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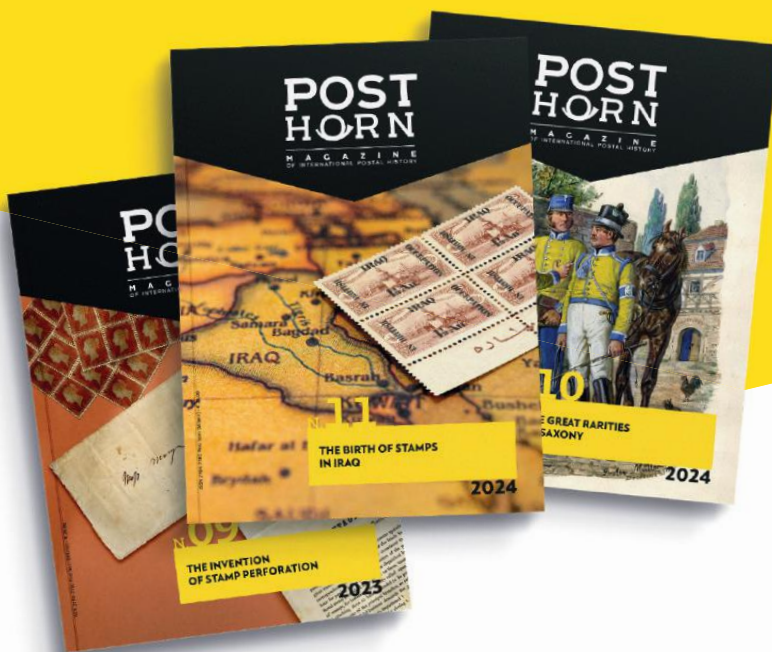
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# FEPA NEWS

## The Journal of European Philately

info@fepanews.com



### IMPRESSUM

FEPA News is the journal of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations. It is produced by the Board of the FEPA to facilitate the sharing of information among FEPA Members and to maintain a record of their philatelic activities. The editor is the FEPA Director Claudio Ernesto Mario Manzati, with assistance from other members of the FEPA Board. The Board relies on contributions from its Members and friends and offers sincere thanks to all who have contributed to this issue.

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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Dear Philatelic Friends,

A warm welcome to the second on-line edition of FEPA NEWS, the Journal of European Philately. After editing twelve issues it is my great pleasure to introduce you to our new editor, Claudio Manzati, who will carry the Journal forward into the next stages of its development. As well as being a distinguished philatelist Claudio brings valuable experience to FEPA NEWS through having created the POST HORN magazine of international postal history and edited it since in 2019. A lot has changed already in the last two years and no doubt FEPA NEWS will need to evolve further under his leadership. However, it will remain dedicated to promoting European philately in all its aspects. I wish Claudio every success in this fascinating role.

Having handed over the editorship I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me over the last seven years by providing articles, reports and ideas. It has been fascinating and encouraging to see how many different aspects of philately and related topics we have been able to cover. I am extremely grateful for all the support and positive feedback I have received. It is vital that our Continental organisation continues to support its Members in promoting philately during a time of rapid change that is likely to overtake our traditional models of organisation. Who knows where artificial intelligence will lead us? I ask everyone to share your thoughts and suggestions with Claudio as we move on. We may not be able to avoid change but we can try to ensure that the fundamental values of philately – lifelong learning, social interaction, thrill of the chase, conservation – are preserved and carried forward.

May I wish you all good health and happiness, and may you continue to enjoy your philately in 2026!

BILL HEDLEY

## LETTRE DU PRÉSIDENT

---

Chers Amis Philatéliques,

Je vous souhaite la bienvenue dans la deuxième édition en ligne de FEPA NEWS, le journal de la philatélie européenne. Après avoir édité douze numéros, j'ai le grand plaisir de vous présenter notre nouveau rédacteur en chef, Claudio Manzati, qui conduira le journal vers les prochaines étapes de son développement. En plus d'être un philatéliste émérite, Claudio apporte une expérience précieuse à FEPA NEWS grâce à la création du magazine POST HORN, consacré à l'histoire postale internationale, qu'il édite depuis 2019. Beaucoup de choses ont déjà changé au cours des deux dernières années et il ne fait aucun doute que FEPA NEWS devra continuer à évoluer sous sa direction. Cependant, il restera dédié à la promotion de la philatélie européenne sous tous ses aspects. Je souhaite à Claudio beaucoup de succès dans cette fonction passionnante.

Après avoir cédé la direction de la rédaction, je tiens à profiter de cette occasion pour remercier tous ceux qui m'ont aidé au cours des sept dernières années en fournissant des articles, des reportages et des idées. Il a été fascinant et encourageant de voir combien d'aspects différents de la philatélie et des sujets connexes nous avons pu couvrir. Je suis extrêmement reconnaissant pour tout le soutien et les commentaires positifs que j'ai reçus. Il est essentiel que notre organisation continentale continue à soutenir ses membres dans la promotion de la philatélie à une époque de changements rapides qui risquent de bouleverser nos modèles d'organisation traditionnels. Qui sait où l'intelligence artificielle nous mènera? Je demande à chacun de partager ses réflexions et ses suggestions avec Claudio alors que nous poursuivons notre chemin. Nous ne pouvons peut-être pas éviter le changement, mais nous pouvons essayer de faire en sorte que les valeurs fondamentales de la philatélie – l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie, l'interaction sociale, le suspense de la poursuite, la conservation – soient préservées et perpétuées.

Je vous souhaite à tous une bonne santé et beaucoup de bonheur, et j'espère que vous continuerez à profiter de votre philatélie en 2026 !

BILL HEDLEY

## OFFENER BRIEF DES PRÄSIDENTEN

---

Liebe philatelistische Freunde,

Herzlich willkommen zur zweiten Online-Ausgabe von FEPA NEWS, der Zeitschrift für europäische Philatelie. Nach zwölf Ausgaben freue ich mich sehr, Ihnen unseren neuen Herausgeber, Claudio Manzati, vorzustellen, der die Zeitschrift in die nächste Entwicklungsphase führen wird. Claudio ist nicht nur ein anerkannter Philatelist, sondern bringt auch wertvolle Erfahrung mit, da er die Zeitschrift POST HORN zur internationalen Postgeschichte gegründet und seit 2019 herausgegeben hat. In den letzten zwei Jahren hat sich bereits viel verändert, und FEPA NEWS wird sich unter seiner Leitung zweifellos weiterentwickeln müssen. Die Zeitschrift wird sich jedoch weiterhin der Förderung der europäischen Philatelie in all ihren Facetten widmen. Ich wünsche Claudio viel Erfolg in dieser spannenden Aufgabe.

Nachdem ich die Redaktion übergeben habe, möchte ich die Gelegenheit nutzen, mich bei allen zu bedanken, die mich in den letzten sieben Jahren mit Artikeln, Berichten und Ideen unterstützt haben. Es war faszinierend und ermutigend zu sehen, wie viele verschiedene Aspekte der Philatelie und verwandter Themen wir abdecken konnten. Ich bin sehr dankbar für die Unterstützung und das positive Feedback. Es ist unerlässlich, dass unsere kontinentale Organisation ihre Mitglieder weiterhin bei der Förderung der Philatelie in einer Zeit des rasanten Wandels unterstützt, der unsere traditionellen Organisationsmodelle wahrscheinlich ablösen wird. Wer weiß, wohin uns die künstliche Intelligenz führen wird? Ich bitte Sie alle, auf dem weiteren Weg Ihre Gedanken und Anregungen mit Claudio zu teilen. Wir können den Wandel vielleicht nicht vermeiden, aber wir können versuchen, die Grundwerte der Philatelie – lebenslanges Lernen, soziale Interaktion, die Faszination der Sammlerstücke, die Erhaltung – zu bewahren und weiterzutragen.

Ich wünsche Ihnen allen Gesundheit und Glück und dass Sie auch 2026 weiterhin Freude an Ihrer Philatelie haben!

BILL HEDLEY

## CARTA DEL PRESIDENTE

---

Estimados amigos filatélicos:

Les doy la más cordial bienvenida a la segunda edición online de FEPA NEWS, la Revista de la Filatelia Europea. Tras doce números, es un gran placer presentarles a nuestro nuevo editor, Claudio Manzati, quien impulsará la revista en las próximas etapas de su desarrollo. Además de ser un distinguido filatelista, Claudio aporta una valiosa experiencia a FEPA NEWS, tras haber creado y editado la revista POST HORN de historia postal internacional desde 2019. Muchas cosas han cambiado ya en los últimos dos años y, sin duda, FEPA NEWS deberá seguir evolucionando bajo su liderazgo. Sin embargo, seguirá dedicada a promover la filatelia europea en todos sus aspectos. Le deseo a Claudio mucho éxito en este fascinante puesto.

Tras ceder la dirección editorial, quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para agradecer a todos los que me han ayudado durante los últimos siete años aportando artículos, informes e ideas. Ha sido fascinante y alentador ver cuántos aspectos diferentes de la filatelia y temas relacionados hemos podido cubrir. Estoy sumamente agradecido por todo el apoyo y los comentarios positivos que he recibido. Es vital que nuestra organización continental siga apoyando a sus miembros en la promoción de la filatelia en una época de rápidos cambios que probablemente superará nuestros modelos tradicionales de organización. ¿Quién sabe adónde nos llevará la inteligencia artificial? Les pido a todos que compartan sus ideas y sugerencias con Claudio a medida que avanzamos. Puede que no podamos evitar el cambio, pero podemos intentar garantizar que los valores fundamentales de la filatelia (el aprendizaje permanente, la interacción social, la emoción de la búsqueda, la conservación) se preserven y continúen.

¡Les deseo a todos mucha salud y felicidad, y que sigan disfrutando de su filatelia en 2026!

BILL HEDLEY

# News from the FEPA Board



**Bill Hedley writes:**

I am pleased to report that the FEPA Board has held four meetings by video conference since October 2025. The Board's agenda is now regularly structured around the four main tasks that fall within FEPA's general remit to support its Members in promoting philately in Europe. These are shown in the box below:

**Sharing Information**

**Promoting Innovation  
and Cooperation**

**Supporting Exhibitions**

**Rewarding  
Achievements**

Major activities undertaken by FEPA recently to promote these objectives include:

- Further development of the FEPA News service through our fortnightly Newsletters and social media presence. This includes promoting FEPA NEWS as an on-line Journal that it is available to all interested readers. We are also promoting the website as an advertising platform for philatelic organisations.
- Production of an extensive report on the future of stamp exhibitions following a further series of on-line consultations with our Members. This followed an earlier report produced in 2025 on the use of social media to promote philately.
- An extensive review of the Regulations and Guidelines for evaluation of philatelic literature, completed at the end of 2025 and forwarded to the FIP for further action. We are also developing a new category of 'Specialised Patronage' for FEPA exhibitions to give organisers a greater range of choice in the support that they need.
- An invitation to nominate candidates for awards that has produced largest number of nominations we have received in recent years. This is extremely gratifying as it helps us to recognise the efforts and achievements of so many people and organisations around Europe in promoting philately to existing philatelists and the wider world. Further information on winners is available elsewhere in this Journal, but we would like to congratulate and thank everyone who was nominated in whatever context for the work they have done which is very much appreciated.

Looking ahead, we will continue to develop our ability to provide up-to-date news, views and opinions from around the philatelic world and beyond.

We will also initiate a third project of consultation with our Members and a range of other interested parties. It will focus on how to extend the reach of philately to the wider world and, in due course, attract new collectors and participants in philatelic organisations. Many people are thinking about this problem and no-one imagines it will be easy, but we have a duty to try – even if that means moving away radically from traditional approaches.

I am delighted to report that, by courtesy of the Italian Federation (FSFI), FEPA's 2026 Congress will be held in Rome on Sunday 18th October 2026. Details will follow.

## Introduction from new editor

*Claudio Ernesto M. Manzati writes:*



Dear Presidents of National Federations and readers of FEPA NEWS,

as you know, last May in Birmingham I was elected to the FEPA Board, In these first few months, I have begun to experience the FEPA Board from the inside and I immediately appreciated the organisation and commitment of all the Board members, starting with President Bill Hedley, who asked me to become editor and editor-in-chief of the FEPA News magazine, requesting that I rethink it using my experience as editor of POST HORN Magazine of International Postal History, now in its seventh year.

In this regard, during the last Board meeting of 2025, I organised a brainstorming session to share with the President and the members of the Board the objectives and guidelines for a possible revamp of the magazine.

For the current year, i.e. for the upcoming issues 048 and 049, FEPA News will remain unchanged as was issue 047, which was published for the first time in electronic format, as everyone is moving in this direction.

However, we are planning a revamp for 2027, creating a magazine in an electronic format similar to online newspapers, while maintaining the electronic format in PDF and browsable. This change requires the development of an IT platform that allows for easy and intuitive viewing on smartphones and tablets.

I will keep you informed of progress, and in the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading this first issue of 2026, with some small graphic improvement.

# The Future of Stamp Exhibitions – FEPA Report #2

## *Lars Engelbrecht writes:*

During October 2025, FEPA organised a series of five Zoom meetings with its member federations to explore one of the most important questions facing organised philately today: how can philately – and particularly stamp exhibitions – remain relevant, visible, and sustainable in a rapidly changing world?

Representatives from 31 European philatelic federations took part in these discussions. Building on a detailed questionnaire circulated in advance, the meetings created a structured yet open forum where experiences could be shared honestly, challenges addressed collectively, and new ideas explored in a spirit of cooperation. What emerged was not a single solution, but a rich and nuanced picture of European philately at a crossroads – supported by deep traditions, yet under growing pressure to adapt.

