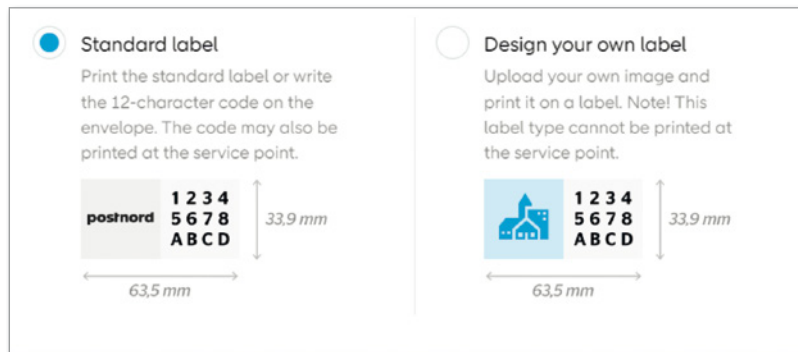


Fig. 4: Letter codes for prepaid postage.



Fig. 5: PostNord 12 cypher Alpha-numeric coded franking label.



Unfortunately, the Royal Mail in the United Kingdom is unaware of the possibility of handwritten 12 cypher Alpha-numeric codes on incoming mail from Denmark, and treats the item as unpaid, as in Fig. 6.

Fig. 6 (left): Handwritten PostNord 12 cypher Alpha-numeric code on letter to the United Kingdom. Note manuscript Prioritaire mandatory in handwriting or on label for foreign mail. Charged £5.00 to be paid by recipient, increased from £2.00 on 2 October 2023 for No postage paid/Counterfeit stamp on a letter or large letter.


CUSTOMS DECLARATION		CN22	
May be opened officially			
Designated operator Denmark Post		postnord Rekommenderet Brev Betalt: Kontant online	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gift <input type="checkbox"/> Document <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Sample <input type="checkbox"/> Returned Goods <input type="checkbox"/> Sale of Goods <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other		Fra Fyns Frimærke Service	
Quantity and detailed description of contents		Weight (in kg)	Value
1) 33 Stamps on Cards/Covers		0.5	330 DKK
For commercial items: only if known HS Tariff number and Country of Origin goods		Total Weight (in kg)	
1) 970400000 DK		0.5	
		Total Value	
			330 DKK
EORI/PersonalID number: 1			
I, the undersigned whose name and address are given on the item, certify that particulars given in this declaration are correct and that this item does not contain any dangerous article or articles prohibited by legislation of customs regulations			
Date and Sender's signature			
		Til Chris King 74 Lyndhurst Gardens GB-N31TD LONDON United Kingdom	
		Reference	
		R 	
		RR228775655DK Date of issuing: 08.01.2024	

Fig. 7: PostNord Registered Barcoded Franking Label with C22 customs declaration form.

Foreign registered postage can also be bought online. The label in Fig. 7, charged DKK 140 and paid online on 8 January 2024, is for a destination requiring a customs declaration - i.e. outside the European Union. Postage with registration before 1 January 2024 was DKK 132. All necessary information including the sender and recipient's contact details, the description and value of the goods, together with the weight of the package are entered online, and the CN22 form is printed out together with a barcoded registration label on A4 paper, folded to A5, and taped to an envelope. This form is used worldwide for international shipping of goods valued below €425 and weighing less than 2Kg. Ideally, the shipper should use the Harmonised System (HS) Codes which define the contents of the package for customs purposes.



Fig. 8: HAFNIA 2024 miniature sheet.

The Danish Government and PostNord have radically changed domestic postage and some earlier decisions have impacted international mail. Public debate in Denmark has also included the loss of the role of the postage stamp as a cultural ambassador. Danish history, artists, and the arts in general, tourism and the environment are all represented on stamps. National campaigns such as road safety and health have been encouraged on Danish postage stamps, and charitable campaigns have been promoted.

On 2 January 2024 a new stamp issue was announced for Hafnia, the Copenhagen international stamp show running from 17-20 October, which ironically celebrates the 400th anniversary of the Danish postal service inaugurated by Christian IV on 24 December 1624. The four stamps are for inland use only. Including stamps for foreign destinations was impossible due to the VAT complications!

PostNord's Head of Stamps, Martin Pingel, said that there will be new stamps issued in 2024. So far, in addition to those mentioned above, on 23 May there were a few new issues:

A prestige booklet based on the Hafnia miniature sheet celebrating 400 years of the Danish post was issued. The stamps are the same as the miniature sheet but in different configurations with each stamp paying the DKK 25 domestic rate.

New EUROPA 2024 stamps, three designs by Bertil Skov Jørgensen featuring underwater fauna and flora, paying the DKK 50 international rate, in the form of a souvenir sheet.

Sheets of five or ten stamps celebrating 400 years of postal delivery, five designs by Thomas Thorhauge showing delivery officers, paying the DKK 25 domestic rate, but with no value indicated.

Then on 26 May 2024, His Majesty The King's birthday, a souvenir sheet for the accession of King Frederik X on 14 January 2024, designed by Ella Clausen and photographed by Steen Ewald, was released in conjunction with Greenland and the Faroe Islands. This is also available in a souvenir folder for all three issues. The sheet prepays the DKK 50 international rate and is available from "selected stamp dealers and on PostNord's website." But, it appears, not from post offices ... While Queen Margrethe II was not the last monarch to appear on a Danish postage stamp, it seems strange that the King's head has yet to appear on domestic mail in Denmark.

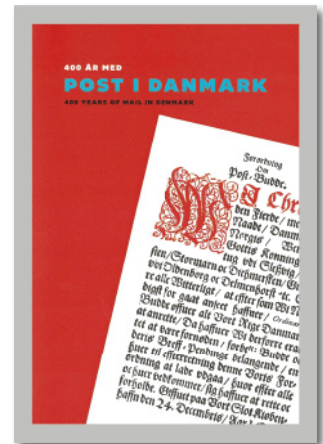


Fig. 9: 400 years of the Danish post issued 23 May 2024.



Fig. 11: 400 years of postal delivery issued 23 May 2024.

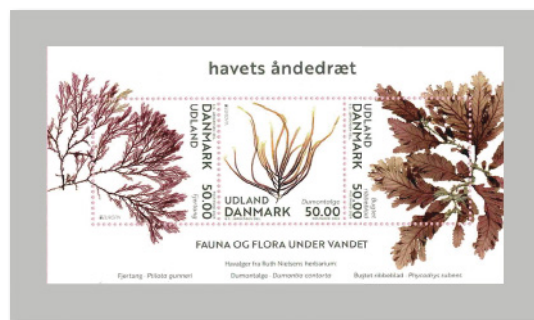


Fig. 10: EUROPA 2024 Underwater Fauna and Flora issued 23 May 2024.



Fig. 12: Accession of King Frederik X issued 26 May 2024.

Is this a harbinger of change elsewhere? Denmark is a small country, about one tenth the size of France, and with a population just under six million. It's hard to see how larger countries can do the same, but its certain that Denmark's reforms will be closely watched by other postal providers and governments - and it doesn't look good for stamps - or philatelists.

Acknowledgements: Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift (6/2023); Linn's Stamp News online (Jan 2, 2024); PostNord press releases (2023-11-30 and 2023-06-28); Official Journal of the European Union (Volume 62 9 August 2019); Copenhagen Economics (<https://copenhageneconomics.com/publication/a-new-stage-for-postal-regulation-insights-from-recent-developments-in-denmark>); European Union: Digital Public Administration factsheet 2022 Denmark.



COLLECT WORLD HERITAGE SITES **SEVILLE**



SPECIAL FOLDER ON WORLD HERITAGE: ROYAL ALCÁZAR OF SEVILLE
PRICE: € 40 (€ 35 for subscribers)

More info at: atcliente.filatelia@correos.com • correos.es

From Spain



Postal History, a vital element of the history of communications

The Third International Congress on Postal History from Multidisciplinary and Diachronic Perspectives, Prato, Italy, 20th-22nd June 2024

Bill Hedley writes:

Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi RDP and his colleagues at the Istituto di Studi Storici Postali Aldo Cecchi deserve huge congratulations for organising another superb Congress on postal history studies. The Congress took place, with the support of Poste Italiane, in the delightful and historic city of Prato, close to Florence.

The Institute exists to promote greater understanding of the importance of postal history in research on a wide range of studies in which the history of communications is integral, including social and cultural developments, diplomatic systems, management, entrepreneurship, and commerce, journalism, historical

geography, epistolography, palaeography and, of course, philately. As the focus is on historical research rather than philately, most of the delegates at the Congress were from universities or other academic institutions in Europe and further afield. Many of the presenters do not have a collecting background but it was striking to see how much of their work overlaps with studies undertaken by postal historians in the collecting world.



Delegates at the Prato Congress, June 2024

Thirty presentations were given covering a vast range of subjects spread over three millennia. They were:

First Day:

- ◇ Mario Infelise, Ca' Foscari University in Venice: 'Postal History and Media History, Examples and Considerations'.
- ◇ Linda McGuire, independent Researcher: 'Profile of an ancient letter-carrier: evidence from the late Roman Republic'.
- ◇ Robert Abensur, Académie de Philatélie de Paris: 'How an envelope from 1615 for an ambassador becomes part of postal history'. [Concerned a letter sent to M. Renon Le Bailly, Ambassador from the Spanish Netherlands to France].
- ◇ Sylvie Crogiez-Pétrequin, University of Tours: 'Geography and economy of the cursus publicus'.
- ◇ José Araneda Riquelme, Rome University Tre: 'Overseas secrets. Analysing the epistolary communications between colonial Chile and the Spanish Crown (1598-1670)'.
- ◇ Diane DeBlois & Robert Dalton Harris, editors 'Postal History Journal': 'Denizens of Pseudo-Post spanning the history of the US Post Office'.
- ◇ Silvio Antonio Pellico, independent Researcher: 'Postal Market: Goods coming through the Post'.
- ◇ Stephan Sander-Faes, University of Bergen, "Cold War Greetings": A Central Europe collection of c40,000 postcards'.

