

Flash

Fédération Internationale de Philatélie



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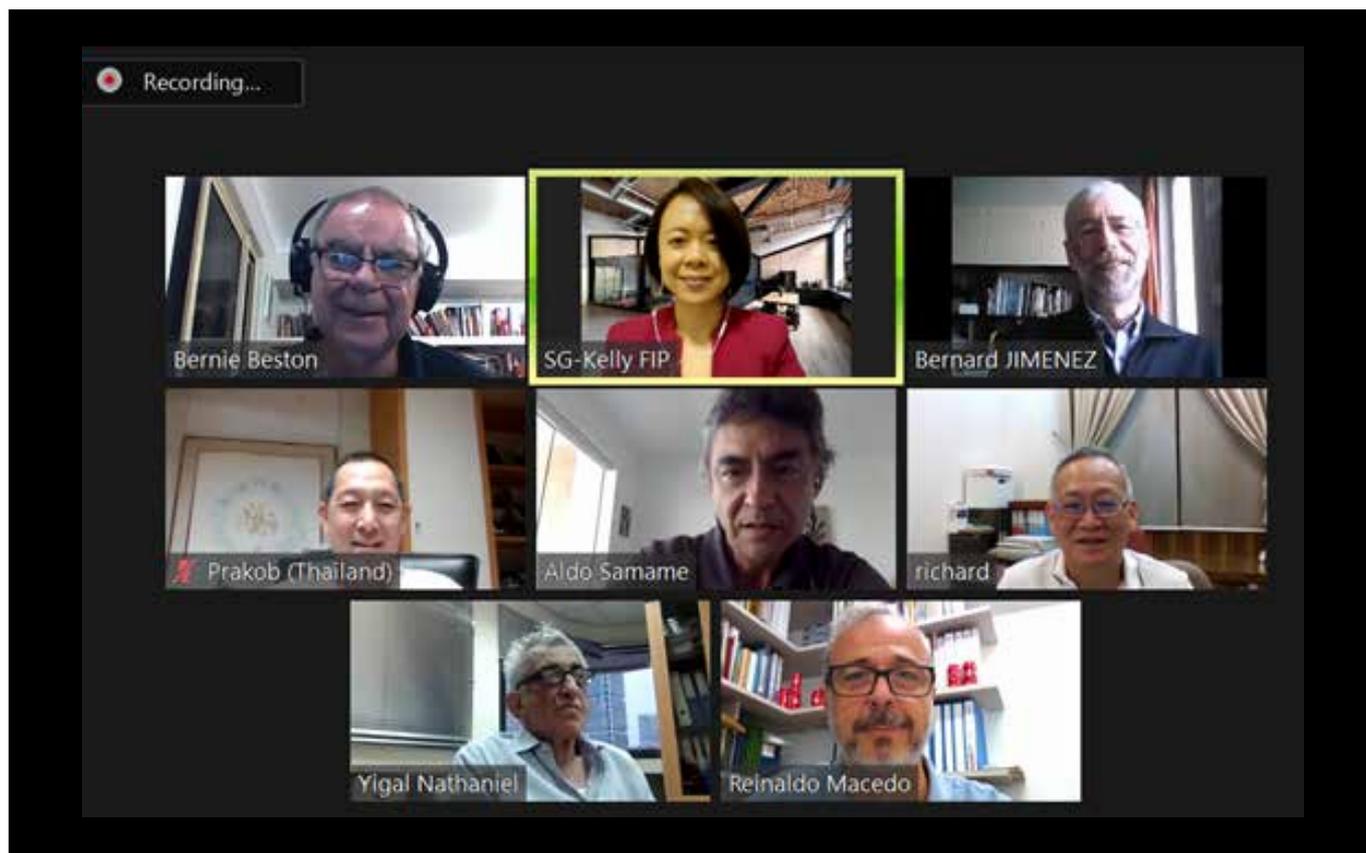
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The 136th Conference meeting of the FIP Board of Directors via Zoom on 23 February 2021.

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Editorial

It was unfortunate that due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreaks in 2020, all three FIP Patronage World Stamp Exhibitions, namely LONDON 2020, INDONESIA 2020 and BULGARIA 2020 were forced to be postponed or cancelled. With the COVID-19 vaccines being available in 2021, we hope that it will revive worldwide Philatelic physical exhibitions like before. The only FIP Patronage Exhibition in 2021 to date will be PHILANIPPON 2021 in Yokohama to be held during August 25-30, 2021. CAPE TOWN 2021 in Cape Town, South Africa had to be postponed. FIP Patronage Exhibitions we are looking forward to in 2022 are: LONDON 2022, HUNFILEX 2022, HELVETIA 2022 and INDONESIA 2022.

Some of our members have still been able to host the physical National Exhibitions, such as China and Indonesia etc. Many of our members had hosted virtual national exhibitions such as Bangladesh, India, South Africa, Australia; Serbia, United Kingdom; Argentina, United States of America, etc. These virtual exhibitions had all been well attended by philatelists and enthusiastic visitors. With the success of these virtual exhibitions, we expect many more virtual Exhibitions planned for 2021.

In this issue, you will find the President's message; highlights of the FIP Board teleconference meetings; updates from Members and more.

We appreciate your comments, suggestions and advice on how to make FLASH more interesting. Enjoy reading.

The Editors

Editorial

Fue una pena que, debido a los brotes pandémicos de COVID 19 en el 2020, las tres Exposiciones Mundiales FIP, Londres 2020, Indonesia 2020 y Bulgaria 2020, se vieran obligadas a posponerse o cancelarse. Con las vacunas disponibles en el 2021 esperamos que revivan las exposiciones filatélicas presenciales en todo el mundo como antes. La única Exposición FIP en 2021 será PHILANIPPON 2021 en Yokohama, que se realizará del 25 al 30 de Agosto 2021. CAPE TOWN 2021 en ciudad del cabo, Sudáfrica, tuvo que posponerse. Las exposiciones con Patrocinio FIP que esperamos en el 2022 son: LONDRES 2022, HUNFILEX 2022, HELVETIA 2022 e INDONESIA 2022.

Algunos de nuestros miembros han sido capaces de realizar exposiciones presenciales, como China e Indonesia. Muchos de nuestros miembros han realizado exposiciones nacionales virtuales como Bangladesh, India, Sudáfrica, Australia, Serbia, Reino Unido, Argentina, Estados Unidos de América. Todas estas exposiciones virtuales contaron con gran asistencia de filatelistas y entusiastas visitantes. En el éxito de estas exposiciones virtuales, esperamos muchas más previstas para el 2021.

En este número encontrará el Mensaje del Presidente, aspectos destacados de las reuniones de teleconferencia de la Junta Directiva de la FIP, actualizaciones de miembros y más.

Agradecemos sus comentarios, sugerencias y consejos sobre cómo hacer que FLASH sea más interesante.

Disfruten su lectura.

Los Editores

April 2021

Current Uncertainty

A warm greeting to you all. It is my firm desire that the year 2021 will bring you great success and happiness. To say that the year 2020 has been challenging, would be a serious understatement.

Just when the first vaccines have been released, we see new spikes of infections in so many of our member countries. And we continue to see almost daily new outbreaks of COVID-19 across the globe.

With you, I look forward to the future with a safer world.

The past year has meant an almost total inability to plan or to plan with any degree of the knowledge that our plans will come to fruition as they have been programmed.

To indicate just how precarious the current situation is, I must inform you that just in the past week I have been advised that firstly, Alpes Adria a FIP Sponsored Exhibition already rescheduled for Tarvisio, Italy in June 2021 had been postponed, again; and then Emil Buhrmann, the Chairman of the CAPE TOWN 2021 FIP World Exhibition informed me, with a sad heart, that the first ever FIP World Exhibition to be held in South Africa, CAPE TOWN 2021 has again been postponed, to a date to be fixed.

FIP Sponsored Exhibitions

As you may know three sponsored FIP Exhibitions (Banglapex, St. Pierre et Miquelon, Alpes Adria, Tarvisio) scheduled for 2020 were cancelled or deferred. Bangabandhu 2021, an adjourned Banglapex will now proceed in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 15-18 December 2021.

Virtual Philatelic Exhibitions

I congratulate the many members who have sponsored Virtual Philatelic Exhibitions. This has occurred in almost every continent. I can name a few, and apologise for any I have omitted: Argentina, Bangladesh, India, South Africa, Australia, Spain, United Kingdom, USA and Serbia.

I know that other members are already planning Virtual Exhibitions in the year 2021. A 2021 Canadian Virtual One Frame exhibition has been oversubscribed. So, there is much light at the end of the tunnel!

Qualifying Exhibits at Virtual Philatelic Exhibitions

The FIP Board on my suggestion, agreed that Vermeil or higher Medal qualifications (75 points) awarded at national Virtual Exhibitions would entitle that Exhibit to enter a FIP exhibition in 2021 or 2022, on an experimental basis.

FIP 76th Congress

The FIP Congress scheduled for Jakarta, Indonesia in August 2020 (and then November) was abandoned along with the Exhibition.

In these difficult times, the Board had a thankless task of fixing a time and place for either a Virtual Congress or a physical Congress in 2020. No applications were received to hold the FIP Congress in the year 2021. Hence, it has been determined that the 76th FIP Congress will now be held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 9 August 2022. This immediately follows the Indonesian World Exhibition.

Open Philately Class Commission

There is a Motion before the next Congress to create an Open Philately Commission. With that in mind, Members have appointed their national delegates to this Commission (subject to the proposal being approved by the next Congress). There has been great interest shown by Members.



Bernard Beston
FIP President

FIP Financial Position

The financial position of the FIP is sound. However, the Singapore financial markets have been in decline in 2020, and with that decline FIP suffered a substantial paper loss in 2020.

Additionally the absence of any FIP Exhibitions in 2020 and only one FIP Patronage Exhibition in 2021, have meant reduced income from Patronage Fees. This situation is compounded by the non-payment of members fees by some of our Members, who are in financial difficulty due to the Pandemic.

Your Treasurer, Richard Tan and I will address this issue in a separate article in this Flash.

Frame Allocations

I was very pleased to see that NOTOS 2021 will be trialling two and three-frame Exhibits. Of course, such frame allocations are not new at International Exhibitions. I feel that our Regulations on frame numbers have been overly restrictive, and I'm looking forward to the assessment of this proposal after the Exhibition. I have long advocated for Regulations to even include 10 Frame Exhibits, and hopefully these will one day be included.