## Why FEPA Chose Dialogue

Stamp exhibitions have long been a cornerstone of organised philately. For more than a century they have provided a framework for research, learning, recognition, and social exchange. Yet the environment in which exhibitions operate has changed fundamentally. Costs are rising, volunteer capacity is shrinking, audiences are ageing, and digital platforms are reshaping how people discover and engage with hobbies.

FEPA's decision to organise these Zoom meetings reflected a clear conviction: the future of philately cannot be designed centrally but must be shaped collaboratively. By bringing together federations with different traditions, sizes, and resources, FEPA aimed to identify shared challenges and practical responses – and to encourage experimentation rather than uniformity.

## A Shared European Picture

Across Europe, exhibitions remain highly valued. Most federations report strong commitment from exhibitors and organisers, and more than sixty exhibitions are planned at local, national, regional, or international level in the coming years. At the same time, the discussions revealed strikingly similar concerns across countries.

High costs were cited by the vast majority of participants as a major constraint, followed closely by declining attendance, ageing exhibitor bases, and shortages of volunteers willing or able to take on demanding organisational roles. Several federations noted that the same small group of individuals often carries responsibility year after year – a model that is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain.

There was also broad agreement that exhibitions, while highly appreciated within the philatelic community, rarely reach a wider public. Most visitors are already collectors, and exhibitions are currently not a major driver of recruitment, especially among younger generations.

## What Still Works Well

Despite these challenges, the discussions highlighted many strengths that continue to underpin European philately. The quality of exhibits remains high, supported by experienced organisers, established regulations, and an effective international juror system. Exhibitions still offer exhibitors motivation, recognition, and a sense of achievement,

while the social dimension – meeting like-minded collectors, sharing discoveries, and celebrating success – remains a powerful attraction.

Several federations emphasised the value of regional cooperation, pointing to long-standing initiatives such as Nordia, Balkanphila, and Alpe Adria. These collaborative models help share costs, expertise, and organisational effort, while retaining an international character that motivates exhibitors.

Where exhibitions are linked to local culture, supported by partnerships with postal administrations, museums, or municipalities, and managed professionally, they continue to thrive.

## Innovation in Practice

One of the most encouraging outcomes of the Zoom meetings was the sheer variety of innovative approaches already being tested across Europe. Many federations are experimenting with smaller, more flexible exhibition formats, including one-frame shows, micro-exhibitions, and specialised events focused on a single class or theme. These formats lower barriers to participation and can be organised with fewer resources.

Virtual and hybrid exhibitions featured prominently in the discussions. Initially adopted out of necessity during the pandemic, they are now increasingly seen as a strategic opportunity. Virtual exhibitions reduce costs, extend reach beyond national borders, and allow exhibits to remain accessible online as educational resources. When combined with physical exhibitions, hybrid models can significantly broaden an event's audience.

Digital tools are also being used to enrich the visitor experience. QR codes linking to exhibit scans or short explanatory videos, online catalogues, mobile apps, and interactive presentations were cited as effective ways to make exhibitions more engaging – particularly for newcomers.

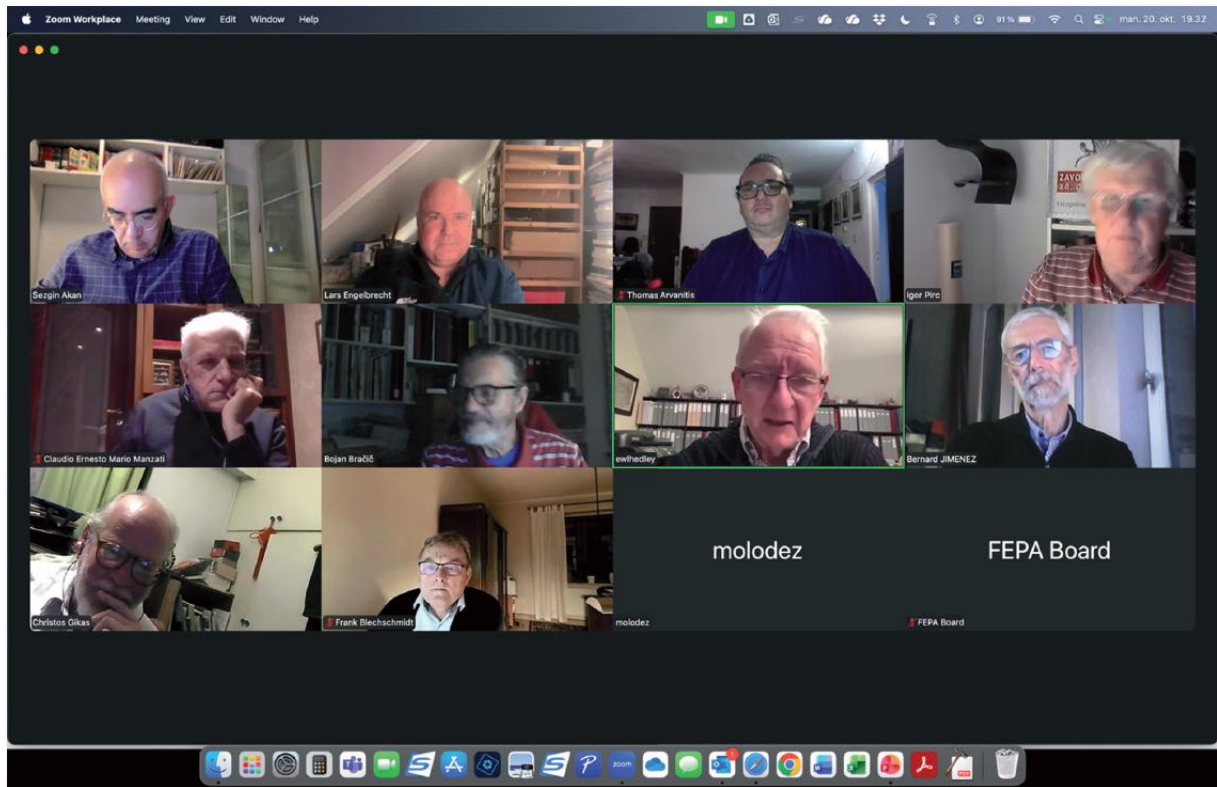
Several federations shared inspiring examples of youth engagement and education, including school collaborations, non-competitive youth displays and storytelling-based exhibits that prioritise narrative over competition. Others highlighted practical innovations, such as outsourcing physically demanding tasks to local youth organisations, reducing the burden on ageing volunteers.

Key recommendations for societies include:

1. Rethink the exhibition format – experiment with smaller, specialized, and one-frame shows.
2. Consider hybrid exhibitions that combine physical exhibitions with virtual presentation of the same exhibits.
3. Have joint exhibitions/fairs that combine philately with related hobbies such as numismatics, postcards, medals, or model trains.
4. Engage with new venues – such as museums, libraries, or city cultural spaces.
5. Embrace digital elements – from QR codes on frames linking to exhibit scans or videos.
6. Strengthen marketing – especially through social media, online videos, and local promotion.

The entire FEPA report “The Future of Stamp Exhibitions” can be downloaded from [www.fepanews.com](http://www.fepanews.com).





*Screen shot from one of the Zoom meetings.*

## Virtual Meetings as a Model for the Future

Beyond their content, the Zoom meetings themselves demonstrated a new and effective way for FEPA to work with its members. The online format made participation easier, reduced costs, and enabled more frequent and focused exchanges than traditional meetings alone. Participants repeatedly emphasised the value of learning directly from peers facing similar challenges.

This confirms that digital collaboration is not only a topic for discussion, but part of the solution. FEPA sees these consultations as a template for future dialogue on key strategic issues.

## The Role of FEPA

The discussions made it clear that federations look to FEPA not for prescriptive solutions, but for coordination, inspiration, and support. FEPA's role is to facilitate knowledge sharing, encourage experimentation, and help develop common frameworks.

Above all, the meetings reinforced a shared understanding: there is no single "right" model for the future of philately. Diversity of approaches is a strength, not a weakness. What matters is the willingness to adapt, to test new ideas, and to learn from each other.

The October 2025 Zoom meetings showed that European philately is rich in creativity, experience, and commitment. By continuing to listen, cooperate, and experiment together, FEPA and its members can ensure that philately remains visible, relevant, and rewarding – for today's collectors and for generations to come.



*QR code to the FEPA Report*

# FEPA Introduces Specialised Patronage as a New Level of Promotion and Support for Exhibitions

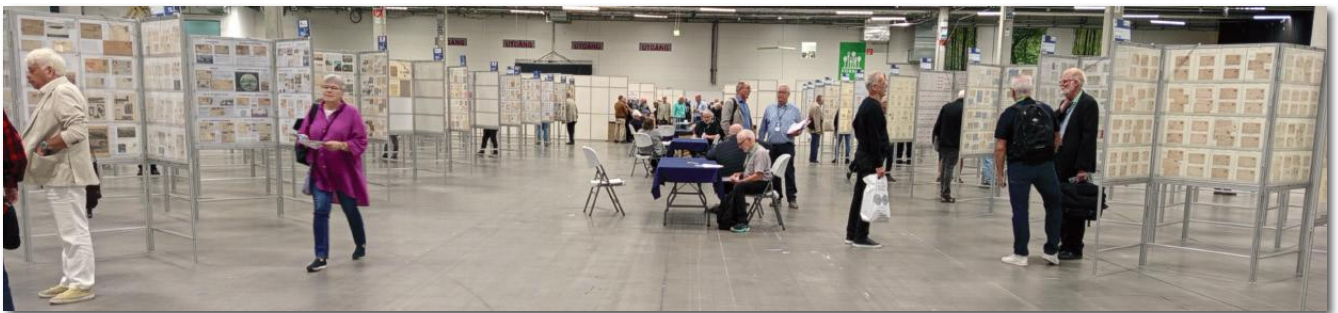
*Costas Chazapis writes:*

The FEPA Board is pleased to announce the introduction of a new level of promotion and support for exhibitions, namely **FEPA Specialised Patronage**, which describes an alternative cooperation between exhibition organisers and FEPA.

The new patronage option has been developed to create mutually beneficial schemes for both exhibition organisers and exhibitors. Its long-term objective is the establishment of a strong and sustainable European network of frequent, top-quality exhibitions that will be attractive and worthwhile for exhibitors to participate.

FEPA firmly believes that, over the next decade, Europe will see a decline in large “all-classes” continental exhibitions. Instead, national federations are expected to place greater emphasis on supporting exhibitions involving a number of FEPA Members, or continental exhibitions focusing on one or just a few philatelic classes.

To qualify for FEPA Specialised Patronage, organisers are called to meet a minimum set of requirements, including staging an adequate number of frames, or literature exhibits in the case of a literature exhibition; appointing FIP- or FEPA-accredited jurors; and complying with the FIP/FEPA equivalence system for points and medals.



*Nordia 2025 in Malmö*

Organisers will benefit from the enhanced status of their exhibition, which is expected to attract top-level exhibitors and higher-quality exhibits. In turn, these will bring increased sponsorship, stronger dealer participation, and greater public attendance.

For exhibitors, the benefits include official recognition and publication of results on the FEPA website alongside those of “all-classes” continental exhibitions, as well as eligibility for Large Vermeil medals to be exhibited with eight frames at future exhibitions under FEPA Patronage.

The FEPA Board is convinced that this initiative points in the right direction in supporting a strong and sustainable future for philatelic exhibitions throughout Europe.

The FEPA Specialised Patronage level of promotion and support for exhibitions in Europe will come into effect in 2027, following the necessary amendments to the FREGEX, which are expected to be ratified by the FEPA Congress in Rome in October 2026.

Our readers’ comments are always welcome.

# "PHILATELY FORWARD"

## FEPA'S 2026 Initiative to Attract New Collectors

*Lars Engelbrecht writes:*

European philately stands at a decisive moment. While the depth of knowledge, quality of material, and dedication of collectors remain strong, the challenge of attracting new collectors has become increasingly urgent. At its January Board meeting, FEPA therefore agreed to make "**How can we attract more collectors into philately?**" the central theme of its 2026 member dialogue, launched under the title **Philately Forward**.

The initiative builds on a clear conviction: the future of philately cannot be secured by tradition alone. Sustainability requires openness, experimentation, and broad engagement across the entire philatelic ecosystem – from federations and societies to collectors, dealers, exhibitors, museums, and online influencers.

### A Clear Goal – and a Shared Responsibility

The goal of **Philately Forward** is straightforward: **to attract more new collectors into philately and thereby help make the hobby sustainable for future generations**. Achieving this goal, however, requires more than isolated actions. FEPA's role is not to "do everything", but to **facilitate, connect, and support** – helping good ideas emerge, be selected, and ultimately be implemented where they can have real impact.

Experience from previous FEPA initiatives has shown that lasting progress comes when ideas are developed collaboratively and ownership is shared. This philosophy also guided FEPA's successful Zoom consultations on **The Future of Stamp Exhibitions**, which demonstrated the value of structured dialogue across national borders.

### Activating the Whole Philatelic Community

A key principle of **Philately Forward** is inclusiveness. If new collectors are to be reached, the discussion must extend beyond federations alone. The initiative therefore aims to actively engage:

- Collectors, philatelists, and exhibitors
- National federations and local societies
- Dealers and auction houses
- Museums and institutions with philatelic links
- Online philatelic content creators and influencers
- Philatelic and non-philatelic media

Each of these groups brings unique perspectives on how people discover hobbies today – and why they choose to stay.