Second Day:

- ◇ Alessia Ceccarelli, 'Sapienza' University of Rome: 'From the Roman Curia to the Nunciature in Madrid. The maritime postal route managed by Geronimo and Filippo Spinola, Postmaster Generals of Genoa and 'messengers of the popes' (1645-1658)'.
- ◇ Juraj Kittler, St Lawrence University NY: 'From Alexandria to Cairo and Damascus: Venetian Merchants and their experience with the Mamluk Posts in Egypt in the early 1400s'.

- ◇ Michele Santoro, Ca'Foscari University in Venice: 'Cattaro and the establishment of the first postal network between Venice and Constantinople (1535-1645)'.
- ◇ Alberto E Minetti, University of Milan: 'Camels (Camelus Dromedarius) in swift postal systems of Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphates (661-1258 AD)'.
- ◇ Manu Sharma, Council for Strategic and Defense Research, New Delhi: 'Cold War chronicles on stamps. Visualising the international relations of China and India'.
- ◇ Mark Brayshay, University of Plymouth: 'The recipients of (government) postal communications in England's incorporated boroughs in the later Tudor years.'
- ◇ Tao San, University of Tours: 'The postal system in the Chinese Empire during the Qin and Han dynasties (221BCE – 220CE)'.
- ◇ Lik Hang Tsui, City University of Hong Kong [By Video]: 'Balancing Use and Abuse: Personal Letters and Official postal deliveries in mid-Imperial China'.
- ◇ Sébastien Richez, Comité pour l'histoire de la Poste: 'Post Office and feelings of love expression from the end of the Ancien Régime to the 20th Century'.
- ◇ Paolo Procaccioli, University of Tuscany, 'Epistolary technicalia in Francesco Sansovino's *Secretario*'.
- ◇ Nicoleta Serban, Institute for investigation of crimes of Communism and the memory of the Romanian exile, Bucharest: 'Letters sent clandestinely from Romania to Radio Free Europe (1977-1989)'.
- ◇ Mónica Farkas, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina and University of the Republic, Uruguay: 'Amateurs and Experts: Philatelic Journals and their role in postal history and politics'.
- ◇ Martina Hacke, independent Researcher: 'For a history of addresses on envelope fronts of private letters and their function'.
- ◇ Pérola Maria Goldfeder Borges de Castro, University of Minas Gerais, Brazil [By Video]: 'Urban postal services in Rio de Janeiro: projects, spaces, continuities and ruptures (1830s-1880s)'.
- ◇ Honora Spicer, Harvard University [By Video]: 'A Wall will be erected along the Frontier: Post as Front in West Texas (1851-1861)'.
- ◇ Fabio Bonacina and Rafaella Gerola, both connected with the Museo dei Tasso at Cornello and the Istituto 'Aldo Cecchi' presented a new book on the Paar family from the Bergamo region which played a vital role in establishing postal services in central Europe between the 16th and 18th Centuries: '1 Paar di Paare'.

Third Day

- ◇ Renzo Chiovelli, 'Sapienza' University of Rome: 'Mail and Plague: The disinfection of letters between the Papal States and the Grand Duchy of Tuscany'.
- ◇ Emery Earl Toops, independent Researcher: 'Regime change in Vietnam: Issues of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and restoration of postal services in the defeated South'.
- ◇ Graziano Mamone, University of Genoa: 'Misfits. Considerations on postal communication in the system of Italian mental hospitals (1861-1978)'.
- ◇ Amel Brahmi, Columbia University: 'Postcards sent between French Algeria and France in the late 19th Century that depict Algerian women undressed'.
- ◇ Mario Coglitore, Scuola Universitaria Superiore Sant'Anna Pisa – Istituto Dirpolis: 'Plain life: Personnel files in Italian postal archives as a source to study contemporary history'.
- ◇ Richard John, Columbia University: 'Postal policy in a Trans-Imperial age: the United Kingdom, the United States, Brazil France and China'.

Concluding the Congress Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi invited delegates to indicate support for the concept, first launched at the previous Congress, of creating a Disciplinary Statute for Postal History as a field of studies. The intention is that this Statute would form the basis for a Manifesto to be presented to the international community of scholars. The delegates signified their agreement and work on the Statute will proceed. In view of the importance of postal history to the philatelic world, and the links that already exist between philatelic and academic researchers in some countries, postal historians from the collecting world are recommended to take a close interest in this development. It has the potential to promote multi-disciplinary working involving collectors which can only be, in the view of this postal historian at least, for the benefit of all sides.

Besides being extremely enjoyable and well-organised, the Congress was a rare and outstanding opportunity to engage in discussion with others who are interested in research in postal history from a wide range of perspectives, unfettered by rules and guidelines or by questions of ownership, and looking over a very wide canvas. This dialogue offers a way in which postal history for collectors can develop as an integral part of the history of communications, with the philatelists playing their part. Development on these lines would be consistent with the concept of special studies in postal history (described as Class 2C in the FIP Guidelines) and would add context and relevance to the excellent results produced by collectors. I am already looking forward to the next Congress!

The evaluation of philatelic literature

David R Beech MBE FRPSL has added some thoughts to this discussion:

The past few years has seen a rather healthy debate in the European philatelic press (mainly The Philatelic Journalist and FEPA News. Refs. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18) about the judging of philatelic literature at national and international exhibitions. No doubt this has followed many discussions and meetings among those directly involved. I have been following this debate from the published articles and have enjoyed numerous conversations on the subject with knowledgeable philatelic friends. I find those directly involved have a healthy passion and believe that they are taking the matter forward in a constructive way; I wish them every success.

During my years as Curator and Head of the Philatelic Collections at the British Library (1983-2013) I have fully understood that the best time to encourage good research, and the resulting scholarship, is during the early stages of the research process where the results might end in a publication. To this end I, and my fellow philatelic Curators, always took time (and still do) to talk to philatelic students and encourage, often with ideas or advice, about their project. Over the years I can see that this process has helped many authors to write or compile better texts fuller with information and insight. I put together an article Philatelic Research—A Basic Guide. (Refs. 2, 5) which has been widely published and translated, and is now in its third edition, with a view to aiding this process.

This prompts me to observe that the judging of philatelic literature at exhibitions is a splendid thing but would it not be more advantageous to the quality of philatelic literature, and to the users of that literature for now and for ever (for it is for them that it is written), to mentor budding researchers as authors before their monograph or article has been published? Just a few philatelic publishers already do this to some extent.

One of the many times that I was privileged to do this in 2017 when I worked with Alan Druce FRPSL and the manuscript of the award-winning printed book Perkins Bacon Great Britain Line-Engraved Postage Stamp Printing 1840-1846, published in two volumes by The Royal Philatelic Society London in 2018. Part of this process I have written about in the article Perkins Bacon Line-Engraved Stamp Printing: A case study in the use of Archives for philatelic research, (Ref. 6)

Some of the qualities, qualifications and experience which are necessary for a research mentor to possess to aid both the author and the publisher are:

- 1) A general and sound knowledge of philately in relevant disciplines to the subject matter of the book.
- 2) A knowledge of philatelic research technique in general. (Ref. 2, 5)
- 3) An understanding of the scope and desirable scope (if lacking) of a book. (Ref.3)
- 4) A knowledge of bibliography and librarianship. (Ref. 7, 19)
- 5) A knowledge of philatelic publishing and its economics, etc
- 6) The disciplines of competitive book judging.

It has occurred to me on many occasions that the competitive judging of philatelic literature may be something of an academic exercise. In my case it was in 2004 when I was the joint publisher of New Zealand and Dependencies – A Philatelic Bibliography. (Ref. 1). It was compiled by David R Beech, Allan P Berry and Robin M Startup and comprised 288 pages. It took over sixteen years to put together and was the product of considerable international effort resulting in three pages of acknowledgements. The listing of New Zealand Official (Government) Publications alone took 121 pages. It was published to critical appreciation with very little, and only minor, additional material coming to light. It was extensively subject indexed, was printed on conservation quality paper and was sewn hard bound in buckram. It was entered in competitive exhibition and gained, so I seem to remember, silver or vermeil medals. It was difficult to

see how it could be improved to gain a higher medal, the main reason for it being competitively judged was to gain publicity. My view remains that this book succeeded in its own terms of purpose and certainly satisfied its compilers.

I feel that philatelic book publishing would be much advanced in its quality and balance by further dialogue along these lines and I suggest that some forum, a seminar perhaps, for useful discussion is desirable – perhaps something that FEPA or AIJP might host?