FIP Patronage World Exhibitions

2021		
PHILANIPPON 2021	Yokohama, Japan	25 – 30 August 2021

2022		
LONDON 2022	London, United Kingdom	19 – 26 February 2022
HUNFILEX 202	Budapest, Hungary	31 March – 3 April 2022
HELVETIA 2022	Lugano, Switzerland	18 – 22 May 2022
INDONESIA 2022	Jakarta, Indonesia	4 – 9 August 2022
CAPE TOWN 2022	Cape Town, South Africa	8 –12 November 2022

2023		
IBRA 2023	Essen, Germany	25 – 28 May 2023

FIP Recognition Exhibitions

NOTOS 2021	Athens	Greece	19 – 22 November 2021
TAIPEI 2022	Taipei	Taiwan	6 –10 May 2022
CAPEX 2022	Toronto	Canada	9 – 12 June 2022
LIBEREC 2022	Prague	Czech Republic	13 –16 October 2022

The philatelic world has not died but it has successfully reinvented itself. The Auction Houses are more successful than ever, and home quarantine has redirected so many people to revive their hobby. Whilst we live with difficulty and sadness, I am sure the world will return to normal.

On a final note, I warmly congratulate the Indonesian Philatelists Association on achieving their Centenary this March 2021.

Bernard Beston, FAP, FRPSV, FRPSL
FIP President

April 2021

Incertidumbre Actual

Un cordial saludo para todos ustedes. Es mi firme deseo que el año 2021 les traiga grandes éxitos y felicidad. Decir que el año 2020 ha sido un desafío es quedarse corto.

Justo cuando se lanzaron las primeras vacunas, vemos nuevos picos de infecciones en varios de nuestros países miembro. Y seguimos viendo a diario nuevos brotes de COVID-19 alrededor del mundo.

Con ustedes, veo hacia el futuro con un mundo más seguro.

El año pasado ha significado una incapacidad casi total para planificar, o planificar con algún grado de conocimiento que nuestros planes llegarían a buen término como habían sido programados.

Para mostrar cuán precaria es la situación actual, debo decirles que la semana pasada me informaron que Alpes Adria, una Exposición con Patrocinio FIP ya reprogramada para Tarvisio, Italia en Junio 2021 ha sido pospuesta nuevamente; y luego el Presidente de la Exposición Mundial CAPE TOWN 2021, Emil Buhrmann, me informó que la primera Exposición Mundial FIP que se celebraría en Sudáfrica ha sido pospuesta nuevamente a una fecha por definir.

Exposiciones con Patrocinio FIP

Como sabrán, se cancelaron o pospusieron tres Exposiciones con Patrocinio FIP programadas para el 2020 (Banglapex, St. Pierre et Miquelon, Alpes Adria). Bangabandhu 2021, un Banglapex aplazado, ahora será en Dhaka, Bangladesh, del 15 al 18 de diciembre 2021.

Exposiciones Filatélicas Virtuales

Felicito a los numerosos miembros que han patrocinado las Exposiciones Filatélicas Virtuales. Esto ha ocurrido en todos los continentes. Puedo nombrar algunas y mis disculpas por las omisiones: Argentina, Bangladesh, India, Sudáfrica, Australia, España, Reino Unido, Estados Unidos y Serbia.

Sé que otros miembros están planeando exposiciones virtuales para el año 2021. Incluso una exposición virtual de Un Marco en Canadá 2021 tiene sobre inscripciones. Entonces, ¡hay mucha luz al final del túnel!

Participaciones Calificadas en Exposiciones Filatélicas Virtuales

La Consejo de la FIP, a mi sugerencia, acordó que las participaciones con medalla de Vermeil o superior (75 puntos) otorgadas en Exposiciones Virtuales nacionales tendrían derecho a participar en una exposición FIP en el 2021 o 2022, de forma experimental.

76° Congreso FIP

El Congreso FIP programado para Jakarta, Indonesia, en Agosto 2020 (y luego en Noviembre) fue abandonado junto con la Exposición.

En estos tiempos difíciles el Consejo tuvo la ingrata tarea de arreglar un lugar y tiempo para un Congreso virtual o físico en el 2020. No se recibieron solicitudes para realizar el Congreso FIP en el año 2021. Por lo tanto, se ha determinado que el 76° Congreso FIP se haga ahora en Jakarta, Indonesia el 9 de Agosto de 2022. Inmediatamente después de la Exposición Mundial de Indonesia.

Comisión de la Clase Abierta

Hay una moción para antes del próximo Congreso para crear la Comisión de Filatelia Abierta. Con esto en mente, los miembros han designado a sus delegados nacionales a esta Comisión (sujeto a que la propuesta sea aprobada en el próximo Congreso). Hay un gran interés por parte de los Miembros.



Bernard Beston
Presidente FIP

Posición Financiera de la FIP

La situación financiera de la FIP es sólida. Sin embargo, los mercados financieros de Singapur han estado en declive el 2020, y con ese declive, la FIP sufrió una pérdida sustancial en papeles el 2020.

Además, la ausencia de exposiciones FIP el 2020 y solo una exposición con Patrocinio FIP el 2021 ha significado una reducción de ingresos por derechos de patrocinios. Esta situación se ve agravada por la falta de pago de las cuotas anuales de algunos de nuestros miembros, que están en dificultades financieras debido a la pandemia.

Su Tesorero, Richard Tan y yo abordaremos este tema en un artículo separado en este Flash.

Asignación de Marcos

Me complació ver que NOTOS 2021 probará con participaciones de dos y tres marcos. Por supuesto, estas asignaciones de marcos no son nuevas en las Exposiciones Internacionales. Creo que nuestro reglamento sobre número de cuadros ha sido demasiado restrictivo y espero con interés la evaluación de esta propuesta después de la Exposición. Durante mucho tiempo he abogado por que las regulaciones incluyan incluso participaciones de 10 marcos y espero que algún día se incluyan.

Exposiciones Mundiales con Patrocinio FIP

2021		
PHILANIPPON 2021	Yokohama, Japón	25 – 30 Agosto 2021

2022		
LONDON 2022	Londres, Reino Unido	19 – 26 Febrero 2022
HUNFILEX 202	Budapest, Hungría	31 Marzo – 3 Abril 2022
HELVETIA 2022	Lugano, Suiza	18 – 22 Mayo 2022
INDONESIA 2022	Yakarta, Indonesia	4 – 9 Agosto 2022
CAPE TOWN 2022	Cape Town, South Africa	8 –12 Noviembre 2022

2023		
IBRA 2023	Essen, Alemania	25 – 28 Mayo 2023

Exposiciones con Reconocimiento FIP

NOTOS 2021	Atenas	Grecia	19 – 22 Noviembre 2021
TAIPEI 2022	Taipéi	Taiwán	6 – 10 Mayo 2022
CAPEX 2022	Toronto	Canadá	9 – 12 Junio 2022
LIBEREC 2022	Praga	República Checa	13 – 16 Octubre 2022

El mundo filatélico no ha muerto pero se ha reinventado con éxito. Las casas de subastas tienen más éxito que nunca, y la cuarentena domiciliaria ha redirigido a muchas personas a revivir su afición. Mientras vivamos con dificultad y tristeza, estoy seguro de que el mundo volverá a la normalidad.

Una nota final, felicito a la Asociación de Filatelistas de Indonesia por su Centenario en marzo 2021.

Bernie Beston
Presidente FIP

Highlights of the 134th FIP Board of Directors Conference Meeting on 5 September 2020

EXHIBITIONS

IBRA 2021

Vice-President Macedo updated that he had received the official request from the Organising Committee to postpone the exhibition to May 25 – 28, 2023 and it was approved unanimously by the FIP Board members.

INDONESIA 2022

Vice-President Chirakiti updated that he had received the official request from the OC to postpone the exhibition to 4-9 August 2022, which had no conflict with the other exhibitions. The Board unanimously approved the dates. The Organising Committee also requested to host the FIP Congress.

HUNFILEX 2022

FIP Director Mr Yigal Nathaniel updated that the Contract with FIP was ready and it would be signed by end of 2020.

FINANCE MATTERS

NEW FIP AWARDSLIST

The Secretary General updated that there would be an additional expenditure as she was working with FIP IT support in Luxembourg to help re-consolidate and re-create a new FIP master awards-list project from August 2020 onwards for the recording of future exhibits awards in FIP exhibitions and generating of reports, as the old computer system and software had unfortunately stopped working.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF 2020 FIP MEMBERSHIP FEES

Requests for waiver or reduced FIP membership fees had been received by FIP President from a few FIP members and the Secretary General was to send the Finance reports from Director Tan, as well as also the list of countries that had paid or unpaid their membership fees, to every Board member for their consideration and review.

Editors' Notes: Summary of the Board's Discussion in Moscow, Russia on 17-18 March 2019 regarding 10-frame Exhibits in FIP Exhibitions

President Beston raised for discussion on whether an exhibit could increase to 10-frames once it achieved a Gold medal and be awarded a different medal from 8-frames, with Platinum (90 to 94 points) or Large Platinum (95 to 100 points). The Board Members discussed about the proposal, some of the considerations included:

- At every Exhibition, the Organising Committee always has a problem of more applications received than frames available, by allowing 10-frames exhibits would mean that less exhibitors can have the opportunity to participate.
- Most exhibitors tend to face difficulties finding sufficient materials to achieve a high award medal for 8-frame exhibits, thus it would be even more difficult to form a worthy 10-frame exhibit.

After a detailed discussion, the Board Members agreed that 10-frame exhibits would not be added to the existing frames allowance at FIP Exhibitions.

Highlights of the 135th FIP Board of Directors Conference Meeting on 16 October, 2020

76TH FIP CONGRESS

TERM OF BOARD MEMBERS

President Beston proposed in his report that:

“At the 74th FIP Congress on 26 October 2016 the following Directors were elected:

Vice President Europe Bernard Jimenez

Vice President Americas Reinaldo Macedo

Director Americas Aldo Samamé y Samamé

Director Europe Yigal Nathaniel

Statutes Article 30.3 provides for the term of Office of a Director to be four (4) years. This means that each of the above Directors’ term of office expires on 26 October 2020.”

The Board members approved that the Secretary General was to write to FIP legal advisor to clarify Statutes Article 30.3 on the “four-year” term of office of a Board member and Commissions’ Bureau Members under the exceptional situation of which the 76th FIP Congress could not proceed in 2020.

EXHIBITIONS

The Secretary General was to upload the following decision, as recommended by President Beston and approved by the Board members, on the FIP website:

“A Vermeil medal at national virtual exhibitions held in 2020-2022 shall be accepted for FIP World exhibitions only in 2021 and 2022, on an experimental basis.”

COMMISSIONS

NEW OPEN PHILATELY COMMISSION

President Beston proposed the addition of Open Philately Commission and the Picture Post Card Commission. The Board members approved to have an Open Philately Commission and the Secretary General would call for appointment of Open Philately delegates by Member Federations. It was agreed that as Picture Postcards which was still an experimental class in FIP exhibitions, the Commission need not be formed yet.