### Looking Ahead

**Philately Forward** does not promise a single solution – and deliberately so. Diversity of approaches has always been a strength of European philately. What matters is a shared willingness to listen, test new ideas, and learn from each other.

## FEPA AWARDS for 2025

*The FEPA Board is delighted to announce the FEPA Medals and Certificates of Appreciation for 2025 and congratulate the awardees. The Board is grateful to the Member Federations for their participation in the Awards Programme for 2025 by submitting their nominations and to the external advisers for their assistance in reaching decisions on the Research and Francis Kiddle medals.*

### FEPA Medal 2025 for Exceptional Service to Organised Philately

Awarded to: Wolfgang Maassen RDP (Germany)

Wolfgang Maassen RDP FRPSL, born in 1949, has been an author, publisher, and journalist in the fields of philately and postal history for more than 45 years. He has been involved in public relations for the 'Bund Deutscher Philatelisten' for 35 years. He served as Head of the Press Office for the IBRA 1999 World Exhibition in Nuremberg, Head of the administration for IBRA 2009 in Essen and IPHLA 2012 in Mainz, and was also Head of the Organising Team for IBRA 2023 in Essen. For many years, he has advised several German professional organisations as a consultant and has served as Editor-in-Chief of well-known national and international journals. Amongst these, he edited the German magazine *Philatelie* from 1989 to 2016. His work has long focused on two major book series: manuals for stamp collectors and a chronicle of German philately. To date, he has published more than 100 books. From May 2005 to November 2025, he served as President of the Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatélique (AIJP). He is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London and a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.



Earlier awardees: <https://fepanews.com/feпа-awards/awardees/feпа-medal-for-service/>

### FEPA Medal 2025 for Exceptional Support to Organised Philately

Awarded to: Jiří Střecha (Czech Republic)

Mgr Jiří Střecha has served as Director of the Postal Museum of the Czech Republic since 2016. A museologist and historian specialising in transport and economic history, he has strengthened the museum's role in promoting philately nationally and internationally. Under his leadership, the museum became a key partner of the World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2018 and played a prominent role at LIBEREC 2022, presenting both philatelic collections and postal history exhibits. He also supported the National Exhibition LIBEREC 2025 with international participation. Střecha actively encourages young philatelists through cooperation with clubs and educational initiatives. Within the International Council of Museums, he initiated the first ICOM postage stamp in 2022. As a board member of the International Association of Transport and Communications Museums, he collaborates with leading postal museums worldwide, serving as a respected ambassador of Czech philately.



Earlier awardees: <https://fepanews.com/feпа-awards/awardees/feпа-medal-for-support/>

## FEPA Medal 2025 for Exceptional Study and Research

Awarded to: Călin Gheorghe Marinescu (Romania) for 40 Years of the Romanian Postal History 1830–1869.

The author, Romania's leading philatelic researcher, has published over 400 articles and 16 volumes since 1984, becoming a central figure in Romanian postal history. His latest two-volume work is a valuable piece of fundamental research, serving both as a primary source and as a reference book. Its bilingual format enables it to reach a global audience. A tremendous amount of effort has gone into locating and studying historical documents, not to mention translating them into English. The book addresses all the essential aspects of its subject. It provides an excellent basis for further research, enabling the original texts to be interpreted and made more accessible to a wider readership.



### Certificate of Appreciation for Runners-up:

- Florian Berger (Germany) for Die postalischen Verhältnisse in Hamburg / Hamburg-Philatelie 1859–1867.
- Lorenzo Carra (Italy) for Il Lombardo Veneto e i paesi italiani / Relazioni postali 1814–1866.
- Dan-Simion Grecu (Romania) for Civilian Postal Censorship in Romanian History, 1914–1928.

Summaries of all nominations are on pages 98 to 101.

Earlier awardees: <https://fepanews.com/fepa-awards/awardees/fepa-medal-for-research/>

## Francis Kiddle Medal 2025 for significant impact in digital philatelic communication

Awarded to: RonAleX Stamp Corner for <https://www.youtube.com/@briefmarkenecke/videos>

This channel has been created for philately enthusiasts and, through short videos, takes viewers on a journey through history, collectibles, and fascinating discoveries. It collaborates closely with philatelic study groups, museums, and dedicated collectors, with quality as its clear priority. New videos are released only when there is something meaningful to share, reflecting a strong commitment to substance over quantity.

Earlier awardees: <https://fepanews.com/fepa-awards/awardees/francis-kiddle-medal/>

## FEPA Certificate of Appreciation 2025

In 2025, twelve philatelic societies from across Europe and two individuals were eligible to receive the 2025 FEPA Certificate of Appreciation.

### Philatelic societies:

Varna Philatelic Society (Bulgaria)  
 Philatelic Society Trbovlje (Slovenia)  
 Philatelic Society of Lesvos (Greece)  
 Themaphila (Belgium)  
 Philatelic Association of Sibiu County (Romania)  
 Association philatelique et numismatique carcassonnaise (France)  
 Hamburger Verein für Briefmarkenkunde (Germany)  
 Ankara Philatelic Society (Turkey)

Philatelic Society of Tampere (Finland)  
 Unione Siciliana Collezionisti (Italy)  
 Liberec 2025 (Czech Republic)  
 West Riding Stamp Club (United Kingdom)

### Individuals:

Francisc Ambrus (Romania)  
 Vladimír Münzberger (Czech Republic)

Earlier awardees: <https://fepanews.com/fepa-awards/awardees/fepa-certificate-of-appreciation/>

# ITALIA 26 Specialized Literature Exhibition: Two FEPA Seminars

*Thomas Hoepfner writes:*

As we are looking forward to Italia 26, a Specialized Literature Exhibition that will be held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October in Rome, FEPA is planning to contribute to that event with two seminars. These will be dedicated to philatelic museums and institutions aiming at visitors and users from the philatelic and the non-philatelic world. They are supposed to continue the FEPA idea to offer opportunities to move beyond core philatelic subjects and activities, thus giving the seminar visitors new insights and fresh ideas they may want to use for their own future activities.

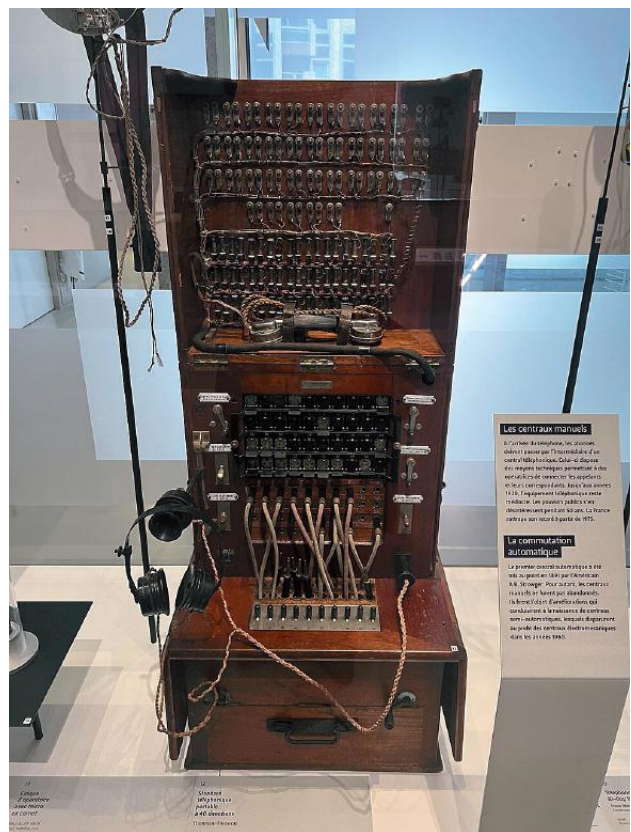
The first seminar will present the Musée de La Poste in Paris, which is one of the most innovative European philatelic museums. Our plan is to make a “virtual museum visit”, meaning that there will be a video link to the seminar room in Rome, and a person in Paris will show us with the help of a tablet pc camera the museum and its displays, talk about past and planned special exhibitions as well as answer questions from the seminar room.

The second seminar is about the ISSP Institute of Postal Historical Studies “Aldo Cecchi” in Prato. It consists of a library, an archive and a section containing philatelic material. The visitors will learn about what is going on in the Institute, past and planned book publications and much more. The exciting aspect is to understand how the philatelic and the academic world can effectively cooperate and learn from each other.

Coming back to the idea behind the FEPA seminars, it is worth remembering the EuroPhilEx exhibition in Birmingham last year. During that event we had FEPA seminars on the use of forensic analysis in philatelic expertising and on the building of digital archives and making them accessible to external users. We are proud that we were able to go the route of organising “out-of-the-box” seminars, which had been decided during a meeting in April 2024. At the same time we are grateful to everybody who had helped to make the FEPA seminars happen.



**Facade of the museum (Photo by Arthur Weidmann - Musée de la Poste, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=73418258>).**



**Old telephone equipment (Photo by Van Der Meulen Christofle - Own work, CC0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=158332901>).**

# Hellenic Philatelic Federation Presentation

*Christos Gikas writes:*

## H.P.F History

The Hellenic Philatelic Federation (H.P.F) in 1947 was founded in 1947 and joined F.I.P, replacing the Hellenic Philatelic Society (H.P.S), which -until that time- had been representing Greece's Organized Philately. In addition, the H.P.F is a FEPA Member as well as being a member of BALKANFILA Regional Philatelic Group.

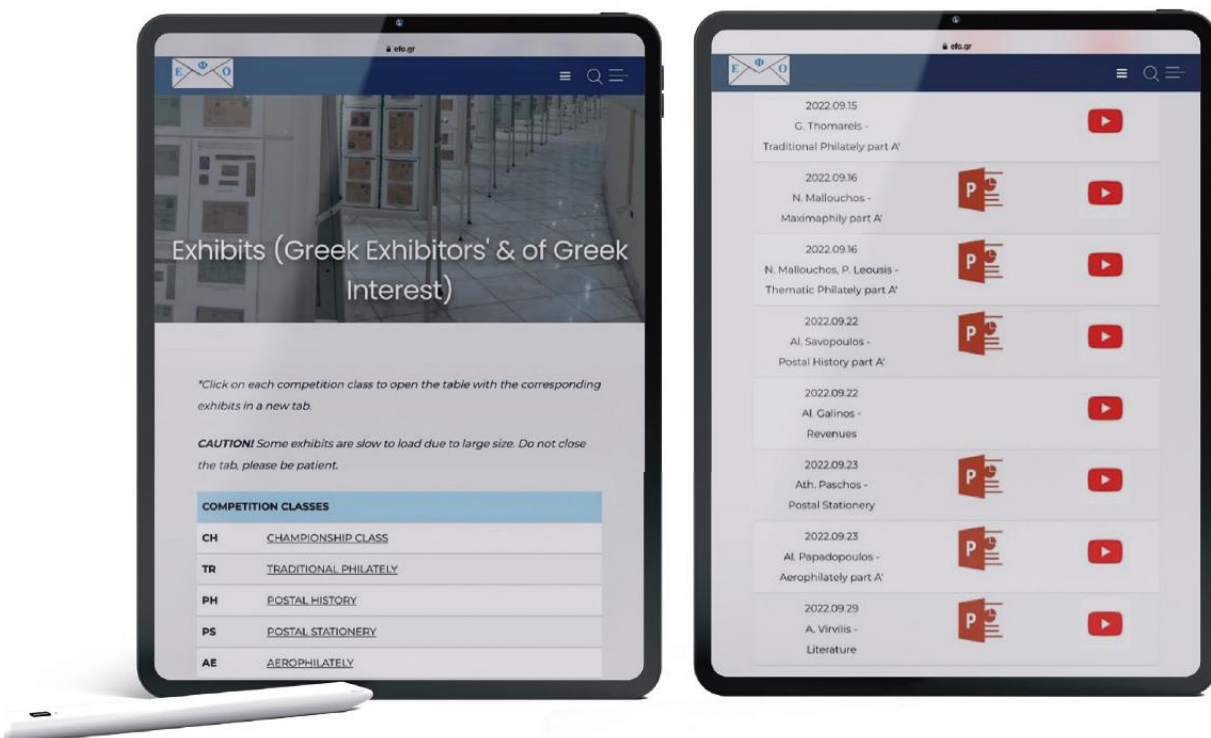
Each President of the H.P.F is an ex-officio member of the Advisory Committee of the Hellenic Post, related to the new Postage Stamp issues.

Between 2015-2024, three major International Philatelic Exhibitions were organized in Greece under the Auspices of the H.P.F namely : NOTOS2015 and NOTOS2021 in Athens as well as BALKANFILA XX, in Thessaloniki, in November 2024. Two FEPA Congresses were hosted in Athens during NOTOS2015 and NOTOS2021.

The H.P.F publishes a Quarterly Newsletter (in Greek) and following proposals submitted by the H.P.F at Balkanfila XIX in Belgrade and Balkanfila XX in Thessaloniki have been realized two collective digital publications in English : The Balkanfila Bimonthly Newsletter and the Balkanfila Yearbook.

All past issues of both editions can be reached at : <https://www.efo.gr/balkanfila-newsletters/>

Since 1978 the H.P.F introduced the "Charilis Binos" Annual Philatelic Literature Award, in memoriam of the late Charilis Binos, a significant Greek Philatelist. Recently, the current board introduced the Commendation of Philatelic Contribution, named after the significant philatelist Neoklis Zafeirakopoulos.



The Federation supports a Facebook page as well as Website that among other items is presenting over 100 awarded exhibits of Greek and Greek-related exhibits <https://www.efo.gr/en/exhibits/>

## The Board

The current 9-member Board of the H.P.F, elected in February 2025, consists of experienced philatelists including Board members of six national philatelic societies.

