

TC NEWS

BULLETIN OF THE FIP THEMATIC COMMISSION

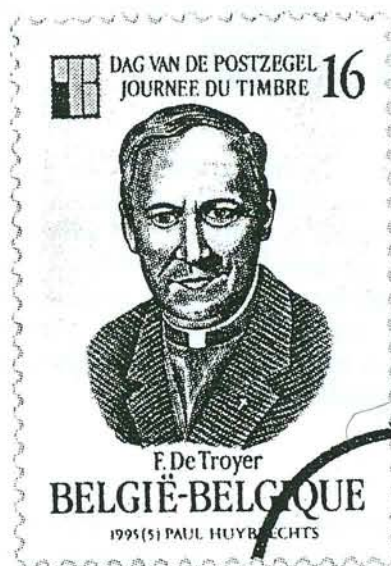
N.3 - MAY 1995

FOREWORD

In the last issue I asked delegates to comment on and to submit some input to TCNews. After a long wait I have to thank the few ones that have kindly answered and to urge the others to be more responsive to the requests for cooperation, since our relationship is based on a two ways communication.

Cooperation of the Delegates

At the end of each year I file the most important documents in the Commission archives and this gives me a good feeling about the level of attention given by each delegate. Unfortunately I still find too many national sections empty, attesting that no information was sent by the relevant delegate ; in several cases this lack of cooperation lasts since years. About 50% of the delegates are just acting as a post box, whereas the 30% are participating to the work of the Commission in a satisfactory way ; the remaining 20% do not show enough attention to the Commissions's work. I cannot expect more from some countries, where thematic philately is just taking off, but I still assume that the delegate should have the enthusiasm and the initiative needed to develop and support the growth of thematic philately in the country and in this respect I wonder why there is no request for a specific help from the Commission. Several of these delegates represent countries where thematic philately is well established and, in some cases, has an important tradition. I ask these delegates to be up to their responsibility in the Commission, which needs their personal contribution.



Franz de TROYER, the pioneer of the worldwide Thematic Philately

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Cooperation to TC News

I wish to remember the objectives of TC News:

1 - inform the members of the thematic community about the activities of the FIP and the Commission, and get them involved in the discussion and the elaboration of proposals and studies

2 - present special events or initiatives in the countries ; TC News cannot host news about normal activities, but it requires detailed information about special activities which could be of interest of other delegates, with comments enabling to understand their significance and replicability

3 - publish articles which are focused on specific thematic and philatelic topics. A special issue is planned and will be sent out soon, with articles from different countries, aimed at improving the understanding of certain philatelic area (e.g pre-philatelic letters) or to revisit a specific thematic subject (e.g. originality of a plan).

It is obvious that these objectives can be achieved only if the national delegates:

1 - submit comments, proposals and requests

2 - inform about special initiatives and assess the validity of those implemented abroad for improving their national activities

3 - contribute with articles and publish those received through TC News ; they can be translated and reprinted nationally, under the condition to quote the source.

4 - make photocopies of TC News (it is the same technical process we use for the original sending anyway) and send it to national and international jurors, national thematic organisations and groups, etc.. I was already informed that in some countries very little effort has been put in the circulation of the previous issues of TC News ; from other delegates or

representatives of national thematic organisations I am receiving request for a wider diffusion of TC News, which is not feasible because of time, budget and address maintenance. If we split this effort at country level, the request will become affordable.

Work Programme of the Bureau

After Genova'92 the Bureau has started to work in a more distributed way and this process has shown a slow learning curve. The personal problems that I had for most of the period were one of the reasons, but not the only one. The Bureau had a very intense meeting in Paris and the agenda of the next one in Lausanne will be very demanding for all of us.

We must understand how the recent Regulations and the Guidelines have been implemented, if they have been understood and which is the current status of updating the jurors on the subject. Does the new system, as approved in Granada, really work or is there some further improvement necessary to have the Regulations matching the state of the art in collecting ? Are the Guidelines clear enough or is a different approach necessary to reach their objective, which is the best possible understanding of thematic philatelic by collectors, exhibitors and jurors ? What actions are to be taken in order to prepare the discussion on Regulations and Guidelines, planned at the next FIP Congress (1996) ? These questions, once again, can be fully answered only with input of the delegates.

The Bureau is working on the Education Program, and this effort will be useless if we do not have the natural channels to its main addresses, i.e. the collectors, the exhibitors and the jurors.

I am looking forward to a positive reaction from everyone.

Giancarlo Morolli

COMMISSION STATUS

WELCOME TO

- Dipl. Ing. Lumir BRENDL,
U Jam 19 CZ-323 24 PLZEN

Czech Republic

New delegate of the Union of Czech Philatelists

and thanks and best wishes to Dr. Vladimír Viclický, who served in the Commission and the Bureau for 9 years.