FIP Legal Advisor’s Opinions on the Term of Office for a FIP Vice-President or Director elected at the FIP Congress on October 26, 2016 in Taipei

“The term of office for the Vice Presidents and the Directors elected at the FIP Congress on October 26, 2016, in Taipei ends at the end of the next FIP Congress.

This rule applies to the Commissions as well. If Commissions are unable to hold their scheduled meetings because of the pandemic, the elected Members of the Commissions may serve until the next meeting.”

Andreas G. Keller, November 2, 2020

Highlights of the 136th FIP Board of Directors Conference Meeting on 23 February, 2021

76TH FIP CONGRESS

TERM OF BOARD MEMBERS

President Beston would like the recommendations from FIP Legal Advisor, with regards to the term of duty of Board members and Commissions' Bureau members, to be added to the Congress Regulations and to be proposed as a Board's motion at the next Congress for approval. It was agreed by the Board members that Directors Samamé, Nathaniel and Tan to work on this together in the coming months and to submit to President Beston.

CANCELLATION OF THE 76TH FIP CONGRESS IN 2021

In view that a virtual congress was not feasible due to numerous time zone differences, as well as possible concerns on the procedures of secret voting, it was agreed by the Board members that a virtual Congress would not be held. However, as international travel would not resume so quickly, it was still not certain if the two FIP exhibitions for 2021 could proceed as planned. Considering that delegates would unlikely risk their health and incur time and monetary costs of quarantine to vote at a physical Congress, the majority of the Board members voted that the 76th FIP Congress in 2021 be cancelled and moved to 2022.

76TH FIP CONGRESS IN 2022

President Beston encouraged that the Board to come to a decision to fix the date and venue for the 76th FIP Congress in 2022, based on the written nominations that had been received by the Board. The Board decided that the 2022 FIP Congress will be held in Jakarta, on the last day of INDONESIA 2022, subjected to confirmation by the Organising Committee.

FINANCE

Director Tan submitted various reports for FIP Finance as at 31 December 2020. He highlighted that the paper loss in 'Value Adjustments of Investments' and 'Exchange rate gain/loss' of the Expenditure document was worked out by the FIP bookkeeper in Switzerland. Excluding those numbers, the expenses for running FIP operations was 108,344.70 CHF, which was close to the income that FIP received from annual membership subscription fees, if paid in full.

The net loss of FIP as at end 2020, to be audited, was -466,649.01 CHF. Director Tan updated that the Singapore stock market had improved in first quarter of 2021 and proposed that the shares to be reduced in the future once the stock market improves, so as to increase FIP's cash-on-hand.

In view of the losses by FIP in Year 2020, no decision was made on the possible discounts to FIP Membership fees that the Board had been deliberating. The Board members agreed that the Secretary General to first proceed to send out the invoices for 2021, including any outstanding amounts that were due to FIP for Years 2020 and 2019.

EXHIBITIONS

COVID PROTOCOL AT FIP EXHIBITIONS

President Beston circulated a paper from Mark Banchik to the Board with regards to the proposed safely and hygiene protocol to be taken note at FIP exhibitions. The Board approved that Director Nathaniel, Vice-President Jimenez & Vice-President Macedo were to work on the recommendations for exhibition Organising Committees to undertake.

PHILANIPPON 2021

Vice-President Chirakiti updated that the Organising Committee had received more than 3,000 frames of applications and they expected to accept around 2,000 frames. The Organising Committee also updated and added the clauses to the new IREX to allow exhibits to be sent via EMS as an option for National Commissioners.

HUNFILEX 2022

Director Nathaniel updated that preparations were ongoing and the letter to member federations to nominate jurors and commissioners had been sent out by the Organising Committee.

LIBEREC 2022

The Board members unanimously agreed to President Beston's recommendation to grant FIP Recognition for this exhibition to be held from 13-16 October 2022 and Director Nathaniel was appointed the FIP Liaison Officer.

Comments on the FIP Financial Report for Year 2020

The audited Financial Statement by FIP's auditor BDO, appointed and approved at every past Congresses, for the year 2020 is now published on the FIP website.

You will note that both the Assets and Income for the year have reduced. The paper loss for the year 2020 was CHF 466,649.

Assets

From 2010 the Board gradually moved its fixed income assets from Switzerland to Singapore, to take advantage of improved interest rates and income from Stocks, Shares, Deposits and Bonds, etc.

At that time the interest earned in Zurich was less than 1%. Frequently the bank charges exceeded the interest earned on our deposits. Unfortunately, in chasing higher returns, some of the shares in which we invested, whilst initially very positive and highly remunerative, have not fared so well since 2018. This position was further exasperated by the onset of COVID-19. Whilst Singapore had controlled the spread of the virus effectively, with less than 30 deaths in the past 12 months, nonetheless disruptions to the global economy had also affected Singapore as well.

Hence, our assets as at 31 December 2020 have been reduced from CHF 2,534,898.00 as at 31 December 2019 to CHF 2,070,431.00 as at 31 December 2020. As the total value of Singapore stocks rose in March 2021, hence the paper loss is expected to be reduced for the year 2021.

The Board has incurred no meeting expenses for the year 2020 and it is not expected that any such will be incurred in 2021. Without such expenditure, the operating costs for the FIP are estimated at CHF110,000 for the full year of 2021. The average annual income from FIP membership subscription fees is CHF 116,500.00.

FIP income derives in the main from three sources

1. Income from Investments
2. Membership Dues
3. Patronage and Recognition Fees for Exhibitions

1. The Board shall review the investment in Singapore Blue Chip stocks to a maximum of 60% of assets, once the Singapore Stock market has recovered. However, this will be likely to have the effect of reducing our income on the dividends. On the positive side, it will ensure no diminution of asset value, except through inflation.
2. Many of our members are financially hurting. The Board received a few requests from members in 2020 for the waiver (in full or in part) of Membership Fees for either the year 2020 or year 2021, or both. In the light of our financial position these requests were not approved. During 2020, only close to half of the total membership dues had been received. There is still a shortfall of 67,350 CHF, including the outstanding dues from 2019.
3. Income from Patronage and Recognition Fees received for:

2020 - CHF 0.00	(actual)
2021 - CHF 105,700	(budgeted)
2022 - CHF 69,300	(estimated)

We are both aware of the magnitude of this loss but can assure you that it will in no way affect the operation of the organisation.

Bernie Beston – FIP President
Richard Tan – FIP Director (Asia), Treasurer

FIP LITERATURE COMMISSION REPORT 2020

The commission website (www.fipliterature.org) was renewed, the new site was online from 28 December 2019.

Commission secretary Mr. Ari Muhonen contacted all the delegates on our list and asked them to confirm if they still represent their federation in the commission. We got 26 positive answers out of 63 delegates on the list, so most delegates did not answer our queries.

In the current situation there are hardly any major philatelic events, so there are no literature exhibitions or literature classes. This certainly demotivates many members of the commission.

Our commission team has been doing an analysis of the FIP literature jurors. Many of the jurors are getting to the end of their career. In addition, there are some big languages which have no jurors at all. We request FIP to look into this matter to improve the situation and consider supporting through FIP Jury academy to groom literature Jurors for the future.

The draft proposal for Special Regulation for the Evaluation of Philatelic Literature Exhibit at FIP Exhibition was shared with the FIP Board and delegates. We have received good feedback back from the delegates to discuss further and simplified with common wording, so the guidelines are easily understood by people who do not have English as their native tongue.

As we all know that London 2020 and Indonesia 2020 both FIP events are postponed due to COVID-19. We would take this opportunity to further discuss our revised proposal for Special Regulation for the Evaluation of Philatelic Literature Exhibit at FIP Exhibition before the next commission meeting.

We are in process to issue the commission newsletter in coming months and planning to host virtual commission meeting in April- May 2021.

February 10, 2020
Commission Bureau

FIP THEMATIC COMMISSION REPORT (Sept 2020 – Mar 2021)

Unfortunately, the still ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has strongly affected all philately, particularly physical exhibitions, meetings and seminars. Most of the activities have been therefore transferred to the internet. The same is true for thematic philately. Below some highlights on these activities since our last report to FIP published in Flash 130 (September 2020).

Virtual exhibitions

The Chair of the Thematic Commission has been invited to act as Team leader of thematic jurors in the Indian National (with International participation) Virtual Exhibition Virthem2020. He also addressed the participants during the opening ceremony and gave extensive advice to exhibitors at the end of the exhibition during the Feedback session (all via Zoom).

Web seminars on the internet

The members of the Thematic Commission Bureau have taken part at several internet seminars (»webinars«):

K. Bracke:

- Zoom presentation in the framework of Italian CIFT series of philatelic conferences:
» Modern Chinese Postal Stationery«. March 2021.

P. Guglielminetti:

- Zoom presentation in the framework of Italian CIFT series of philatelic conferences: »How to take full advantage of postal history in developing a thematic collection«. September 2020.

P. Suhadolc:

- Zoom address to thematic exhibitors of Bangalore (India) regional exhibition. November 2020.
- Zoom presentation (Webinar) on »Thematic Philately« in the framework of the National Virtual Exhibition with International participation: SOFIZ I, Belgrade, Serbia. December 2020.
- Zoom presentation in the framework of Italian CIFT series of philatelic conferences: »The Development in Thematic exhibits« February 2021.

Online meetings and presentations of Mi Oficina Philatelic Society

Already several hundreds of videos have become available on Youtube in less than one year! Many of them are dealing with thematic philately (the last one about the thematic criterion 'Innovation' by Luis Claudio Fritzen.

See: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoOvqm-B0OyMCl47rqcXXvw>



TC News

In September 2020 the TC News number 29 has been issued, edited by Jari Majander. Apart from information on achieved results in thematic philately at FIP and continental exhibits, and updated Lists of Thematic accredited jurors and Thematic Delegates, it contains three articles of major interest.

- Mathematics, a science between theory and application, by Dr. Joachim Maas
- Pictorial stationery cards of Greece 1901–1903, by Jari Majander
- In quest for abusive and undesirable stamp issues, by Jari Majander



TC Newsletter

The March 2021 edition of the TC Newsletter has been distributed to all TC Commission Delegates.

TH Commission Website

The website has been regularly updated by its system administrator, Charles Bromser. The website is financially supported by Christopher Gärtner. The Thematic Commission Bureau suggests the FIP to consider hosting all of the Commission websites under its FIP website. This would give also FIP more visibility.

**Peter Suhadolc,
Chairman**

FIP POSTAL STATIONERY COMMISSION REPORT

Given the absence of physical exhibitions in 2020, postal stationery exhibitors and collectors have accessed postal stationery presentations and discussions online and through social media.



