

TCNews

BULLETIN OF THE FIP THEMATIC COMMISSION

N. 14 – JULY 2002

FOREWORD

Twenty-five years ago, on February 1977, Frans de Troyer passed away. In the six years he run the Commission he achieved two basic results, which paved the way for the current status of thematic philately. First, he obtained to stop the discrimination of thematic exhibits at the FIP exhibitions, expressed by the "T" engraved on the medals of our class and by the exclusion of thematic jurors in the voting for the grand Prix of the exhibitions. He was able to achieve it by giving full evidence to the philatelic essence of thematic philately and by having the activities of thematic jurors recognized for competence and sense of responsibility. Furthermore, he was the first to set up an international specialized exhibition, Themabega 75, that called in Brussels most of the leading thematic experts from all over the world.

After his death we were committed to continue his effort, according to his original plans. He was already working with the South American delegates; in a continent where thematic philately had many pioneers and has hosted TEMEX 61. Thanks to the Argentinean and Brazilian Federations, from 1979 to 1985 four FIP exhibitions, of which two thematic ones, enabled converging towards a common understanding of the principles of thematic philately and establishing a very solid working relationship. In 1981 I was invited to the annual TOPEX, hosted in Chicago, and through presentations and talks I was able to illustrate the FIP vision of thematic philately, capitalizing on the activities of those US experts who had been already involved in our Commission. In a short time there was a convergence on these concepts and a full

IN THIS ISSUE:

Foreword	1
The FIP Thematic Commission	2
Conference of the Commission	5
Report of the Conference 2001	6
Report of the Bureau 2001	7
Team-Leaders Seminar	8
News from the U.P.U.	9
What is wrong with Thematic Exhibits?	10

cooperation between the ATA and the APS was established, which has been very beneficial for our Commission as well. In the same timeframe D.N. Jatia had offered us a wonderful opportunity for presenting thematic philately to the Asian collectors at India 80. The seminars at Philakorea and Ausipex 84 were fundamental for our goals; the growing number of exhibitions in the area and the synergy established with the Australian experts has resulted in thematic philatelic flourishing in many countries of that region. So Frans de Troyer's objective towards globalisation was accomplished and now it is our task to improve the mutual knowledge and understanding.

**Philakorea 2002,
August 6th at 16.00**

THEMATIC SEMINAR
Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel

In reaching this objective we did not forget the obligation of helping thematic exhibits to grow and to reach the highest standards. Gunnar Dahlvig made some statistics showing the formal gap that still exist with the other classes and we discussed his conclusions and suggestions, enlarging the scope of analysis and of the relevant discussion. There is still some work to do and I am addressing this subject in another article. But the fact that at Belgica 2001 a thematic exhibit was a runner-up for the Grand Prix International, in addition to the many exhibits which qualified for the Championship Class, documents the qualitative progress of thematic philately.

Over this period, many friends, delegates or outsiders, provided a lot of suggestions and help. I am deeply convinced that our achievements are the result of a common effort and I would like to name each one of the contributors, but is too difficult; and certainly I would forget somebody. But I must thank Manfred Bergman, who was in the Bureau for almost the whole period, until Madrid; he supported every initiative and development he was involved, and was very collaborative for my work as Commission's chairman.

Our future is not easy: every one of us knows the difficulties for organizing exhibitions, not only at world level. The number of persons interested in thematic philately seems to be stagnating, if not declining, at least in the traditional countries where thematic philatelic took off. Fortunately, we have new countries,

which are bringing in new philatelists with enthusiasm and capabilities. Hence, we have to stimulate new initiatives for revitalizing the hobby and, at the same time, for supporting the growth where there is potential. So we must be innovative and competent, consistent and proactive. The rule of jurors will be even more critical and in this respect we had a very constructive meeting in Bonn for establishing a guidance as far as judging is concerned. We have to pursue our new objective in synch with the FIP, by supporting the various initiatives like the Nation's Cup and the World Championship. Our support begins at home, by working in the national Federation for creating the conditions for the participation to these events at international level. Furthermore, other initiatives, like the One Frame Exhibit, the Open Class, and other type of competitions aimed at recruiting new exhibitors and stimulating the current ones to develop new exhibits, have their roots at national level.