Jesús Sitjà Prats - Pacific Steam Navigation Company Mail 1840-1854

326 pages in English and Spanish. Published in Madrid in February 2024. Price €25. Obtainable from the Real Academia Hispánica de Filatelia e Historia Postal – C/ Esparteros, nº 11, 4º, 7º– 28012 Madrid /Tel: (+34) 913 663 985. Email: info@rahf.es – more information at the Royal Hispanic Academy's website: <http://www.rahf.es>

Reviewed by Mike Roberts FRPSL, President of the Royal Philatelic Society London

As I document in the prologue to this book, Jesus Sitjà and I have been on a parallel path for some time. We have both developed a collecting and serious research interest in the Pacific Steam Navigation Company [PSNC].

This book, which very commendably is formatted in both English and Spanish, is a concentrated and detailed work of the period between 1840 and 1854 when the PSNC used a number of handstamps originally intended for their own ships. It was a period when the Company was in constant negotiation with the Governments of many countries on the western coast of South America, particularly those of Chile and Peru.

The background, and in particular the historic students of the PSNC - Percy Bargholtz, Herbert Moll and Brian Moorhouse amongst others - are all worthy of mention. The author goes into great detail regarding the agreements, the various different hand stamps used and the relevant postage rates.

A great deal of time has obviously been spent in bringing together all the information from a number of historic sources, something I was able to contribute to at the end of last year. The sources include nearly all of which I am aware, apart from the PSNC archive in Liverpool. As a result, the book is as up to date as it is possible to be. We just wait for new information to emerge from our readers.

I think it worth reiterating the format of the book. The author's first language is Spanish but he has taken the trouble to publish in a duplicate format with English on the left and Spanish on the righthand page. This will help to widen the readership and make the subject matter clearer to a number of collectors who would otherwise be excluded. He should be congratulated for that alone.



Nominations for the FEPA Medal 2023 for Exceptional Philatelic Study and Research



Giancarlo Morolli writes:

Five works of scholarship in philately and postal history were nominated by FEPA Members to receive the FEPA Medal for exceptional study and research for 2023. All are of an immensely high standard that testifies to the strength of research in many different directions in the modern era, and we recommend them to our readers.

Stavros Andreadis: Large Hermes Heads – Printings and Shades

2022, The Author, Stadtallendorf, ISBN 978-3-00-050570-6, ill., col., Herbst.juergen@web.de

This bilingual book (Greek and English) is a detailed analysis of the colour shades of the Large Hermes Head (LHH), the first Greek postage stamp issue. The author defines his goal in the preface - to help the LHH collector distinguish between the various printings and shades of the LHH by representing each Hellas catalogue number with five different samples – both their front and reverse sides – in high-resolution enlarged images. He achieved his goal by (a) accurate digital reproduction of the shades through careful scanning and use of professionally calibrated state-of-the-art equipment for printing, (b) deep knowledge after years spent classifying many thousands of LHH stamps and (c) patience in supervising the printing process for each page of the book, disposing of dozens of trial pages before being absolutely satisfied with the end product.

This publication provides an easy-to-use colour chart of 1144 different shades. It will be a companion for the novice and for the experienced LHH collector alike. At 26×36 cm the 160-page book is larger than the usual A4 format. It is hard-bound with a linen-wrap cover.

Semaan Bassil: Mail in the Levant: BEIRUT, A case study in the early age of steamship & globalisation (1835-1914)

2023 Cedarstamps Auction House, Jdeidet El Matn, Lebanon. E-Mail: info@cedarstamps.com

This publication is aimed at those who wish to learn about the inner workings of the foreign postal systems in Beirut between 1845 and 1914. 155 postal items were selected, mostly from the author's collection, for analysis with about the same number of supporting materials. Fifteen different topics were then chosen to illustrate the foreign posts' activities in Beirut, at that time the regional centre of the Syrian province in the Ottoman Empire which encompassed modern-day Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and South Turkey. The topics not only document the postal history but also portray aspects of the history of Beirut and its role in the region. In his research around these topics, the author found many previously unpublished primary documents and information, mainly in the French, British, and Ottoman national archives.

The book does not try to duplicate other research on postmarks, postage stamps, shipping routes, and postal rates used by the different foreign posts in Beirut but gives the reader a general introductory overview of how the mail system functioned and how it affected society. The correspondence and other exchanges it facilitated not only reduced the perceived distances between people but also accelerated the flow of information and trade across continents.

Eugenio de Quesada : El Correo sin Correos en España, siglos XV a XVIII (The Post Office without Posts in Spain, 15th-18th Centuries).

2023, *Studies Library of the Philatelic Society of Madrid (SOFIMA)*

This is a revised and expanded edition of a work that was published as Volume VI of the Sofima Studies Library. It brings together the most important part of the study collection: the Precursors or the Postal Privileges (granted by the monarchs to Hostes and Correos Mayores) between the fifteenth century and the creation of the Royal Postal Revenue in the early eighteenth century. 240 letters are reproduced in real size and carefully described, with the support of over 100 works of art and exquisite period images —most of them directly related to the letters on display. It illustrates in an exceptional way the typology of letters of fraud and out of suitcase carried outside the Hostes and Correos Mayores.

The revised edition is significantly expanded, consisting of almost 300 pages in large format, printed in full colour on high quality couché paper with luxury binding in hardcover, including the latest version of the collection-study.

Colin Tabcart : British Long Distance Mail Packets, Vol. 2: The Harwich Packets 1816-1834

2023, *The Stuart Rossiter Trust, ISBN 978-1908710-15-4, A4, 294 pages*

This detailed study shows how packet mails between the United Kingdom and northern Europe (principally the Netherlands, Germany and Sweden) travelled during the final years of the sailing packets era, and how such letters were rated. The focus is on enabling the mode of transport to be determined rather than on postal markings that have largely been covered in other works. With this book a collector should be able to determine by what route a letter travelled, how it was rated, and in most cases what ship or ships carried the mail.

Of particular importance is meticulous research into primary sources, in this case the newspaper archives of the British Library, the *Rotterdamsche Courant* and the *Börsen Halle* of Hamburg, that has produced a comprehensive data set on which ships travelled where and on what date. The result is an invaluable reference work for postal historians that follows the pattern set by the author in previous publications listing maritime links between the United Kingdom and other parts of the world in the early and mid-19th century.

Fabio Bonacina and Beniamino Bordoni : Creativita' per un francobollo (Creativity through a Stamp - The Sketches of the Historical Museum of Communication)

2023, *Unione Stampa Filatelica Italiana, 304 pages, ill., col.*

In this work Fabio Bonacina catalogues and illustrates some 1,700 designs of Italian stamps that were not approved or finalised. These designs are stored at the Historical Museum of Communication in Rome and represent the graphic evolution and changing styles of different periods. Looking at them takes the reader back to the past. They revive emotions and sensations and enrich Italy's history, culture, and traditions.

The book covers the period between 1922 and 2000 when information technology overtook paper material. For each design the image is shown along with the title, summary description, main thematic categories, author, measurements, and inventory code attributed to it by the Museum.

Benin in Nigeria, one place or two?

Rob May is a member of the West Africa Study Circle and has researched the British incursion into Benin at the end of the 19th Century. He kindly accepted an invitation to provide a report on his research and its results for FEPA NEWS.

The philatelic question

The postcard shown front and reverse was posted on 6th December 1904 at Benin City in West Africa to a trading agent at Benin River. Benin City is today in Nigeria and is not to be confused with the modern nation of Benin (formerly known as Dahomey).

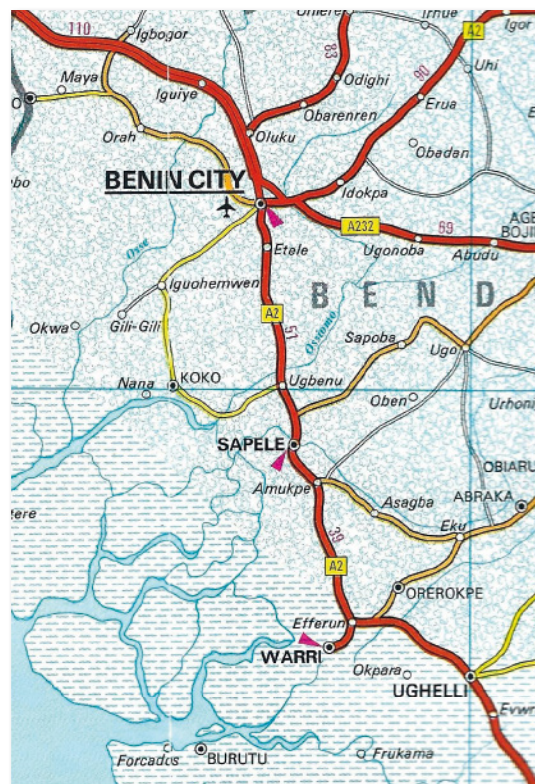


The card raises an interesting question. It was postmarked on the reverse on 8th December 1904 when it reached Sapele and again at Benin. The last cancellation gives the impression that it was returned to Benin City, but it was actually delivered to the addressee. How did this come about? To understand how this happened we need to look first at contemporary events in that region.