Postal Stationery Commission Facebook Group and Website

The Postal Stationery Commission Facebook Group (left) now has over 470 members and is serving as a useful platform for the discussion of postal stationery as well as a means of advertising on-line postal stationery presentations. Everyone interested in postal stationery is encouraged to join the Group and contribute. To join you need to answer two simple questions on what type of postal stationery you collect and whether you exhibit. The January Postal Stationery Commission Newsletter can be found on the Commission's website (www.postalstationery.org).

On-Line Postal Stationery Society Presentations and Meetings

The on-line offerings by postal stationery societies are continuing to expand with the United Postal Stationery Society [US], upss.org, and the Postal Stationery Society of Australia (PSSA), postalstationeryaustralia.com, having monthly presentations. Forthcoming UPSS presentations include Postal Cards, 1869 to 1873 34 Countries in 34 Minutes (April), Stamped to Order Envelopes of New Zealand (May) while the PSSA will have presentations on Gold Coast (April) and Indian Aerogrammes (May). The Postal Stationery Study Group of the British North America Philatelic Society and the Postal Stationery Society [UK] have also had on-line presentations. One advantage of on-line presentations is that they can be recorded and placed on the web. Links to many of the videos or presentations can be found on the relevant Society web pages but also in the postings on the FIP Postal Stationery Commission Facebook Page.

The on-line meetings of Mi Oficina Philatelic Society have included postal stationery presentations with videos on their YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoOvgm-B0OyMCl47rqcXXvw/videos>

- Enteros Postales Argentinos: Tarjetas y Cartas Postales impresas en Fototipia en 1897 by Alberto Villaronga
- Nueva información sobre Enteros Postales de Venezuela by Williams Castillo
- Enteros Postales de Ecuador by Teddy Suarez
- Enteros Postales Argentinos contratados con compañías extranjeras by Alberto Villaronga
- Enteros Postales de El Salvador en el Siglo XIX by Guillermo Gallegos

A Mi Oficina Philatelic Society Study Group on the “Definition of Postal Stationery” has worked by holding weekly Zoom meetings as well as by communication via WhatsApp, sharing files on Google Drive and publishing videos of the meetings on YouTube. The conclusions of this group will serve an educational role in future Mi Oficina meetings and suggestions on the regulations analysed will also be presented to the FIP Postal Stationery Commission.

Other On-Line Presentations

Postal Stationery presentations have also been held by non-specialist societies. Some examples include:

- UK QEII registered envelopes of the Tudor Rose design by Frank Walton (RPSL), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYVXpeluZII&feature=youtu.be>.
Exhibit: https://www.rpsl.org.uk/rpsl/Displays/Exhibits/DISP_20201029/index.html
- 2020-12-17 UPSS - High Denomination US Postal Stationery Envelopes of the 19th Century - Daniel Undersander <https://vimeo.com/upssvideo/upss-presentations/video/492664290?fbclid=iwar3a0yv3nq7fn99bvi82fnyxsmhl4fwb5o4moamw-x9nl2bkebfqzz3h8>
- Akthem Al-Manaseer - Postal Stationery of Iraq <https://collectorsclubsf.org/> (Collectors Club of San Francisco)

Exhibiting Postal Stationery

There have also been many presentations on exhibiting, for example, those held by PHILAVIRTU. For a presentation by me on postal stationery exhibiting see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yv7UWI7S0K8>

Virtual Exhibitions

Virtual Exhibitions have flourished under the Pandemic with many postal stationery exhibits shown online. Australia conducted the Australian Virtual One-Frame Exhibition, AusVipex 2020, in November 2020 and India held PHILAVIRTU in October 2020. The Best in Show at AusVipex 2020 was even won by a postal stationery exhibit, Michael Blinman’s New South Wales Embossed Postal Stationery. In November 2020, Argentina held the virtual exhibition EXPOFAEF-JUVENEX 2020 with seven postal stationery exhibits. Canada is holding a National on-frame exhibition, Canpex 2021, in April 2021 while South Africa is holding its annual virtual one-frame exhibition, Savpex 2021 in August 2021. With physical exhibitions cancelled or postponed, these exhibitions offer opportunities for postal stationery collectors to exhibit as well as the opportunity to view postal stationery exhibits on-line.

Judging at Virtual Exhibitions

I have had the opportunity to judge at two of the virtual exhibitions, PHILEX 2020 and AusVipex 2020, having previously judged in one of the South African SAVPEX exhibitions. As Jury Chair of AusVipex 2020, I was keen on replicating the consensus approach to judging which we use when judging exhibits in front of the frames. The use of Zoom team meetings and Zoom Jury meetings enabled such a consensus approach to be achieved with Zoom enabling exhibits to be ‘shared’ during the meetings and considered by the team or the whole Jury at the same time. I found Zoom a great tool for judging and for providing feedback to exhibitors while acknowledging that some exhibitors may not have had the necessary equipment to participate in feedback sessions. The nature of on-line judging means that the usual judging timetable needs to be adapted as we gain more experience with the process. On-line judging does require a very significant commitment from members of the Jury over a much longer time period than a regular exhibition.

**Ian McMahon,
A/g Chairman**

FIP POSTAL HISTORY COMMISSION REPORT

Website

FIP Postal History Commission website was maintained by the Bureau Chairman throughout the year with all our Commission and Bureau reports posted, postal history seminars timetable, Postal History regulations and guidelines in ten different languages, postal history results from International exhibitions as well as some interesting postal history items.

Activity on the Commission's website (www.fippostalhistory.com) between 1.1.2020 to 31.12.20 is according to Google Analytics reports showed 2467 visitors for the year compared to 2256 for the previous year. Corinphila and their associated companies' logos appear on the website in recognition of their sponsorship.

The Bureau and Commission Meetings

2020 is a difficult year for philately due to the COVID pandemic, no live meetings could be held. However, Bureau members managed to discuss matters by email regularly throughout the year mainly regarding (i) The Revised Postal History guidelines, and (ii) Hosting on-line seminars.

Seminars:

Since all FIP stamp exhibitions were cancelled or postponed during the year, no live seminar could be held. However, the Commission managed to hold five Postal History exhibiting seminars on-line by zoom from August to October on the importance of various aspects of postal history exhibiting. Details are as follows:

- 16 August 2020, "Rarity & Condition" by Henrik Mouritsen in Germany
- 6 September 2020, "Presentation" by Chris King in U.K.
- 20 September 2020, "Treatment" by Dan Walker in U.S.A.
- 4 October 2020, "Importance" by Henrik Mouritsen in Germany
- 18 October 2020, "Knowledge & Research" by Andrew Cheung in Hong Kong

These seminars were popular with over 200 stamp collectors, exhibitors and jurors world-wide who had registered to attend. Those who missed the seminars could go to the links on the FIP website, www.f-i-p.ch for viewing. The Postal History Commission would like to thank FIP for sponsoring our project and in particular FIP Secretary Ms. Kelly Ong for her help in setting up. The seminar links can also be found on the Commission's own website www.fippostalhistory.com.

The Commission would like to thank the volunteers for their hard work and skilful presentation.

The Bureau Finances

The Bureau is fortunate to be sponsored by the Global Philatelic Network who are duly recognised on our website. The sponsorship assists in meeting the costs of the website.

Judging Guidelines Harmonization Project

Due to the current situation, approval of our revised guidelines is to be held back until the next live Commission meeting and FIP Congress.

The Commission Statistics:

There are 92 FIP members and we have recorded and published on our website 71 delegates to our Commission. During the year, there were five delegate changes: Belgium (Paul Wijnants), Canada (Ed Croft), Chinese Taipei (Chen Yu-an), Greece (Alexios Papadopoulos) and Uruguay (Walter Britz). The following FIP member Federations still do not have delegates appointed:

Albania, Bahrain, Brunei, Congo, Croatia, Ecuador, Estonia, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, Korea DPR, Macau, Monaco, Mongolia, Nigeria, Ukraine and Vietnam.

Three Federations have not yet officially confirmed their delegates: **Belarus, Croatia and Slovakia.**

Delegates' Reports:

As before, the Secretary sent the standard reply form to all delegates on 14 December 2020; the deadline of reply was 13 February 2021. The delegates were encouraged to reply to their regional representative cc to the Secretary. 16 out of 71 delegates (FIAF 3, FEPA 11 and FIAP 2) sent activity report from their country before the deadline, other delegates failed to reply the Commission's Bureau members and Secretary.

We are grateful to those delegates who have shown support and interest by submitting report to the Postal History Commission.

The following countries sent activity reports to regional representative and/or secretary:

Austria	Germany	Switzerland
Australia	Hong Kong	Turkey
Belgium	Hungary	United Kingdom
Canada	Liechtenstein	United States of America
Czech Republic	Norway	
Denmark	Peru	

For activity report for each of the above country, please go to the website for the full version.



Malcolm Groom
Chairman,
FIP Postal History Commission



Andrew Cheung
Secretary,
FIP Postal History Commission

Disclaimer: The Editors and the FIP Board are not responsible for the opinions and content expressed in the signed articles that appear in FIP Flash.

Descarga de responsabilidad: Los Editores y el Consejo Directivo FIP no se hacen responsables de las opiniones y contenidos vertidos en los artículos firmados que aparecen en el FIP Flash.

FIP ASTROPHILATELY SECTION REPORT

The COVID-19 pandemic has made international impossible. The proposed international, continental, and national exhibitions have been postponed until 2021 to 2023. Hence the ability to hold our Conference meeting to ratify the New Guidelines for Astrophilately will need to wait till the latter half of 2021. The Bureau keeps in contact with each other via WhatsApp.

Promotion of the Astrophilately Section

I maintained our website: www.astrophilately.club. The website has visits from interested collectors from 60 countries, most visits were from China (911). The newest visitor was from Morocco. Our website includes a History of the Section, together with Exemplary exhibits and several Seminar papers.

Other activities

Together with our secretary, I answered queries from collectors and exhibitors. During the year, I have been mentoring exhibitors from Victoria, China, India, and the USA.

Exhibitions

The first international exhibition to include an Astrophilately Class will be IBRA in 2023.

**Charles Bromser,
Chairman**

CALL FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN FLASH!

We welcome advertisements for each FLASH issue and corresponding online e-FLASH on the FIP website. The advertising charges are as follows:

Specifications	Cost per Issue	Remarks
A5 Landscape Full Colour Advertisement	300 CHF	Every 2 consecutive advertisements, 3rd is Free
A4 Full Colour Advertisement*	500 CHF	Every 2 consecutive advertisements, 3rd is Free
A4 Prime Full Colour Advertisement (Inside front OR back cover)	600 CHF	Every 2 consecutive advertisements, 3rd is Free

*The FIP Editorial team decides where these advertisements are inserted within each FLASH issue.

Write in to the FIP Secretariat to indicate your interest and to check the schedule of the next FLASH issue. The FIP Editorial team reserves the right to request for amendments to any advertisement artwork if there is/are any inappropriate content(s).