- Mr Levon ROUKHKIAN

PO Box 50

Yerevan 375010

Republic of Armenia

new delegate of the Union of Philatelists of Armenia

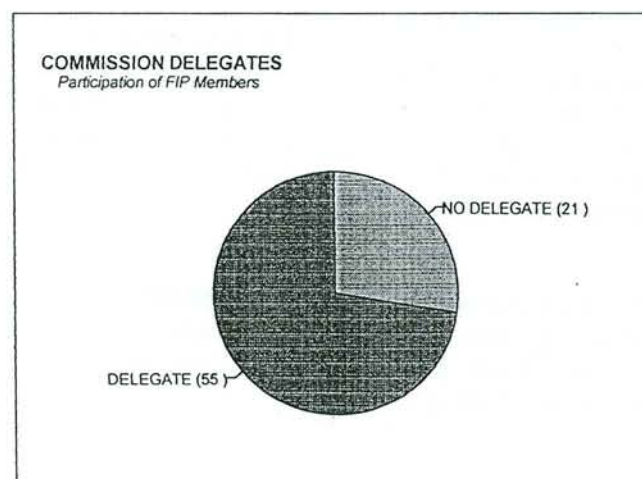
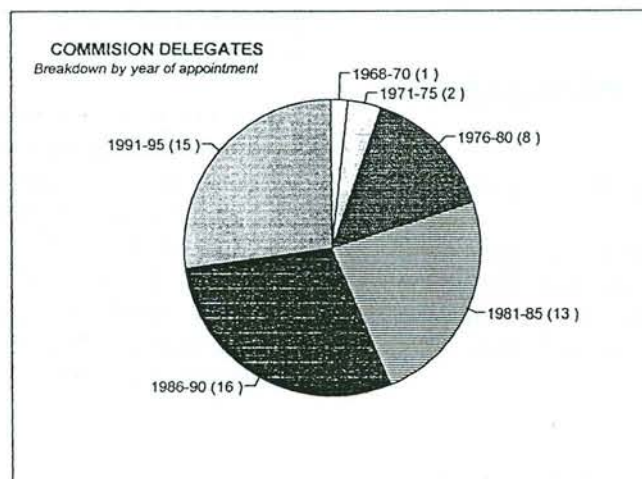
- Mr Lic. Herman KRUSE

Casilla de Correo 972,

Montevideo

Uruguay

new delegate of the "Federation Uruguaya de filatelia"



MEETING OF THE F.I.P. THEMATIC COMMISSION SEOUL, 23th AUGUST 1994

Gunnar Dahlvig, Vice-President of the Commission, excuses Giancarlo Morolli, absent for sudden change in his business schedule, and welcomes the delegates.

1 - ROLL CALL OF DELEGATES

11 Federations are represented (with also the presence of 9 observers).

2 - APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON BANGKOK

Gunnar Dahlvig comments these minutes which are approved by all the delegates.

3 - REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Gunnar Dahlvig reads the report prepared by Giancarlo Morolli.

4 - REPORTS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK 1993-1994

** Meeting of the Bureau in Paris in 4th and 5th June*

Bernard Jimenez comments the principal subjects discussed during the meeting of the members of the Bureau with the participation of Marc Collage (Belgium) and Han Siem (Netherlands).

- Fiscals

The Bureau has reaffirmed its decision, according to Article 3i of the GREV, which states that an exhibit shall consist solely of appropriate philatelic material ; except when revenue stamps have been used postally, they are not acceptable in a thematic exhibit. Postage stamps that have been overprinted for fiscal use are also unacceptable in an exhibit (this position was confirmed in Lausanne).

- New trends

The Bureau has started with discussions about new trends impacting thematic philately. Various initiatives have been presented (see report of Gunnar Dahlvig in TC News N°2).

- SREV and Guidelines

They will be reviewed in 1996, especially to smooth the too numerous "MUST" and "SHOULD" which are not consistent with such a document.

** Philatelic Studies*

The characteristics of philatelic studies will be summarized in a future document of the Commission.

** Education of Collectors*

A frame work will be established by a team led by J.A. Hernan.

During the general discussion opened by Gunnar Dahlvig, Marcel Van Der Mullen, delegate from Belgium, insists on the fact that for the exhibitors, it is necessary to stay with the same regulation, without change for a least five years (there is a delay for publication and another delay for comprehension...)

Peter Osusky (Slovakia) asks to send TC News to the editors of philatelic journals. Bernard Jimenez answers that it is a good idea but due to the great number of philatelic journals in the world there is a problem of cost and it is probably better that each delegate sends a copy of TC News to the editors with comments relative of the specific problems of each country.

5 - MISCELLANEOUS

Then Gunnar Dahlvig presents the manner they work in Sweden with some copies showing on one side color copies of exhibits-sheets and on the other the technical explanations.

B. JIMENEZ
Secretary

G. DAHLVIG
Chairman

DELEGATES AND GROUPS UPDATE

URUGUAY

A1 - Grupo Filatélico Temático del URUGUAY

B1 - Officers

President : Mr Ernesto ZICARI
Casilla de Correo 443
11000 - Montevideo

C1 - Publication : "Temática"

Editor : Mr Ernesto ZICARI
Angel B. SANGUINETTI

D - Thematic Groups :

WATER

Conrado ROSSI

AVIATION

Carlos HERNANDEZ

AUTOMOBILISM

Herman C. KRUSE

BATTLES

Luis GONZALEZ

FIREMAN

Ernesto ZICARI

CINEMA

Herbert GOMEZ

MAIL - COMMUNICATIONS

Mario GELBER

SPORTS

Carlos PRIETO

FOOTBALL

Alfredo PELAEZ

OLYMPIC GAMES

Angel B. SANGUINETTI

EUROPA

Francisco BARONE

BIRDS

Cesar JONES

GEOGRAPHY

Juan FONTANA

JUDAICA

Gerardo SALOMON

MASONRY

Rainer EICHTERSHEIMEN

MEDICINE

Bernardo FRIEDMAN

MEDICINE - CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

Rafael FOSALBA

MILITARY NAVIGATION

Ernesto ZICARI

MUSIC

Carolina SCHULTZE

JOURNALISM

Juan B. OBERTI

DOGS

Rafael FOSALBA

RELIGION

Victor KALBERMATTER

THEATER

Alfredo MERCADO

BELGIUM

B1 - Officers

President: Florent COENE
Adolf Daenslaan, 6
1860 MEISE

C1 - Publication: "Themaphila3"

Editor: Florent Coene

RELIGION

Dessaer H (abbé)
W.Kühnenstraat 73
1030 - BRUSSEL

GREAT BRITAIN

A. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THEMATIC COLLECTORS.

BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION (BTA).
(Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies.)

B. OFFICERS.

CHAIRMAN & FIP COORDINATOR: Mrs. Franceska Rapkin.
"Eaglewood", Oxhey Lane, Hatch End, Middlesex, HA5 4AL.

SECRETARY & VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. Brian Sole.
3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey, KT10 0QG.

C. PUBLICATION.

"THEMESCENE" Editor: Mrs. Margaret Shaida.
Teulades V, Apt.201, Els Vilars, Escaldes, ANDORRA. (Via Poste Francais)

D. THEMATIC SOCIETIES.

Societies which are BTA Members are marked **.
Name and address given are for the Secretary.

Alba Stamp Group ** BTA Soc. Member

Mr.A.D.Shepherd
27 Gilmour Road, EDINBURGH,
EH16 5NS.
JOURNAL: Scottish Stamp News

Astro-Space Stamp Society ** BTA Soc. Member

Mr.B.J.Lockyer
21 Exford Close, WESTON-SUPER-MARE,
Avon, BS23 4RE.
JOURNAL: Orbit (Quarterly)

The Bicycle Stamps Club ** BTA Soc. Member

Mr.W.R.Sant(UK Representative)
74 Nantwich Road, MIDDLEWICH,
Cheshire, CW10 9NG.
JOURNAL: Bicycle Stamps

The Bird Stamp Society ** BTA Soc. Member

Mr.G.P.Horsman,
9 Cowley Drive, Worthy Down,
WINCHESTER, Hants, SO21 2QW.
JOURNAL: Flight

British Royal Portraits Study Group

Miss L.E.Young
62a Bridge Street, Pershore,
Worcs., WR10 1AX.
JOURNAL: Bulletin

Butterfly and Moth Stamp Society

Mrs.V.Jones
63 Dorchester Road, Garstang,
PRESTON, PR3 1HH.
JOURNAL: The Swallowtail

Captain Cook Study Unit

Mr.A.Peel
13 Cowdry Close, Thornhill,
DEWSBURY, WF12 0LW.
JOURNAL: "Cook's Log"

Chess Philatelists

Mr.P.C.Burnett
10 Watling Court, Cow Hill.
NORWICH, NR2 1HA.
JOURNAL: Not Known

Churchill Collectors Club

Mr.B.C.Bugge
8 Clyde Road, Stanwell,
STAINES, Middx., TW19 7RH.
JOURNAL: Not Known

Concorde Study Circle

Mr.C.E.Grey,
6 Urlwin Walk, Myatts Fields South,
Stockwell, LONDON SW9 6QG.
JOURNAL: Not Known

Constabulary & Other Philatelic Society (COPS)

Mr.R.Holdeman
21 Nelson Road, BOGNOR REGIS,
W.Sussex, PO21 2RY.
JOURNAL: The Blue Lamp

Cricket Philatelic Society ** BTA Soc. Member

Mr.D.Gallimore
The Grange, 30 Pinewoods Avenue,
West Hagley, STOURBRIDGE, W.Midlands, DY9 0JF.
JOURNAL: 'Wickets'

Exhibition Study Group ** BTA Soc. Member

Mr.W.E.Tonkin,
23 Bramley Way, WEST WICKHAM,
Kent, BR4 9NT.
JOURNAL: Not known

Football Topical Society ** BTA Soc. Member

Mr.A.Jones,
12 The Green,Knapton,
NORTH WALSHAM, Norfolk,NR28 ORU.
JOURNAL: Football Direct

Guild of St.Gabriel ** BTA Soc. Member

Mr.P.J.Greening
230 Powder Mill Lane,TWICKENHAM,
Middx.,TW2 6EJ.
JOURNAL: Gabriel

International Guild of Rugby Theme Collectors

Mr.D.R.Gwynn
Black Park Farm,Llanrhidian,
SWANSEA,SA13 1EE.
JOURNAL: Newsletter

International Philatelic Golf Society

Mr.S.R.MacKenzie,
Caberfeidh,Riverside,
POOLEWE, Ross-shire,IV22 2LA.
JOURNAL: Tee Time

Judaica Philatelic Society ** BTA Soc. Member

Mr. R.Cardy
45 Chalkwell Park Drive,LEIGH-ON-SEA,
Essex,SS9 1NH.
JOURNAL: The Judaica Collector

Maps and Philately Study Group

Mr.J.A.C.Farmer,
"The Peppers",The Street,
Crookham Village, ALDERSHOT,Hants., GU13 OSG.
JOURNAL: Not Known

