

REPORT ON THE LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESSES OF THEMATIC PHILATELY

(Congresses organized by the FIAF Thematic Commission and sponsored by the FIAF)

Presented by Roberto Néstor Cravero, Chairman and Luis Fernando Díaz, member, FIAF Thematic Commission.

BACKGROUND

(Texts by Luis Fernando Díaz and Luiz Paulo Rodrigues)

Latin American thematic philately has always been very dynamic. The series of Round Tables of the 70s of the last century was a recurrent success, in whose existence Emilio Obregón from México had a notable participation. Between 1970 and 1979, they were organized almost regularly, once a year, in different cities: Caracas, Lima, Rio de Janeiro, Guayaquil, Buenos Aires, twice, Mexico, Philadelphia and San José. The Thematic Round Table of Buenos Aires of 1978 stands out. It achieved the representation of 11 countries under the leadership of Obregón, always assisted by Néstor M. Ferré, delegated from Argentina. The name of other great thematic collectors that became visible at that time is also remembered: Enrique O. Buttini of Argentina and Manuel Mariño of Chile, among the most important.

In Brasiliana 1979, from September 15 to the 23 of that year, in Rio de Janeiro, a Thematic Symposium was organized by the Brazilian Association of Thematic Philately (ABRAFITE), whose most relevant interlocutor was Heitor Fenicio, then delegate from Brazil to the FIP Thematic Commission, who also had the unrestricted support of General Euclides Pontes, president of the Brazilian Federation of Philately (FEBRAF).

Brasiliana 1979 was, in fact, a pair of simultaneous exhibitions: the First Inter-American Exhibition of Classical Philately and the Third World Exhibition of Thematic Philately. "The memorable III World Exhibition of Thematic Philately ... was held at the Convention Center of the beautiful National Hotel -architectural design by Oscar Niemeyer- one of the icons of Brazilian tourism at the time and, in addition, one of the most modern buildings from Latin America. Located in the São Conrado neighborhood" (Luiz Paulo Rodrigues, April 2, 2016).

Nino Barberis, Marc Dhotel, Giancarlo Morolli, Manfred Bergman, Maria Groer, Jozef Peeters, Walter Lippens and Heitor Fenicio participated in the symposium and at the Round Table as speakers. In our field, we continue using the resulting publications, which include the works of Barberis, Morolli, Picardi and others.

During the final years of the last century, on the occasion of the ESPAMER exhibitions and on the regular FIAF Assemblies, the FIAF Thematic Commission held up their ordinary meetings. For many years, under the leadership of Néstor Ferré, these meetings, in addition to dealing with ordinary operational issues, such as rules, jury training, representation and others, sustained a formative and didactic character. Ferré was passionate about the scientific, pedagogical and innovative condition of thematic collecting. This was the staple of his pioneering book, the Thematic Philately Manual (FAEF, 1987) and in the information letters (by stencil printed) that he regularly circulated to the members of the commission.

So far in the present century, in many of the continental exhibitions showing between 200 and 400 exhibition frames, FIP seminars have been held, with the participation of Bernard Jimenez, Damian Läge, Jonas Hallstrom and other authorities. The majority focused, above all, on

the application of the respective regulations. Events like these took place in Brasilia (2017), Asunción, Paraguay, Medellín, Colombia and several cities in North America, among others.

A significant background of today's Congresses took place at the Museum of Popular Art in Mexico, from March 23 to 27, 2009. This was the venue of the First FIP Seminar on Thematic Philately in Latin America, within the framework of a continental thematic exhibition and with the representation of an important number of countries. The advantage of carrying out the training activity in conjunction with an exhibition is that all the theoretical references quoted can be checked with examples at hand. This is a resource that later, in Congresses, with the exception of Chile 2018, we would try to keep present. The members of the Jury, Fernando Aranaz, José Ramón Moreno, Luis Fernando Díaz, Damian Läge and Luiz Paulo Rodrigues, were active members of the Seminar. In this one, José Ramón Moreno and Damian Läge stood out as speakers.



In addition to those mentioned above, among the participants were Meguerdich Papazián, from Argentina, Francisco Sergio Marinho from Brazil, Ana Georgina (Gina) Ortiz, José Gilberto Chong, Pascual Ortega and David Braun from Mexico as well as an additional number of well-known collectors.