After assessing the current situation and perception of Philately, was designed our marketing communication plan was designed. Philately is still considered as a marginal, close-club activity limited to stamp collecting, of no interest to wider audiences. By acknowledging that Philately has -for long time- been considered a secretive activity with a closed club mentality, the obvious answer was repositioning Philately as a Cultural Activity that can interest everyone if it is communicated in an understandable manner by focusing on its cultural impact rather than technical issues.

We had consequently coined the motto-slogan “PHILATELY MATTERS FOR ALL” serving a core concept: “Outgoingness - Communication – Co-operations”.

## Objectives

The objectives for this 2-year term are clearly defined and agreed by all-Board members fall into two main categories:

### **At National level there is a two-fold plan**

- **Development of the National Philatelic Sector**

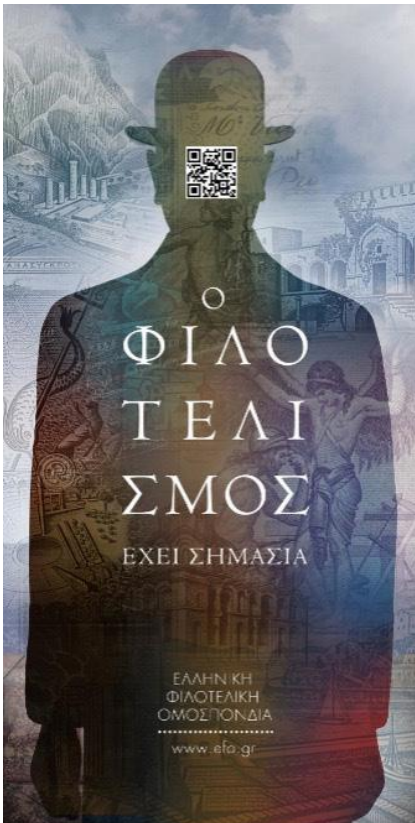
Following the distribution of Exhibition Frames, that had been initiated by the previous Board, from the Hellenic Post to the local philatelic societies, the H.P.F is actively encouraging and supporting the local society to organize local philatelic exhibitions.

In addition, an on-going communication to all national philatelic societies is established in order to organize actions collectively. Up to now the Hellenic Philatelic Federation Board Member had visited 7 local philatelic Societies and participating in person during their Events. All member societies events have proper coverage in the Federation’s website and Social Media, with 32 uploads in this 11-month period

- **Presentation of Philately as a Cultural Activity to wider audiences**

This “exposure” of Philately at a national level has already started by the following means :

1. Philatelic articles and interviews in national printed Press,
2. Stronger presence in social media (facebook and Instagram)
3. Presence at Collectibles Trade Fairs (C.T.F)
4. Organizing a philatelic exhibition at the same venue of C.T.S
5. Placing targeted philatelic exhibits in Congresses and Museum events.
6. Communication with Museums and Cultural Organizations that has already resulted to upcoming Events.
7. Targeted Exhibitions, namely Collectibles Trade Fairs, Museum Events (eg displaying a philatelic exhibit on the Greek participation in the Korean War at the Athens War Museum during an international Forum on the Korean War etc), Scientific Conferences (a philatelic collection displayed at a Cardiology Congress last November) and Federation’s exhibit directed to the 6.500 visitors in the largest Collectible Trade Fair.



*"Philately Matters".*

During the December Trade Fair, The Hellenic Philatelic Federation's "narrative" towards the visitors was the following :

*"Stamp collecting is the starting point of a captivating journey through history, culture, the recording of emotions and ideas for every human activity. Philately, which studies written postal communication, is a "human-based cultural reservoir" that collects, explores, and discovers the various aspects of society, relationships, and culture".*

The exhibit pages included QR codes leading to Federation's website whilst a 2m high Roll-up Banner was next to the exhibit with the motto "Philately Matters".



*"Have a look at more of 130 awarded philatelic exhibits from your sofa".*

### At Internationally level

- The H.P.F will be seeking to further strengthen International Co-operations with a strong emphasis on Bilateral and Regional Philately. This is because, the H.P.F Board Members strongly believe that regional co-operations can be creative and productive for all participants due to our sharing the same historical and social background as well as better understanding of the individual priorities.
- Further international co-operations are being sought with sister Federations that we share similar beliefs and agenda.
- Currently the President of the H.P.F serves as an Editor to the bi-monthly BALAKNFILA Newsletter and the BALKANFILA Yearbook that circulated in 2025 for the first time.
- The Hellenic Philatelic Federation was kindly invited by the Federation of the Italian Philatelic Societies (F.S.F.I.) as a guest country to the one-frame national exhibition : "Siracusa2025" experiencing a most productive philatelic encounter.
- Finally, it is worth mentioning that a number of Greek Philatelists, at the kind invitation, of the Turkish Philatelic Academy joined the Academy.

## In Memory of Aleksandar Boričić

***Vladimir Milic writes:***

We are saddened to announce that Aleksandar Boričić, doyen of Serbian philately, distinguished exhibitor and former President of the Union of Philatelists of Serbia, has passed away.

As a philatelist, he was a tireless collector and an outstanding connoisseur of philatelic material across a wide spectrum, leaving an indelible mark on Serbian philately. As an exhibitor, he was the most awarded Serbian philatelist, receiving numerous gold medals at world, regional and national philatelic exhibitions for a number of remarkable collections, including "Postal History of Montenegro 1799–1916," "Serbia Postal History 1755–1915," "First World War in Serbia," "The Usage of Postage Due Issues of Serbia," "Airmail of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia 1923–1941," and "Partisan Correspondence of Yugoslavia 1943–1945."

For his exhibit "Serbia Postal History 1755–1915," he was also awarded the Grand Prix at the regional exhibition BALKANFILA 2012.

Beyond philately, Aleksandar Boričić was also a prominent figure in international sport, particularly in volleyball, where he served as President of the European Volleyball Confederation (CEV) and Vice-President of the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB), and was widely respected as one of the most influential figures in world volleyball.

Aleksandar Boričić was born on 26 May 1948 in Belgrade. During his long and distinguished career he received numerous important recognitions, including the FIVB Grand Cross (2022), the highest honour awarded by the International Volleyball Federation.

His dedication to philately and his understanding of it as an important part of cultural heritage will remain a lasting inspiration for future generations. With his passing, Serbian philately loses one of the figures who shaped both its collecting tradition and its exhibiting excellence.



***Aleksander Boričić 1948–2026***

# Balkanfila Presentation

## *Christos Gikas writes:*

“Balkanfila - Varna 1965”, was an international philatelic exhibition organized at an initiative of the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists, being an indisputable milestone in the development of regional philately. This significant international philatelic exhibition has sowed the seeds of exchanging ideas, experiences and cooperation among the countries of the Balkan peninsula built on a solid, common ground, that of philately and friendship.



From August 7th to 15th, 1965, collectors from six Balkan countries - Albania, Bulgaria (the host country), Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia met in Varna on the Black Sea. The remarkable success of this international exhibition led to the decision of continuing the organization of further Balkan Philatelic Exhibitions in other Balkan countries.

Another important contribution of “Balkanfila - Varna 1965”, very relevant today, is the fact that organising an international exhibition in a smaller city could reduce the high exhibition-related costs without affecting at all its philatelic quality.

Nowadays, Balkanfila members in addition to the original six BF countries from the beginning, are all parts of former Yugoslavia, taking BiH as one country, with three entities, two of which - Serbian and Bosnian - are active in Balkanfila, Moldova (since Belgrade BF XIX exhibition) as well as the Republic of Cyprus as a standard guest. It is worth-mentioning that the criterion of the Balkanfila Working Group is not only the geographical and geological region, but more importantly, it is the historical, cultural and social affinity of the Balkan countries.

Between 1965 to 1991, 13 Balkanfila Exhibitions took place in five different countries : Istanbul, Turkey 1966, Bucharest Romania, 1971, Izmir, Turkey 1973, Sofia, Bulgaria 1975, Beograd, Yugoslavia 1977, Athens, Greece 1979, Istanbul, Turkey 1981, Bucharest, Romania 1983, Vratza, Bulgaria 1985, Novi Sad, Yugoslavia 1987, Thessaloniki, Greece 1989 and Bacau, Romania, 1991.

The split of Yugoslavia brought a 15-year pause of Balkanfila exhibitions, but the Turkish and Bulgarian philatelists and friends (Mahmut Emirmahmutoglu and Spas Panchev) at the 2006 Sofia Meeting have decided the following :

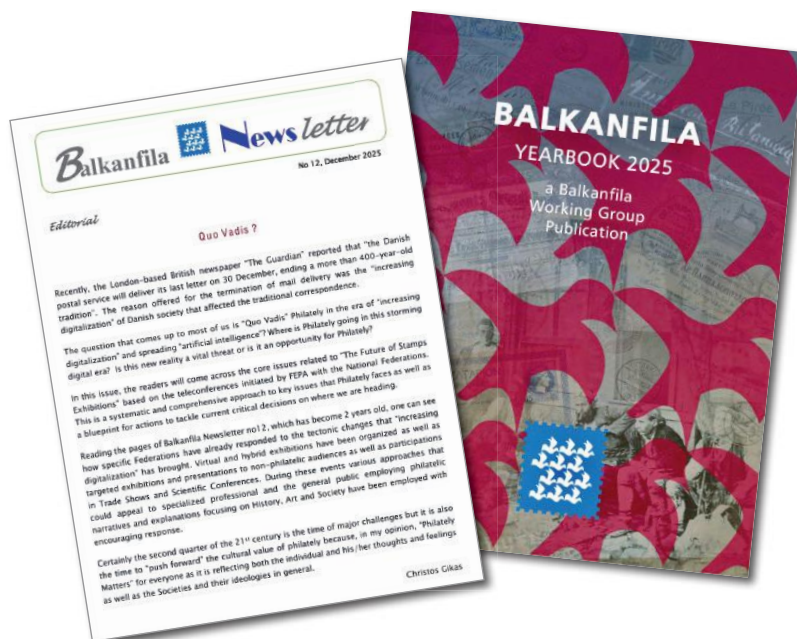
- Balkanfila exhibitions to be organized every two years.
- The next Balkanfila exhibition will take place in Istanbul from October 28 to November 3, 2007.
- Not only collectors from the Balkan countries to participate, but also collectors whose exhibits relate to the Balkan countries offering the opportunity of broadening Balkanfila’s philatelic impact;
- The FIP regulations for international exhibitions to apply;


The successful comeback of Balkanfila was realized a year later (2007) with the Turkish Philatelic Federation undertaking the organization of Balkanfila XIV in Istanbul, marking the beginning of the second period of BF exhibitions.

Since 2007, seven more Balkanfila Exhibitions were organized in : Istanbul, Turkey 2007, Plovdiv, Bulgaria 2010, Maribor, Slovenia 2012, Vidin, Bulgaria 2014, Tirana, Albania 2016, Belgrade, Serbia 2023 and Thessaloniki, Greece 2024. The upcoming Balkanfila XXI will take place in Pernik, Bulgaria from April 28th to May 2nd, 2026.


In addition six Balkanmax exhibitions were organized between 1983 to 2002.

Nowadays, Balkanfila has already accomplished 20 significant exhibitions; being one of the oldest philatelic groups in Europe. The website of BF, as well as the bimonthly Newsletter, which started in December 2023, and BF Annual Yearbook first published in 2025 are aiming at establishing an upgraded cooperation and coordination on common projects as well as on overall regional philatelic issues. A considerable number of awarded philatelic exhibits from national, over regional, European and FIP exhibitions, are documenting the philatelic diversity and wealth of the Balkanfila member-Federations with a pattern of changing presidents (from each exhibition onwards) and a Balkanfila Working Group Secretary who ensures continuity.






# BALKANFILA



## MINUTES & REPORTS



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### MINUTES of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Balkanfila Working Group

**Meeting at the International Exhibition and Conference Centre of HELEXPO-Thessaloniki International Fair in Thessaloniki, Greece, on occasion of the BALKANFILIA XX Exhibition, on November 13, 2024 from 9.00-10.00**

16 participants from 10 Balkanfila Member Federations attended the Meeting: Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkiye.

Igor Pirc, BWG Secretary, welcomed all present participants and proposed the Agenda, which had been sent out with the Invitation three weeks ago. The Agenda was unanimously accepted.


**Agenda and conclusions of the Meeting**

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of 12 th Balkanfila Meeting in Bucharest

Minutes of the 12 th Balkanfila Meeting in Bucurest was unanimously accepted.

2. Presentation of the Balkanfila XX Exhibition in Thessaloniki

Those present estimated that BALKANFILIA XX in Saloniki is perfectly prepared, set up in spacious and bright halls, and that the organizer put a lot of effort into preparing for the exhibition.



# Stamp Fair Ulm October 2025 – Another remarkable highlight!

**Thomas Hoepfner writes:**

Looking back at the recent Ulm stamp fair, it had been again three exciting days. The dealer area had crowds of visitors, especially on the first day, and the three shows of exhibits in frames offered many philatelic gems. The high number of stands of German Specialised Societies (Arbeitsgemeinschaften) secured the presence of many philatelists using the chance to have chats and pick up the latest news. Starting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October the program of the “Internationale Briefmarken-Börse” offered all kinds of activities including on-stage lectures as well as numerous meetings leaving almost no time for a quick snack in the cafeteria. This year hundreds of school children visited the fair for the announcement of the results of the stamp design creation competition – which was an impressive reminder that these young people could turn into the next generation of philatelists. At the end, the unanimous opinion was that coming to Ulm next year is a “must”.