Masonic Philatelic Club ** BTA Soc. Member

Mr.M.H.Beazley
216 West Dyke Road,REDCAR,
Cleveland,TS10 4JS.
JOURNAL: Masonic Philatelic Club Magazine

Medical Philately Study Group ** BTA Soc. Member

Mrs.B.Harding,
'Uplands', Green Road,Skelton, SALTBURN,
Cleveland,TS12 2BQ.
JOURNAL: Medi-Theme

Philatelic Music Circle ** BTA Soc. Member

Mr.I.Summers
8 Alderwood Grove,Edenfield,
BURY,Lancs, BLO OHQ.
JOURNAL: The Baton

E. GEOGRAPHIC GROUPS (GENERAL)

Glasgow Thematic Society ** BTA Soc. Member

Ms.J.M.Rose
38 Muirton Drive,Bishopbriggs,
GLASGOW,G64 3AS.
JOURNAL: Not known

North East England Thematic Society ** BTA Soc. Member

Mrs.D.M.Martin
46 Briardene Crescent,Kenton Park,
Newcastle upon Tyne,NE3 4RY.
JOURNAL: None

The Railway Philatelic Group

Mr.A.Violet
50 Roberts Road,Noveston Park,
Prestbury, CHELTENHAM,Glos. GL52 5DF.
JOURNAL: Railway Philately

Rotary on Stamps Society

Mr.M.G.Gosney,
Stafford House,74 Alexandra Road,
FARNBOROUGH,Hants., GU14 6DD.
JOURNAL: Not Known

Scout and Guide Stamps Club ** BTA Soc. Member

Mr.R.E.A.Howard
16 Effingham House,Kingsnympton Park,
Kingston upon Thames,Surrey, KT2 7RU
JOURNAL: Scout & Guide Stamps Club Bulletin.

Ship Stamp Society ** BTA Soc. Member

Mr.T.Broadley
10 Heyes Drive,LYMM,
Cheshire,WA13 OPB.
JOURNAL: Log Book

Society of Olympic Collectors ** BTA Soc. Member

Mrs.E.Miller
258 Torrisholme Road,LANCASTER,
LA1 2TU.
JOURNAL: Torchbearer

Stamp Art Society

Mr.J.Fosbery,
63 Sandringham Road,Buckland,
NEWTON ABBOTT,Q12 4HB.
JOURNAL: None

United Nations Study Group ** BTA Soc. Member

Mr.S.Simpson
86 Liverpool Road,Ashton-in-Makerfield,
WIGAN,WN4 9LP.
JOURNAL: UN Study Group Bulletin

Windmill Study Unit

Mr.F.Atkins,
35 Laxton Way,SITTINGBOURNE,
Kent,ME10 2QL.
JOURNAL: Not Known

West of England Thematic Society ** BTA Soc. Member

Mrs.M.Claydon
'Hazelhurst',Tiverton Road, BAMPTON,
Devon, EX16 9LJ.
JOURNAL: None

FROM THE LAST EXHIBITIONS

SEOUL'94

Jury Members :

G. Dahlvig (FIP-S), J.A. Hernan (E), B. Jimenez (F), Rhee (ROK), Liang Honggui (China), Malendowicz (PL), Lee (ROK) ; apprentices : I. Kaperlrud (NW), M. Rhodes (AUS), approved.

Gold Awards :

Hellsten (+), Zimmermann, Maas, Martin de Bustamante (+), Van den Bold, Germann, Van Tenac, Jorgensen, Berberat, Fuchs (+), Soares de Sa, Capucio.

FEPAPOST'94

Jury Members :

H.T. Siem (NL), W. Bosman (NL), L. Brendl (CZ), E. Brenzikofer (CH), W. Serres (L), M.M. Teixeira (P)

Gold Awards :

Van Deutekom (94)+, Maas (93), Lage (91)+, Moreno (91), Albe (90)+, Hellsten (90), Palleau (90).

The Thematic Guidelines recently published in the FIP Flash (yellow pages) are an obsolete version : the current one will be published in one of the coming issues.

LE SALON DU TIMBRE - PARIS 15-24 OCTOBER 1995 "THE EXHIBITION SHOW"

Between Philexfrance '89 and Philexfrance '99, the French Post-Office, the French Federation and the dealers wanted together to organize an intermediate exhibition, without competition : an exhibition not only for philatelists, but above all for people who are not familiar with philately in order to sensibilize them at this leisure activity.

After two years of preparation and after a great campaign of publicity, on the 15th October, the doors opened during 10 days at the Parc Floral de Vincennes.

This show was imagined as a new style exhibition. Stamps and philately were presented using a special museography with various animations (games were animated by TV stars), a strong-box, insolite discoveries in each room, mini conferences, fashion defile with stamps-made dresses... All were surprising, astonishing...

70,000 visitors discovered the genesis of stamps, how to collect, the different types of collection (specially thematic) and one hundred of stamps dealers and postal administrations coming from all Europe.

President, DN Jatie and Vice-President, Patrick Pearson of the F.I.P. were invited and they agreed to promote this new trend of exhibition where the leitmotiv is INNOVATION.

THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM IN LAUSANNE

The Olympic Museum in Lausanne opened its door on 23rd June 1992. It comprises displays related to the ancient games in Olympia, the revival of the Olympic Games, the history of the modern games and specialized displays on the summer and winter games and their winners. A special room is devoted solely to Olympic stamps and Olympic coins.