NOTOS 2021 European Philatelic Exhibition under FIP Recognition

The exhibition would be held from 19-22 November 2021, in Athens, Greece. The FIP had granted their Recognition for the exhibition on 11 October 2018 in Santiago, Chile.

The FIP Recognition Agreement for NOTOS 2021 European Philatelic Exhibition was signed on Wednesday 2 December, in Albi, France, by Bernard Jimenez, FIP Vice-President and Liaison Officer, while Pantelis Leoussis, Hellenic Philatelic Federation President, and Costas Chazapis, Head of NOTOS 2021 Organising Committee both signed the agreement in Athens.



Signing of FIP Recognition agreement by FIP Vice-President Bernard Jimenez in Albi, France (top photo) and Mr Chazapis and Mr Leoussis in Athens (right photo).

On Saturday morning, 6 March 2021, the NOTOS Organising Committee held their first National Commissioners' Meeting over video conferencing. This innovative idea was to prevent the Commissioners from gathering in a confined physical space for a prolonged period of time and to give an early opportunity for the NOTOS Organising Committee members to meet the National Commissioners via a virtual environment.

For latest information on the exhibition, visit <https://hps.gr/notos2021>.

HUNfilex: 2022 BUDAPEST

HUNFILEX 2022 BUDAPEST

FIP Specialised World Stamp Championship Exhibition
31 March – 03 April 2022

Preparations for the World Stamp Championship are in full swing. The Organizing Committee meets regularly and reviews the upcoming tasks.

Invitation letters were sent to all FIP member countries, FIP and FEPA Board members. The nominations of the commissioners and jury members were closed on 31 January. Based on the responses received, more than fifty countries indicated their intention to participate, but there are still pending entries, mainly due to the COVID pandemic.

The venue of the exhibition is the “BÁLNA” (also known as the “Whale”) Commercial, Cultural, Entertaining and Service Centre, a fantastic building on a fantastic location, on the shore of the Danube in the heart of Budapest.



The “BÁLNA” (also know as “Whale”) a Commercial, Cultural, Entertainment and Service Centre.

HUNFILEX 2022 is a FIP specialized world exhibition with the following classes:

Non-Competitive Classes:

- A/ Court of Honour
- B/ Invited Exhibits

Competitive Classes:

- 1. World Stamp Championship
- 2. Traditional Philately
- 3. Postal History
- 4. Revenue
- 5. Thematic Philately
- 6. Open Philately
- 7. One-Frame Exhibits
- 8. Philatelic Literature

For more detailed information, see the IREX on the exhibition website. The deadline for entries is June 30, 2021.

The exhibition offers a rich opportunity to organize professional programs, to enrich the collections at the stamp dealer stands, to meet friends and to exchange experiences.

We offer visitors an extraordinary attraction with the Rarity Cabinet, presenting, for the first time, all the known Hungarian rarities plus some extra foreign ones.

HUNFILEX 2022 coincides with the Budapest Spring Festival, a cultural event with a decades-long tradition. Its programs offer additional recreational opportunities for visitors to Budapest.

In addition, the sights of the Hungarian capital, a wide range of Hungarian foods and drinks await all guests and visitors of the exhibition. A special patronage system was developed for the exhibition, patrons receiving extra interesting services from the organizers.

We are optimistic about the end of the pandemic period and are very confident that we will be together in the Spring of 2022.

Budapest is waiting for the world's stamp-loving audience!



Budapest's night panorama, the Chain Bridge and the Parliament.

For more information, visit the exhibition website (www.hunfilex2022.com).

István Glatz
Senior Consultant
HUNFILEX 2022

Two Stamp Exhibitions Held in China in 2020

As most events and activities have been suspended with the COVID-19 epidemic swept the world in 2020, philatelic exhibitions also have been postponed, cancelled or turned into on-line form.

With the pandemic becoming under control and life getting back to normal in China in the second half of 2020, All-China Philatelic Federation (ACPF) restarted its exhibition plans with two innovative philatelic exhibitions. In October, ACPF organized Shanlian Zhejiang 2020 – 1st China Farmers' Philatelic Exhibition, approved and supported Beijing 2020 – 1st China Railway Culture Collecting and Philatelic Exhibition.

Shanlian Zhejiang 2020 (national)

Shanlian Zhejiang 2020 – 1st China Farmers' Philatelic Exhibition was held from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 in the gymnasium of Shanlian School in Shanlian Town, a beautiful place in southeast China (Figure 1). China Post issued a commemorative stamped postcard (Figure 2) for this exhibition, with the exhibition logo as the postage image.

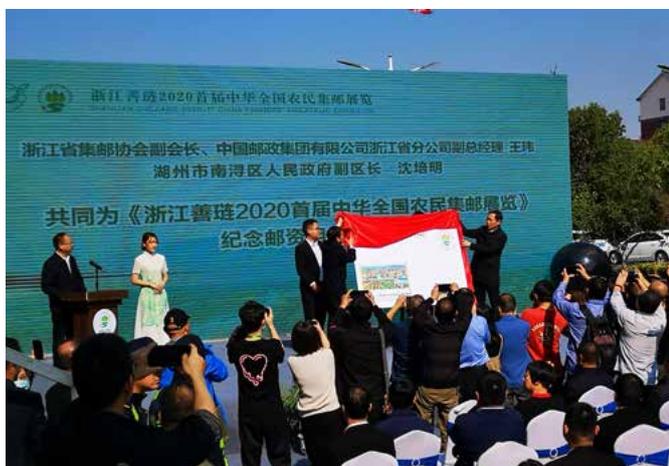


Figure 1



Figure 2

A total of 114 exhibits, 282 frames from 26 provincial philatelic associations were exhibited, half of which were made by farmers or grassroots workers in rural areas. It was a competitive exhibition with experimental classes included. Mm. Jiao Xiaoguang, FIP accredited juror and ACPF Vice President, was the jury president.



Figure 3

The jury completed the judging following ACPF exhibition judging rules and Shanlian Zhejiang 2020 IREX (Figure 3). A total of 4 Large Vermeil, 10 Vermeil, 6 Large Silver, 8 Silver, 5 Silver Bronze and 9 Bronze Medals were awarded. Among OFE, 3 Gold, 12 Silver, 52 Bronze and 5 Certificates were awarded.

The theme of this Chinese characteristic exhibition is agriculture, rural areas, farmers and eco- environmental conservation. The organizer of Shanlian Zhejiang 2020 made an attempt to include more experimental classes into the competitive exhibits and make appropriate judging rules before collecting exhibits. That was an important attempt and breakthrough of stamp exhibitions in China, and had received good feedback from collectors.

Beijing 2020 (railway industry)

Beijing 2020 – 1st China Railway Culture Collecting and Philatelic Exhibition was held from Oct. 16 to 18 in Beijing Sailong International Cultural and Creative Park (Figure 4). Beijing 2020 was to display the history, development, culture and achievements of China railway, as well as to showcase the philatelic exhibits on railway subjects.

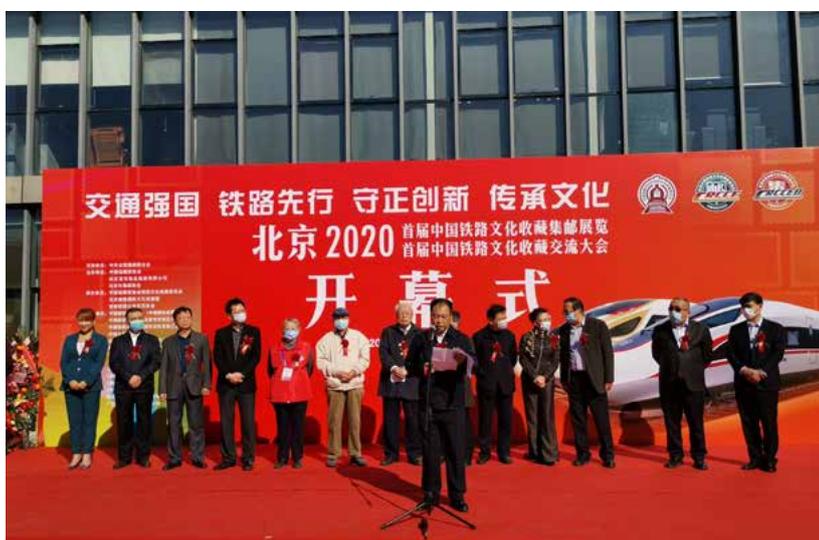


Figure 4

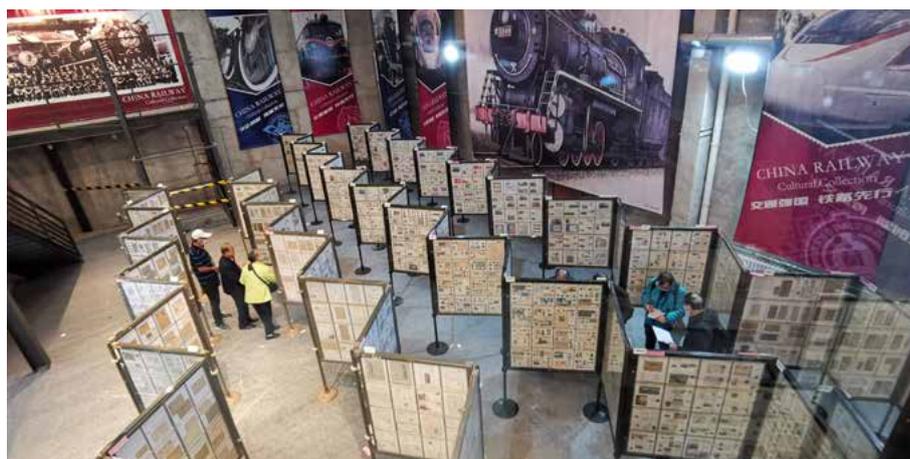


Figure 5

There were more than 120 exhibits, 366 frames from nearly 100 exhibitors of 22 places in China. The subjects of three-quarter exhibits were the postal history about railway or the development of railway construction (Figure 5). China Railway Philatelic Association was established during Beijing 2020.

All-China Philatelic Federation

Verband Schweizerischer Philatelisten-Vereine
gegründet 1890 | Mitglied FIP und FEPA

Federazione delle Società Filateliche Svizzere
Fondata nel 1890 | membro FIP e FEPA

Fédération des Sociétés Philatéliques Suisses
Fondée en 1890 | membre FIP et FEPA

Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies
Founded in 1890 | member FIP and FEPA



"175 Years of Basel Pigeon"

- Combined level III and II exhibition in Basel, carried out under special conditions.

