

Presents: Bergman, Bosserhoff, Dahlvig, Hernan, Jimenez, Morolli, Mrs Rapkin and, as invited guests, Collage (B) and Siem (NL).

1. Introduction

The President of the Commission thanked the French Federation and its President, Robert Deroy, for the generous and friendly hospitality offered to the Bureau.

Then he gave an update about the new appointment of Delegates; as a result of the admission of new Federations to FIP the Commission consists now of 56 delegates. Dr. Morolli introduced M. Collage, the new representative of Belgium, who informed about the organisation of thematic philately in his country.

Some new delegates, like the one from Albania, expressed their desire to build a philatelic library in the country.

Action: The Bureau asked the President to submit a proposal to the attention of FIP for its talks with the other philatelic organisations, first of all the publishers (ASCAT) and the Postal Administrations.

2. Working Program of the Commission

Dr. Morolli apologised for the discontinuity in his activity due to personal reasons and asked a better cooperation from everybody, in order to execute the planned activities according to schedule. The status of each of the activities was discussed and the relevant action plan modified, as described hereafter.

3. New Trends in Philately

G. Dahlvig reported the results of a survey among the delegates. The discussion made evident that in several countries the respective Federation are starting to look to new types of exhibitions and other events, in order to involve a larger number of collectors who are less interested to the competitive aspects of a show and the relevant specialisations. This implies to open the exhibitions to exhibits with a certain amount of non postal material and to go away from the principles of "traditional philately". New exhibitors are unwilling to accept constraints to their imagination.

It seems that many collectors are attracted by the "new" initiatives from outside philately and they bring in enthusiasm and expectations but also lack general philatelic culture. On the contrary the thematic regulations assume a strong philatelic culture, a requirement that was vital for the full acceptance of thematic philately at FIP level.

On the other side, these new efforts are to be supported as much as they are bound to bring new interest to philately, based on persons who have not been through the path of traditional collecting as it has been the case of almost the totality of thematic exhibitors until now. This put additional pressure on the Commission, with the target of educating the newcomers with more friendly tools

Action: Members of the Bureau were asked to report to G. Dahlvig any relevant news on this subject.

4. Regulations & Guidelines

A recent survey co-ordinated by G. Dahlvig pointed out that several countries have already implemented the new regulations in their national languages. There was no evidence that all the Federations have organised seminars for jurors.

The Commission is looking at the 1996 deadline for reviewing the SREV and the Guidelines, in order to ensure a more appropriate matching between the two documents and to eliminate unnecessary details. The objective is to keep modifications to SREV as small as possible and to re-edit the Guidelines, which are considered meeting mainly the requirements of advanced collectors. Some rework is needed in order to eliminate some sentences which are no longer needed or which refer to minor details, and to smoothen the too many "must" (13) and "should" (36) that are inconsistent with the nature of such a document.

H.-W. Bosserhoff pointed out the difficulties of the new thematic exhibitors who want to move along the path towards the highest awards and the need for support, by making our approach more understandable with adequate training programs which should also enable them to avoid wrong investments.

Dr. Bergman summarised the needs of a structured and co-ordinated set of documents, as follows:

- Regulations
- Guidelines, intended as comments and explanations for exhibitors
- Explanations for Jurors
- Recommendations for collectors/new exhibitors, simple and educational, with examples and pictures

Action: Comments on these subjects to be sent to G. Dahlvig (implementation of regulations) and to G. Morolli (modifications to GREV/SREV/Guidelines) with adequate justification, keeping in mind the position of the Bureau above mentioned.

Action: A working group was appointed, with the target to define the requirements for collectors/new exhibitors. H.-W. Bosserhoff was asked to lead a team composed by H. Siem and F. Rapkin.

Fiscals

The following motion was unanimously approved:

The Bureau of the Thematic Commission moves as follows: according to Article 3i of the GREV, which states that an exhibit shall consist solely of appropriate philatelic material, decided that, except when revenue stamps have been used postally, they are not acceptable in a thematic exhibit. Postal stamps that have been overprinted for fiscal use are also unacceptable in an exhibit.

Action: Dr. Morolli will discuss the matter with the Leader of the FIP Revenue Section, Mr. Erlar.