A few years later, in April 2014, in Rio, the Brazilian Federation, with the support and logistic resources of Brazilian philatelic dealers and the Brazilian Philatelic Club, prepared a thematic seminar, understood as International, under the direction of Damian Läge and Rubem Porto Junior. This was in part repeated in Sao Paulo, in November of the same year, in a larger seminar, which included all the exhibition classes. One whole day, Sunday, April 9, was devoted to the Thematic, with various workshops and presentations by Damian and Carlos E. Capucio. Other talks, about Postal History and Traditional Philately, were directed by Klerman López, Everaldo Santos and Rubem Porto. That same year, on July 31, a date in the middle of both events, we lost our extraordinary friend and thematic philatelist Francisco Marinho.



FIRST LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS ON THEMATIC PHILATELY (San José, Costa Rica, November 2013)
(Texts by Luis Fernando Díaz, Claudio Daniel Mujica and Francisco Gilabert were used in preparing this section)

SUMMARY

The First Latin American Congress of Thematic Philately took place in San José, between November 3 and 5, 2013, at the National Heritage Center, within the framework of the Philatelic Exhibition in honor of the 150 Anniversary of the First Postal Stamp in Costa Rica.

This Congress, organized by the FIAF Thematic Commission and the Philatelic Association of Costa Rica, with the support of the National Federation (FENCORI), focused on two of the main topics of this specialty: MATERIAL AND PLANNING.

Thirty-one collectors from nine countries, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Venezuela and Spain, were present and participated with great enthusiasm in the various activities of the Congress.

During Monday afternoon, participants toured the thematic section of the Exhibition. Several collections were analyzed and explained; it was followed with special regard the profound examination and the enriching self-criticism of the "Earthquakes" collection, delivered by its owner, the Brazilian colleague Carlos Dalmiro Silva Soares.

At 6:00 pm ensued the inauguration of the Exhibition and the Congress with the participation of the authorities of the Federation of Philatelic Entities of Costa Rica and representation of the Costa Rican Post Office.

On Tuesday, November 4, there were numerous talks and conferences. During the morning, David Braun from Mexico, presented the introductory theme called "Nature of thematic philately and its characteristics in Latin America. What is this specialty of collecting?" This dissertation set the high level of discussions, as well as the methodological approach.

Next, Eric Hidalgo, Member of the AFCR and Director of the School of Plastic Arts of the University of Costa Rica, introduced the paper "The fine print in small format". This focused on the theme of the layout and readability of texts in art history and its application in the small format design.

In the afternoon, Luiz Paulo Rodrigues, from Brazil, FIP jury and coordinator of the FIAF Thematic Commission, gave the lecture “Postal-philatelic material appropriate for thematic collections”.

In the evening, at the Amighetti Chair of the University of Costa Rica, Alicia Zamora and Ana Grace Jiménez offered the conference “Document preservation and restoration. Applications to philately”. The novelty of the public treatment of the subject was of great impact. The panelists illustrated all their proposals on maintenance, care and conservation of documents with real examples taken from the philately. Alicia, a graduate in Anthropology and Ana Grace a graduate in Plastic Arts with an emphasis in Graphic Arts, are specialists in conservation and restoration of works of art, including lithographs, engravings, silkscreens, documents and similar goods.

On Wednesday, November 5, the activities began with the paper submitted by Luis Fernando Díaz, FIP judge of Costa Rica, called “Planning in thematic philately”. He stressed the importance of linking planning decisions with all other decisions that are made on the exhibit, whether in the selection of the material, the treatment, as well as the presentation and assembly (layout).

During these two days, various workshops were also held for the handling of materials, under the leadership of Francisco (Paco) Gilabert of Spain and Luis Fernando Díaz. These workshops focused on material of a specific topic (salt) and dealt with aspects that included: how to start the assembly of an exhibit? Identification and use of the material. Also, under the direction of Paco and with the cooperation of Oswaldo Navas from Ecuador, a collection evaluation workshop was conducted.

In conclusion, Luiz Paulo presented an analysis and balance of Thematic Philately in the subcontinent and, at the end, with the participation of all, a round table or general discussion was opened, oriented by the subject Perspectives of Thematic Philately in Latin America and the Caribbean.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

As part of the Congress, a small exhibition of books especially relevant to the discipline was held. The goal of this sample was to provide an overview, throughout the development the theory of thematic philately, of the importance of the issues that were object of the Congress: material and planning. It was displayed to be used by the participants during the exercises or workshops, both of assembly and of judging exhibits.