Although the lock-down in spring 2020 raised initial doubts as to whether the exhibition could really be held in its planned form in November, everyone was optimistic that it could nevertheless be held in the exhibition halls of Congress Center Basel in compliance with the official regulations. The protection concept developed by the officials in consultation with the government was continuously adapted to the relevant situation. But everything turned out differently and the physical exhibition had to be cancelled on short notice due to intensified COVID measures.

It was important to the Organising Committee to give a positive signal to the exhibitors that their preparations for the exhibition were not in vain and decided to carry out a "virtual judging" of the collections, provided that the exhibitors agreed to this. With this approach, the Organising Committee and the jury definitely broke new ground.

Of the 114 exhibits originally registered, consent for virtual judging was granted for 96 of them, and 18 exhibits were withdrawn. Although virtual judging took place, exhibits had to be physically handed in by exhibitors to prevent misuse with false stamps or covers. After the collections were handed over, they were stored in a secure room, where they were then photographed and digitally recorded by specialists under strict supervision. This was done with the utmost care using the 4-eyes principle. Photographing and digitizing the approximately 5,000 exhibition sheets took four days. However, the considerable expenditure of time was worthwhile, as all exhibits could be captured with the same image resolution and the same file format. The collections for which the Organising Committee had obtained the consent of the owners could be viewed on the exhibition website in sheet format.

For the evaluation process, the data were made available to the jury on a thumbdrive. The evaluations of the jury teams were discussed and exchanged in two Zoom meetings. One of the main difficulties was that collection comparisons could not be made in front of the frames, but had to be made virtually on the screen. This required considerable additional time. Since the jury was not able to discuss the final results directly with the exhibitor, their comments were noted on the evaluation sheet under "Comments of the jury".

The level of exhibits shown was very high. At level III, 46 exhibits (94%) and at level II, 34 exhibits (85%) qualified for the next higher level through which exhibitors must qualify for the national exhibition.

The goal of this exhibition was to gain experience and learn lessons with regards to future exhibitions with digital judging.

Digital judging via the Internet may well make sense as a supplement to physical judging on site. Whether this is a viable alternative for future exhibitions remains to be seen. However, it cannot replace an exhibition with an audience, which thrives on personal contact with the exhibitors and the audience.

Juerg Roth
Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies

"We Will Never Forget You"

– Stamp Exhibition for COVID-19, DOCTORS and NATIONAL DOCTOR'S DAY

Healthcare workers especially doctors and nurses have been on the front lines of the global effort to care for patients with COVID-19 for over a year, while putting themselves at risk for infection. More than 380 Turkish doctors have died in the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020.

The stamp Exhibition with Turkish PTT patronage and collaboration with TFDF (Turkish Philatelic Federation) and İstanbul University İstanbul Faculty of Medicine was held on between 11-14 March 2021, at İstanbul Faculty of Medicine Campus hall. The Exhibition was in the memory of National Doctor's day of 14th March and the first time Covid-19 disease was recorded in Turkey on 11th March. Two different first day covers and a special first day stamp were used. The importance of the exhibition was that all the exhibitors were philatelic medical doctors. In the memory of the deceased physicians during the pandemic period, special stamps not valid for postage were printed by the Faculty and at same time, personalised stamps were issued.



Stamps printed by the İstanbul Medical Faculty in the memory of some of the deceased physicians.



Dr. Atadan TUNACI Board member of TFDF (Turkish Philatelic Federation) and Medical doctor at İstanbul University.



Doctors at Stamp Exhibition



Exhibition Hall.

March the 14 was also a very meaningful day for the İstanbul Faculty of Medicine. On that day students of the İstanbul Faculty of Medicine (currently IU İstanbul Faculty of Medicine) took part in the national resistance and the revolted against the Entente States that occupied İstanbul (1919-1922), now celebrated as National Medicine Day.



National Doctor's Day commemorative envelope



Turkish PTT directors and Chief Manager of Postal Department

Prof. Dr. Atadan TUNACI, MD, FRPSL
Executive Member of Turkish Philately Federation
and Academy of Turkish Philately

HIGHLIGHTS OF VIETNAM PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION'S ACTIVITIES (IN 2020)

1 - Opening of stamp and souvenir shops by Vietnam Post in the big cities of tourist centres such as Hanoi (Capital city) Hue (Ancient Imperial capital) and Nha Trang (well-known coastal city).



Stamp shop in centre of Hanoi. Inside the stamp shop in Hue City (Right photo)

2 - Displayed stamps during the commemorative occasions or special launches of stamp issues.



Some events with the participation of state-leaders and ministers.

3 - Artistic presentation during launches of new stamp issues to attract visitors.



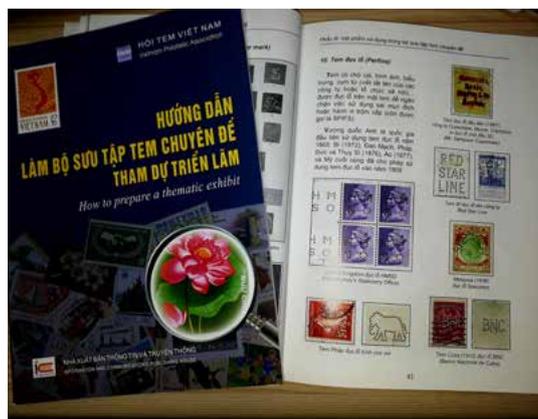
Band playing at the special opening ceremony of stamps release of 'Ludwig Van Beethoven' (left) and stamp release of 'The worshipping of the Mother Goddesses- intangible cultural heritage of humanity'(right).

4 - Organized five regional stamp exhibitions in the major cities or tourist centres: Hanoi (Capital City), Ho Chi Minh City, (the largest city of the country), Gia Lai (Highland City), Hue (the Ancient Capital) and Nha Trang (Coastal sea tourist city).



Opening ceremony of stamp exhibition in Hanoi. Many people especially children visited the exhibition.

5 - Published a guidebook “How to prepare a thematic exhibit” (with the assistance of FIP’s experts).



6 - 60th anniversary of Vietnam Philatelic Association (30/12/1960 - 30/12/2020).



The ceremony was held in Hanoi (with live telecasts to Members)

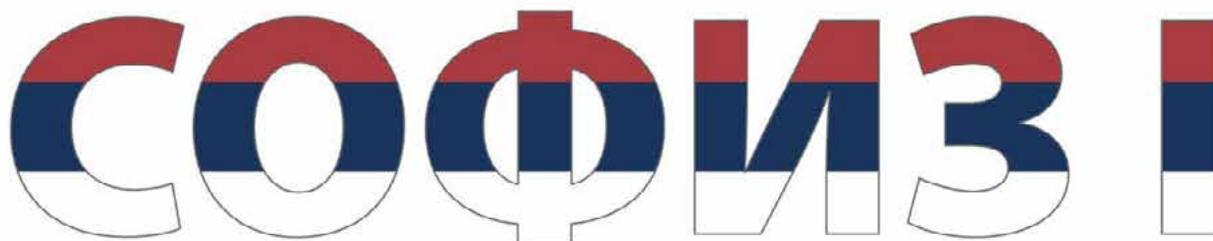
For 2021 programs, the most important event for us will be the National Stamp Exhibition- Vietstampex – as well as the National Congress of VPA (to be held in Hanoi at the end of April 2021, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it will be postponed until the end of 2021 or 2022).

Nguyen Quang Vinh
Vice-President, General Secretary

FIRST ONLINE EXHIBITION IN SERBIA

In the second half of the year, in the midst of the struggle with COVID-19 and lockdown, The Union of Philatelists of Serbia decided to organize, for the first time in the Balkans, a competitive online exhibition.

From December 7-14, 2020, the first national online philatelic exhibition with international participation "SOFIZ I" (Serbian Online Philatelic Exhibition) was held.



SOFIZ I (СОФИЗ I - СРПСКА ОНЛАЈН ФИЛАТЕЛИСТИЧКА ИЗЛОЖБА)

<http://www.philaserbia.com/sofiz1/>

Although the initial expectations about the response of the exhibitors were not optimistic, as time went on, more and more interested exhibitors applied.

In addition to Serbia, the invited exhibitors from eight other countries took part: the BiH (Republic of Srpska), Croatia, Great Britain, Northern Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland and USA.

Enthusiasts gathered in the Organizing Committee (Bogdan Petrovic, Zoran Stepanovic, Svetislav D. Jelic, Danijel Morotvanski and Vladimir Milic), in a short time designed and implemented the exhibition internet platform. Certainly, additional motivation was given by the support of the FIP President Mr. Bernard Beston and FEPA Secretary Mr. Igor Pirc.

One of the conditions for participation was that the exhibits had to have themes related to the West Balkan philately (former Yugoslavia). This limit did not apply to the Thematic, Maximaphily and Youth class.

At the invitation of the Organizing Committee, exhibitors who were awarded at world philatelic exhibitions, took part in an Honorary class (Predrag Antic, Ranko Talovic...)

The Jury consisted of Zoran Stepanović (FIP accredited juror) as the President of the Jury, and Dragoljub Jovanović and Dragoš Petrović, as members, who judged exhibits in the following competition classes:

Traditional Philately (6 exhibits), Postal History (4 exhibits), Postal Stationeries (1 exhibit), Aerophilately (4 exhibits), Thematic Philately (2 exhibits), Maximaphilia (3 exhibits), Revenue (1 exhibit), Literature (3 exhibits), One Frame (18 exhibits), Modern Philately (2 exhibits), Picture postcards (1 exhibit) and Youth class (9 exhibits).

The Jury found the quality of the shown exhibits was very good with 2 large Gold Medals and 6 Gold Medals. The exhibits in One frame class were not awarded with medals, but were awarded with points only.

Jury procedures for coordinating and harmonizing the evaluations of individual jurors were implemented via Zoom and Viber Meetings.

From a philatelic point of view, “SOFIZ I” was a hugely successful event with 54 exhibitors. Awards were digital certificates since everything during “SOFIZ I” was virtual.

The only challenge for the organizing committee was to get the desired resolution level of the scanned exhibits. The exhibitor was obliged to submit the exhibition in the required jpg format of the required 300 dpi quality.

In order to have as much interactions as possible with the online visitors, the organizing committee organized an accompanying program: 5 different online Seminars in Serbian (via Zoom):

- Prof. Dr Milan Radovanovic (Serbia) – DUTCH “CHARITY” AND SERBS IN THE GREAT WAR (1916-1918)
- Bojan Bracic (Slovenia) – PICTURE POSTCARDS „SOME EXPERIENCES IN JUDGING PICTURE POSTCARDS EXHIBITS IN SLOVENIA“
- Miomir Arsic (Serbia) – SERBIAN PREPHILATELY
- Peter Suhadolc AEP FRPSL (Slovenia) – THEMATIC PHILATELY
- Slobodan Sotra (Serbia) – SANITARY CORDON AND DISINFECTING MAIL

The successful and very well attended Seminars elevated “SOFIZ I” to a new level. Links for Videos are available on the website: <https://www.philaserbia.com/dogadjaji>



Seminar SANITARY CORDON AND DISINFECTING MAIL

Having gained experiences and positive feedback, the organizing committee is already working on “SOFIZ II”, which will probably take place in December 2021.