The second hall with the exhibits offered three different exhibitions in frames: the DANUBRIA Regional exhibition, the Postgeschichte Live (PGL) competition and a Hanover Rarities show, covering a major number of collecting areas across the whole world. This year the invited guests of the organiser of the PGL competition, the Deutscher Altbriefsammler-Verein (DASV), was a group of Swedish philatelists. Their exhibits offered excellent insights and also impressed the jury – two of the “Golden Posthorns” and two “Silver Posthorns” went to Sweden. It was the first time that DASV had guests from one of the Nordic countries, and their personal presence proved to be enriching. Another highlight were the more than fifty stands of the German Specialised Societies (Arbeitsgemeinschaften). A conference with the Societies chaired by Alfred Schmidt, the President of the German Federation Bund Deutscher Philatelsten (BDPh), underpinned that they are the centerpiece and driver of philately and research in Germany.

The Ulm stamp fair was certainly a highlight in the philatelic autumn in Germany, and the high number of visitors confirmed that the concept of commercial offerings plus “serious” philately works. The various philatelic displays and the presence of a large number of specialised societies had obviously attracted a lot of collectors and philatelists making the event once more an international meeting place for those who are involved in that field. As far as the next years are concerned, plans for 2026, 2027 and 2028 are already in the pipeline. The 2026 Ulm stamp fair will take place from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October, and the invited guests of the PGL competition will be the Royal Philatelic Society London. In 2027 it is planned to have the “Multilaterale” exhibition in Ulm, a multi-national format with participating exhibitors from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Luxemburg, Slovenia and Belgium.



**The winners of the “Golden Posthorns” (left to right): Klaus Weis (DASV President); Arnim Knapp (on behalf of Juergen Herbst), Dr. Martin Camerer, Richard Bodin, Jan Berg, Ingrid Fischer-Fullrich (on behalf of the late Christian Auschra), Sven Martens and Lorenzo Carra. (Photo: DASV)**



**Sending a letter to a friend: Does that yellow box really work? (Photo: Messe Sindelfingen)**

# EXFILNA and JUVENIA 2025 Successfully Held in Cádiz

*Rafael Acuña Castillo writes:*

EXFILNA-JUVENIA 2025 was held at the Baluarte de la Candelaria in Cádiz from November 5th to 9th, standing out as a highly successful national philatelic event.

During those days, various activities took place, including presentations of postal issues, guided tours of the city, workshops, conferences, and exhibitions of philatelic collections.

The event included the presentation of commemorative stamps, such as the one dedicated to the Cádiz City Council and the JUVENIA stamp featuring the character Batillo. Stamps such as the "Bridges of Spain: 1812 Constitution Bridge" and the stamp of the Spanish Royal Family were also presented.

In addition, cultural activities were held, including outdoor drawing with Urban Sketchers, school visits, drawing competitions, talks, and discussions on philatelic and cultural topics. The closing ceremony took place on November 9th, with the dismantling of the exhibitions and the return of collections to the exhibitors.

The event was made possible thanks to the support of the Cádiz City Council, the Cádiz Provincial Council, Correos (the Spanish postal service), the FNMT (Spanish Royal Mint), ANFIL (Association of Philatelic Entities of Cádiz), EDIFIL (Association of Philatelic Entities of Cádiz), local businesses, schools, and participants.



Ph. Fosters - depositphotos.com

The EXFILNA-JUVENIA 2025 event featured a comprehensive program of conferences and talks given by academics and philatelic experts. Below is a summary of the highlights and the awards presented at the exhibitions:

## November 6. Cádiz Day

Presentation of commemorative stamps dedicated to the Cádiz City Council (EXFILNA) and to Batillo/La Tía Norica (JUVENIA). Guided tours of Old Cádiz, Gadir, and the Provincial Museum, as well as school visits and use of the tourist bus.

Two main lectures were held in the afternoon: "A Journey Through Time via the Mail," given by José Manuel Rodríguez Gutiérrez, Secretary of de Royal Hispanic Academy of Philately and Postal History (RAHF), and "Rail Mail in Cádiz as Seen by a Street Vendor," by Gaspar Martínez Lorente, Academician (RAHF).

## November 7. Spanish Royal House Day

Presentation of the ATM (Association of Travel Agents) dedicated to the training ship Juan Sebastián de Elcano at the Naval Petty Officer Academy.

A souvenir sheet with stamps of His Majesty King Felipe VI and Her Royal Highness the Princess of Asturias was presented. Performance by the Inclusive Quartet and talks on philately.

A three-lecture session was held: "Cádiz and the Postal Routes of the Hispanic Colonial World," by Rocío Moreno Cabanillas, Academician of the RAHF; "Where is my mail? Senders are demanding..." by José Antonio Herráiz Gracia, Academician of the RAHF of Fine Arts; and "Cádiz: A Strategic Location for Airmail in the Civil War," by Eduardo Conejo Prieto, President of the RAHF.

The day concluded with a discussion on the "It Had to Be a Woman" collection and a talk on "Maximaphily."

The day culminated with the Awards Dinner.

## November 9. Closing Ceremony

### Awards and Main Prizes

#### National Grand Prize Competition (EXFILNA 2025):

Eugenio de Quesada "Mail without Correos in the Spanish Empire"  
Grand Gold (94 points)

#### Champions Class Grand Prize:

José Alberto Barreras Barreras "Alfonso XII, Last Issues"

#### Other Special Prizes

Several special prizes were also awarded to the following individuals and collections, which can be found in the attached list of winners.



*Eugenio de Quesada receives the EXFILNA2025 National Grand Prize from the Director of Philately and Institutional Relations of Correos (the Spanish postal service).*

Regarding the 29<sup>th</sup> National Youth Philatelic Exhibition (JUVENIA), held in conjunction with EXFILNA 2025, a commemorative stamp, the JUVENIA stamp, was issued, dedicated to Batillo, a key character in the adventures of La Tía Norica, a puppet company with over 200 years of history. The following activities and visits took place:

The main venue, the Baluarte de la Candelaria, hosted activities for all ages, including workshops and presentations. A play area with a giant postmark was set up for children. Visits were received from schoolchildren from the Santa Teresa and San Rafael primary schools, who enjoyed explanations from the directors.

### November 8. Youth Day

Included an outdoor drawing session with the Urban Sketchers and the presentation of the Tía Norica Card and Stamp, as well as the workshop "History of the Stamp: Searching in the Trunk of Memories."

#### **"Draw a Stamp for Cádiz" Contest**

One of the central events was the awards ceremony for this contest, in which more than 1,500 students from public and private schools in Cádiz and the surrounding province participated. The First Prize in the Children's Category went to María del Mar Cuevas Pacheco from the Juan Pablo II School in San Pedro, La Línea de la Concepción, and the Youth Category Prize went to Julia López-Cepero Guzmán from the Las Banderas Secondary School in El Puerto de Santa María.

También se reconocieron a los finalistas de Educación Primaria y Secundaria.

#### **JUVENIA 2025 Awards and Main Prizes**

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**JUVENIA Grand Prize, Large Vermeil Medal, 87 points.**

Spanish Postal and Telegraph Service Trophy awarded to David Junquera Guerrero for his collection, Evolution and History of European Castles.

**Large Vermeil Medal, 87 points.**

Felipe Villamartín Trophy awarded to Tamara Santos García for her collection, From Exchange to the Internet.

**Large Vermeil Medal, 85 points.**

FESOFI Trophy awarded to Aitana García Gómez for her collection, The Violin, the Prince of String Instruments.

**Large Vermeil Medal, 80 points.**

FESOFI Youth Commission Trophy awarded to Isabelly Carmo Valverde for her collection, The City of Boys and Girls.

# National Philatelic Exhibition and Qualification One Frame Exhibit

*Leonardo Pipitone Presidente dell'Unione Siciliana Collezionisti writes:*

On 7 and 8 November 2025, the Urban Centre in Syracuse hosted the "Siracusa 2025" National and Qualifying Philatelic Exhibition, organised by the Federation of Italian Philatelic Societies in collaboration with the Sicilian Collectors' Union and the Italian Philatelic Lions Club.

Siracusa 2025 saw 63 collections competing, 11 more than last year, presented by 48 exhibitors, including some collectors who have achieved important national and international recognition.

At the invitation of the Federation of Italian Philatelic Societies, eleven collectors belonging to the Hellenic Philatelic Federation participated, presenting thirteen collections.

In the presence of Dr Francesco Italia, Mayor of the City of Syracuse, the award ceremony took place, with five grand gold medals and 18 gold medals being awarded.

Mayor Italia showed significant interest, emphasising how *'in an era of rapid communication via the Internet, which connects people in real time even over great distances, a philatelic exhibition gives us a taste of the past that must be carefully preserved and defended. It speaks to us of relationships built slowly, consolidated and perhaps more solid for this reason, of expectations that gave time for reflection and of yearnings that could lead to great happiness or equally great disappointment. A world whose pace was dictated by people and not by algorithms and of which collectors, with their passion and patient research, represent one of the last bastions. Stamps still retain the charm of miniature works of art capable of capturing the events, characters and works of man destined to remain in history. We are delighted to host this exhibition and to contribute to its realisation, which grows in numbers every year and becomes increasingly important... and we appreciate the choice to include the Oikos, the first sacred building constructed by the Corinthians at the time of the city's foundation, in the logo of this edition...'*

As indicated by the Mayor, the Oikos was the oldest sacred building in Greek Syracuse, in which the ecista Archia placed the sacred symbols brought from Greece to preside over the new foundation.



*The commemorative postmark created for the event*



*The famous Greek theatre in Syracuse, a symbol of the city and its Greek origins.*

## Recent Exhibitions

Recently, the OIKOS was rebuilt on the basis of a model returned from the sanctuary of Hera in Argos, using local materials, just as the Greek colonists who arrived from Corinth did.

Syracuse was such an important centre in the ancient world that traces of it can be found in the writings of the greatest historians, orators and biographers, both Greek and Roman, including:

- **Cicero:** in the first century BC, he described it as *“the greatest and most beautiful of all Greek cities”* and mentioned it in his Verrine Orations, denouncing the plundering carried out by the propraetor Verres.
- **Thucydides:** the fifth-century BC Greek historian described in detail the crucial Athenian expedition against Syracuse, narrated in his *Peloponnesian War*.

Present were Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi, President of the Federation of Italian Philatelic Societies, and Kristos Gikas, President of the Hellenic Philatelic Federation.

The jury was composed of Luca Lavagnino, President, Claudio Ernesto Manzati, FSFI Commissioner and juror, Kristos Gikas, Commissioner and juror on behalf of ΕΦΟ, and Luciano Calenda, juror.

Mario Capuano, with his collection *“Pierre de Coubertin: from the origins to the first congress”*, won the Grand Prix Nazione della Manifestazione, while Massimiliano Bruno, with his collection *“Me Grand Turin”*, and Giovanni Nembrini, with his collections *“The postal activity of the Lavarello Company with South America”* and *‘Postal relations between Tuscany and the Papal States from 1 April 1851 to 30 June 1853’* and Leonardo Pipitone with the collection *‘Michelangelo Merisi, known as Caravaggio, on his journey to Syracuse’*.

Finally, Aniello Veneri was awarded a special prize for the most innovative collection, entitled *‘The rarest 100 lire coin of the Republic...’* but what were the reasons for this choice? It is worth remembering that the Syracuse series dominated the Italian philatelic scene for over thirty years, with numerous print runs and reissues, from 1953 to 1988, with multiple values issued to cover every type of existing postal tariff. The first values in 1953 were issued on paper with a winged wheel watermark, and from 1955 onwards, the watermark changed to stars, with different types and angles. In 1968, there was a switch to fluorescent paper with a reduction in the size of the vignette in relation to the total size of the stamp. It was in this context that the rarest 100 lire stamp of the Italian Republic was “issued”. It is a variant of the small format 100 lire version, printed on paper rolls with stars tilted 25° to the right, of which only 20 copies are known to exist in mint condition. In 1979, a lucky collector from Modena bought it at his local tobacconist’s and, recognising that it was different, kept it in a drawer for over thirty years before selling a few copies and revealing its rarity. It is a “standard” stamp that was widely used but only understood after a long time, and of this stamp on an envelope, which has been lost over time, only a few copies have come down to us. A very apt theme for a collection of paintings, which no one had ever had the courage to collect and exhibit before.

The special prize dedicated to the memory of Rag. Rosario Occhipinti was consigned by the Occhipinti family, who were present in full force with the second and third generations.



*The souvenir postcard franked with the stamp depicting the Greek theatre.*



*A photograph of the award ceremony.*

# The Echo of the First Lebanese Philatelic Exhibition

*Claudio Ernesto Mario Manzati writes:*

Only three years ago, LAP (Libanese Philatelic Association) join FEPA in Chechnya, Billy Karam President of LAP, would not have imagined such success in terms of public and media coverage and active participation of the most important public and political authorities of Beirut and Lebanon.

The philatelic exhibition event (not a competition) featured no less than 45 collections. from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon.