We must perform our activities with enthusiasm and commitment. In this respect I wish to remember Franceska Rapkin, her dedication, her friendship as well as her competence. I remember the strong will and joy of life that she was showing, as usual, at the seminar at Hafnia. When Franceska and I chatted at the Palmares, we spoke about thematic philately and its development, even if both of us knew that most likely that would have been our last meeting.

Giancarlo Morolli

THE FIP THEMATIC COMMISSION

In the next pages we publish the list of the Delegates to the Commission, that consists of 65 delegates. San Marino is no longer a member of the FIP.

Federations, which have not yet a representative in our Commission, are invited to establish a contact and start planning to appoint a delegate on a permanent basis.

Delegates are strongly invited to report any change of address (e-mail as well) and to send their e-mail contact, if not listed.

Some of the updates have been deducted from other sources; hence, errors or inconsistencies should be reported immediately.

*New or updated information are in **bold**.*

ALBANIA
Juli Daragjati
Viale Barce 19/6
47812 Torre Pedrera (RN)
Italy

ARGENTINA
Nestor Ferre'
Casilla Correo 115
1000 Buenos Aires
Argentina
suque@netizen.com.ar

ARMENIA
Souren Arakelov
UPA - P.O. Box 50
375010 Yerevan
Armenia

AUSTRALIA
John Sinfield
P.O. Box 548
Heathmont Vic 3135
Australia
johnsinfield@smartchat.net.au

AUSTRIA
Peter Riedl
Natorpgasse 61
A-1220 Wien
Austria
peter.riedl@chello.at

BELGIUM
Marc Collage
Stratendries 101
B-9572 Lierde
Belgium

BOLIVIA
Eugenio von Boeck
Fed. Filatelica Boliviana,
Ap.do Postal 3280
La Paz
Bolivia

BRAZIL
Ruben Reis Kley
Av. Rebouças 1164 - Apto 55
BR 01065 - 000 Sao Paulo, SP
Brazil

BULGARIA
Christo Nikoltchev
Union des Philatelistes Bulgares,
P.O. Box 662
BG-1000 Sofia
Bulgaria

CANADA
Frank Alusio
331 Rathburn Rd
Etobicoke, Ont. M9B 2L9
Canada
pugliareview@sympatico.ca

CHILE
Ricardo G. Boizard
c/o Sociedad Filatelica de Chile,
Casilla 13245
Santiago de Chile
Chile

CHINA
Liang Hong-Gui
All China Philatelic Federation,
27 Dong Chang an St.
Beijing
China

CHINESE TAIPEI
Shou-I Chu
7F, No. 298 Minchuan E.Rd.,
Sec. 6
Taipei 114
Chinese Taipei

COSTA RICA
Luis Fernando Diaz
P.O.Box 45
2150 Moravia
Costa Rica
lfidiaz@cariari.ucr.ac.cr

CUBA
Fernando L. Fabregas Rodriguez
Federacion Filatelica Cubana,
Apartado 2222
Habana 2, CP 10200
Cuba

CYPRUS
Andreas Eliades
Asantos Str. 16
CY 1082 Nicosia
Cyprus

CZECH REP.
Lumir Brendl
U Jam 19
CZ - 323 24 Plzeň
Czech Rep.
svetla.brendlova@atlas.cz

DENMARK
Frode Vesterby-Knudsen
Finlandsvej 15
DK 9500 Hobro, Denmark
f.vesterby@oncable.dk

