Federation of European Philatelic Associations



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD OF PHILATELY

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

I want to mention three major areas of change:

- On-Line Communications
- Artificial Intelligence
- The Postal Market

ON-LINE COMMUNICATIONS

The internet offers new channels for collectors:

- Collectors can meet and exchange information in on-line groups on social media.

- Many excellent websites dedicated to philately have been created.

- Major auction houses are now open for bidding on-line.

This has created a challenge for traditional philatelic organisations.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

This on-line tool opens new opportunities for philatelic research:

- Instant access to information across the web.
- Instant translation of modern and historical documents.
- The tool can be assisted - and challenged.
- Will improve the ability pf collectors to understand their material and the context in which it was created.

CHANGES IN THE POSTAL MARKET

Dramatic changes will affect collectors:

- On-line payment of postage is replacing stamps.
- E-mail is quicker and cheaper than a letter for short messages.
- Most stamp issues now are mainly for the benefit of collectors.
- Some countries have already stopped using stamps on letters.

WHAT CAN FEPA DO?

FEPA was formed in 1989.

Its central purpose is:

‘To support its Members in promoting philately’.

This mission has not changed.

But the circumstances in which we are operating have changed completely.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

Our work takes place under four headings:

- Sharing Information
- Promoting Innovation and Cooperation
- Supporting Exhibitions
- Rewarding Achievements

SHARING INFORMATION

- FEPA NEWS is now fully on-line, enabling us to expand its scope and bring it to a wider audience.
- FEPA's fortnightly Newsletter has brought a large range of news items to readers. It is now one of the main sources of philatelic news in Europe.
- Our website and social media outlets are constantly being extended to reach new audiences.

PROMOTING INNOVATION AND COOPERATION

- Following our report in 2025 on Effective Social Media Strategies, we are running a competition for the best ideas on how to promote philately in the modern world.
- The results will be announced shortly.
- We are also introducing innovations to our seminars to allow greater sharing of information.

SUPPORTING EXHIBITIONS

- Specialised Patronage will enable us to offer more support to regional and single-theme exhibitions.
- A major review of regulations for evaluation of philatelic literature sponsored by FEPA has been tested at ITALIA 2026.
- FEPA Recognition of exhibitions is increasingly popular and enables us to help organisers in promoting their shows.

SUPPORTING EXHIBITORS

- We encourage Members to hold FEPA Patronage exhibitions.
- Continental exhibitions create opportunities for exhibitors to have a go at international level. And the Patronage fee is relatively low!
- We are concerned that recent developments in the evaluation of picture postcards have made this a less attractive option for exhibitors. We are considering what we can do to help this class to remain viable.

REWARDING ACHIEVEMENTS

- More nominations have been received this year from Members for the award of certificates to societies than in any previous year of my Presidency.

- We thank you for your excellent support.

- Please continue to make full use of this tool to give recognition to people in your societies who have worked hard to keep them going in difficult times.

- The call for nominations for the next round of awards will come to you shortly.

SOME CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- Philately is a huge subject that forms part of the history of communications.
- Philately is for everyone, in whatever way they want to pursue it.
- It brings benefits to people in many different ways.
- Promoting philately involves explaining it to the outside world as well as talking to existing collectors.
- The communications revolution can help us to do this, and we must take full advantage of it.

Thank you for coming.

Please continue to give us your full support.

Have a safe journey home!