The books that were shown are:

- Barberis, Mento, Morolli y Picardi (1978). A Apresentação das Coleções Temáticas.
- Barberis, Mento, Morolli y Picardi (1978). Elementos Temáticos de uma Coleção.
- Barberis, Mento, Morolli y Picardi (1978). Os Selos nas Coleções Temáticas.
- Barberis, Mento, Morolli y Picardi (1977). Documentos Postais e Filatélicos nas Coleções Temáticas.
- Ferré, Néstor M. (1987). Manual de Filatelia Temática.
- Van den Bold, W.E.J. (1994). Handbook of Thematic Philately.
- Hernán Seijas, José Antonio (1997). La Filatelia Temática, una innovadora forma de coleccionar, en Discursos Académicos VIII. Madrid: Real Academia Hispánica de Filatelia e Historia Postal.
- Moreno, José Ramón (2013) Filatelia Temática, Análisis e Investigación, en Discursos Académicos XXIX. Madrid: Real Academia Hispánica de Filatelia e Historia Postal.

To show the books a usual museum technique for this sort of exercises was used: the books were arranged on a table apart from the workshop tables, attached to it by means of a cable, so that they could be used by the collective at that table, not to take them to the individual desks.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Other recreational and cultural activities in which those attending the Congress participated were: a visit to the Guayabo National Monument, archaeological treasure of Costa Rica, and to the Basilica of the Virgin of the Angels, Patroness of the country; a visit to the Gold Museum and the Central Market, also sightseeing of jewels of the National Heritage. In addition, on Tuesday 4, at noon, they enjoyed a New Jazz Project concert at the National Theater.

They also enjoyed a country lunch and a canteen night to taste the popular national dish "chifrijo" (berry beans, pork rinds and Mexican sauce).

On the other hand, whenever such conventions happened, the members of the FIAF and FIP commissions, as well as the members of the Hispanic Academy of Philately, grab the chance to hold meetings regarding their respective fields and interests.



Members of the FIAF Thematic Commission meeting in San José: Paco Gilabert (Spain), Oswaldo Navas (Ecuador), Edward Vianna (Panama), Luiz Paulo Rodrigues C., President (Brazil), David Braun (Mexico), Ricardo Boizard (Chile) and Luis Fernando Díaz (Costa Rica).

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS FIRST LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF THEMATIC PHILATELY

SPEAKERS

David Braun (Mexico). Civil engineer. Stamp collector with FIP Gold medal in Thematic with the collection called "Bridges: Freeing Obstacles". FIP Judge (2011). Member of the Bureau of the FIP Thematic Commission in the period 2008-2012.

Luis Fernando Díaz (Costa Rica). University professor. Professor of Planning and Evaluation. Expert editor of printed and multimedia teaching materials. Judge accredited by the FIP and the FIAF, since 1992 in various fields including Philatelic Literature and Thematic Philately. Member of the Royal Hispanic Academy of Philately, has published numerous articles on Thematic

Philately and Postal History. He has conducted courses and lectured on Modern Philately and Thematic Philately in Spain, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama. Represents America in the FIP Commission For Fight Against Forgeries!

Francisco Gilabert Granero (Granada, Spain). Professor (retired) of World Contemporary History and History of Western Thought (Philosophy). Proprietary Member of the Royal Hispanic Academy of Philately (2006). Judge FIAF (1991) in Thematic Philately, Open Class, Maximaphily and Philatelic Literature. Delegate of the Spanish Federation of Philatelic Societies (FESOFI) for relations with America (FIAF). Philately teacher in Mexico, Cuba, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Ecuador (seminars, courses and workshops, meetings, conferences, round tables, training courses for group leaders).

Eric J. Hidalgo Valverde (Costa Rica). Director of the School of Plastic Arts of the UCR since 2010. Graphic Designer. Bachelor of Plastic Arts with an emphasis in Graphic Arts. Master in Arts (UCR) with the thesis "Background of Philatelic Design in Costa Rica". His collections are made up centered on didactic purposes to support teaching performance and as a documentary and historical record of the philatelic design processes developed at the School of Plastic Arts.