Philatelic Studies

A dedicated working group discussed the characteristics of philatelic studies within a thematic exhibit; its conclusions will be also summarised in the future formal documents of the Commission. H.-W. Bosserhoff proposed a very effective flow diagram, which is attached (*please review it*).

Action: After some considerations of the terminology, it was decided to devote the next meeting to the completion of this effort.

Action: It was suggested to produce examples related to the types of philatelic studies listed in the document. The following tasks were assigned.

	<i>Subject</i>
B. Jimenez	The process of gestation of an item, whether stamp, postmark, postal stationery, through proofs and essays
M. Bergman	Plating varieties
M. Bergman	Printing and perforation varieties
H.-W. Bosserhoff	Types of surcharges, overprints and surtaxes
H.-W. Bosserhoff	Types and varieties of cancellations
M. Bergman	Types and varieties of postal stationery
G. Morolli	Postal history peculiarities
H.-W. Bosserhoff	Bisected stamps or other peculiarities of finalised postal items

Action: F. Rapkin was asked to review the English text of the last document prepared (done, attached).

5. Open Class

The Bureau analysed the different implications of the so called "Open Class" which should allocate, at each exhibition, those exhibits which cannot be classified in any on the current philatelic class. Several points were considered, i.e. the previous (national) qualification of the exhibit, the inconsistency with national situation, the one time vs. repetitive occurrence of such a situation for the same exhibit, etc.

Action: It was decided to keep the subject open.

6. Juries

A growing concern was expressed about the composition of the thematic sections of international Juries. It was recommended to increase the participation of expert jurors and to ensure a minimum of continuity between a Jury and the following one.

Judging cannot be interpreted just as the validation of the *formal* compliance of an exhibit with the SREV, since it requires the deep understanding of both the development of the theme and the philatelic material supporting it. In this light, the attendance to "verbal" seminars only cannot be considered sufficient to increase the skill of the jurors; therefore education events must be based, as much as possible, on judging sessions run by expert team leaders.

The discussion brought to the following conclusions/recommendations

1. *Jury selection and Exhibition arrangement*

- at least two expert jurors in each team
- expert jurors should be present more frequently, since the other jurors can learn from their experience
- continuity between an exhibition and the next one (at least one juror in common)
- full coverage of FIP languages in each team for adequate understanding of the exhibits
- common FIP language spoken from all team members, to ensure adequate, direct communication among them
- arrangement of the exhibits, grouped according to major thematic areas
- list of exhibits available to Jurors well in advance for personal preparation

2. *Selected Jurors*

- specific preparation (thematic & philatelic) required on themes to be judged (from the list)
- balancing act among the thematic teams
- attention to exhibits changed since last participation
- always work and discuss with points
- use points when discussing challenges within the team and with other groups
- psychological solidarity within the team.

"Documentary" Exhibits

Problems and concerns related to the evaluation of the "documentary" exhibits were discussed.

Action: In order to assess the consequences of the marks scheme introduced with the new regulation, a team composed by M. Bergman, H. Siem and J.A. Hernan was charged to report on this issue.

7. **Education of collectors and exhibitors**

J.A. Hernan presented a list of publication to be developed for educating collectors to understand better the practical implications of thematic philately, without any formal dependency from rules and regulation, but in full agreement with the same. They cover the key aspects of thematic collecting:

- Material in thematic exhibits (Definition, accumulation selection, philatelic studies)
- Choice of the theme
- Thematic Development

- Philatelic Knowledge
- Condition & Rarity

Furthermore articles on different types of philatelic material from several countries will be circulated as input for publication in the national thematic magazines, under the headline of "Project Thema".

Action: J.A. Hernan asked to submit a more detailed plan and to start developing some material.

A comprehensive set of charts for overhead presentation has been submitted to FIP vice president Patrick Pearson, addressing the content of the SREV and the Guidelines. It will be circulated to the members of the Bureau.

8. Thematic Groups

The list of thematic groups has been kept up to date by Dr. Bergman and plans have been developed in order to improve the liaison between the Commission, the national associations and the thematic groups, also in consideration of the changing organisation in some countries.

Action: The next step should cover the services provided by each organisation listed.

9. Next Meeting

It was decided to held the next meeting of the Bureau in Lausanne, on February 11-12, 1995.