Historical Background

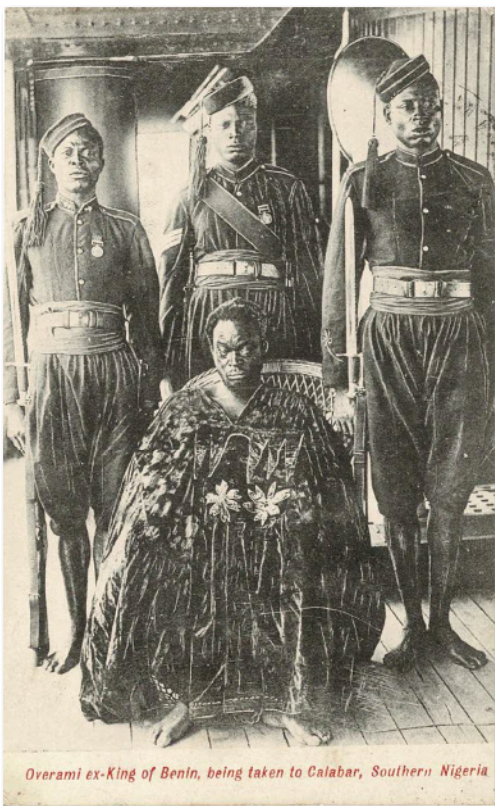
Benin was an ancient kingdom ruled by an Oba (King), which had grown rich on trade with the Portuguese as early as the 16th century and traded slaves with the rest of Southern Nigeria. The capital, Benin City, is about 20 miles inland from the Benin River, through thick tropical forest. When Britain set up a trading station on the Benin River in about 1890 the Oba, Overami, would not allow traders and administrators any closer to Benin City. He wanted to keep all Europeans at arms-length to preserve his power and to continue with the practices of slave-trading and human sacrifice.

Consequently, between July and October 1892 the British customs post at Koko used an oval datestamp that read BENIN to cancel mail (next page).



(Left) A modern map of the area.

After several attempts to meet Overami to discuss a treaty, the British Acting Consul-General made the mistake of setting out on 1st January 1897 on an unarmed mission from the Benin River to Benin City with eight other Europeans and about 250 native carriers. The expedition was ambushed and the whole party was killed except for two Europeans (Capt. Alan Boisragon and the District Commissioner, Mr Locke). About 20 of the carriers escaped into the forest and made their way back to the river. This immediately became known as the Benin Massacre and later in 1897 Alan Boisragon wrote a book with that title, published by Methuen (Ref 1). A punitive armed expedition was immediately raised and within six weeks Benin City was occupied. Oba Overami was deposed and taken to exile in Calabar, the palace was ransacked and thousands of brass, bronze and ivory objects were removed. These are known collectively as the Benin Bronzes, many of which have since been housed in museums in the UK and elsewhere.



This postcard shows a pensive Overami under guard on his way to exile at Calabar.

After Overami was deposed his legitimate son was enthroned as a British puppet Oba and a British garrison was based at Benin City. In 1904 a new road was built by Benin labour to connect Benin City with Sapele where the Vice-Consulate had already taken up residence on the river in the hulk Hindoostan.

Philatelic History

A post office was opened at Benin City on 15th July 1902. The Benin River post office at Koko, which had opened in 1892, continued to use a canceller date-stamp reading BENIN RIVER until 1904 when a new canceller reading only BENIN came into use. It was this canceller that provided the final backstamp on the postcard shown above and thereby created the confusion. Why the word RIVER was dropped from it is not known; the Benin City post office postmarks continued to include the word CITY. The confusion was resolved when the Benin River post office was re-named Koko in mid-1909 (all Ref. 2).

When the road from Benin to Sapele was completed in 1904 the trade through Benin River/Koko declined quickly and from then on most import and export trade was handled at Sapele. The Sapele date-stamp on the postcard shows that it was carried from Benin City by way of that new road, and then taken down river to Koko by canoe or launch on the same day.

Research sources

The historical background is largely based on the contemporary first-hand account of the massacre survivor, Alan Boisragon (Ref 1). I prefer to rely on primary sources such as this. There is also a first-hand account of the subsequent punitive expedition: Benin, the City of Blood by Commander R.H. Bacon RN, published in September 1897 which I have not read but have seen quoted in Lt Colonel Augustus Mockler-Ferryman's book British Nigeria, 2nd edition, published in 1906 (Ref. 4). The text about the gore they found on entering Benin City is stomach-churning but could have been exaggerated as propaganda to justify the British colonial assumption of a right to depose a local ruler who opposed British rule and laws. I, therefore, choose not to use it.

Information about the Benin bronzes is readily available from Wikipedia and many newspapers. There is a very active current debate about the proper place for pre-colonial artefacts in “western” museum collections. If these were not bought and paid for when they were collected from the original owners there is a strong case for them to be returned to their place of origin. The Benin bronzes are scattered between museums in Britain, Europe and the USA and some private collections. Some of the museum pieces were bought from private collections, and consequently their acquisition by the museums has arguably been legitimised by payment. However, the above-referenced contemporary accounts show that all the Benin bronzes were taken by force when the Oba’s palace was ransacked by the British punitive expedition. Nigeria would like them back and some have already been returned.

The postal history notes are taken from Ted Proud’s book (Ref 2) which his team researched from the official records, mainly the Nigeria Weekly Gazettes. In 2021 Paul Redhead published, ‘Collecting Nigerian Cancellations’ which corrected Proud’s book in some respects and extended the record of postal markings from independence in 1960 to the present day. It is available on-line at www.wasc.org.uk/WASCpublications.html with updates in May 2022 and November 2023, all free of charge (Ref. 5)

When the Commonwealth Institute in London closed c.1996 its collection of weekly gazettes of the Commonwealth nations, held in its basement, was due to be destroyed. The West Africa Study Circle rescued the collections relating to Gambia, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and Nigeria and, for lack of space in members’ homes, the Nigeria portion was stored in the basement of the Royal Philatelic Society London. The late Jack Ince created an archive of copies of the postal announcements from the Nigeria Weekly Gazettes which is now held by the West Africa Study Circle. When the RPSL moved premises, the complete set of original Nigeria documents was donated to the Bodleian Library in Oxford and is now available there for reference. I used the Jack Ince archive and microfiche copies of Nigerian Government departmental annual reports at the British Library to research my book ‘Internal Mail Routes of Nigeria 1900-1960. Volume 1: by Water, Rail and Air’ published in 2023 by the Rossiter Trust (Ref 3). I am continuing to study the movement of mail by road in Nigeria to prepare Volume 2. The postcard that instigated this article will feature in that book as a very early use of the new road from Benin City to Sapele.

One may consider this to be context philately: a new label for what in my case is a long-standing way to understand postal history as an integral part of the history of Nigeria. I hope readers may find the way I do so helpful in their own collecting and, maybe, writing.

References:

- 1 Boisragon Capt. A, The Benin Massacre, Methuen 1897
- 2 Proud E.B., The Postal History of Nigeria, Proud Bailey, Heathfield 1995
- 3 May R.F., Internal Mail Routes of Nigeria 1900-1960. Volume 1: by Water, Rail and Air, Stuart Rossiter Trust, 2023.
- 4 Mockler-Ferryman A, British Nigeria, Cassell & Co. Ltd. First published 1902, second edition 1906.
- 5 Redhead P., Collecting Nigerian Cancellations, WASC, Princes Risborough 2021. Also available for free download from www.wasc.org.uk

The first regular stamps in independent Slovenia

Boštjan Petauer FRPSL shares the results of his research:

Over 30 years have passed since the issue of the first regular Slovenian stamps, which became known as “no date coats of arms”, as compared with 1991 issue which is called “date coat of arms”. The stamps show the coat of arms of the Republic of Slovenia. The designers of the stamps are M. Pogačnik (coat of arms) and S. Knafelc (background), and they were printed in four-colour offset printing on 90g gummed paper at DELO Tiskarna (Printing House) in Ljubljana. The size of the stamps is 25.6 x 34.5 mm. The sales sheets for all values consisted of 50 stamps (10x5), and the perforation was line 14.

I followed and studied the stamps in question during their issue and later. In this, I collaborated with a colleague and friend from Maribor, who unfortunately passed away many years ago, prof. dr. Ferdinand Marn (“Ferdo” to friends). Information flowed in both directions, especially on special features, but to a greater extent from him to me. A number of his findings are included in this paper so I dedicate this article to his memory.

The first issue of this series appeared in February 1992. It includes 5 values, from 1 to 100 Slt (the abbreviation Slt, standing for Slovenian Tolar, was not introduced until mid-1992). A second issue added a further five values in March 1992. They were as follows, with release dates and numbers printed in parentheses – as reported by Michel:

February 1992 Issue			March 1992 Issue		
1 Slt	13 February 1992	4 948 400	2 Slt	16 March 1992	3 344 800
6 Slt	12 February 1992	18 123 250	4 Slt	16 March 1992	833 650
20 Slt	12 February 1992	5 020 600	5 Slt	6 March 1992	15 921 537
50 Slt	12 February 1992	1 802 750	11 Slt	16 March 1992	2 909 050
100 Slt	12 February 1992	1 049 250	15 Slt	16 March 1992	2 905 400

The wide range in numbers printed (with the lowest for the 4 Slt value and the highest for the 6 Slt) can be explained by the needs of postal traffic during the period of validity of these stamps, taking into account in particular the changes in the most frequently-used fees.