EGYPT
Amhed Hamed
Philatelic Society of Egypt,
P.O.Box 142
Cairo
Egypt

ESTONIA
Rein-Karl Loide
E. Vilde tee 52-9
13421 Tallinn
Estonia
KARL@edu.ttu.ee

FINLAND
Eero Hellsten
PL 9
SF 11101 Riihimachi
Finland
eero.hellsten@pp.inet.fi

FRANCE
Bernard Jimenez
43, rue de Bitche
F 81000 Albi, France
b.m.jimenez@wanadoo.fr

GERMANY
Damian Laege
Buchzelgstr. 21
CH 8053 Zurich, Switzerland
dlaege@allgpsy.unizh.ch

GREAT BRITAIN
Christine Earle
Ashurst, Green Road
Thorpe, Surrey, TW20 8QS
Great Britain
chris@earle3.freemove.co.uk

GREECE
Pandelis Leoussis
V. Agiou Dimitriou 12-14
GR 14452 Metamorfosi - Athens
Greece
pleous@x-treme.gr

HONG KONG
S. Chan
G.P.O. Box 446
Hong Kong, Hong Kong

HUNGARY
Peter Kallos
MABEOSZ, P.O. Box 4
H 1387 Budapest
Hungary
kallos@smatte.hu

ICELAND

Gudni Fr. Arnason
Mariubakka 26
IS 109 Reykjavik
Iceland
gudnifr@tal.is

INDIA

Rameshwardas Binani
33-B, Rowland Road
Kolkata 700 020
 India
pmbinani@yahoo.com

INDONESIA

F.X. Kurnadi
 Jl. Kedoya Akasia Raya Blok B
 10 No. 23
 Jakarta 11520, Indonesia

IRAN

Joussef Babhoud
 6-28 Andisheh - 1 Str., Behesti
 Ave
 Teheran 15697
 Iran

IRELAND

Geoffrey McAuley
 24 Nutley Ave., Donnybrook
 Dublin 4, Ireland
mcauleyg@indigo.ie

ISRAEL

Menachem Lador
 P.O.Box 23477
 IL 91 234 Jerusalem
 Israel
ladorm@zahav.net.il

ITALY

Giancarlo Morolli
C.P. 83 - Seconda Strada, 12
 I 20090 Segrate (Mi), Italy
giancarlo.morolli@fastwebnet.it

JAPAN

Tsugumi Shirai
 Sun Select 105, 3-35-8 Shin-
 Isjikawa
 Aoba-ku, Yokohama 225
 Japan

LUXEMBURG

Willy Serres
 27 rue de Hunsdorf
 L 7359 Lorentzweiler
 Luxembourg

LYBIA

Mohamed Ali Siala
 P.O.B. 2411
 Tripoli
 Libya

MALAYSIA

C. Nagarajah
 P.O.Box 11748 G.P.O.
 50756 Kuala Lumpur
 Malaysia

MALTA

Godwin Said
 43/2 Zachary Street
 Valletta
 Malta

NEPAL

S. Shyam Prasad Nucha
 Pradhan
 G.P.O. Box 2265
 Katmandu
 Nepal
bhanupr@wlink.com.np

NETHERLANDS

Anton van Deutekom
 Bernhardlaan 4
 NL-6226 BH Maastricht
 Netherlands
Anton.vanDeutekom@PO.UNIMAAS.NL

NEW ZEALAND

Doug South
 P.O. Box 20
 Wakefield, Nelson
 New Zealand
tuiville@xtra.co.nz

NORWAY

Ingolf Kapelrud
 Sjøraakveien 1
 N 4070 Randaberg
 Norway
ikapelru@online.no

PARAGUAY

Teresa Pintos
 P.O. Box 852
 Asuncion
 Paraguay

PERU

Fernando Diaz
 Luis Felipe Villaran 712
 Lima 27
 Peru

PHILIPPINES

Larry N. Carino
 27 R. Alvero St., Xavierville
 Subd.
 1108 Quezon City
 Philippines

POLAND

Antoni Kurczinsky
 Polsky Związek Filatelistow, Al. 3
 Maja 12
 PL 00391 Warszawa
 Poland