Luiz Paulo Rodrigues Cunha (Brazil), FIAF Thematic Commission Coordinator; FEBRAF, FIAF and FIP Thematic Jury, represents America on the Board of the FIP Thematic Commission. He is a biologist and has a post-graduate degree in Fisheries Oceanography and a Doctorate in Sciences (Zoology). University professor (Ichthyology and Fishing Technology) in Brazilian public universities for almost 30 years. He has been presenting thematic collections for 37 years and his acknowledged exhibit The Wonderful World of Thematic Philately is a meticulous study of the thematic material.

Alicia Zamora (Bachelor of Anthropology) and **Ana Grace Jiménez** (Bachelor of Plastic Arts, with an emphasis in Graphic Arts), initiators and managers of the firm Conarte-Restauración, are specialists in conservation and restoration of works of art, including lithographs, engravings, silkscreens, documents and similar goods. Among their professional services are the advice for the care and maintenance of collections, including their registration and appraisal, as well as training personnel for the administration of collections.

PARTICIPANTS

Argentina: Claudio Daniel Mujica and Claudia De Conti

Brasil: Luis Paulo Rodrigues Cunha and Carlos Dalmiro Silva Soares

Chile: Ricardo Boizard

Costa Rica: Eric Hidalgo, César Alonso Sancho, Luis Fernando Díaz, Bernardo Clerc Tapia, Pablo Sauma, Luis A. Escalante Cabezas, Andrea Meoño Hübner, Fred O'Neil G., Juan Herrera Fernández, Andrea Flores Fallas, Oscar Porras, Maryleydi Castro Vargas, Paola Barrios Carballo and Xiomara Zúñiga Salas

Ecuador: Oswaldo Navas Tapia

España: Francisco Gilabert Granero

México: David Braun G., Alberto Jiménez Cordero, Pascual Ortega Galindo and Ana Georgina Ortiz

Panamá: Agustín García de Paredes, Marcela Díaz Cabal, Edward Vianna, Diana Jiménez Lindo and Ernesto Arosemena Neuman

Venezuela: Jesús Moret y Ferrer

ORGANIZATION AND RESOURCES

Besides the enthusiasm of the participants and the aptitude of the panelists, other contributions determined the achievements of the event. From the outside, numerous thematic colleagues who couldn't attend, backed all efforts at different stages of organization. Among them, stand out Jorge Yacoub of Venezuela, Rocío Ospina of Colombia, Juan Emilio Martínez and José Raúl Lorenzo from Cuba. Upper level organizations such as the national and the continental federation (FENCORI and FIAF), from the start of the project, assumed it as their own and sheltered it with their auspices. The FIAF Board, headed by James Mazepa, recognized the value of the activity and was always mindful of its development.

The premises for the exhibition and the conference room assigned to the Congress, provided by the National Heritage Office were welcoming and sufficient, although a security restriction forced the number of participants to be kept at 31.

Various contributions were decisive for the success of the Congress. Among them, the help of Juan Herrera, Minor Martin (La Granada) and Autopistas del Sol stand out. Contributions from institutions such as the Ministry of Culture and its Cultural Heritage Center, the University of Costa Rica and TV Channel 13, led to some concrete fruits. The newspaper *Mujeres Hoy* (Today's women), the designer Carlos Kidd and the firm Conarte made visible a rich and integrated concept of the image of philately as an intellectual exercise.

The results of the Congress have reached significant dissemination in specialized press and digital media, including webpages of companies in Spain, Argentina and Ecuador, as well as the FIAF website.

Greetings and compliments have been received from the FIP and FIAF authorities, as well as the Government of Costa Rica. The main result is the interest aroused towards the continuity of these projects and activities.

The general organization was assumed by the FIP Thematic Commission with the support of the Costa Rican Philatelic Society. Organizing Committee members: Luiz Paulo Rodrigues Cunha, President; Luis Fernando Díaz, Secretary; César Alonso Sancho, Member.

ANNEX

COMPLIMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT OF FIAF DR. JAMES MAZEPA

Dear Gentlemen

Congratulations for the good work you have done in making the First Congreso Latinoamericano de Filatelia Temática a reality. It is the hard work and dedication of individuals such as you that promotes not only our hobby of philately, but provides the opportunity for philatelists from several Federations to come together and share their knowledge and friendship.