Fig. 1. The complete set of stamps with sheet number 1

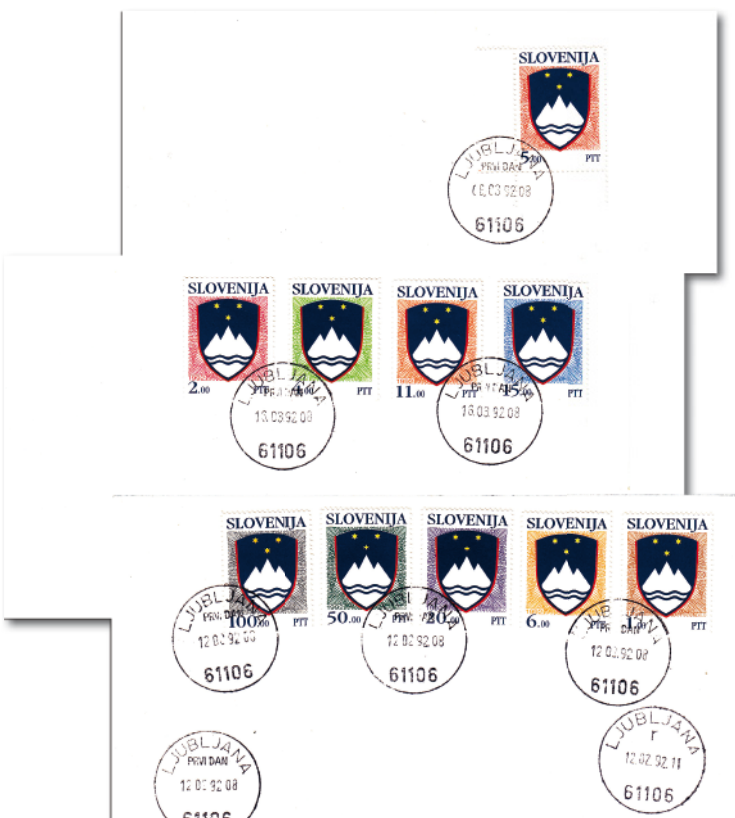
There were no official first day covers, but some collectors prepared their own.

Fig. 2 (right): All the First Day covers.

It is interesting that the 1 Slt stamp is cancelled 12.2.1992 even though the official release date was 13.2.92

The stamps remained valid until 31st December 1997.

On the edge of each sheet, usually, but not always, the sheet number is marked in the penultimate line, and above it is a sign, popularly called as a “mouse”. The following numbers of mice are found for each value:



1 Slt	1-21	11 Slt	1-17
2 Slt	1-17	15 Slt	1-24
4 Slt	1-4	20 Slt	1-33
5 Slt	1-26	50 Slt	1-16
6 Slt	1-36	100 Slt	1-6

There are 202 total marginal numbers, keeping in mind the following:

- At the 2 Slt value, the numbers 5 and 6 exist in both the third and fourth rows, and the difference is only visible in the corresponding square or block of six.
- At the 11 Slt value, the number 3 is only in the third line (right).
- At the 15 Slt value, the numbers 3 & 4 also exist on the left side of the field and not only on the right.



Fig. 3. Variations of the position of the sheet numbers at the 2 Slt value.



Fig. 4. Variations of the position of the sheet numbers at the 15 Slt value.

The colour of the “mouse” is blue, except for some values (sheet numbers in parentheses):

1 Slt (1,2) brown	6 Slt (1-5) yellow	6 Slt (10,11) red	20 Slt (1-3) purple	50 Slt (1) green	100 Slt (1) grey
----------------------	-----------------------	----------------------	------------------------	---------------------	---------------------

Papers

We have already mentioned that the stamps were printed on 90g paper. If we look at the stamps in daylight, we don't see any major differences in the colour of the paper. However, it is different if we look at papers with different plates under short-wave (254 nm) UV light (we do not see any differences under long-wave UV light (380 nm)). The papers of stamps from most of the counter sheets are dark grey under the mentioned light, and some are bright white. This means that there was some additive (bleach) in the paper which shows a different picture under UV light. If the paper reacts in the same way under the UV lamp (i.e. dark grey or white), it is less interesting. However, it is definitely more interesting if the paper shows both reactions at the same sales plate number. I found this when examining the stamps I had at my disposal with the following values (position number in brackets):

1 Slt (6)	4 Slt (3)	6 Slt (10,11)	15 Slt (3)
--------------	--------------	------------------	---------------

Of course, this does not mean that some other stamps do not have this, but we suggest readers take a look at their own examples. It is quite possible that they will find something else.

Although the following belongs more to the printing section, we still mention here the differences in the reactions of the background colour around the coat of arms (“shading”), which is usually dark grey, and for the following values (marginal numbers in brackets) pink (dark or light or vivid):

1 Slt (13,14) bright pink	6 Slt (33,34) bright pink	11 Slt (14,15) bright pink	20 Slt (7,8) dark pink	20 Slt (9-33) bright pink
------------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------

For the value of 20 Slt, it is worth noting that the colour differences between sheets 9 to 34 and 1 to 8 are not only visible under UV light, but also with the naked eye. Stamps with mice from 1 to 8 have decorations around the crest in purple; stamps with mice from 9 to 33 have decorations around the crest in lilac. In addition, mouse stamps from 9 to 33 have a darker red border of the shield of arms. The minor deviations discussed also exist in some halves of the stamp for 2 Slt; even this list is not necessarily complete.

Peculiarities of printing and perforation

There are quite a few peculiarities in the edition in question, both in terms of printing and perforation. The details can be seen from the “Slovenika” catalogue but below we will show some of the most important and/or rarest ones. Here

we will focus only on those that were sold at post offices and were also in regular (albeit sometimes philatelically inspired) postal traffic, but we will not mention those that came into the hands of collectors from the printing press, maybe not in the most legal ways.

Peculiarities of printing

Some stamps exist in lighter and darker shades of background colours. I found the biggest differences in the 11 and 50 Slt values, and slightly smaller ones in the 6 Slt value. There are also differences in the colours of the coat of arms, but these are minor deviations.

The 50 Slt stamp has mice from 1 to 16 which means that there are 16 sales sheets. All stamps with mice 4 and 5 differ in colour from stamps with other mice. Stamps with mice 4 and 5 have decorations around the coat of arms darker green than the others. The difference is visible to the naked eye and under UV light.



Fig. 5. Lighter and darker shades of the 11 and 50 Slt values.

The 2 Slt stamp exists without shading around the crest, which means that (at least) one printing phase was dropped.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that there is a whole set of minor errors (dots, dashes, etc.) on many stamps, some of which are also mentioned in the “Slovenika” catalogue. In the following, we first give an overview of those that appear in the same place for several values, i.e. in the order of their position in the sheets. For each of the mentioned errors, we indicate the place in the field where it occurs. If the sheet numbers in which they are known to exist are also known, this information is also provided.



Fig. 6. 2 Slt Stamp without shading around the coat of arms

Blue dot between J and A
(Position number: 1 - all values)



Fig. 7. Position 1 (50 Slt)

Red dot below value
(Position No: 10 - all values except 4 Slt)



Fig. 9. Position 10 (50 Slt)

Blue dot on the right arm of the letter V
(Position No: 6 - all values)



Fig. 8. Position 6 (1 Slt)

White dot in the letter S
(position number: 24; 1, 6, 20, 50,
100 Slt, sheets 1 and 2)



Fig. 10. Position 24 (50 Slt)

Broken J (position number: 31; 4,15,15,50 Slt)



Fig. 11. Position 31(50 Slt)

Oblique blue line at waves
("spur" according to F. Marn -
position no. 36; 1, 6, 20, 50,
100 Slt, sheet 1-4)



Fig. 12. Position 36 (100 Slt)

Blue dot under N
(position number: 44; all values)



Fig. 13. Position 44 (20 Slt)

7a. Blue dot at E and N (position
number: 44; 1, 4, 5, 6, 15, 20, 50 Slt)



Fig. 13a. Position 44(a) (50 Slt)

7b. Blue dot below O, along E and N
(position number: 44; 1, 5, 11, 15,
20, 50, 100 Slt)



Fig. 13b. Position 44(b) (15 Slt)

Red dot under the coat of arms
(position: 45; 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 15, 20,
50 and 100 Slt - here no. pos. 46)



Fig. 14. Position 45 (11 Slt)

Red dot on the coat of arms
(position number: 46; 1, 6, 50 Slt)



Fig. 15. Position 46 (50 Slt)

Some peculiarities appear in only one value. They are usually (but not all) rarer than those listed above, and some of the more interesting ones are listed below.

Vertical line along the right arm of the V (position no.: 9; 11 Slt)



Fig. 16. Position 9 (11 Slt)

Dot between wavy lines (position number: 31; 1 Slt)



Fig. 17. Position 31 (1 Slt)

Dot between 6 and 00 (position number: 35; 6 Slt)



Fig. 18. Position 35 (6 Slt)

Dash above P (no. per lodge: 44; 11 Slt)



Fig. 19. Position 44 (11 Slt)

Blue dot in 0 (position number: 49; 50 Slt)



Fig. 20. Position 49 (50 Slt)

At the 6 Slt value, 2 or 3 white (instead of yellow) stars are known in the coat of arms.



Fig. 21. White instead of yellow stars at a value of 6 Slt.

At the 6 Slt value, the bottom line (value and PTT) is moved upward



Fig. 22. Movement of the bottom line at a value of 6 Slt



Fig. 23. Perforation on the right side strongly shifted to the left (shorter, truncated JA above and almost all PTT below)

Peculiarities of perforation

Among the features of the perforation, we show some examples of all the above.



Fig. 24. An imperforate stamp for 15 Slt. Some stamps are completely or partially imperforate (horizontally, vertically or only on the edge). In the “Velikanje” catalog, the following values are listed as such: 1, 6, 15, 20, and 50 Slt.



Fig. 25a/b. Vertically and horizontally imperforate pair of stamps for 6 Slt.