PORTUGAL

Antonio Dionisio Silva Gama
 Av. Marconi, 16 - r/c E
 P 1000 Lisboa
 Portugal

REP. OF KOREA

Sang-Woon Park
 K.P.O. Box 1636
 Seoul 110
 Rep. of Korea

ROMANIA

Dan Dobrescu
 Sos. Stefan cel Mare Nr 4 Bl 14
 sc B al 3 ap 47
 R 71133 Bucuresti 63
 Romania
dand@mtilgroup.ro

RUSSIA

Oleg V. Poljakov
 Union of Philatelists of Russia,
 12 Twerskaya St.
 103 831 Moscow GSP-3
 Russia
oleg@inteco.ru

SAUDI ARABIA

Yousuf Agel
Saudi Arabian Philatelic
Society, P.O.Box 9852
Jeddah 21423
Saudi Arabia

SINGAPORE

Tan Ngai Chuan
Blk 8, Hougang St 92, #13-04
Regentville 538686
Singapore
tnchuan@mbox4.singnet.com.sg

SLOVAKIA
Peter Osusky
Heydukova 1
SQ-811 08 Bratislava
Slovakia

SLOVENIA
Peter Suhadolc
Postno Lezece
SI 6210 Sezana
Slovenia
suhadolc@dst.univ.trieste.it

SOUTHERN AFRICA
Moira Bleazard
P.O.Box 12191
Benoryn 1504
Southern Africa
bleaz@worldonline.co.za

SPAIN
José Ramon Moreno
Tabladilla, 2 (Edificio "Bekinsa")
E 41013 Sevilla
Spain
josr_moreno@yahoo.com

SWEDEN
Gunnar Dahlvig
Danska Vagen 2
S 31232 Laholm, Sweden
gdahlvig@everyday.com
mail2.calypso.net

SWITZERLAND
Ursula Kue
Route Bel-Air 13
CH-1723 Marly
Switzerland
kuenziupmarly@bluewin.ch

THAILAND
Phairot Jiraprasertkul
Philatelists Associations of
Thailand, 253 Rajvithi Road,
Dusit, Bangkok 10300
Thailand

TURKEY
Erol Tugcu
ibni Sina Cad. Saglam Sitesi A
Blok D.37
81481 Pendik - Istanbul,
Turkey

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Omer Malik Ahmed
Director, Alig Gallery, PO Box
3662
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
omarch@emirates.net.ae

URUGUAY
Herman C. Kruse
Enrique Turrini 970
Montevideo 11.700
Uruguay

U.S.A.
Ann M. Trigg
4865 Spaulding Drive
Clarence, New York 14031
U.S.A.
atriggle@buffalo.edu

VENEZUELA
Ignacio Martinello S.
Apartado Chacao N. 61082
Caracas 1060-A
Venezuela
firejack@cantv.net

Conference of the Commission Seoul, Thursday 8 August 2002

Delegates are invited to attend the Conference of the Thematic Commission, which will be held in Seoul, on Thursday 8 August, from 10.00 to 11.45, at the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel - second floor, with the following agenda:

First Session – Business Meeting

1. Roll call of Delegates
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting in Copenhagen (*published on next page*)
3. Report of the Chairman
4. Program of the Commission 2002-2004
5. Miscellaneous.

Second Session – Questions and Answers

This session should give all delegates, and mainly those unable to attending the Commission meetings on a regular basis, the opportunity of asking questions on subjects of general interest. Of course proposals or comments concerning the activities of the Commission should be presented in the Business session.

Report of the Conference of the F.I.P. Thematic Commission, Copenhagen, 19th October 2001

1. Roll call of delegates

Giancarlo Morolli welcomed the 14 delegates present and greeted Peter Kallos (Hungary), invited as observer. Franceska Rapkin and Lumir Brendl were excused.

2. Approval of the report of the Chairman

The report was unanimously approved by the delegates.