Vladimir Milic
Editor of Philatelist - Magazine of Union of Philatelists of Serbia

BANGLAPEX 2020 4th Bangladesh National Philatelic Exhibition

After successful completion of First Virtual Exhibition PHILEX 2020 in Bangladesh under patronage of Bangladesh Philatelic Federation, BANGLAPEX 2020, the fourth Bangladesh National Philatelic Exhibition was another successful virtual exhibition organised by Bangladesh Philatelic Federation which was held on 19th-30th December 2020, where FIP International accredited Jurors were also involved in judging of the exhibits.

Banglapex 2020, was a virtual exhibition platform created in Bangladesh and the exhibition judging was also implemented in the virtual platform. All jurors logged in to the system and could judge as if in a physical exhibition as a team and viewed the exhibits frame by frame and page by page. A video conferencing facility also built into the judging system so that jurors could communicate real time with one another.

Tale of World's Largest Conglomerate — KUMBH

Introduction: Kumbh Mela at Allahabad (Prayag/Prayagraj) is largest the human gathering in the world and the most pious place for Hindus. It is different from those held at Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain. At a given time, the Sangam area is made a separate city to accommodate such a huge mass of pilgrims. The place was also declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2019. It is a land of wonders, land of most bridges in the world, during the event. And also the land of World's First Airmail (1912).

• Sanskrit words are highlighted.

Guidance: Fatima Akhry, Muband Akhry, Cheery Akhry

Point of Exhibit:

- 1. Triveni Sangam**
 - a. R. Ganga
 - b. Yamuna
 - c. Saraswati
- 2. Origin of Story**
 - a. Gods vs Demons; Samudra-manthan
 - b. Depiction in Mahabharat & Ramayana
 - c. Cleaning of all sins.
- 3. Mugh Mela**
- 4. Royal Baths**
 - a. Mubai Sankranti
 - b. Payal Purnima
 - c. Mugh Amavasya
 - d. Vasant Panchmi
 - e. Maghi Purnima
 - f. Maha Shivratri
- 5. Features of Sangam**
 - a. Gangaajal
 - b. Ganga Yatra
 - c. Ganga Mela Art
 - d. Mahas Sangam
 - e. A Home For Many
 - f. Floating Post Office
- 6. World's First Airmail**
- 7. UNESCO World Heritage Site**
- 8. Conclusion**

References: www.kumbhmela.com | www.wikipedia.org | Hindu Religious Text Pg.91

Chhattisgarh
Chhattisgarh Tourist Board

Rajm Kumbh: Ranked as 'Yith Kumbh' is replica of Kumbh Mela (Allahabad), and is held at Gaspabad, Chhattisgarh. It is a hotspot for devotees of Lord Vishnu.

Mubai: ₹1000 FDC for commemorative stamps.

Also, other varieties of stamps.

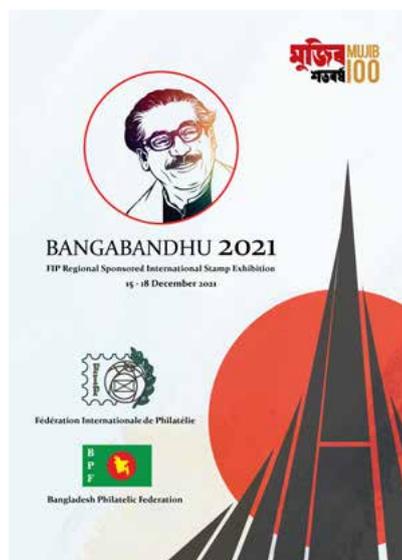
Online Judging.

The judging was carried out in a professional and friendly manner by teams of national and international jurors. The judging was based on the exhibits seen on the screen and not with any item physically checked. The judging followed FIP guidelines and the award level followed the National award point system. In total 77 exhibits of around 190 frames were judged. The exhibitors from Bangladesh and India participated in this national exhibition to show their enthusiasm and passion for philately, during this pandemic crisis whereby no physical exhibitions were possible. Banglapex 2020 was also a pathway exhibition for all new collectors who wants their eligibility to apply FIAP international or FIP International exhibitions (on an experimental basis) in 2021 & 2022, as well as a good warmup for the upcoming international philatelic exhibition in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Post had issued an overprinted Post Card on 30th November 2020 to publicize BANGLAPEX 2020. An overprinted commemorative stamp was issued on the inauguration day of the exhibition to commemorate the BANGLAPEX 2020. On the second day of the exhibition, Bangladesh Post issued one Special Cover and one special cancellation on this occasion. On 30 December, they also issued another special cancellation for the same event.

BANGABANDHU 2021 REGIONAL EXHIBITION UNDER FIP SPONSORSHIP

On the 28th March 2021, the working schedule was completed between FIP President Bernard Beston & BPF Director (International Affairs) Mohammed Monirul Islam at Saphil House, Adelaide, Australia for the forth coming International exhibition BANGABANDHU 2021, under FIP Sponsorship, which has been scheduled to be held at Dhaka, Bangladesh on 15th-18th December.



Mohammed Monirul Islam
Director (International Affairs)
Bangladesh Philatelic Federation

Updating on the newly elected Presidents of Member Federations

Federation	President/Chairman	President's Email
FEBRAAF Brazilian Federation of Philately	Mr Rogério Aparecido Deditivitis	dedivitis.hns@uol.com.br
Union of Czech Philatelists (SČF)	Mr Julius Cacka	sekretariat@informace-scf.cz
Suomen Filatelistiliitto (Philatelic Federation of Finland)	Mr Petteri Hannula	sfff@filatelisti.fi
Federazione fra le Società Filateliche Italiane (Federation of the Italian Philatelic Societies)	Mr Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi	bruno.crevatoselvaggi@gmail.com
Philatelic Federation of Pakistan	Mr Salmon Qureshi	rabiaqureshi@yahoo.com / qureshi.hq@gmail.com
Slovenian Philatelic Association	Mr Bojan Bračić	bojan.bracic@triera.net

58th VIRTUAL EXFILNA 2020



As is known in all cultural spheres, the pandemic has forced us to change our customs. And the same have happened with philately.

We could not let a year pass by cutting off this continuity, despite the adverse conditions, of many national exhibitions, as never happened before, so this was the ideal time to prepare it, a book published by FESOFI titled “Desde mi Casa”. And from home we were preparing this exhibition with great enthusiasm and work for the promotion of philately in which the stamps take more prominence as many more fans were able to contemplate it from their home, but this time, in digital format.

The Board of Directors of our Federation did not know how exhibitors will respond to this type of Virtual Exhibition. The answer, however, had been overwhelming and of course we were very happy that 126 exhibits with 706 frames involved plus 15 literature entries were exhibited from 28 October until the end of November 2020, on the new website designed by the New Technologies Commission, led by the young Sergio Arruego.

Our gratitude to our exhibitors and collectors. Commissioners made an excellent job, adapting to the new circumstances.

This time participation was free, eliminating expenses of the exhibitors as much as possible, with a great effort on the Organizing Committee side, trying to alleviate all inconveniences of carrying out a virtual EXFILNA with the same activities of the previous ones and above all, not to fall into the pessimism of this fatal situation that we are living.

The jurors were appointed and their work began by mid-September, accessing the web site where only they can view the entries, until the opening day, which was already available to all interested parties. The exhibition was scheduled to be viewed from October 28 until the end of November.

The events were mostly virtual, with the exception of the presentation of the commemorative sheet of the EXFILNA by the Post Office on October 28 at the Palacio de los Golfines de Abajo, the place planned for the EXFILNA and where the Philatelic Exhibition was represented by some selected exhibitions on this time. Lectures and book presentations completed the program this time, but always on line.

This new experience of VIRTUAL EXFILNA pleased us all, it wd difficult to compete with the face-to-face version, although on this time many collectos were able to enjoy exhibits from their home, without doing a long trip.

Time will give us the result. At least we all look forward to it with the same enthusiasm as if it had been in person, and that was the goal for which we were working.

This VIRTUAL EXFILNA had, like in previous years, the Correos sponsorship and the support of RCM-FNMT and ANFIL, without whose participation it could not have been carried out successfully.

Likewise, during 2020 we held four Territorial Exhibitions, in the Basque Community (Barakaldo), Cántabra (Torrelavega), Gallega (Ourense), and Asturias (Oviedo). Exhibitions have been dedicated to collecting, both philatelic and otherwise, according to FESOFI regulations. We asked a Postal Stationery with images of buildings, commemorative logos or monuments alluding to each town where the Exhibitions have been held.

The exhibitions have been dedicated to collecting, both philatelic and other types, according to FESOFI regulations.



Commemorative postal stationery featuring the commemorative logos or monuments of Barakaldo, Torrelavega, Ourense and Oviedo.



Awards ceremony of Euskophil "Barakaldo 2020", with all safety measures.



IV EXPOFICA Torrelavega'20



XXIX EXFILGALICIA San Martiño 2020

José Antonio Arruego,
General Secretary
FESOFI

FEPA Updates

In the almost total absence of live exhibitions, meetings and travel during 2020, and the parallel explosion of on-line activity, FEPA has spent much time recently keeping in touch with the rapid changes taking place in the philatelic world and the impact they are having on our ways of working.

The results of an extensive survey of virtual exhibitions held in the second half of 2020 in Europe and beyond were published in January 2021 in FEPA NEWS No 38 (available on-line at www.fepanews.com). Organisers were generally pleased with the results and particularly gratified that on-line access had enabled many more people to view the exhibits than would have been the case at a live show. They were also candid about the lessons they had learned while setting up and running virtual exhibitions, in most cases for the first time and at short notice. This important development seems likely to have long term implications for organised philately and we will continue to monitor it closely with an eye on keeping our guidance on best practice up to date. Indeed, there has rarely been a time when sharing information has seemed more important than it does now.

Virtual exhibiting was on the agenda at an on-line meeting between the FEPA Board and 31 Member Federations on 21 November 2020, at which we were delighted to welcome the FIP President Bernie Beston. It generated a lively discussion about the relative advantages of 'live' and 'virtual' that will surely run and run.



FEPA General Meeting on 21 November 2020.

Other topics discussed included the on-going review of FEPA's Statutes which is due to be completed by the end of this year, and the scope for collaboration between Member Federations in the use of exhibition frames. Since then we have also initiated a survey of opinion among the FEPA Members about a proposal that 2- and 3-frame exhibits should be permitted to enter international exhibitions on the same basis as one frame exhibits. The early response has been very positive and the results will be published later this year.