Fig. 26. Pair imperforate in the middle for 2 Slt



Fig. 28. Vertical imperforate pair for 20 Slt



Fig. 27. Vertical pair horizontally imperforate for 2 Slt

To conclude we display more travelled letters with partially imperforate stamps.

Conclusion

In this world, everything comes to an end, which also applies to the philatelic field. The considered stamps, together with the regular “Europe in miniature” stamps (but only those with “ptt” written on them) expired on 31st December 1997. There was even a “farewell” commemorative stamp in use that day. This was the date on which Post Office (pt) and Telekom (t) became separate companies.

Literature and sources:

- Velikanje, catalogue “Slovenika”, Ljubljana 2016
- Bulletin of the Post Office of Slovenia, Ljubljana 1992, www.posta.si.
- Michel on line Catalogue, Schwanneberger Munich, www.briefmarken.de
- Notes of dr. Ferdinanda Marn, Maribor
- Private collections

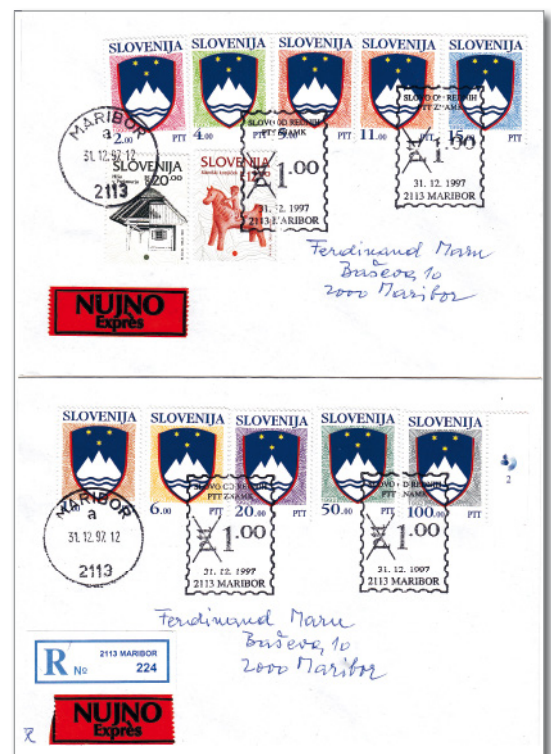


Fig. 30. A complete set of undated coats of arms used on the last day of validity with a special occasion stamp.

The Republican Academic Battalion in the monarchy of the North

Pedro Vaz Pereira reports on how the story of a little-known political upheaval in Portugal can be tracked through postal historical and other relevant material.

The Monarchy of the North was a military movement headed by Captain Paiva Couceiro, an illustrious soldier and monarchist, whose aim was to restore the monarchy in Portugal. This rebellious movement began in Porto on January 19th 1919 and was defeated on February 13th that year.

When the monarchist revolt broke out the republican forces immediately began to make preparations for the counter-revolution, although confusion reigned in that a great many republicans were still political prisoners, particularly members of the Democratic Party. These were formerly part of Sidónio Pais's republican military dictatorship that had been imposed in an attempt to bring political life in Portugal, which was still extremely troubled at the time, back to normal. However, Sidónio Pais was assassinated on the steps leading to the Rossio railway station in Lisbon on December 14th 1918 when he was about to set off for Porto.

During this troubled period of the Republic, the republicans were sorely divided and there was a widespread idea that forces would have to be united if the monarchist uprising commanded by Paiva Couceiro was to be defeated. The leaders of the main parties met with the President of the Council of Ministers in office, João Tamagnini Barbosa, for the sole purpose of achieving the release of the political prisoners in order to arm them to allow them to defend the Republic.

The newspapers, especially those of the capital, campaigned for the defence of the Republic and a decision was taken to arm the population, which was called upon to appear at Lisbon's Campo Pequeno on January 22nd 1919. People turned up in large numbers and the army quickly began to organise them into sections, platoons, squadrons and companies, several battalions of volunteers having been formed. That same day, the government issued the following communiqué and invitation in the press:

“To arms, Citizens!

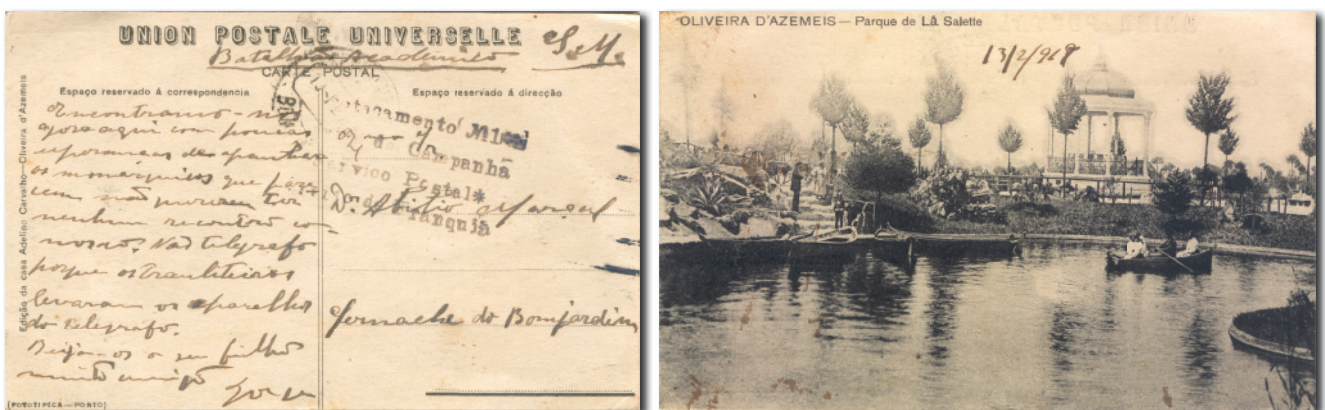
Faced with the events that are taking place, the Government of the Republic, desirous of making good use of the efforts of good republicans to quickly dominate the revolutionary movement in Porto, has resolved to open enlistment for the speedy formation of battalions of volunteers. For the purpose, every citizen of the Republic is invited to appear, today, the 22nd, at ten o'clock in the morning at Campo Pequeno. The Government also authorises those academicians so desiring to organise a battalion for the same purpose, for which they should appear at the same time, at the troop barracks at Janelas Verdes, under the command of cavalry captain and aviator António Maia and infantry captain Henrique Guerra”.

The academicians did, indeed, gather at the Janelas Verdes barracks on January 22nd, and they came to form an Academic Battalion in Lisbon that was to set out for the North to fight the Monarchy that had been established in the meantime. Before this, however, the Lisbon Academic Battalion, still formed solely by students of the Lisbon Academy, took part in the skirmishes at Monsanto, where the people of Lisbon and a large part of the Navy attacked the monarchist forces under the command of Aires de Ornelas, which had set themselves up there and had started to bombard the city in an attempt to conquer Lisbon and to restore the monarchy once again. As said, the Academic Battalion played an active role in the confrontation between republican and monarchist troops at Monsanto, in Lisbon, in which the monarchists did not prevail. A major defeat was inflicted on Paiva Couceiro and, with the loss of control of the capital that was fundamental to the restoration of the monarchy, the impetus behind the revolt started by the monarchists was lost.

Later, the Lisbon Academic Battalion was to incorporate students from the Coimbra Academy, forming the Republican Academic Battalion. It comprised 90 combatants under the command of officers who were likewise students. The republican students were armed by the 35th Coimbra Infantry Regiment and they set out for the North on February 1st 1919, after receiving military instruction, especially training in small arms.

This body of republican students was to take part in many operations between Aveiro and Porto. They were among the first group of troops to enter the city of Porto, putting an end to the monarchist coup and imposing the continuation of the republican regime.

Letters sent by the republican troops during the campaign against the monarchists did not have to pay postage, and neither did the mail sent by the Academic Battalions, basically comprising students, as shown by the postcard presented in this article.



This picture postcard was sent on February 13th 1919, the very day on which the Monarchy of the North was defeated. This very interesting postcard was written by Jorge Marçal, then aged 20, who was a student of medicine at the University of Coimbra, one of the Academic Battalion that had been transformed in this city.

The postcard does not show where it was sent from, though the picture is of a town called Oliveira de Azeméis, and I am therefore led to the conclusion that the Battalion could have been garrisoned there or passed through. It was sent from Porto, for the Academic Battalion was one of the first to enter the city on February 13th, the day on which the monarchists were defeated.

It was written in a spirit of victory of the republican forces and tells of the current situation, saying:

“Here we are, now with little hope of catching the monarchists who seem not to want any encounter with us. I’m not sending a cable because the trauliteiros (local supporters of the monarchy) took the telegraph apparatus with them”.

The body of the postcard also bears the words Batalhão Académico and the initials S.M., meaning military service, and a stamp stating:

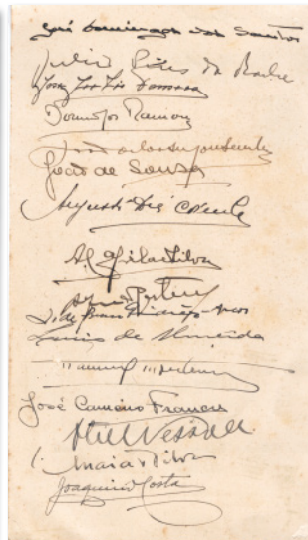
Detachment N° 1
 Campaign Service
 * Postal Service *
 Postage Free

Lisbon and Coimbra Academic Battalion, Republican Academic Battalion or Academic Battalion of the North were some of the names by which the Academic Battalion that took part in the military manoeuvres came to be known, manoeuvres that were mainly undertaken in the north of the country and led to the defeat of the monarchist forces.