Below is a list of the collections on display:

| Philatelic Class | Exhibitor                               | Frames | Title  |
|------------------|---|--------|--|
| Topic            | Billy Karam                             | 1      | Cars on stamps   |
| Postal History   | Bernardo Longo                          | 8      | Syriana  |
| Postal History   | Fadi Barcha                             | 1      | Ottoman Postal Routes on Lebanese territory 1900-1918  |
| Postal History   | Khaled Baalbaki                         | 5      | French Post Offices in Lebanon   |
| Postal History   | Khaled Baalbaki                         | 1      | The overland mail service between Lebanon, Iraq and Iran 1923-1948                               |
| Postal History   | Khaled Baalbaki                         | 1      | Lebanon & Syria's Insured mail under French Mandate 1921-1940                                    |
| Topic            | Gebran Yaakoub                          | 1      | Lebanon stamps and Architecture  |
| Traditional      | Gabriel Ferneini                        | 1      | Lebanese Stamps Oddities 1936-1945   |
| Postal History   | Mohamad Traboulsi                       | 2      | Foreign Post Offices in Lebanon  |
| Traditional      | Houssam Mhaissen                        | 2      | Austrian stamps in Lebanon   |
| Traditional      | Houssam Mhaissen                        | 1      | British Stamps in Beyrout  |
| Traditional      | Houssam Mhaissen                        | 1      | French stamps in Lebanon   |
| Postal History   | Egyptian Association - Hany Salam       | 1      | 19th century French maritime mail in the Mediterranean   |
| Postal History   | Egyptian Association - Karim Darwaza    | 1      | Palestine - Ottoman Post 1840 - 1917   |
| Traditional      | Egyptian Association - Mohamed Omar     | 1      | 1951: A story of Mediterranean games that were formed in Egypt and became an international event |
| Traditional      | Egyptian Association - Kareem el Shazli | 2      | COVID-19 from Pandemic to Hope   |
| Traditional      | Egyptian Association Kareem el Shazli   | 1      | Independence of Levant Countries   |
| Postal History   | Egyptian Association - Samir Nabih      | 1      | The private post office in Egypt, Thomas Cook & Sons Tourist agency                              |
| Traditional      | Egyptian Association - Ali Gabr         | 1      | The 75th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union 1949  |
| Traditional      | Jordanian Association Jalil Tanous      | 1      | King Abdallah of Jordan  |
| Traditional      | Jordanian Association Jalil Tanous      | 1      | Hashemite Kings Hussein and Talal  |
| Traditional      | Jordanian Association Jalil Tanous      | 1      | Jordan Tourism   |
| Topic            | Abdallah Absi                           | 4      | Nairn : Overland mail  |
| Traditional      | Ahmad al Khattab / Palestine            | 2      | War on Gaza  |
| Traditional      | Ahmad al Khattab / Palestine            | 1      | Al Quds capital of Palestine   |
| Traditional      | Khaled Fayad                            | 1      | Postal stamps of Arab Scout Camps  |
| Traditional      | Khaled Fayad                            | 1      | Stamps commemorating fifty years of World Scout Movement   |

## Recent Exhibitions

It must have been the date chosen, i.e. 23 November, the day of Lebanon's independence in 1949, it must have been the location, i.e. the Sofitel le Gabriel located coincidentally on Rue dell'Indipendy, in a central area, it must have been the space made available, approx. 500 square metres (the entire second floor) that allowed for the reception of N°20 dealers in addition to the above-mentioned collections, of course.



The participation of the local and political authorities as anticipated was particularly active, the photo below shows a glimpse of the LAP Board and the authorities, who were present which I recall were the following:

**Marwan Abboud** *Governor of the City of Beirut*

**Charles Hajj**

*Minister of Telecommunication  
on whom the Lebanese Post Office depends*

**Laura Khazen Lahoud**

*Minister of Tourism*

**Paul Morcos** *Minister of Information*

**Tammam Salam**

*Former Prime Minister and son of one of the founders  
of the Lebanese state in 1943.*





The event was inaugurated at 3.30 p.m. on 22 November, with the ribbon-cutting ceremony, as shown in the picture on the left.

After the inauguration, official speeches followed, officiated by Fadi Nicolas Barcha, LAP's legal representative, first to speak was Billy Karam LAP President, followed by Benoit Gervais CEO of the Yvert & Tellier Catalogue and Claudio Ernesto Mario Manzati FEPA Director, who read the message from Bill Hedley FEPA President.

Finally, Charles Hajj Minister of Telecommunication closed the event. The Lebanese Post Office was present with a flying post office and issued a sheet of 4 stamps each worth 50,000 Lebanese Lira. The circulation was 12,500 sheets equal to 50,000 stamps.



*The commemorative sheet of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lebanese Philatelic Exhibition followed by the FDC.*

The event continued on Sunday, again with great public participation and with great final satisfaction on the part of dealers from all over Lebanon.

Personally, I believe that the organisational efforts shown by the LAP team, also thanks to the great vitality of its President Billy Karam, will allow Lebanon to aspire to its next event right away, even taking a further leap by organising a competition event under the aegis of FEPA.

I would like to conclude by saying that I was personally honoured to have had the opportunity to participate in this beautiful event and to have had the pleasure of enjoying Lebanese hospitality.



## The National Exhibition with International Participation: TIMFILEX 2025

### *Marius Muntean writes:*

From November 14 to 16, 2025, the National Exhibition with International Participation TimFileX 2025 took place in Timișoara, dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Queen Maria of Romania, organized by the Timișoara Philatelic Association (AFT) under the patronage of the Romanian Philatelic Federation (FRF) and with FEPA recognition. The exhibition was held in the Main Hall of the West University of Timișoara, which in recent years has become the host of philatelic exhibitions in the city.



Over 70 exhibits participated, on nearly 300 frames, as well as 10 literary works. Philatelists from Romania, Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Ukraine exhibited high-class collections, the level of the exhibition being very high. It is also worth noting that almost a quarter of the collections, sixteen in total, were new exhibits successfully displayed on the philatelic exhibition frames. The jury, led by Boncho Bonev, highlighted in its report the quality of the presented exhibits. The Grand Prize as well as the Large Gold Medal went to Alfred Schmidt (Germany) for the exhibit "Prussian Mail to Foreign Countries 1850-1867". Ion Chirescu also received a Large Gold Medal for the exhibit "Quarantine Services at the Borders of Romanian Principalities at the Beginning of the 19th Century".

Additionally, 12 more Gold medals were awarded for exhibits in postal history, traditional philately, thematic philately, aerophilately, postcards or literature to philatelists recognized on both national and international levels: György Lővey (Hungary) – "Postal Documents of the International Airmail Service", Moskalyuk Tymoshyk and collective (Ukraine) – "Termopil Region in Philately" (Literature), Mircea Dragoteanu – "Revolutionary Year 1848"; "Năsăud County Municipal Revenue Stamps" and "Hohe Rinne History" (Literature), Cristian Ionițoiu – "Censorship in Old Kingdom of Romania", Constantin Călin – "The Lion in Humanity Culture", Mircea Mureșan – "Post in Bucharest during German Occupation", George Singer – "The Titan – Beethoven"; Ioan Dejugan – "Sibiu, Medieval Town"; Dan Grecu – "Repression and Population Movements in Romania" (literature) or AF Sibiu – "Curierul Filatelic" (literature). The jury awarded also 13 Large Vermeil Medals and 8 Vermeil Medals.



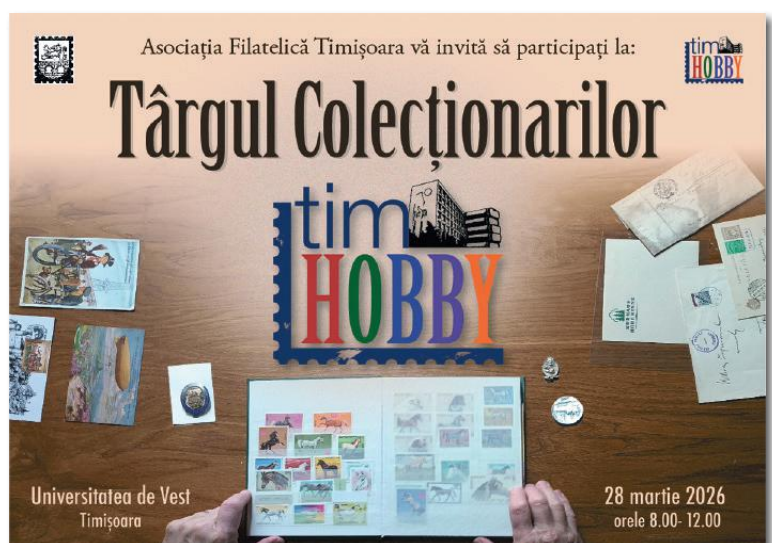
**The image of the queen appears on the exhibition medal as well as on one of the special postmarks from November 14, giving philatelists the opportunity to create beautiful pieces.**

It was an exceptional effort by the philatelists from Timișoara to prepare, organize, and set up the exhibition. Their work was rewarded by the participation of a large number of guests who came from across the country (Cluj, Sibiu, Oradea, Constanța, Craiova, Suceava, Deva, Reșița or Alba Iulia) or from abroad (Germany, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria). On Saturday morning, one of the largest Collectors' Fairs organized in Timișoara in the last 10 years took place in the UVT Foyer.

As usual at our recent exhibitions, Romfilatelia honored us by printing postal stationery (designed by Ady Ciobanu), allowing us to publicize our exhibition along all postal routes. Queen Maria and the TimFilEx logo were added to the image on the stationery. The personality of the Queen was also reflected in two of the collections exhibited by George Grigore (Constanța) and the Museum of Records in Bucharest.

Many students or lovers of beauty, culture, and history visited the exhibition. A special activity was carried out by young artists from the "Gallery in the Courtyard" guided by visual artist Oana Bolog Bleich, who drew their own stamps as part of the "Stamp from the Courtyard" project.

What's next? A new edition of TimFilEx is planned to be held in Autumn 2027. And the spring of 2026 will see the continuation of the TimHobby Fairs, the first of which being scheduled to take place in March 2026.



## NORDIA 2026 Features 700 Exhibition Frames

### **Lars Engelbrecht writes:**

The registration for Nordia 2026, to be held at Dipoli in Espoo, Finland, from May 8th to 10<sup>th</sup>, has ended.

A total of 111 exhibits in 655 exhibition frames have been registered for the Competitive Classes. All exhibits will be accepted to participate. Together with the exhibits invited to the Non-Competitive Classes, the total size of the exhibition will reach the planned target of 700 frames.



### A celebration of Finnish philately

Finnish philately forms the key part of the Nordia 2026 Competitive Classes. The host country will be represented by no less than 78 exhibits, which corresponds numerically to about 70 % of the entire exhibition.

Both Estonia and Norway will participate with eight exhibits each. Denmark contributes six exhibits, Sweden and Iceland four ones each. Also four foreign philatelic societies of Scandinavia collectors are traditionally entitled to participate. They will provide three exhibits.

The theme of the exhibition is the 170th anniversary of the Finnish postage stamps. It features exhibits presenting our classic philately, starting from the very first 1856 Oval issue. A highlight in the Honorary Class will be Kai Nieminen's *Classic Finland 1856-1875*, which won the Grand Prix Nordia 2025 last year in Sweden.

### The main focus in Traditional philately and Postal history

Four exhibits will compete in the Championship Class of Nordia 2026. They come from Finland, Sweden, Denmark and the United Kingdom. Each of them has been awarded at least two times with a Large Gold at Nordia, FEPA or FIP level exhibitions. These exhibits represent Traditional and Open philately.

The largest Competitive Classes of the exhibition will be Traditional philately, with 38 exhibits, and Postal history, with 32 exhibits. Open philately spurts to the third place with 12 entries.

Interestingly, all the exhibits of the last mentioned class represent the host country.

In both of the Classes of Thematic philately and Postal stationery, seven exhibits are on display, in the Picture Postcard Class four ones, and in the Aerophilately Class three exhibits. Youth philately is represented by two exhibits, Revenues and the First Day philately by one each. The First Day Class will be included for the first time in any Nordia exhibition, initially with a status of an experimental class.

Beside the mentioned number of exhibits to be shown in frames, nine exhibits compete in the class of Philatelic literature.

The exhibitors will receive an official approval and instruction letter in mid-February. The exhibit list is scheduled to be published during March.

The Jury of Nordia 2026 will consist of 12 Jurors, two Apprentice Jurors, two Experts and a Jury secretary. The members of the Jury will be announced during February.

### The Organizing Committee of NORDIA 2026



The Nordic Exhibition of Philately and Picture  
Postcards, 8-10 May, 2026, Espoo, Finland  
Dipoli Congress Centre



The Finnish Philatelic Society (SF) – The Philatelic society of Helsinki (HFF)

The Philatelic Federation of Finland – The Foundation for promoting Finnish Philately

[www.nordia2026.fi](http://www.nordia2026.fi)



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# PHILHAINAUT '26

## The Belgian National Championship

*Filip Van der Haegen writes:*

The Philhainaut'26 national philately championship will take place at Louvexpo in La Louvière from 28 to 30 August 2026. In addition to Belgian collectors, we have invited collectors from France and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to participate.

But that's not all. Visitors will be able to view high-quality collections from members of the Belgian Philatelic Academy, while members of the Belgian Congo Study Circle will present 150 frames from our former colonies to celebrate their 75th anniversary.

We will also host an international philatelic exhibition of 200 frames dedicated to birds – Birdpex 10 (see <https://birdpex.com>). This will be the second time that Birdpex, open for all bird collectors, will be organised in our country.

For the first time in Belgium, we are collaborating with the Cercle Numismatique de La Louvière, which will organise an international numismatic fair with dealers from all over the world, as well as an exhibition and lectures that are sure to delight all banknote and coin collectors.

Philhainaut'26 will be this year's must-see event in Belgium. Come and join us at Louvexpo, Rue Debaty 7, 7100 La Louvière from 28 to 30 August 2026. For more information, visit [www.philhainaut.be](http://www.philhainaut.be)



# STAMPA 2026 Ireland's Premier National Stamp Exhibition 10–12 September 2026

Griffith College Conference Centre, Dublin 8

*Philip Kane, STAMPA Chairman, writes:*

Ireland's longestrunning celebration of philately returns for its 76<sup>th</sup> Exhibition, and this year promises to be one of the most exciting yet. With a new September date and a vibrant programme, **STAMPA 2026** is set to welcome collectors, exhibitors, enthusiasts, and families for three unforgettable days.