3. Chairman's Report

- Delegates: After a minute of silence to honour the memory of D.N. Jatia, Ed Druce and Jose-Antonio Hernan who passed away in the last months, the Chairman informed the delegates that 64 Federation had appointed a delegate to the Commission, including the two new delegates, Anton van Deutekom, from Netherlands and Oleg V. Poljakov from Russia.

He congratulated José-Ramon Moreno, recently elected secretary general of the FEPA and who was co-opted in the Bureau after he was appointed delegate from Spain.

- U.P.U.: The chairman informed the delegates that the U.P.U. asked support from the commission to fight illegal issues. He was authorised to send the e-mail addresses of the delegates to the U.P.U.
- SREV and Guidelines: He made some comments about the new guidelines and pointed out that the clear position about fiscals presented in the last TC News has been accepted very positively.

- Thematic groups: The Bureau started a new list to be published at the beginning as soon as the Commission's Internet site will be built.
- Exhibitions: The evolution of the FIP and continental exhibitions for the coming years is not positive: general exhibitions with all classes will be less and less numerous and continental exhibitions will not fill the gap entirely. For that reason, FIP intends to start with the World Championship Class. In the thematic class there will be three categories: culture, technology and nature. The relevant continental federation will select eight competitive exhibits from the each continent.
- Judging: There are many issues on the consistency of judging through the exhibitions as well as in relations with the other classes. To reach a common approach, a seminar for team leaders will be held in Bonn from April 11 to April 14, 2002.

Chairman Morolli then informed the Commission about a report to the FIP Board about "feedback to the exhibitors" and stressed the need to continue the education program.

4. Next Conference

- The delegates agreed to have the next Conference of the Commission in Seoul, on the occasion of Philakorea 2002.

Bernard Jimenez, Secretary

Giancarlo Morolli, Chairman

Meeting of the Bureau of the F.I.P. Thematic Commission, Copenhagen, 18-21 October 2001

The meeting was attended by all Bureau members, with the exception of Mrs. Ann Triggles, who was excused.

1. SREV and Guidelines

The status of the text was reviewed and minor corrections agreed (*see below*). Furthermore the following initiatives were discussed:

- "Illustrated" Guidelines
- Self-Assessment Guide

2. Education program

A scheme for education at international level, aimed at exhibitors and jurors, was discussed in depth.

3. New FIP Exhibitions

The Bureau was requested to define a list of themes belonging to each of the following World Championship categories: Culture, Nature, and Technology.

Giancarlo Morolli informed about the Nation's Cup in Finland, as he was involved in setting up the Italian participation.

The various members reported on initiatives concerning new types of exhibitions in their area.

4. Seminars and Delegates informal Meetings at coming exhibitions

A Seminar should be held at Philakorea and, hopefully, also at Amphilex in spite of the short timeframe of the exhibition.

5. Jurors & Team Leaders

The situation of the FIP lists was discussed and there was a request to discuss with the FIP Board the situation, due to the very long list of

thematic jurors. New rules for second qualification were also considered.

6. Team Leaders Seminar in Bonn

Damian Laege was invited to continue with the arrangements for a Seminar to be held in Bonn in April 2002. A draft of the agenda was agreed as well as the organisation criteria.

7. Thematic Groups

The status of the input received was analysed. Some data are still not available and a consolidation will be made as soon as feasible.

8. Internet – Commission site

The problem is to find a reliable source, no cost, willing to commit for at least two years. The point is to build the site as well as to keep it constantly up-to-date.

9. TC News

The need for timely articles of general interest was stressed once again by the Chairman.