The museum also boasts an Olympic-sports library of 15,000 volumes, a historical research department and a vast photo library. In addition, the museum hosts regular temporary exhibitions covering everything from sports to highly artistic domains. This in line with the IOC President's wish to show that Olympism is the combination of sports and culture.

The museum is built on five levels, using environment-friendly construction techniques.

The philatelic area features several exhibits. The core of the area is the famous block-of-four collection of all existing Olympic stamps, the former property of IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch. The president donated his collection to the Olympic museum in 1989. A second part consists of prestigious philatelic documents related to the Olympic Summer Games. Another section, under the patronage of the Norwegian Philatelic Services, displays all philatelic documents relating to the Olympic Winter Games. Further sections are devoted to the PRIZ OLYMPIA stamp competitions, documents produced on the occasion of OLYMPHILEX exhibitions and all stamps issued on the occasion of Olympic anniversaries.

The entire area is supervised by the IOC philatelic department, part of FIPO and the Olympic Collectors Commission.

The philatelic department frequently organizes special exhibitions. Since 1992, these have included:

The Games of 1896

The Winter Games of 1924, 1928 and 1994

The football world cup

Young philatelists exhibit Olympic and sports stamps

The automobile

The IOC centennial stamps

In 1995, special exhibitions will be devoted to:

100 years of Hungarian Olympism

75 years since the Olympic Congress in Prague

Athletics world championships

The world final of the competition for young people to design an Olympic-sports stamp

The Games that were never celebrated (1916, 1940 and 1944)

The philatelic department also organizes meetings and seminars. The FIP Board and the Central Committee of the Swiss Federation met in Lausanne in 1994, and the Swiss Thematic Bureau has met there several times and also held its annual assembly. Youth monitors gathered at the Museum for a specialized course on thematic philately. The next working meeting of the FIP thematic commission bureau will meet in May 1995.

Manfred Bergman

NORDIA 95

The NORDIA exhibitions, open to members of the federations of the Nordic countries, have so far been exhibitions of traditional type with all the FIP classes and judged according to the FIP rules. The arrangements rotate between the five countries (i.e. 1992 Norway, 1993 Finland, 1994 Denmark, 1995 Sweden, 1996 Iceland) and the 1995 event takes place in Malmö, Sweden from 27 to 29 of October.

With a decrease of membership number as a background, the Swedish federation, sponsored by the Swedish Post, has decided to introduce a new concept for this exhibition with the purpose to attract new categories of visitors.

Nordia Open

The "old" classes will be present as usual, but they will be supplemented by a new class:

Nordia Open. "Open" means open to everybody living in the Nordic countries - no membership in federations or clubs is required - and no qualifications is demanded.

But "Open" also means a more open-minded view on the exhibited items - up to 50% of the material might be non-philatelic!

The new class will also be "modern". In two ways! To encourage the collecting of modern philately, at least 50% of the philatelic material must be from the last 20 years (the 10 year rule of Mophila salon is regarded as too narrow, limiting the collector too much). The class will also encourage modern ways of thinking within collecting. The exhibits will be judged by a special jury, which will use the following point scale:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Idea and Originality | 40 |
| Knowledge of the theme | 40 |
| Presentation | 20 |
| | 100 |

Note: not one single point is given for rarity! Quality will be taken into consideration within Presentation. Bad quality gives a bad appearance.

The exhibits might be traditional, Postal historical, thematic, etc...or a mixture, or something quite new. A traditional exhibit made the conventional way will get few points for Idea and Originality whereas on the other hand even the most modern material, treated in a original way, can make a good score.

The Knowledge can be philatelic or/and thematic, depending on the type of exhibit. Presentation has got high points as we want the exhibits to be attractive to the public. Furthermore, one of the jurors will be an artist.

The exhibits in the class will be awarded the same medals as the exhibits in the "traditional" classes and there will also be a special Grand Prix.

This might be surprising as the minimum number of frames is only two, but it shows that "modern" collecting is taken seriously and treated in the same way as the more traditional.

Nordia Postal

Also the official class for Postal Administrations etc, will be different. Normally all participants get the same medal (large vermeil), but at Nordia 95 the Official Class -Nordia Postal- will be judged by the rules of Nordia Open and will be awarded medals according to the judgements of the jury. Also for this class there will be a special Grand Prix.

By this step, the creativity of the Postal Administrations, the Postal Museums, etc..., will be challenged and hopefully result in exhibits with a more popular appeal.

Arrangements

However, the organizers don't believe that the general public will attend just because of the new classes and therefore the number of side-arrangements will be higher than usual. Fashion shows, introduction of new car models, a children's theatre, a golf driving range and lots of other events will attract families and other non-philatelists.

Those who have already "seen the light" will of course not be left without their fair share of attractions. Dealers will be there and auctions and seminars will be arranged.

The NORDIA 95 will be a great experiment and the Swedish Federation hopes that new exhibits as well as new categories of visitors will find their way to Malmö in October 1995. You are welcome to judge for yourself the success of this experiment.

Gunnar Dahlvig

OLYMPHILEX '96, ATLANTA

OLYMPHILEX '96, the sixth gathering of its kind, will take place in Atlanta from July 19th to August 3rd 1996.

Like the previous editions, OLYMPHILEX '96 will be the meeting point for the finest

Olympic and sports exhibits worldwide, in an FIP competition and a promotion class.