Such exhibitions as this one that you have so successfully accomplished provide the opportunity for both experienced collectors and new collectors to experience the wide range of thematic collecting because they can view outstanding collections and attend seminars by knowledgeable exhibitors and judges.

Please extend my greetings to the entire organizing committee, exhibitors, judges, and attendees.

Thank you for the good work you have done to promote philately in our Continental Federation.

Sincerely,

Dr. James Mazepa

President FIAF



SECOND LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS ON THEMATIC PHILATELY (Quito, Ecuador, September 26-29 2015)

SUMMARY

Between September 26 and October 3, 2015, a series of events were held in Quito that together set the atmosphere for a true philatelic party. The main reason was the celebration of 150 years of the first issue of stamps from Ecuador, in addition to commemorating the 80th anniversary of the AFE Ecuadorian Philatelic Association.

In remembrance of those dates, the Fourth Philatelic Exhibition of the South Pacific, the First Continental Exhibition of Thematic Philately and the Second FIAF Congress of Thematic Philately were organized at the premises of the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador PUCE.

The Congress, organized by the FIAF Thematic Commission and the Ecuadorian Philatelic Association, was sponsored by the Thematic Commission of the International Philately Federation. Participants included figures such as Damian Läge, notorious thematic collector and the President of the FIP Thematic Commission, Koenraad Bracke.

The local Organizing Commission, chaired by Oswaldo Navas and integrated by Santiago Villagómez, Jaime Garzón and Ernesto Sarabia did a job that deserved the recognition of all attendees.

The inauguration of the Congress, on September 26, at the Catholic University, was conducted by Teddy Suárez, President of the AFE, Koenraad Bracke, President of the FIP Thematic Commission, Oswaldo Navas, by the Congress organization, Patricio Aguirre, President of FIAF and Luiz Paulo Rodríguez, President of the FIAF Thematic Commission.

Concluded the ceremony, the Congress was opened with the keynote lecture "Philatelic pieces and thematic information - the raw material of a collection" by Damian Läge. From this, a high level of discussion was established as well as the main focus of the call, once again, the MATERIAL theme.



Conference by Damian Läge

After the conference and a coffee break, then the work continued with the presentations. Once back in the auditorium Luiz Paulo Rodrigues explained the work program and presented the participants in the Congress.

The rest of the morning was occupied with the presentation by Luis Fernando Díaz called "Material on thematic", which was conducted largely in front of pieces arranged in two frames with sheets from current collections.

In the afternoon a panel was held with the participation of three colleagues. The first was Alberto Jiménez (Mexico), who approached the topic complex materials. Oswaldo Navas (Ecuador) spoke on "Legitimate, speculative, abusive and illegal postal issues." And it was closed with a joint presentation by Oswaldo and David Braun (Mexico) about the subject "Processes for the search of appropriate material".

All the presentations submitted through the two days dealt with the importance of the material, some of them on specialized aspects, such as advertising cards from Belgium or PSE in general. Others made a review of diverse facets originated in the different countries. The talks offered by Estanislao Pan de Alfaro (Spain), Koenraad Bracke (Belgium) and José Raúl Lorenzo stand out. (Bulletin Ecuador Filatélico AFE 21).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Congress attendees participated in most of the activities of the EXPO AFE 2015 Exhibition, including the inauguration and the Palmares dinner in Yaku, Water Museum, with an extraordinary view of the city. They enjoyed a tour of historic Quito and a visit to museums; also a trip to the monument in the imaginary line zero parallel, Half of the World, they call it. Some served as delegates to the FIAF General Assembly and took part in their activities.



