



Thematic Philately Commission Report to the FIP Board

Report to the FIP Congress in 2014 reflecting activities from June 2012 to March 2014.

- Membership
- Progress since the last Congress
- Motions and proposals
- Statement of work for the next two years

MEMBERSHIP

The current Bureau was elected at the Commission meeting conducted in Jakarta, Indonesia on 23 June 2012. 30 Federations were represented. 27 by their delegate and 3 by proxy.



Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Southern Africa, Spain and Sweden.

Bureau

▪ CHAIRMAN	<i>Jonas Hällström</i>	Sweden
▪ SECRETARY	<i>Koenraad Bracke</i>	Belgium
▪ WEBMASTER (Co-opted)	<i>Charles Bromser</i>	Australia
▪ FIAP	<i>Vacant</i> ¹	
▪ FIAF	<i>Luiz Paulo Rodrigues Cunha</i>	Brazil
▪ FEPA	<i>Peter Suhadolc</i>	Slovenia
▪ ASIA (Appointed)	<i>Jin Hur</i>	Republic of Korea
▪ AMERICAS (Appointed)	<i>Darrell Ertzberger</i>	United States of America

¹ The FIAP Bureau member, Mr Tan Ngiap Chuan from Singapore, has due to work commitments decided to step down from his position as delegate to the Commission and elected member to the Bureau. The FIAP Bureau seat is currently vacant.

Delegates to the Commission

The Commission has 65 delegates appointed from the FIP member Federations.

From 26 Federations a delegate is not appointed:

- ALBANIA
- BAHRAIN
- BANGLADESH
- BELARUS
- BRUNEI
- COLOMBIA
- CONGO
- ECUADOR
- GEORGIA
- GUATEMALA
- HONDURAS
- DPR of KOREA
- KUWAIT
- LATVIA
- LIECHTENSTEIN
- LITHUANIA
- MACAU
- MALTA
- MONGOLIA
- MONTENEGRO
- NIGERIA
- SERBIA
- SINGAPORE
- UKRAINE
- URUGUAY
- VIETNAM

PROGRESS

Twelve times the Commission **NEWSLETTER** has been published to all delegates, and as information to "all FIP":

2012

17 July
22 August
21 September
7 November
30 December

2013

27 January
27 February
28 March
16 May
12 July
6 October

2014

18 January

Three times "Thematic Philately Commission News", known as **TCNEWS** has been published to all delegates, and as information to "all FIP":

#24 October 2012

#25 April 2013

#26 January 2014



Thanks to Charles Bromser the Commission website is updated regularly with documentation, news and other topics. The website is sponsored by Christoph Gärtner GmbH in Germany.

The most impressive work on the Internet is conducted by Luiz Paulo Rodrigues Cunha, being Chairman of the FIAF (Federación Interamericana de Filatelia) Thematic Philately Commission (and Bureau member too), publishing the monthly reports on FIAF's website.

Four FIP Thematic Seminars have been conducted at Perth (Scotland), Bogotá (Colombia), Melbourne (Australia) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil):

19 October 2012 at ABPS Perth in Scotland, conducted by Jonas Hällström.

14-15 December 2012 in Bogota, Colombia, conducted by Jonas Hällström and Luiz Paulo Rodrigues Cunha.



14 May 2013 in Melbourne, Australia, conducted by Jonas Hällström.



24 November 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, conducted by Jonas Hällström, José Ramón Moreno and Damian Läge.



Delegates from the Commission or the Bureau have been involved in the following thematic philately seminars during the period (based on reports to the Bureau).

- 4-5 May 2013: FEPA thematic philately jury seminar in conjunction with the European Championship for Thematic Philately (ECTP) in Essen, Germany. (Damian Läge, Jonas Hällström, Alfred Schmidt and Peter Dunai).
- 21-22 September 2013: seminar of thematic philately in St. Pölten, Austria. (Alfred Kunz and Koenraad Bracke).
- 18-20 October 2013: FEPA jury seminar in Budapest, Hungary. (Peter Suhadolc and José Ramón Moreno).
- 4-6 November 2013: First Latin American Congress of Thematic Philately held in San José, Costa Rica, within the framework of the International Philatelic Exhibition 150th Anniversary of the Postage Stamp in Costa Rica – Expofilatelia 2013. (Luiz Paulo Rodrigues Cunha and Luis Fernando Diaz).
- 28 February 2014: Thematic philately seminar on national exhibition EXFILNA 2014 in Torremolinos, Spain. (José Ramón Moreno and Koenraad Bracke).