Correction to the Guidelines

Under "4.1.1. Title and Plan", last paragraph, there are some redundant words, to be deleted (struck through in the following text):

- Balanced: The same importance should be given to the different sections in accordance with the thematic significance and the available material. ~~coverage of all major aspects necessary to develop the theme.~~

TCNews is published by the
FIP Thematic Commission
Chairman: Dr. Ing. Giancarlo Morolli
C.P. 83 - Seconda Strada 12, I 20090 Segrate (MI) Italy;
Vice Chairman: Dr. Damian Laege;
Secretary: Bernard Jimenez
TCNews is distributed thanks to the
Fédération Française des Associations Philatéliques

Team-Leaders Seminar & informal Meeting of the Bureau of the F.I.P. Thematic Commission, Bonn, 10-13 April 2002

The Seminar for Team Leaders was de facto a meeting of the Bureau. The presence of Knud Mohr, Eliseo Otero and Lumir Brendl from the FIP Board as well as of Ingolf Kapelrud, José Ramon Moreno and Joergen Joergensen from the FEPA Board allowed a wide exchange of information and ideas on the major topics of the moment. In particular it was discussed the status of the UPU WNS and defined the first steps of the publications for the education of exhibitors and collectors, including the preparation of a guidebook for thematic philately based on regulations and examples.

The Seminar was led by Damian Laege with a large contribution of the attendees. The discussion was coordinated by Giancarlo Morolli. The following topics were covered:

1. Judging Methodology
2. How to allot points in the spirit of the new SREV?
 - < development: Finding more objective ways to apply the guidelines on this field
 - < innovation
 - < thematic knowledge
 - < condition: How should we distinguish between traditional and modern material?
3. How to allot points in the spirit of the new SREV?
 - < rarity: scales of importance of several sorts of material (proofs and essays, fancy cancellations)
 - < When to allot maximum for points for a criterion?

4. Appropriateness of material
 - < guideline of appropriateness for stationery
 - < borderline material: How to act when facing stationery with additional private prints, Patriotic covers etc.
 - < different attitudes of improper material: degree of tolerance versus limit
 - < handling of forgeries
5. How to judge exhibits on organizations?
 - < illustrated talk by Joachim Maas and discussion of an UPU exhibit displayed.
 - < illustrated talk by Aloys Fürstenberg and discussion of a Red Cross exhibit displayed
6. How to reach consistency with judging?
 - < discussion of Gunnar's comments on award levels
 - < How to reach consistency between a) jury teams, b) exhibitions, c) exhibition classes?
7. Feedback to the exhibitor

The discussion enabled preparing a scheme for allocating points to the different criteria to be used as guidance by jurors.

Damian Laege is preparing a detailed report with the definitions and the methodologies developed in the meeting. Also the presentations used at the meeting will be circulated in the same context.



NEWS FROM THE U.P.U.

I have received the following letter from Ms. Libera, Programme Manager, Markets Development at the Directorate of Communications and Markets, International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union in Bern:

Dear Partners in Philately,

As you have undoubtedly already heard and read, the Universal Postal Union has introduced the WNS (the WADP Numbering System), to be applied as of 1 January 2002 to the stamps issued by the postal administrations of the UPU member countries. The stamps are being received at the headquarters of the UPU, are numbered and information about them is subsequently being made available to the public. Attached you will find a press release in both English and French which provides additional details about the WNS system. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries about the WNS or any other philatelic matter that you wish to bring to our attention.

e-mail: maria.libera@upu.int
UPU Website - <http://upu.int/>

The letter was accompanied by the following press information:

Support lining up for UPU's new stamp control system

(Berne, Switzerland, 5 March 2002)

More than 70 postal administrations have already joined the Universal Postal Union's new stamp control system that is aimed at combatting unauthorised stamp issues. The initiative has also received support from major international philatelic bodies within the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) which operates under the auspices of the UPU. Known as the

WADP Numbering System (WNS), it is aimed at strengthening the position of authenticated postage stamps while at the same time protecting the interests of stamp issuing countries, stamp collectors, philatelists and the stamp trade.

The new numbering system applies to all stamps issued by participating countries on or after 1 January 2002. All new stamps, stamp sets, souvenir sheets and sheetlets submitted to the UPU by these countries since the beginning of 2002, are allocated a unique number to facilitate the creation of a universal stamp inventory. The unique number includes the ISO Alpha 2-letter country code. The scanned stamps, together with a brief description and the WNS numbers, will be made available to all interested parties, including Posts, catalogue producers, the philatelic trade and philatelists.