Visitors can look forward to:

- **Leading stamp dealers** from across Ireland and beyond.
- **Exhibition displays** from renowned philatelic exhibitors.
- The expanded **Youth Section**, following its outstanding success in 2025.
- **Exclusive souvenirs and special pictorial covers** available only at the show.

The prestigious **Awards Dinner** will take place at **Wynns Hotel** on **Friday, 11 September 2026**, bringing together the philatelic community for an evening of celebration and camaraderie. A brandnew **STAMPA website** will launch shortly, featuring updates on special events, programme highlights, and this year's exclusive souvenirs. Whether you're a seasoned collector, a newcomer to Irish philately, or simply curious about the world of stamps, **STAMPA 2026 is the event you won't want to miss**. Further information can be found at [www.stampa.ie](http://www.stampa.ie)



## ABPS National Competitive Exhibition Autumn 2026

An exhibition and competition, including all classes (except literature), will be held at

**The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain**

The Jubilee Hotel and Conferences, Nottingham  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2026



Applications for entries at:  
<https://exhibitions.abps.org.uk>  
Congress Information and Booking:  
<https://gbcongress.uk>

## SRBIJAFILA XVI

# National Stamp Exhibition with International Participation Belgrade, 7–11 October 2026

*Vladimir Milic writes:*

SRBIJAFILA XVI will take place in Belgrade from 7 to 11 October 2026 as a National Stamp Exhibition with International Participation, organised by the Union of Philatelists of Serbia (SFS). Recognising the significance of this event as the central cultural philatelic event in Serbia in 2026, Post of Serbia has given its full institutional support to the project and stands firmly behind its organisation and implementation.



The exhibition commemorates two major jubilees of Serbian philately:

- 75 years since the first National Stamp Exhibition held in 1951, and
- 160 years since the printing of the first Serbian definitive postage stamps, the Prince Michael issue of 1866.



Although national in rank, SRBIJAFILA XVI is conceived as a strong regional exhibition with significant international participation. Exhibitors from the philatelic federations of the former Yugoslav region are expected, including Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia.

The exhibition will comprise approximately 300 frames. The competitive structure will include two divisions:

Championship Class – for exhibits that have previously achieved high awards at national or international level and meet the qualification criteria defined in the Exhibition Regulations.

General Competitive Class – open to qualified exhibitors.

The following classes will be represented:

- |                         |                  |                      |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| • Traditional Philately | • Postal History | • Postal Stationery  |
| • Aerophilately         | • Revenues       | • Thematic Philately |
| • Maximaphilia          | • Open Philately | • Picture Postcards  |
| • Youth Philately       | • Literature     |                      |

Narrow theme exhibits, and Modern Philately exhibits are classified in their respective philatelic classes, 1-2-3 frame exhibits

Individual participation from countries outside the six former Yugoslav federations will be accepted in Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately and Revenues, provided that the main focus of the exhibit relates to the former Yugoslav area, thereby preserving the regional character of the exhibition.

The jury will consist of accredited national judges of the Union of Philatelists of Serbia, reinforced by invited FIP-accredited judges, ensuring balanced expertise across all classes and full compliance with FIP evaluation standards.

SRBIJAFILA XVI has been granted FEPA Recognition. Furthermore, the FIP Board has approved FIP Sponsorship, recognising the regional importance of the exhibition.

The exhibition will be held at the Military Club of Serbia in central Belgrade, the venue of the successful BALKANFILA XIX in 2023. Its central location and strong visitor attendance during previous events provide a proven organisational and logistical advantage.

A dedicated section of the exhibition will be devoted to bilateral philatelic cooperation between Serbia and China, reflecting the growing cultural and postal collaboration between the two countries.

It is foreseen that all exhibits, subject to the consent of the exhibitors, will be published in digital form on the official exhibition website. This initiative aims to ensure broader accessibility, long-term visibility and preservation of the exhibited material beyond the physical duration of the event.

The exhibition will be organised according to the Regulations of the Union of Philatelists of Serbia.

All updates and official information can be followed on the exhibition's official website: <https://srbijafila.org/en/>



# The Italian Federation of Philatelic Societies is Very Proud to Announce

**Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi RDP writes:**

**President of the Italian Federation of Philatelic Societies**

**General Commissioner of ITALIA 2026**

ITALIA 2026, an International exhibition of philatelic literature to be held in Rome from 15 to 18 October 2026.

The exhibition has many interesting and innovative features:

- It is being held in Rome, one of the most beautiful and famous cities in the world, an ideal destination for a philatelic and tourist holiday for the whole family
- Applications for participation are submitted using an online form, without the burden of downloading and then re-uploading pdf documents
- The participation fee (only €50) can be paid online using PayPal, Visa or Mastercard
- Entries will be judged according to the new regulations defined by a panel of FEPA experts led by Giancarlo Morolli RDP, with a clear distinction between research and divulgative works, thus enabling also the latter to achieve the best results
- The work of the Jury will not be limited to a few days but will take place online from June, with a specially designed and developed system for collecting judgements
- Each exhibitor will receive a brief report with the jury's comments
- Sunday 18 October, the **FEPA Congress** will take place
- Other important international events will also be held as part of Italia 2026, the General Assembly of the AIEP and meetings of National and International Academies and philatelic associations
- Two FEPA seminars dedicated to the Museo Postale e Telegrafico della Mitteleuropa in Trieste and to the ISSP Institute of Postal Historical Studies "Aldo Cecchi"

The exhibition has FEPA Patronage.

For more information visit <https://italia2026.filatelia.info/> or e-mail to [italia2026@filatelia.info](mailto:italia2026@filatelia.info)

You can find the Application Form at <https://italia2026.filatelia.info/application-form/>

Please share with you Societies or Libraries or Authors or Loverss of Philatelic Literature!

Thank you





# ITALIA 2026

## INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC LITERATURE EXHIBITION

Rome, 15-18 October 2026

[HTTPS://ITALIA2026.FILATELIA.INFO](https://italia2026.filatelia.info)

[Italia2026@filatelia.info](mailto:Italia2026@filatelia.info)

**ITALIA 2026** is an international exhibition of philatelic literature to be held in **Rome** from **15 to 18 October 2026**, organised by the Italian Federation of Philatelic Societies.

**Italia 2026** is being held in **Rome**, one of the most beautiful and famous cities in the world, an ideal destination for a philatelic and tourist holiday for the whole family

Applications for participation are submitted using an **online form** (see <https://italia2026.filatelia.info/application-form/>) without the burden of downloading and then re-uploading PDF documents

Entries will be judged according to the **new regulations** defined by a panel of FEPA experts led by Giancarlo Morolli RDP, with a clear distinction between research and divulgative works, thus enabling also the latter to achieve the best results

The work of the **Jury** will not be limited to a few days but will **take place from June**, with a specially designed and developed system for collecting judgements

**Italia 2026** has the **FEPA** Patronage



and the **USFI** Patronage



The participation fee (only €5 0) can be paid online using **PayPal**, **Visa** or **Mastercard**

Each exhibitor will receive a **brief report** with the jury's comments

Two **FEPA** seminars, one dedicated to an important European postal Museum and the other to the **ISSP** Institute of Postal Historical Studies "Aldo Cecchi"



Sunday 18 October, the **FEPA Congress** will take place

Other important international events will also be held as part of Italia 2026, the General Assembly of the **AIEP** and meetings of National and International Academies and philatelic associations



organised by



**TAKE PART YOU TOO WITH YOUR MONOGRAPH OR PERIODICAL OR DIGITAL MEDIA!**



**EGYPHILA**  
EGYPTIAN STAMP EXHIBITION  
**2026**

## The Philatelic Society of Egypt

**Organizing EGYPHILA 2026 with FEPA recognition**



Prince Mohamed Ali, Dr Ahmed Nazif (Former Egyptian Prime Minister), and Mr. Hany Salam (President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt) inaugurating the National philatelic Exhibition on the 14th of February 2026.

Prince Mohammed Ali receiving the honorary membership of the society on the 14th of February 2026.

For over nine decades, the Philatelic Society of Egypt (PSE) has stood as the guardian of a nation's postal memory. Founded in 1929, the PSE is more than a club for collectors; it is acting as the Egyptian philatelic federation, is a cornerstone of cultural preservation, dedicated to the art and history of philately in the land of the Nile .

Egypt holds a place of honor in global postal history. As the first Arab and African country to issue a postage stamp on January 1, 1866, Egypt's philatelic journey began just 26 years after the world's first stamp, the Penny Black . Our Society was established to document, study, and celebrate this rich heritage. From the early issues depicting the Sphinx and Pyramids to the rare commemoratives of the royal era such as the iconic LE10,000 stamp celebrating the opening of Port Fouad in 1926 or the sought-after 1938 wedding of King Farouk and Queen Farida. Egyptian stamps offer a miniature art gallery of the country's political, social, and artistic evolution .

Today, the PSE continues this mission with a vibrant community of enthusiasts. While the methods of communication have evolved, the passion for philately remains strong. With 250 registered members ranging from lifelong collectors to young historians, the Society is a hub for knowledge and camaraderie . We provide a space where members can meet, exchange and discuss all philatelic matters.

The Society is not just about looking back; it is actively shaping the future of philately in the region. We are proud to organize two yearly exhibitions and events that put Egypt on the international philatelic map. A local exhibition in the beginning of the year and a regional exhibition EGYPHILA in September.

We invite you to become part of this living history. Whether you are drawn by the historical significance of the 1866 issues, the beauty of Pharaonic-themed stamps, or simply the thrill of the hunt for a missing piece, the Philatelic Society of Egypt welcomes you.

For membership information and upcoming events, please contact Dr. Ali Abdelmegeid

[abdelmegeid2004@yahoo.com](mailto:abdelmegeid2004@yahoo.com)

# EGYPHILA 2026

## with FEPA Recognition

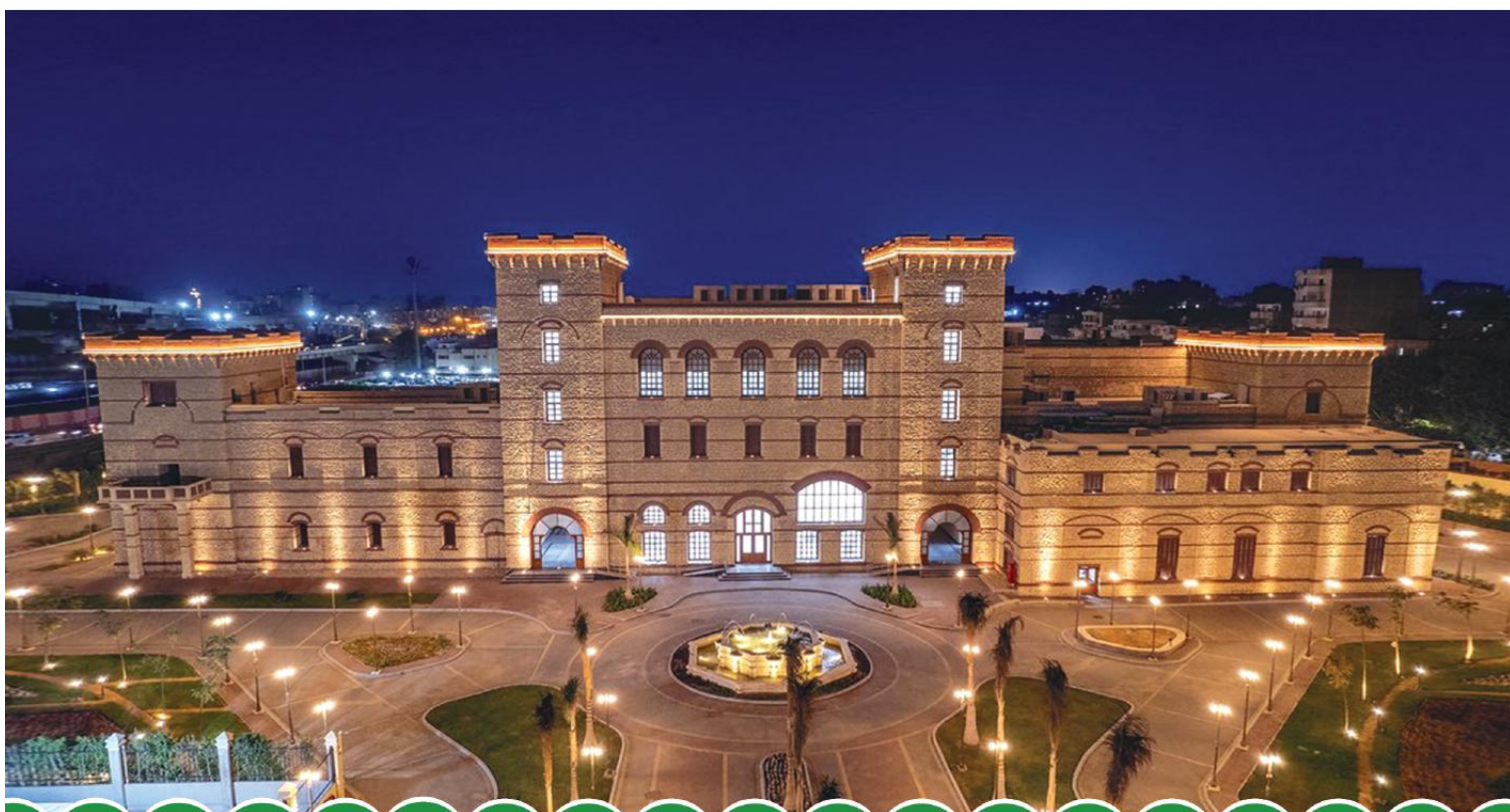
Message from **Hany Salam RDP**, President of The Philatelic Society of Egypt:  
We are delighted to announce EGYPHILA 2026, held under FEPA recognition.