Olympilex '96 is placed under the auspices of FIP, with patronage from the IOC, FIPO and the Atlanta Committee for Olympic Games, and the collaboration of the American Philatelic Society.

The exhibition will be held in the Merchandise Mart, in the centre of Atlanta, and comprise 1,000 frames occupying an area of 5,000 square metres. Many postal administrations, led by the United States Postal Services, will be taking part.

This specialized exhibition will be a first in Olympic-sport philately. Indeed, OLYMPHILEX '92 in Barcelona, showed that Olympic-sport exhibits could not be displayed appropriately using the thematic class criteria only. Consequently, FIP President D.N. Jatia proposed to allow exhibits at Olympilex exhibitions to be shown according to the criteria of all FIP competitive classes, with the exception of the fiscal class.

The Organizing Committee is chaired by Nancy Clark, and Charles Petersen is the General Commissioner. Patrick Pearson and Maurizio Tecardi are the FIP and FIPO Coordinators.

For the first time, OLYMPHILEX '96 will share its venue with other Olympic collectibles. The site will also host Olympic numismatic and Olympic memorabilia displays, and the mobile display from the Olympic Museum in Lausanne will be there. The entire show will be coordinated by the IOC Olympic Collectors Commission.

Preparations started in 1992 and plans are on schedule. Philatelists interested in participating should feel free to request further information from :

in Europe

Maurizio Tecardi
FIPO Genral Secretary
24, Via del Alpinismo
Rome I-001

Overseas

Nancy CLark
PO Box 1996
Lexington, GA 30648 USA

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

No Thematic Class at Norway 97

After a discussion with the Norway Post, main sponsor of the exhibition, the area allocated to the Stamp Exhibition has been reduced and the space allocated will allow a maximum of 1500 frames for the competition class. The O.C. Secretary General, Paul H. Jensen, informed that as a consequence the Committee reluctantly decided to drop one of the classes ; in agreement with the FIP Coordinator, Patrick Pearson, the Thematic Class will not be shown in the exhibition.

25th Anniversary Of "Thematica" in Brazil

ABRAFITE, the magazine of the Brazilian National Thematic Association, was published for the first time in 1971 and has been published regularly with an average of 60 pages, 4 times a year. The delegate to our commission, Dr Ruben Reis Kley, director of "TEMATICA" since the beginning, has given high attention to the analysis of thematic concepts and the building of examples for experts. This magazine which has been indicated as the organ of the FIAF Thematic

Commission, present articles in Portuguese and English.

AFPT-CIFPT : Partnership at Themafrance IV

The French and Italian National Thematic Association will celebrate their partnership on the occasion of the national thematic exhibition Themafrance IV, in Nevers (Nièvre) from 15 to 17 September 1995. On this occasion, Nevers will host the "Prix Massari" for the exhibits devoted to the theme "Music".

International Seminar Of Thematic Philately at Sierra Nevada'95

The President of the Spanish Thematic Commission, Jose Antonio Hernan, coordinated the 1995 seminar, which continued the tradition of the participation of experts from abroad, started in Granada several years ago by Mario Bueno. The 1995 guest speakers were Dr. Manfred Bergman and Maurizio Tecardi.

1994 Stamp Day in Israel

The Commission's vice president, Gunnar Dahlvig was invited by the Israeli Federation to take part in the celebrations of the 1994 Stamp Day. This is an internal federation event at the Postal Museum for about 200 members.

The 1994 program included the issue of a new stamp and two seminars. The first was led by Yaakov Shabtai on the theme "Modern Philately" and the second was devoted to thematic philately and led by Gunnar Dahlvig. The day before and the day after the seminar about 20 thematic exhibitors also had a half hour discussion each with Gunnar about their collections.

Several Israeli thematic collectors exhibited at FEPAPOST but the results were met with great disappointment and the seminar and the discussions therefore were arranged as a mean to improve the exhibits at the great event in 1998 : ISRAEL 98.

Congratulations to Ludvik Malendowicz who has been elected President of the Polish Federation.

Handbook of Thematic Philately

The British Thematic Association is pleased to announce that the Handbook of Thematic Philately, originally written in Dutch by W.E. (Pim van den Bold) has now been translated into English and is available direct from James Bendon, PO Box 6484, Limassol, Cyprus for £22.50, including postage and packing. It is one of the most authoritative books on thematic philately to appear in many years, and deals in depth with the latest FIP rules governing this class in an easy-to-understand way. The British Thematic Association are proud that they were given the opportunity to be involved with this important work that should be on the bookshelf of every serious thematic philatelist.

Franceska Rapkin

A new presentation for education of jurors and exhibitors

On the occasion of the Congress in Seoul Dr. Morolli submitted to FIP a new presentation, which consists of about 50 pages intended for the preparation of transparent foils for overhead projection.

The presentation does not require any accompanying script, since its text follows the SREV and the Guidelines for the Evaluation of Thematic Exhibits. It can be used for education of collectors and jurors, since it covers all the different aspects of building an exhibit and of judging.

It is suitable for short as well as for long sessions. Depending on the audience and on the objectives of the seminar, it can be expanded with transparencies made from selected pages of exhibits, which normally are available to the national and international experts and jurors. Keeping the pages provided as the framework of the seminar, a suitable number of such illustrated foils can be positioned between these pages and used as examples or as a basis for a deeper discussion.