The new system will further act as a central register of authentic issues against which stamp issues can be verified. It is, however, not intended to replace stamp numbering systems of stamp catalogues, but rather to complement them by allowing easier recognition of the legitimate issues.

The UPU envisages that more postal administrations will join the numbering system as it develops in the months to come. Stamps without a WNS number could in future be banned from international exhibitions. The International Federation of Philately (FIP) is already considering such measures and other philatelic organizations are expected to follow.

Recent years have seen an increase in postage stamps produced without the knowledge or authorization of legitimate countries, or in the name of territories which do not qualify for the issuing of postage stamps, or which simply do not exist. The

sale of unauthorized stamps not only defrauds collectors, but can lead to severe losses in revenue for postal administrations.

Knud Mohr is personally engaged in supporting this program and reported to the Bureau in Bonn that the number of Postal

Administration joining the program is increasing every day. He asked to provide a list of codes for themes to be associated to the new stamps. I provided a comprehensive, structured list, which I hope to review and finalize as soon as possible. Then I will publish them in TCNews.

What's wrong with thematic exhibits? (4)

Gunnar Dahlvig has repeatedly presented the results of thematic exhibits at FIP international exhibitions and compared them with those of the other classes. Even if I have asked delegates for comments on every occasion, their number and content has been very limited; on the other way Gunnar's articles were republished in a number of national magazines. I would expected a larger contribution from the delegates, who are supposed to contribute to the life of the Commission and bring their comments and suggestions any time they are requested for. (On the contrary, I have even to chase their new addresses, after a mail or an e-mail message has been returned to me...).

Thematic exhibits are strongly based on the personal effort of the exhibitors. These exhibits are very seldom on sale. Few exhibitors sold their exhibits after a very successful career, sometimes to get the resources for starting new exhibits of the same level. In these cases as well as whenever items from good thematic exhibits went for sale, they were dispersed through the various philatelic classes, and many items returned (unfortunately for us) to the classes they belong due to their philatelic nature.

Also because of that, new entries in our class could be weaker than in the other classes. New entries in other classes capitalize immediately on the material acquired in bulk from other exhibits and are likely to jump at the same level of the previous exhibits, even if no significant personal work was added.

Gunnar has highlighted a malaise that cannot be cared just by embedding a kind of bonus, as a lift-up, in our evaluations. That will discredit thematic philately and bring us back to the age of the "T" on the medals.

The new approach of Jurors

I believe that the first commitment of a juror is to be realistic, that means to make decisions in the frame of the real situation. For instance, an exhibit is composed of at least 80 pages, that means about 200 items. Some of them are straight; some imply some (or much) study of the exhibitor, original or available in known sources. Hence, the wrong presentation of one or two item cannot be taken as evidence of an overall poor knowledge. It must be taken into account, but not exaggerated, as the evaluation of a criterion is always an average, logical rather than mathematical. Errors are not to be overemphasized.

Jurors must be more positive towards the exhibitor. In case of doubt, they should always give confidence to the exhibitor, Doubts should be addressed by asking the opinion of other recognized experts (fully respecting confidentiality of jury work) and, if not resolved, the case should be studied after the show for personal improvement. In case doubts were justified, the exhibitor should be informed in a friendly way, so next time he/she would not be disappointed.

The approach based on "penalisation", which is not considered in the regulations, should be replaced by looking at the amount of positive

work of the exhibitor, great or little as it can be.

The maximum of points should be always given when deserved, to acknowledge "outstanding" performances. What represents the best of breed today should be adequately recognized. Tomorrow it could get lower marks, as higher standards are set in the exhibits. Frans de Troyer was saying that his famous "Madonna", gold in 1968, would have been vermeil in 1973....

In this respect I fully agree with Gunnar's remark on the fact that presentation of thematic exhibits is not inferior (and quite often superior) to the other classes.