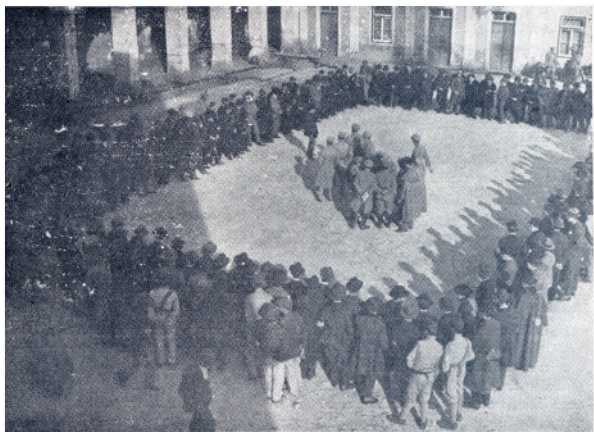
In closing, a word to say that a second Academic Battalion was formed in Porto, though its ideology was monarchist, and it came to be known as the Royal Porto Academic Battalion.

Materials telling the story of the rebellion

On February 21st 1932, 13 years after the defeat of the monarchists, the students who formed the Academic Battalion met in Coimbra to celebrate the victory of the republicans over the monarchists. The menu (left) which shows: Veal Escallops à Financeira (à Salazar?). The year was 1932, the year António Oliveira Salazar took office as prime minister, accumulating the post with that of finance minister.



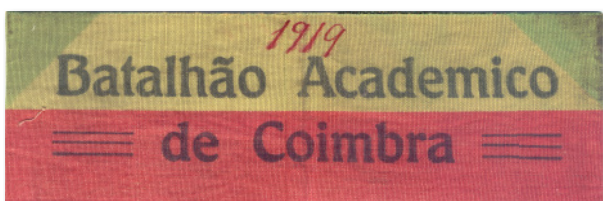
The Republican Academic Battalion at the Coimbra meeting (right). It was commanded by second-lieutenant Ribeiro da Costa, its weapons having been given to it by the 35th Coimbra Infantry Regiment.



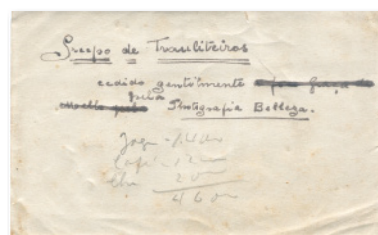
The students at the meeting at the Janelas Verdes barracks where the Academic Battalion was to be formed.



A group of trauliteiros. This was the name given to the supporters of the monarchists owing to the violence of their actions – traulito is a cudgel in Portuguese, hence cudgel-wielders.



Armband used by the students of the Coimbra Academic Battalion.



Rear of the above photograph.



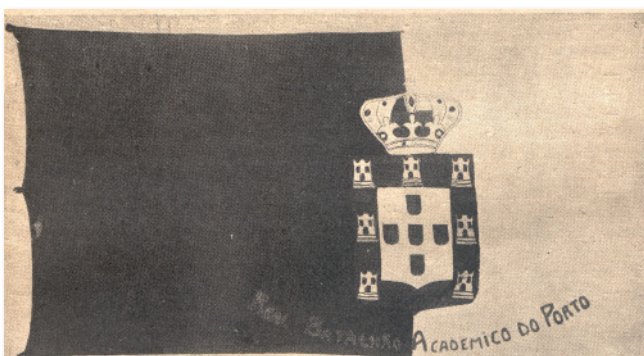
Kerchief worn by the Coimbra Academic Battalion, showing the figure of Magalhães Lima, the Grand Master of the Portuguese Freemasons in those days, with the green and red republican colours along its edges.



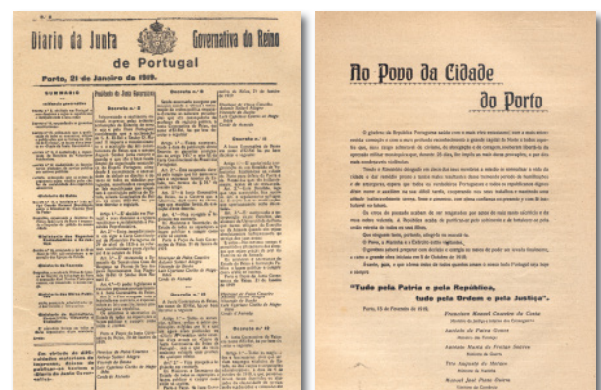
António Sollari Allegro, a member of the Ruling Council of the North, where he occupied the post of Minister of the Kingdom for Home Affairs. A cavalry officer, he was commissioner of the Porto police in the times of Sidónio Pais and an important leader of the Porto Military Junta. Following the monarchists' defeat he withdrew to Spain where he was to live in exile.



The people of Porto celebrating the re-establishment of the Republic after the defeat of the monarchist forces.

















The flag used by the Royal Porto Academic Battalion.



Left: Diary of the Ruling Council of the Kingdom of Portugal whereby the Republic was decreed extinct and the Monarchy restored. Right: Proclamation to the people of Porto made by the republican authorities immediately after the re-establishment of the Republic.

Federation of European Philatelic Associations

FEPA Family

<p>ALBANIA</p>  <p>Julian Demeti President</p>	<p>Association of Collectors of Albania P.O.Box 2972 Tirana-1001</p> <p>Phone +355 692093393</p> <p>Email julian.demeti@gmail.com website https://www.shksh.al/</p>	<p>CYPRUS</p>  <p>Costas Athanasiou President</p>	<p>Cyprus Philatelic Society P.O. Box 23396 1682 Nicosia</p> <p>Phone +357 99662506</p> <p>Email costathan@cablenet.com.cy Email costasath9@gmail.com</p>
<p>ARMENIA</p>  <p>Hovik Musayelyan President</p>	<p>Armenian Union of Philatelists P.O.Box 50 375010 Yerevan</p> <p>Phone +374 98888333 Fax +374 10492696</p> <p>Email hovikm@synopsys.com</p>	<p>CZECH REPUBLIC</p>  <p>Julius Cacka President</p>	<p>Union of Czech Philatelists Opletalova 1337/29 110 00 Praha 1</p> <p>Phone +420 603587593</p> <p>Email sekretariat@informace-scf.cz website http://www.informace-scf.cz/</p>
<p>AUSTRIA</p>  <p>Helmut Kogler President</p>	<p>Verband Österreichischer Philatelisten-Vereine Getreidemarkt 1 1060 Wien</p> <p>Phone +43 1 5876469 Fax +43 1 5877026</p> <p>Email office.voeph@voeph.at website https://www.voeph.at/</p>	<p>DENMARK</p>  <p>Lars Peter Svendsen President</p>	<p>Danmarks Filatelist Forbund Blokken 88 3460 Birkerød</p> <p>Phone +45 32501886</p> <p>E-mail danfil@danfil.dk website https://danfil.dk/</p>
<p>BELARUS</p>  <p>Sergey Pilipovich President</p>	<p>Byelorussian Union of Philatelists P.O. Box 3 BY-220049 Minsk-49</p> <p>Phone +375 29 7043060 Fax +375 29 7787821</p> <p>Email blits@tut.by</p>	<p>EGYPT</p>  <p>Hany Salam President</p>	<p>Philatelic Society of Egypt 16, Abd El-Khalek Thawat Street P.O.Box 142, Cairo</p> <p>Phone +20 2 23927540 Fax +20 2 33027630</p> <p>Email egyptianphilatelicsociety@gmail.com</p>
<p>BELGIUM</p>  <p>Filip Van der Haegen President</p>	<p>Fédération Royale des Cercles Philatéliques de Belgique Dam 38 BE-8870 Izegem</p> <p>Phone +32 51308509 Email vdhaegen.f@outlook.com website (F) https://www.frcpb.be/ website (D) https://www.klbp.be/</p>	<p>ESTONIA</p>  <p>Rein Karl Loide President</p>	<p>Philatelic Federation of Estonia Tehnika 15-5 10149 Tallinn</p> <p>Phone +372 5664 6604</p> <p>Email agopapp0@gmail.com</p>
<p>BULGARIA</p>  <p>Spas Panchev President</p>	<p>Union of Bulgarian Philatelists P.O. Box 662 1000 Sofia</p> <p>Phone +359 2 9586374</p> <p>Email spaspanchev@abv.bg website https://philatelyunion.bg/</p>	<p>FINLAND</p>  <p>Vesa Hirsmäki President</p>	<p>Suomen Filatelistiliitto c/o Hannula Norokuja 5 L SF 02770 Espoo</p> <p>Phone +358 406805025</p> <p>Email sfff@filatelisti.fi website https://www.filatelisti.fi/</p>
<p>CROATIA</p>  <p>Julije Maras President</p>	<p>Croatian Federation of Philatelists Hrvatski savez filatelista Ul. Tadije Smičiklase 22 HR-10000 Zagreb</p> <p>Phone +385 92 3022666</p> <p>Email julije@maras-filateliija.com.hr website https://hsf.hr/</p>	<p>FRANCE</p>  <p>Philippe Lesage President</p>	<p>Fédération Française des Associations Philatéliques 47, rue de Maubeuge 75009 Paris</p> <p>Phone +33 1 42855025</p> <p>Email ffap.philatelie@gmail.com website https://www.ffap.net/</p>