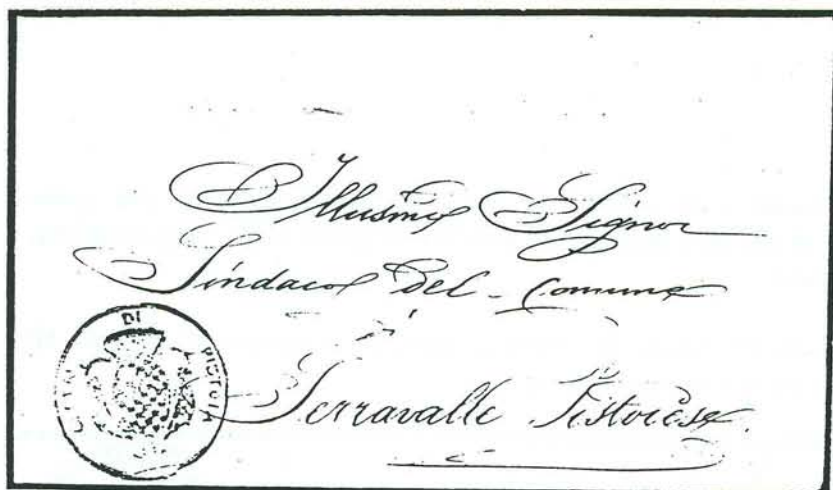
The presentation is also available as a Microsoft Word for Windows 2.0 file, so that it can be easily changed and/or translated in order to suit at best the presenter's needs. Delegates interested to receiving the presentation are requested to contact Dr. Morolli.

PROJECT THEMA-THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE

In the last thirty years thematic exhibitors have paid a great attention to postage free items, which very often belong to the "pre-philatelic" era, that because of their attractive appearance are often shown in order to catch the interest of the public and, hopefully, of the jurors. These notes intend to provide a simple guidance for a more informed acceptance of free postage items by the philatelists interested into this matter.

The franking privilege has been granted under different conditions in the various countries and has been changed over time. Items sent by religious orders, parishes, convents and other clerical organisations are among the most popular of this kind in thematic exhibits. These organisations enjoyed a postage free privilege for their official mail, as well as many government departments and other public administrative offices which originated other correspondence frequently shown by thematic exhibitors.

The first thing to look at is the presence of a postal mark, e.g. the date stamp cancellation; otherwise the letter could have been delivered by hand via a private carrier, without any involvement of the postal service. Items 1 and 2 do not have any mark attesting that they were carried by the post, i.e. there is no sign of having exploited the postal privilege they were entitled to. Since they do not demonstrate any actual postal qualification they are not to be presented in the exhibit.



1



2

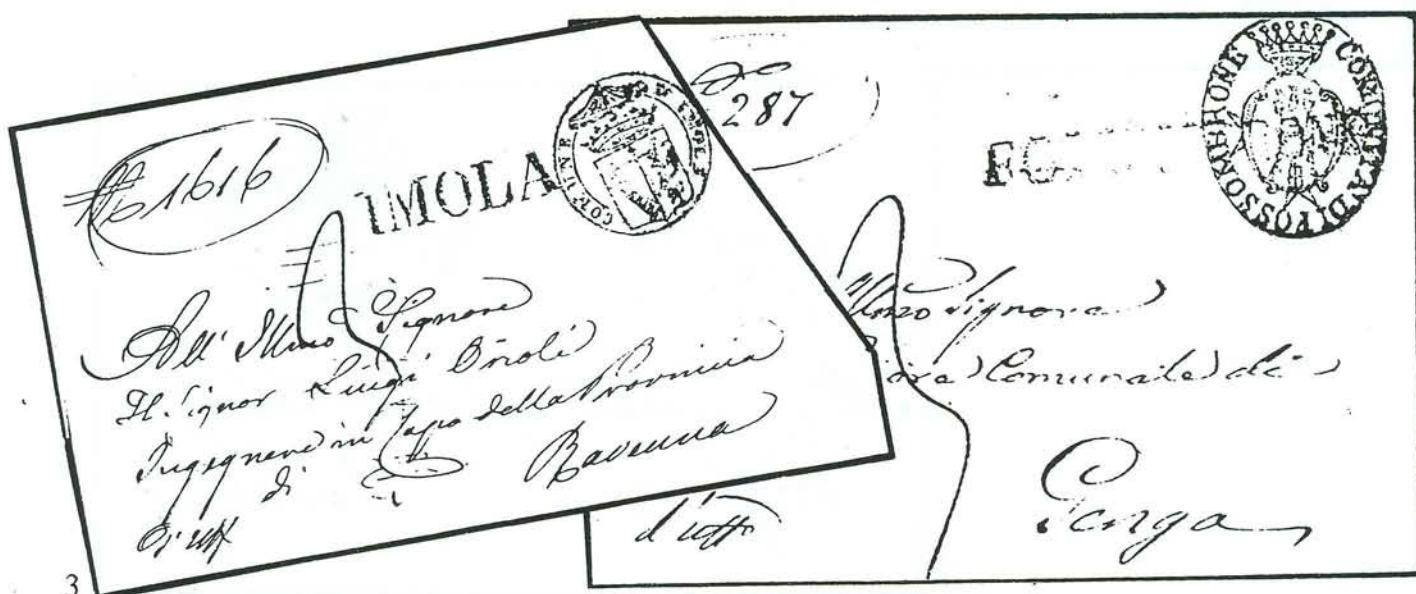
The second check relates to presence of a postage charge written in manuscript, denoting postage due from the recipient. Items 3 and 4 show that the addressee had no franking privilege and he was charged, in spite of the administrative cancellation of the sender, the special identification number and the abbreviation for "office mail" in the lower right corner of the document. These items are not postage free, hence their elements (administrative mark, sender, addressee) are of private nature and are not to be exploited for the development of the theme.