Double counting, i.e. considering the same facts in different criteria, should be strictly avoided. That is valid for any criterion, but especially for philatelic knowledge, that should be analysed independently from rarity (no bias, please).

Rarity should be evaluated considering the real sense of difficulty of acquisition. In spite of the global offers on the Internet & Co, in some countries there is a commercial (and sometimes cultural) obstacle for acquiring items, which are not very rare in other parts of the globe.

In a nutshell, the best way to recognize Gunnar's effort was to bring it as point for discussion in the Bureau of the Commission, adding a concurrent comment: the claims of a number of thematic exhibitors about inconsistencies between evaluations at different exhibitions.

The environment for discussion was very appropriate as the weekend seminar was entirely devoted to judging matters. Team leaders were at the same time teachers and students and it is now their task to spread the conclusions to jurors any time they are called for leading a jury team. Damian Laege, who,

will document the decisions and prepare the material.

In Bonn we developed schemes for giving points so that jurors will be guided to apply a uniform tool and methodology. This should also decrease the exposure to personal interpretations of individual jurors that, anyway, should be always filtered by team leaders on the fly. A jury is always based on teamwork, and teamwork means at the same time synergy and compromise.

Tasks of the exhibitors

I am convinced that the attention to the many possibilities offered by philatelic material has been overemphasized, and, also because of that, often thematic development has been left behind. Damian Laege and myself addressed this subject in our seminar at Hafnia.

Many new types of items have been originated recently, in the spirit of new business processes and services of the postal administrations. They normally comply with the definition of philatelic material, but this is not the point. When an exhibitor has to select, as I said, 200 items, is he/she really sure that these new items fall among the best ones (thematically and philatelically)? Sometimes the thematic contribution on a major point is achievable only this way, but very often the same content could be found on better, less fancy, items.

I addressed this subject in a previous TCNews, but still I have many requests for clarification. Unfortunately some jurors seem to have contributed in this sense, especially on the subject of totally private postal stationery. This means for both, jurors and exhibitors, to improve their understanding of philatelic priorities and, at the same time, of the degree of freedom of the exhibitor.

Exhibitors should realize the need for a better philatelic justification of philatelic items, especially those closer to, or on the borderline.

Sometimes a personal "divertissement" of the author, well integrated in the development, but based on a borderline item is taken by jurors as a mistake due to inadequate philatelic explanation of the same!

Many exhibitors should take more time to rethink the exhibit, rather than trying to show it at every international event.

If they talk to the jurors or receive a written assessment, they should consider it carefully. At the end, only the exhibitor is the owner of his/her theme, has the better knowledge, and has in mind goals, expectations. Other persons can contribute, challenge, correct, suggest... but at the end is only one who has the capabilities and the task to analyse, accept, reject, digest the input received: the exhibitor. A mechanical transposition of the suggestions from other sources is very risky.

Many exhibitors ignore, de facto, the Guidelines; on the contrary they could be used as an helpful checklist before finalizing the

exhibit. Others (and some jurors too, unfortunately) consider them as a more detailed version of the SREV. Guidelines are supposed to give guidance, not to introduce additional rules!

Finally, exhibitors should be encouraged to attend international exhibitions. I know that for some of them it is very difficult, but the geographical spread of the shows is such that it should be easier to find an event closer to the own country. Several other exhibitors and collectors are in front of the frames willing to exchange opinions. Browsing through the catalogue enables identifying exhibits, even on very different subjects, which could display facts or material of interest, in the thematic as well in other classes, in addition to a variety of approaches on development and presentation. Exhibits should always be looked at in a positive way, to recognize the effort of the exhibitor rather than his/her sins. And often attending a seminar is very useful.

Giancarlo Morolli

The Thematic Commission at Philakorea 2002

6 August, at 16.00: Thematic Seminar

8 August, at 09.00: Meeting of the Bureau

8 August, at 10.00: Commission Conference

at the Sheraton Walker Hill Hotel, Seoul