FEPA is uniquely positioned to share information about European Philately among its Members and beyond, and this has been reflected not only in the wide coverage of news on its website, but also in its recently-started newsletter service that has well over 1,000 addressees all over and outside our continent.

FEPA also recognises outstanding achievements of individuals in organized philately and philatelic research, as well of local societies, through awards of the FEPA Medal and the FEPA Certificate of Appreciation. The awards for 2020 will be announced later this year.

Bill Hedley, FEPA President

FIAF Updates

The paralyzing of physical philatelic activities, due to the pandemic of COVID 19, also affected the American continent. In February 2020, a group of friends began to meet daily on the Zoom platform for pleasant conversations. As early as April of that year, they organized themselves in the form of lectures on various topics of philately.



Henry Márquez (Perú-USA), Mauricio Mejía (Honduras), Alfonso Molina Chinchilla (Costa Rica), Juan Reinoso (Costa Rica), Alfonso Molina Mainieri (Costa Rica), Sergio Recuenco (Perú), Ariel Kwackz (Bolivia - USA), Eduardo Boido (Uruguay), Jaco Schwed (Costa Rica), David Braun (México), Walter Britz (Uruguay), Alejandro Grossmann (México) y César Sancho (Costa Rica)

Thus came the so-called group “Mi Oficina”. Organized by Henry Marques of Peru and Alfonso Molina of Costa Rica. These sharings were a huge success amongst the public and are available on the Youtube platform, which has more than 300 videos accumulated to date that are accessible to everyone.



Mi Oficina Philatelic Society Youtube channel.

“Mi Oficina” also allowed us to bring together people to undertake other initiatives. David Braun of Mexico; Luis Fernando Díaz of Costa Rica; and Juan Pablo Aguilar of Ecuador proposed a philatelic exhibition in virtual mode. This philatelic challenge was very well received and allowed to have a first experience that would serve others who, step by step, were fine-tuning techniques and details, to the point of not being wrong to argue that American collectors are in the best possible condition for the use of virtual media in philatelic exhibitions.

Other events followed, this time official. A Continental thematic exhibition, VirTemFil 2020, organized by the Thematic Committee of the Inter-American Federation, chaired by Roberto Cravero; and two national exhibitions were held: EXPOJALFIL 2020 in Mexico and EXPOFAEF 2020 / JUVENEX 2020 in Argentina, which thanks to the virtual technology, philatelists from all over the continent could be brought together. These exceptional events enable new collections to participate in future FIP physical exhibitions.



Luis Claudio Fritzen
FIAF President

FIAP Updates

Other than the exhibition details by Vietnam, China and Bangladesh in the earlier pages, other updates include:

AUSVIPEX 2020 – Australian National One-Frame Virtual Exhibition by Ian McMahon

AusVipex 2020 was Australia's first virtual National One-Frame Exhibition and was held over October- November 2020. AusVipex 2020 had 67 one-frame exhibits covering most classes. The exhibits were placed on the Australian Philatelic Federation website so that the exhibit pages displayed full screen and are derived from high resolution scans converted to individual image files.

The exhibits were judged by the usual jury processes followed at Australian National Exhibitions, with Jury meetings being held by Zoom. The Jury team comprised 11 jurors. Exhibits were judged by teams of at least three judges with the teams meeting by Zoom to judge the exhibits and reach agreement on the marks to be awarded. Zoom technology allowed the exhibit to be displayed during the discussions. The team meetings were followed by meetings of the full Jury to discuss the team results and reach a final agreement on all of the awards. The Jury meetings also selected the Best in Show, runner-up awards and the award of special prizes. A general Feedback session for the exhibitors was held by Zoom followed by individual feedback sessions led by the team leaders.

KOREA 2020 On-Line Stamp Exhibition by Chang Hwan Kim

KOREA 2020 Stamp Exhibition with the theme of "The Hope of Korea 2020, Put in Stamp" was held virtually by the Philatelic Federation of Korea in joint collaboration of Korea Post (President Park Jong- Suk), Ministry of Science and ICT from 18 November to 24 December 2020. This exhibition was set to become the first On-Line exhibition due to the coronavirus pandemic and enabled stamp lovers to visit and enjoy around-the-clock with the comfort of their own homes.

The exhibitions were shown in Philatelic Exhibit Show Room (Court of Honour, Competitive Classes), in Special Exhibition Hall and in Event Hall. About 420 frames of 140 exhibits of all philatelic classes were shown. In the Event Hall one can meet with stamp designers, check daily attendance and participate personally in many other activities. The On-Line Stamp Exhibition stayed open until 24 December 2020.

Singapore Stamp Club's 80th Anniversary Display at The Fullerton Hotel Singapore

by Victor Lau

The Singapore Stamp Club had planned to hold a display and dinner at the General Post Office at SingPost Centre in October 2020 as part of our 80th Anniversary event. However, COVID-19 rendered these plans impossible with social distancing rules and restrictions on mass gatherings. After these plans were cancelled, we were approached for a display at The Fullerton Hotel Singapore with Singapore Post to showcase the link between philately and our history, as stamps and covers recorded events as they took place. It would also enable the Club to reach out to the public and invite them to connect with us.

Five collections by Club members were chosen to show the breath of the hobby covering the period from the turn of the 20th century till 1970. The display consists of 18 A0-size panels, which is roughly the size of an exhibition frame. The display runs from 28 November 2020 till 28 Feb 2021 and was made possible with the support from the Association of Singapore Philatelist, Singapore Post and The Fullerton Hotel Singapore.

Virtual Stampex

FIAP had taken up a booth at the Virtual Stampex under the invitation organized by the Philatelic Traders' Society Ltd. Virtual Stampex is a new lounge bringing collectors together from all over the world. The lounge will allow people to network, chat, meet and greet and discuss their collections. Live functions such as webinars and live chat was available from 25 to 27 March 2021.

Jasmine Soh
FIAP Secretariat

Mi Oficina Seminars: The FIP Rules According to the Eyes of Jurors



Throughout 2020, Mi Oficina Philatelic Society - a group of philatelic friends, which started in 2014 in Varadero / Cuba, gained worldwide attention by promoting every night (10:00 PM at Brasília time) meetings to spread knowledge on philately of the Americas. More than 300 meetings have been held so far, a simply incredible feat.

To attend to the requests from Mi Oficina's assistants, a cycle of 4 meetings was scheduled, the topic of which was "THE FIP RULES ACCORDING TO THE EYES OF JURORS", covering: Presentation; Condition and Rarity; Research and Treatment; Knowledge.

Reinaldo Macedo (Brazil) was in charge of this cycle and the speakers were:

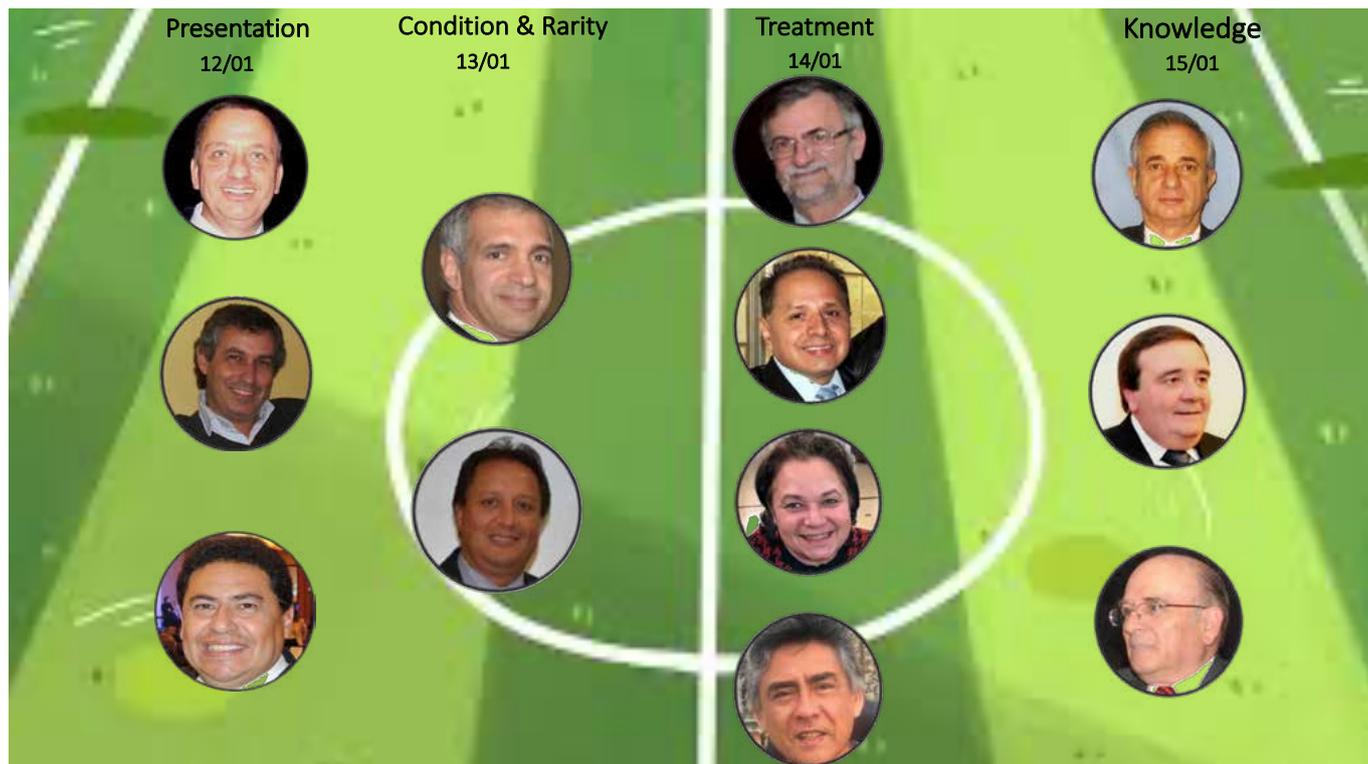
Presentation: David Braun (Mexico), Walter Britz (Uruguay) and Teddy Suarez (Ecuador);

Condition and Rarity: Yamil Kouri (USA) and Paul Novoa (Ecuador);

Treatment: Luis Claudio Fritzen (Brazil), Juan Reinoso (Costa Rica), Dila Eaton (Paraguay) and Aldo Samame y Samame (Peru) and

Knowledge: Andres Schlichter (Argentina), Miguel Casieles (Argentina) and Luis Fernando Diaz (Costa Rica).

Two further meetings were scheduled to discuss doubts or points that possibly had not been fully clarified. The cycle was a great experience promoted by Mi Oficina and many doubts regarding the jury's concept were clarified.



Speakers for "THE FIP RULES ACCORDING TO THE EYES OF JURORS".

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Let's get on board again



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