The following example of the Kingdom of Italy, to which the items shown refer, will clarify how postage free was regulated by the law and how it was managed by the postal service.

Vittorio Emanuele II, King of Italy, was compelled to enforce a law on 5 May 1862, with validity from 1 January 1863. The reason for the decision was very simple: many individuals used to go to their parish office and ask permission for sending, postage free, their private mail with the mark of the same office, thanks to the complaisance of the religious. With the new law the clerical privilege was abolished, but free postage was still granted to many public offices and organisations, with different regulations.

The main criteria governing the postage free were:

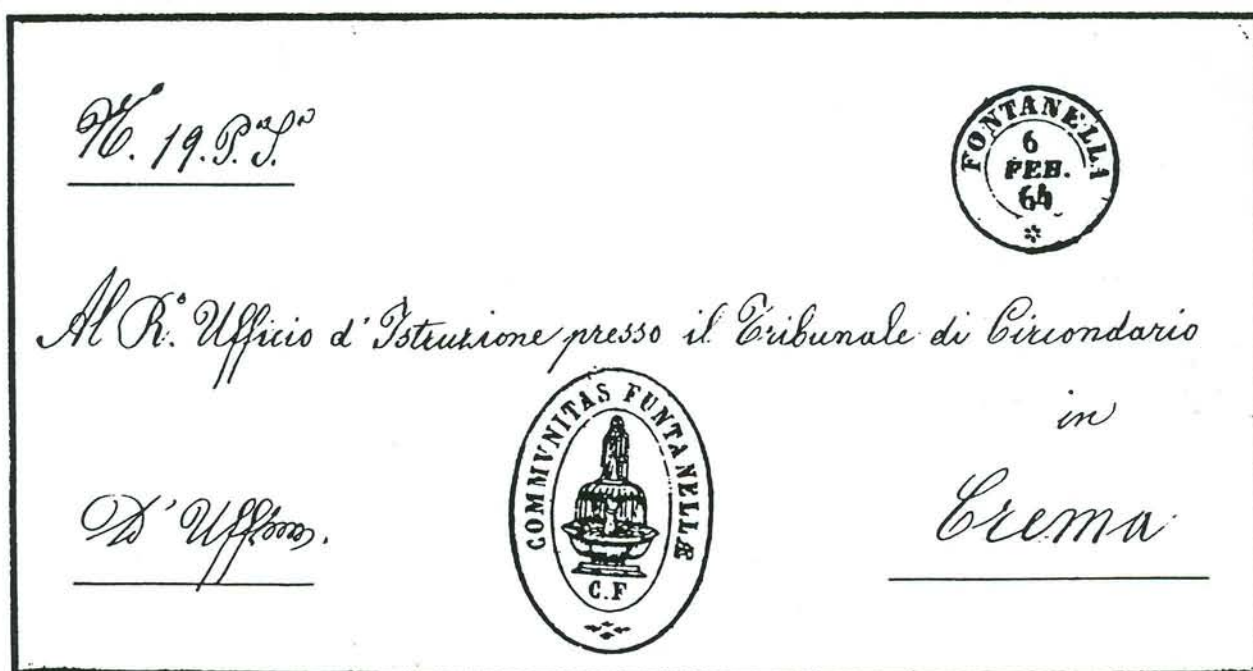
1. Mail could be sent free of postage only if the addressee was a government department or other public organisation/office or a person which was entitled, as a sender, to the same privilege. Depending on the organisation/office, postage free was allowed for some of these items:
 - Sealed letter (Lc)
 - Sealed packet (Pc)
 - Wrapped letter (Lf)
 - Wrapped packet (Pf)
2. The franking privilege was allowed only inside the area of jurisdiction of the same organisations/offices; in case one of the two parties had a different geographic responsibility, the larger one was considered as valid.
3. Only some offices/organisations were entitled to put their identifying administrative mark; all the others were compelled to write the information by hand.



In January 1864 special billboards were displayed at the post offices, informing about the privileges of the offices or organisations entitled to free postage under the new law. Their structure was as in the following example:

| <i>Sender Office/Organisation & relevant Chief</i> | <i>Recipient Office/Organisation and relevant Chief</i> | <i>Type of items</i> | <i>Area of privilege</i> |
|--|---|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Commander of Battalion of the National Guard | Local Commander of the National Guard | Lc Pf | District |
| | Prefect (representative of the Government in the provinces) | Lc Pc | Kingdom |
| | Town Major | Lc Pf | District |

Item like 5 is perfect for a thematic exhibit, since they comply with all the requirements above stated: both the sender and the addressee have the postage free right, and there is a clear postal date stamp.



5

A final comment: some times these stampless items are described as "pre philatelic" ones even if a more thorough analysis would show a date attesting that these items are younger than the first adhesive stamps in that specific country.

GIANNI BERTOLINI

(revised version from NOTIZIARIO TEMATICO CIFT)