PARTICIPANTS

1. Miguel Casielles, Argentina
2. Roberto Cravero, Argentina
3. Daniel Hugo Mello, Argentina
4. Dayana Aylem Casielles, Argentina
5. Gladys Puccio, Argentina
6. Héctor Di Lalla, Argentina
7. Meguerdich Papazián, Argentina
8. Konrad Bracke, Bélgica
9. Martha Villaroel de Peredo, Bolivia
10. Luis Claudio Fritzen, Brasil
11. Carlos Soares, Brasil
12. Reinaldo Macedo, Brasil
13. Ricardo Boizard, Chile
14. Rosa Castillo, Chile
15. Gloria Rocío Ospina, Colombia
16. Gustav Adolfo Acuña, Colombia
17. Julián Silva Tobar, Colombia
18. Patricia Silva de Acuña, Colombia
19. Juan Manuel Moreno, Colombia
20. María Cristina González, Colombia
21. Martha Lucy Giraldo, Colombia
22. Néstor Álvarez Reyes, Colombia
23. Luis Fernando Díaz, Costa Rica
24. José Raúl Lorenzo, Cuba
25. Ernesto Gamboa, Cuba
26. Oswaldo Navas, Ecuador
27. Ernesto Sarabia Vega, Ecuador
28. Yerko Basic, Ecuador
29. Cecilia Sancho, Ecuador
30. Rodrigo Páez, Ecuador
31. Sebastián Dueñas, Ecuador
32. Santiago Villagómez, Ecuador
33. Paul Novoa, Ecuador
34. Esteban León Icaza, Ecuador
35. Fabián Celín, Ecuador
36. Gerardo Moreno, Ecuador
37. Gonzalo Larrea, Ecuador
38. Guillermo Estrella Santos, Ecuador
39. Jaime Garzón, Ecuador
40. Arturo Ferrer, España
41. Estanislao Pan de Alfaro, España
42. Alberto Jiménez, México
43. Ana Georgina (Gina) Ortiz, México
44. David Braun, México
45. Pascual Ortega Galindo, México
46. Carlos Urzúa, México
47. Diana Jiménez Lindo, Panamá
48. Marcela Díaz Cabal, Panamá
49. Augusto Zavala, Perú
50. Juan Bosco Oberti, Uruguay
51. Walter Britz, Uruguay
52. Jorge Yacoub, Venezuela



THIRD LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS ON THEMATIC PHILATELY

(Santiago, Chile, 11-12 de octubre de 2018)

SUMMARY

The Third Congress on Thematic Philately was organized as part of the activities of the Fifth Philatelic Exhibition of the America's South Pacific (EXFIL 2018). Although, it was convened in a separate venue, the premises of the Philatelic Society of Chile located at Almirante Simpson 75.

The congress was run by the FIAF Thematic Philately Commission, under the direction of its President Roberto Néstor Cravero, who also conducted the discussions fluently and on time, while facilitating an active exchange of criteria between the exhibitors and the public interested in this specialty.

The first session, dedicated to the analysis of RELEVANT THEMATIC MATERIAL, took place during the morning of Thursday, October 11, included three talks. Héctor Di Lalla, made an extensive and general enumeration of the materials available for a thematic collection; Luis Fernando Díaz, presented a detailed explanation about "border material in thematic collections", especially the modern materials that arise from innovative postal services offered by national Post Offices and, finally, Oswaldo Navas, offered a detailed explanation of the "speculative postal issues, illegal and legitimate". High quality images of the materials that were discussed were shown in each talk.

Same day, during the afternoon, were presented three lectures on the topic TREATMENT. José Raúl Lorenzo Sánchez talk about plan and treatment. Then the Brazilians Luis Claudio Fritzen (President of the Inter-American Federation of Philately) and Carlos Dalmiro Silva Soares were introduced. Fritzen discussed the correct and incorrect uses of A3 and A4 sheets using examples taken from EXFIL 2018. Carlos Dalmiro explained how to develop a theme with the goal of attaining certain level of medal.

The Congress concluded on the morning of Friday, October 12, resuming the topic MATERIAL. On this occasion, César Alonso Sancho introduced the topic "Micromotives". A novel topic and a novel treatment: this is the first time that such a transcendent subject is discussed in the formal fields of the specialty. Immediately, David Braun summarized searching strategies, under the heading "How do I get thematic material?"

The Commission for Thematic Philately of FESOFI (Spain) has pondered the high value of these presentations and has published them on its website (Ref. Estanislao Pan de Alfaro). They are available with their titles, as listed below.

- David Braun (México). El material temático y cómo conseguirlo.
- Carlos Dalmiro Silva Soares (Brasil). Cómo desarrollar su tema y llegar al oro en temática.
- Luis Fernando Díaz (Costa Rica). Material limítrofe.
- Héctor Di Lalla (Argentina). El material temático.
- José Raúl Lorenzo (Cuba). La Filatelia Temática, una puerta al conocimiento.
- Oswaldo Navas (Ecuador). ¿Cómo reconocer emisiones postales legítimas, especulativas, abusivas e ilegales?
- Cesar Alonso Sancho Solís (Costa Rica). Micromotivos.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Congress attendees were invited to all the activities of the EXFIL 2018 Exhibition and joined most of them: inauguration, Palmares dinner, a day trip to Valparaíso and Viña del Mar, including the visit to three museums. Many of them also served as delegates to the FIAF General Assembly and participated in their own activities and in conjunction with the International Federation (FIP).