<p>GERMANY</p>  <p>Alfred Schmidt President</p>	<p>Bund Deutscher Philatelisten Am Hofgarten 4 53113 Bonn</p> <p>Phone +49 228308580 Fax +49 2283085812</p> <p>Email info@bdph.de website https://www.bdph.de/</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 https://www.efo.gr/</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 http://www.mabeosz.hu/</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 https://www.postsaga.is/</p>
<p>IRELAND</p>  <p>Dr. Brian Callan 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 istamp@netvision.net.il website http://www.israelphilately.org.il/main_e.asp</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 http://www.fsfi.it/</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: https://lapsite.org/</p>
<p>LIECHTENSTEIN</p>  <p>Helmut Fürer 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 https://www.lphv.li/</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: https://www.fspl.lu/</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>Peter Teurlings 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 https://www.knbf.nl/</p>
<p>NORTH MACEDONIA</p>  <p>Sinisha Pavleski President</p>	<p>Union of the Philatelists of Macedonia Veljko Vlahovic bb P.O. Box 300 1000 Skopje</p> <p>Phone +389 72266799</p> <p>Email unionofphilatelists.mk@gmail.com</p>








<p>NORWAY</p>  <p>Øistein Bøe President</p>	<p>Norsk Filatelistforbund Box 2700, St. Hanshaugen NO-0131 Oslo</p> <p>Phone +47 22208053</p> <p>Email nf@filatelist.no website https://filatelist.no/</p>	<p>SLOVENIA</p>  <p>Bojan Bračić 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 https://fzs.si/</p>
<p>POLAND</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 zgpzf@wp.pl website https://zgpzf.pl/</p>	<p>SPAIN</p>  <p>José Antonio Arruego President</p>	<p>Federación Española de Sociedades Filatelic Asalto, 69 3^b 50002 Zaragoza</p> <p>Phone +34 610403445 Email joseantonioarruego@gmail.com website https://fesofi.es/</p>
<p>PORTUGAL</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 https://fpfilatelia.wordpress.com/</p>	<p>SWEDEN</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 https://filatelisten.se/</p>
<p>ROMANIA</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 http://www.federatia-filatetica.ro/</p>	<p>SWITZERLAND</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 https://www.vsphv.ch/</p>
<p>RUSSIA</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>TURKEY</p>  <p>Ziya Ağaoğullari President</p>	<p>Fédération des Associations Philatéliques de Turquie Secretary General Arman Arikan Safak Sk. No. 4/4 34371 Nisantasi-Istanbul</p> <p>Phone +90 212 2405052 Fax + 90 212 2303878 Email: arman_arikan@hotmail.com website https://tfdf.org.tr/</p>
<p>SERBIA</p>  <p>Vladimir Milic President</p>	<p>Union of Philatelists of Serbia Kosovska 47 11000 Belgrade</p> <p>Phone +381 113230929 Fax + 381 113230929</p> <p>Email info@philaserbia.org website https://www.philaserbia.com/</p>	<p>UKRAINE</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>SLOVAKIA</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 zslfazar@gmail.com website https://slovenskafilatelia.sk/</p>	<p>UNITED KINGDOM</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 https://www.abps.org.uk/</p>

Contact FEPA at:

info@fepanews.com

FEPA Board

Address: Sutherland House, 40 Culverden Down, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, UK TN4 9SG • Website: www.fepanews.com • Email: info@fepanews.com

<p>PRESIDENT</p>  <p>Bill Hedley president@fepanews.com</p>	<p>VICE-PRESIDENT</p>  <p>Giancarlo Morolli vicepresident@fepanews.com</p>	<p>TREASURER</p>  <p>Lars Jorgensen lars.jorgensen.fs@gmail.com</p>	<p>SECRETARY GENERAL</p>  <p>Igor Pirc ipirc711@gmail.com</p>
<p>DIRECTOR</p>  <p>Lars Engelbrecht lars.engelbrecht@helsager.dk</p>	<p>DIRECTOR</p>  <p>Costas Chazapis c.chazapis@gmail.com</p>	<p>DIRECTOR</p>  <p>Thomas Höpfner t.hoepfner@t-online.de</p>	





HAFNIA 24



DANMARK

Celebrating 400 years of Danish Post

HAFNIA 24

EUROPEAN PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

17-20 OCTOBER 2024

Christian IV c. 1612. Painted by Pieter Isaacs. The painting is part of The Royal Danish Collection located at Rosenborg Castle, Øster Voldgade 4A, DK 1350 København K





BALKANFILA XX
13-16 NOVEMBER 2024
THESSALONIKI, GREECE





1997 2024

24

MONACOPHIL

5-7 December 2024

Events Calendar

2024		
19-20 July	NORTHERN NATIONAL EXHIBITION 2024 York, UK	National Exhibition
26-28 July	MARE BALTICUM 2024, Tartu, Estonia	Multinational Exhibition, FEPA Recognition https://marebalticum.ee
29 August - 7 September	ENAJSTO OKNO KRANJ 2024, Kranj, Slovenia	1-, 2- and 3-frame International Exhibition mail to: ipirc711@gmail.com
30 August - 1 September	KARLSTAD 2024, Sweden	National Exhibition https://karlstad2024.se
13-15 September	ALPEN-ADRIA 2024, Amberg, Germany	Multinational Exhibition http://www.alpeadria.eu
2-6 October	EXFILNA 2024, Valladolid, Spain	National Exhibition https://exposicionesfesofi.es
11-13 October	STAMPA 2024, Dublin, Ireland	National Exhibition https://stampa.ie
12-13 October	EXPO 2024 CINISELLO, Cinisello Balsamo, Italy	National Exhibition with international participation
17-20 October	HAFNIA 24, Copenhagen, Denmark	European Exhibition, FEPA Patronage https://www.hafnia24.com
19 October	FEPA CONGRESS 2024, Copenhagen, Denmark	Annual FEPA Congress https://www.fepanews.com
23-26 October	STAMPEX 2024, London, UK	International Stamp Fair https://www.stampexinternational.com
24-26 October	Internationale Briefmarken-Börse Ulm, Germany	International Stamp Fair https://briefmarken-messe.de
13-16 November	BALKANFILA XX, Thessaloniki, Greece	Multinational Exhibition, FEPA Recognition https://efeth.gr/en/details
18-22 November	YEREVAN 2024, Armenia	International Exhibition
5-8 December	MONACOPHIL 2024, Monte Carlo, Monaco	International Exhibition, FEPA Recognition https://monacophil.com
2025		
17-22 February	URUGUAY 2025, Punta del Este, Uruguay	Specialised World Exhibition, FIP Patronage https://uruguay2025.com/
7-11 May	EUROPHILEX BIRMINGHAM 2025, UK	European Exhibition, FEPA Patronage, FIP Recognition https://europhilex2025.co.uk
11 May	FEPA CONGRESS 2025, Birmingham, UK	Annual FEPA Congress https://www.fepanews.com
14-17 May	BERNABA & MULTILATERALE 2025, Bern, Switzerland	National & Multinational Exhibition https://www.bernaba25.ch
19-22 June	LIBEREC 2025, Czech Republic	National Exhibition with international participation
12-14 September	NORDIA 2025, Malmö, Sweden	Multinational Exhibition, FEPA Recognition https://nordia2025.se
dates pending	PILAKOREA 2025, Seoul, South Korea	Specialised World Exhibition, FIP Patronage
2026		
March dates pending	MACAO 2026, Macao, China	Specialised World Exhibition, FIP Patronage (to be confirmed)
23-30 May	BOSTON 2026, Boston MA, United States	General World Exhibition, FIP Recognition https://boston2026.org
14-19 November	PHILATAIPEI 2026, Chinese Taipei	General World Exhibition, FIP Patronage (to be confirmed)

*In philately you can discover
something new every day ...*

OUR BENEFITS:

**CONSIGNMENT TO
OUR AUCTIONS
OR DIRECT SALE FOR CASH**

**NON-BINDING &
DISCREET ADVICE**

FREE VALUATION

**FAST AND RELIABLE
HANDLING**

THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

Consignment to our auctions
or Direct sale for cash.

**AUKTIONSHAUS
CHRISTOPH GÄRTNER
GmbH & Co.KG
Steinbeisstraße 6+8
74321 Bietigheim-Bissingen**



+49-(0)7142-789400



info@auktionen-gaertner.de

*Record price! The legendary **Mauritius Ball Cover** was auctioned off at the Auktionshaus Christoph Gärtner for a sensational price of **10 million euros***.*

**(approx. 10.9 million dollars; hammer price incl. buyers premium)*

STAMPS | COVERS | PICTURE POSTCARDS | COINS & MEDALS | BANKNOTES

www.auktionen-gaertner.de | www.cg-collectors-world.com

International Auction

24-27 September



Highlights:

"The Beautiful Collection" Sweden 1855-1872, part 2
Professor Ringertz, Iceland Official Covers, part 2
Orla Nielsen, Iceland, part 2
Greenland, extensive specialised collection
Ivar Sundsbø, Romania, part 2
Paolo Sanguineti, classic Norway

We invite you to consign!

Consignments are accepted throughout all the month of July.
Please contact stampauctions@postiljonen.se or +46 40-25 88 52

AuctionHouse international

Postiljonen

We value your collection

Main sponsor of:



Box 537 • SE-201 25 • Malmö • Sweden • Tel. +46 40 25 88 50
www.postiljonen.com • stampauctions@postiljonen.se