MOTIONS AND PROPOSALS



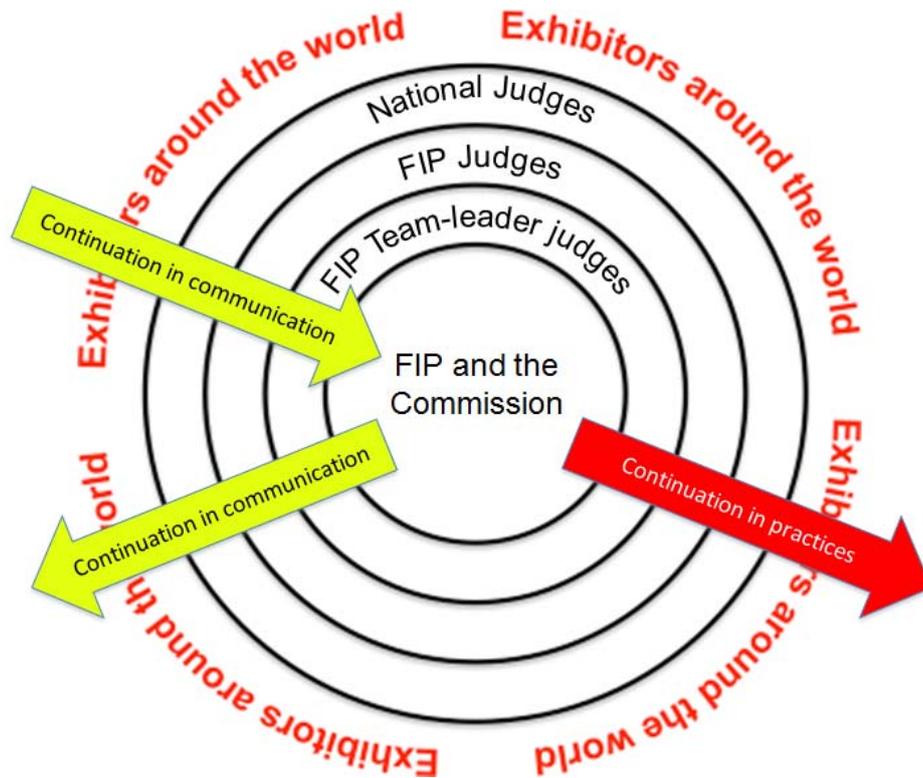
The priority for the Commission is to support exhibiting. The Commission supports thematic philately through:

- education (seminars open to the public and through the newsletter about thematic philately generally),
- training (workshops for exhibitors) and
- judging (quality control of the judging as done at exhibitions).

We summarize these activities as supporting and maintaining "EXHIBITING EXCELLENCE" and "JUDGING EXCELLENCE".



How we would be able to reach effects in communication, leadership and management:



Why this is important!

Up to 2004 it was self-evident having the Commission president and/or vice president plus further Bureau member(s) on any FIP jury. The system started to change after 2004, when Bureau seats were allotted for periods of four years, and no more "eternally" as they had de facto been in most Commissions. The sad consequence for thematic philately was that those changes discussed at the team leaders' meeting in 2003 became implemented in some seminars but never in judging at FIP shows. Observation from the FIP shows of the last three years is that reliability of scores and medals diminish to an alarming degree, specially with the three highest medal levels. Our goal must be not only to stop this trend but to considerably improve the validity of the assessments.

Suggestions!

- One should not be able to become a judge if one not is an active exhibitor in that class one judges
- Even if one is an active exhibitor one might not be "qualified" to become a judge
- The qualifications to become a judge must be set as high
- The high qualifications demanded on judges must include other qualifications than received award only
- The received award must be at least a Large Vermeil medal on FIP level
- For Team Leaders the received award must be Gold medal on FIP level

- Active” means that the judge needs to continuously exhibit in the class he judge and also to confirm the qualification medal
- All judges must continuously participate in training and education
- Without being active as exhibitor and/or participate in training and education, the judge’s authorisation to judge will be withdrawn
- The same practices must be implemented on both FIP and national levels

STATEMENT OF WORK FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

When the current leadership of the Commission was elected in 2012, a roadmap for activities from 2012 to 2016 (the election period) was set and fully implemented with the FIP leadership.

Thematic Administration is more intense than other classes

- *Thematic exhibits use exhibition forum and feedback to help their evolution and development*
- *Thematic philately has the need for comparable judgment from one exhibition to the other so that points and medal levels do not have wild variances.*
- *Constant need for juries to:*
 - *Have continuous training and formal reflection*
 - *Discuss their work through regular roundtables*

While these fundamental criteria seem to be similar to the other classes of philatelic exhibitions, their nuances are actually different because of the importance of “Development” (“Treatment”) in Thematic Philately Class.

- *Requires more:*
 - *Training*
 - *Experience in judging*
 - *Importance of mentorship.*
 - *Quality Assurance (Experienced Oversight)*

Thematic philately requires more training and experience in judging and mentorship than other classes because of its more rigorous intellectual framework in presentation and organization – what could be called “structural treatment” (although in thematic philately, we use the term “Development” -- although “storyline” is gaining widespread use in the thematic area as well).

To maintain a strong follow up in this class of philatelic endeavors, thematic philately needs quality assurance through the efforts of experienced oversight and guidance that takes time to build. Otherwise, philatelists will become demoralized by what could be conceived as “randomness” or “arbitrary judgments.” All members of the Commission are expected to use their knowledge and experience in monitoring for consistency in the evaluations of exhibits being done by thematic judges.

Request for Direction from the FIP President and Board

The Thematic Commission is anxious to support ideas and programs that emanate from FIP's leadership.

- What will the nature of communications from the FIP be for the Commissions and their Chairmen?
- Are there defined roles for Commissions and their Chairmen at this time – other than those we are currently performing?

We are still very much looking forward to any direction that President Tay and the Board wish to give to us at this time. We see ourselves on the Thematic Commission as a resource to the FIP leadership in our specialized area and wish to support the general goodwill toward and reputation of FIP within the global community.



Jonas Hällström

FIP Fédération International de Philatélie
Chairman Thematic Philately Commission