PARTICIPANTS

Amid the participants, it worth mentioning those who have attended the three conferences. Among them, Diana Jiménez Lindo and Marcela Díaz Cabal from Panama, Luis Fernando Díaz from Costa Rica, David Braun from Mexico, Oswaldo Navas from Ecuador and Ricardo Boizard from Chile.



Once the activities were finished, the following participants appear in the photograph:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Roberto Cravero, Argentina | 11. Héctor Di Lalla, Argentina |
| 2. Susana Merens, Argentina | 12. Augusto Felipe Zavala, Perú |
| 3. Gladys Puccio, Argentina | 13. José Bellido de Luna, Chile |
| 4. César Alonso Sancho | 14. Roberto García Lima, Argentina |
| 5. Sergio Recuenco, Perú | 15. Martha Villaroel de Peredo, Bolivia |
| 6. Cristian García, Chile | 16. David Braun, México |
| 7. Paul Novoa, Ecuador | 17. Julio César Ponce Lozada, Perú |
| 8. Miguel Casielles, Argentina | 18. Jorge Castillo, México |
| 9. Ricardo Boizard, Chile | 19. Santiago Villagómez, Ecuador |
| 10. Luis Fernando Díaz, Costa Rica | |

Collectors registered with the FIAF Thematic Commission for the Third Congress are:

Argentina:	Alejandro Argüello, Miguel José Casielles, Roberto Néstor Cravero, Domingo Del Fabro, Héctor Di Lalla, Roberto García Lima, Susana Merens, Christian Gabriel Pérez, Gladys Noemí Puccio.
Brasil:	Carlos Dalmiro Silva Soares y Luis Claudio Fritzen
Bolivia:	Martha Villarroel de Peredo
Chile:	José Bellido de Luna, Ricardo Boizard, Sebastián Ferrer, Cristián García, Ljubica Günter, Heinz Junge, Juan Klein
Colombia:	Juan Manuel Moreno Murillo y Rocío Ospina
Costa Rica:	César Alonso Sancho Solís y Luis Fernando Díaz.
Cuba:	José Raúl Lorenzo Sánchez.
Ecuador:	Oswaldo Navas Tapia, Paul Novoa Y Santiago Villagomez.
México:	David Braun G., Jorge Castillo y Alejandro Grossmann.
Panamá:	Marcela Díaz Cabal y Diana Jiménez Lindo.
Perú:	Julio César Ponce, Sergio Recuenco y Augusto Felipe Zavala Rojas
Uruguay:	Francisco Barone, Eduardo Boido y Walter Britz.

CONCLUSIONS

The most significant result of the congresses has been the learning processes in which we all became involved

Specifically, we all learn on the following aspects:

1. Those who have participated systematically, show today more skills and have better developed collections. These, without extraordinary capital investment, begin to achieve better FIP scores.
2. In-depth research has been attained on the subject of MATERIAL (for example, the presentations on Micromotives :[http://www.fesofi.es/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/C%C3%A9sar-Alonso-Sancho-micromotivos .pdf](http://www.fesofi.es/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/C%C3%A9sar-Alonso-Sancho-micromotivos.pdf)– and the discussions about border line material).
3. Some of the themes developed in the various congresses are of special importance and it is suggested to take them into account as central themes in future FIP calls.
 - A. The debate about innovation. The problems with evaluating it, given the short life cycle of innovations.
 - B. Knowledge of the material as a problem related to information and research.
 - i. The dissonance of accessible materials in America versus Europe. Its relationship with the themes of the collections, for example, agricultural products from America (corn, potatoes) against European cultural elements, such as opera or Shakespearean or Cervantes' literature.
 - ii. Specialized knowledge on false, prohibited, harmful materials, even, about micromotives and new postal products.
 - iii. Philatelic studies centered on diverse material (stamps, PSE, telegrams, etc.)
 - C. Continental Thematic Philately is alive. Its development is not symmetrical with trends in other regions (ie East, Europe). American collections in general are less linear (less chronological, more implicit or less explicit or realistic) than European ones.