The exhibition will take place in Cairo from **17 to 19 September 2026**  
at Digital Egypt Innovation Center "Creativa" - Giza .

Today EGYPHILA is the largest annual multidisciplinary regional gathering  
of collectors in Egypt.

This year's exhibition brings together more than 300 frames of philatelic works.



*For Inquiries, Please Contact Us at: [abdelmegeid2004@yahoo.com](mailto:abdelmegeid2004@yahoo.com)*

# European Championship for Thematic Philately 2027

## **Lars Engelbrecht writes:**

The European Championship for Thematic Philately (ECTP) will be held as part of the exhibition marking the 75th anniversary of Schweizer Motivsammler-Verein (SMV) in Bulle (Canton of Fribourg, Switzerland) from 15 to 17 April 2027 (Thursday to Saturday). The event is organised by the Federation of Swiss Philatelic Societies (VSPPhV) and hosted by the Swiss Motif Collectors' Association in cooperation with the Club Philatélique de Bulle.

The ECTP aims to give Europe's best thematic exhibits the opportunity to compete in a single exhibition. The purpose of such a competition is to maintain and further develop international standards in thematic philately.

At the same time, the ECTP is intended to offer an opportunity to introduce new exhibits to international level. For this reason, great importance is attached to recommendations by the jury, discussions between the exhibitors present, and a seminar and training programme.

The ECTP is recognised by the FEPA, the umbrella organisation of all national philatelic federations in Europe, as the official European Championship for Thematic Philately and was held for the first time in 2006. The FEPA is granting specialized patronage to the 2027 event. (This also means inclusion in the FEPA results database. Exhibits that achieve  $\geq 85$  points for the first time qualify for 8 frames at subsequent FEPA exhibitions.)

Exhibition classes: The exhibition is divided into the following categories:

**Exhibition classes:** The exhibition is divided into the following categories:

- Class 1: Champions' Class
- Class 2: Art and Culture
- Class 3: History and Organisations
- Class 4: People and Everyday Life, Sport and Leisure
- Class 5: Transport and Technology
- Class 6: Nature, Agriculture and Pets
- Class 7: Open Philately (with a thematic focus)
- Class 8: Picture Postcards (with a thematic focus)
- Class 9: 1-frame Exhibits, thematic

**Champions Class:** Category winners from previous ECTP competitions may choose to show their exhibits in one of classes 2–6 or in the Champions Class. In the Champions Class, the jury determines the best exhibit in this class by judging according to GREV and SREV. In addition to the eight winners in the other competition classes, this exhibit is also a candidate for the ECTP Grand Prix. An exhibit that has already won this ECTP Grand Prix can be exhibited but cannot be a candidate again.

Exhibits in the Champions Class may comprise up to 10 frames at the exhibitor's request. FEPA is testing the expansion of the number of frames for top exhibits with the ECTP 2027.

## Seminar

The special time frame of the exhibition (Thursday to Saturday) allows for a FEPA seminar for thematic judges to be held after the ECTP. This seminar will begin on Saturday afternoon (17 April 2027) and end on Sunday afternoon (18 April 2027).

All FIP or FEPA judges, as well as future candidates for FIP/FEPA apprentices, are free to participate in this seminar. Participation is free of charge. Judges who wish to participate are kindly requested to register with the exhibition manager by 31 January 2027. Thematic judges with national accreditation may also participate in the seminar, provided there are places available.

The seminar part on Saturday afternoon is open to all interested ECTP exhibitors.

**Please read more about the exhibition at: [www.thema-briefmarken.ch/ectp\\_bulle\\_2027](http://www.thema-briefmarken.ch/ectp_bulle_2027)**



# SLOVPHILEX 2027 from the Beginning

*Igor Pirc writes:*

It is the autumn of 2023 and, as always, there was an idea at the beginning. This was followed by a meeting between the president of the Union of Slovak Philatelists (ZSF) and the Minister of Transport (posts and telecommunications) and the idea turned into action. ZSF prepared Slovakia's first ever candidacy for hosting the World Stamp Exhibition in 2027, which was submitted by FIP in the summer of 2024. On December 4, 2024, the candidacy at the 77<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress in Shanghai was approved (Fig. 1) and at the same time an FIP consultant was appointed for SLOVPHILEX 2027. In the summer of 2025, a draft contract was signed in Liberec (Fig. 2) and the entire formal process was officially completed on September 20, 2025 in Seoul with the ceremonial signing of the contract between FIP and Slovakia (Fig. 3).



*Fig. 1 Presentation and approval of the SLOVPHILEX 2027 world stamp exhibition at the 77<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress in Shanghai.*



*Fig. 2 Signing of the draft contract in Liberec, FIP Director Peter Suhadolc (left) and ZSF president Pavol Lazar.*



*Fig. 3 Ceremonial signing of the contract in Seoul, FIP vice-president Yigal Nathaniel (left) and ZSF president Pavol Lazar.*

In the summer of 2025, on the occasion of the opening of the Stamp Gallery in Bratislava, Slovakia, the World stamp exhibition SLOVPHILEX 2027 was publicly announced for the first time (Fig. 4). This was followed by the necessary signing of contracts between ZSF, the Ministry of Transport, Slovak National Gallery and Slovak Post. For the idea of the World stamp exhibition, the organizers also managed to get the three-time world champion in road cycling Peter Sagan and the world champion and Olympic champion in alpine skiing Petra Vlhová, who became ambassadors of the exhibition. The President of the Slovak Republic, Peter Pellegrini (picture 5) was taken the auspices over the exhibition. At a press conference in December 2025 (Fig. 6), together with the location (representative spaces of the Slovak National Gallery) and the date (June 30-July 4, 2027), the exhibition was officially presented to the public through most of national and some foreign media. In the meantime, behind the scenes of the exhibition, the organizing committee is quietly carrying out all the necessary actions so that the entire philatelic world as well as the general public can fully enjoy SLOVPHILEX 2027. As part of the exhibition will include a seminar of the FIP Postal History Commission, an international auction and especially the **FEPA CONGRESS 2027**, we believe that all delegates will also be national commissioners, so the exhibition will have a very strong representation from Europe.



*Fig. 4 Opening of the Postage Stamp Gallery, (from left) Minister of Transport Jozef Ráž, ZSF president Pavol Lazar, general director of Slovenská Pošta, a.s. Vladislav Kupka .*



*Fig. 5 President of the Slovak Republic Peter Pellegrini and exhibition ambassadors Petra Vlhová and Peter Sagan on Slovak postage stamps.*



*Fig. 6 Press conference (from left) emcee/presenter, ZSF president Pavol Lazar, State Secretary of the Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic Igor Choma, Director General of Slovenská pošta, a.s. Vladislav Kupka, Director General of the Slovak National Gallery Juraj Králik.*

# Praga, a Tradition that Continues (Part I)

*Jiří Kraus writes:*

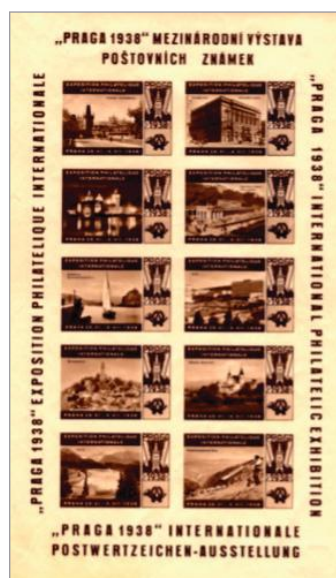
In 2028, Prague will once again welcome the world of philately. From 22–26 March 2028, the World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 2028, held under the patronage of FIP and with the recognition of FEPA, will take place in the historic Industrial Palace at the Prague Exhibition Grounds.

The exhibition continues a remarkable tradition of major philatelic events held in Prague over many decades. As preparations for PRAGA 2028 progress, this seems a fitting moment to look back at the origins of that tradition. In this first part we revisit the exhibitions PRAGA 1938, 1955, 1962, 1968 and 1978, which helped establish Prague as one of the important centres of international philately.

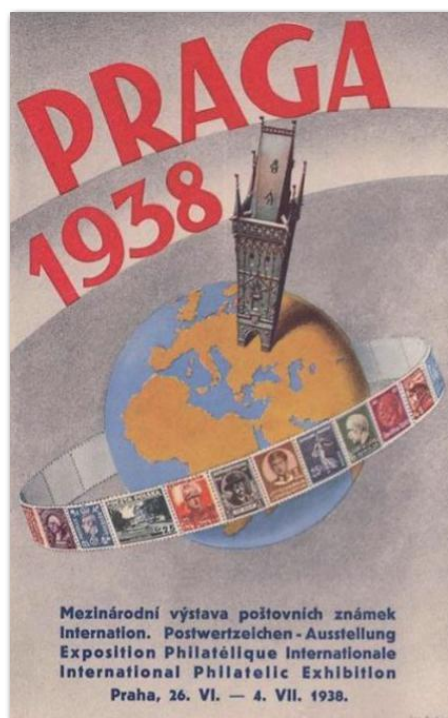
## Praga 1938

The PRAGA 1938 International Stamp Exhibition was held from 26 June to 4 July 1938, mainly at the National House in Prague's Vinohrady district. The PRAGA 2018 exhibition awards ceremony also took place in these premises. The exhibition was held under the patronage of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP). The FIP Congress was held at the same time.

*Official postcard*



*Promotional stickers.*



*Promotional leaflet.*



*Exhibition block with commemorative postal cancellation.*

The exhibition was held under the patronage of Czechoslovak President Dr Edvard Beneš, who visited it himself. The FIP President, J. Maingay, was also present. The total exhibition area covered approximately 2,500 m<sup>2</sup>.

There were 513 exhibits from almost 400 exhibitors, 250 of whom were from abroad. The exhibits were divided into 19 categories, with 21 countries represented in the official postal administration exhibition. Thirteen non-competitive exhibits were displayed in the Court of Honor.

W. S. Alfieris from Alexandria won the exhibition's highest award, the PRAGA Prize, for his collection of Greek stamps from 1861–1886. A total of 45 honorary awards, 12 large gold medals and 30 gold medals were presented.

The international jury had 35 members, but only 25 of them arrived in Prague. The contemporary press particularly praised the organisation of the exhibition.

## Praga 1955

The first post-war International Stamp Exhibition, PRAGA 1955, took place from 10 to 25 September 1955 in the Mánes Building and the Žofín Palace on Slovanský Island. It was held under the patronage of President Antonín Zápotocký and with the support of the FIP.



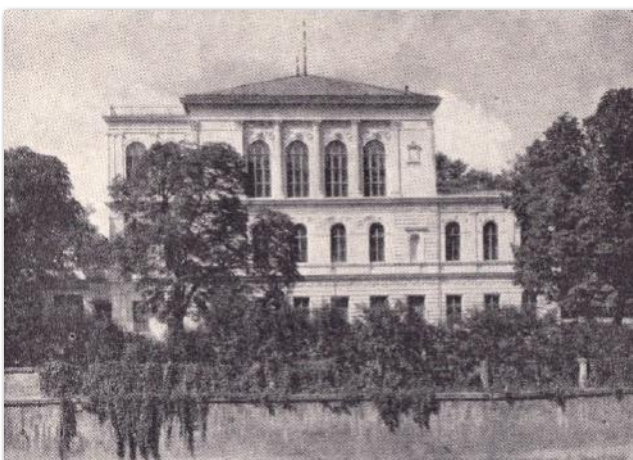
It presented 23 postal administration exhibits and 326 philatelic exhibits from 16 European countries. There were no exhibits from non-European countries, and approximately two-thirds of the exhibits came from Czechoslovakia.

Jaroslav Kovářik won the Grand Prix International for his exhibit on classical Austria. Eight exhibits won gold medals, while another 13 received large vermeil medals.

More than 100,000 people visited the exhibition, which was accompanied by a rich programme of events. Negotiations with FIP representatives during the exhibition paved the way for the organisation of the first world exhibition in Prague, PRAGA 1962.



*Exhibition block and stationery envelope.*



*Exhibition venues: the Žofín Palace (exhibition halls of individual collectors) and the Mánes Building (Exhibition halls of post authorities).*

## Praga 1962

The first World Stamp Exhibition, PRAGA 1962, took place from 18 August to 2 September 1962 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of organised philately in Czechoslovakia. The event was held under the slogan 'For friendship between nations and for strengthening peace in the world'. The main venue was the Industrial Palace, where PRAGA 2028 will also be held.



The exhibition was organised under the patronage of the FIP and President Antonín Novotný. The opening ceremony was conducted by FIP President Lucien Berthelot and the President of the Republic.

Official exhibitions from 64 postal administrations were presented and around 6,500 frames were displayed, with philatelists from 85 countries participating. The exhibits were not divided into classes, but arranged by the exhibitors' countries ("national exhibitions"), a method that was not repeated later.

A total of 993 exhibits were displayed, 262 of which were from Czechoslovakia. Fourteen gold medals and fifteen vermeil medals were awarded. The postal administration exhibits (81 in total) attracted particular interest. P.J. Pannetier won a major international prize.

The exhibits were evaluated by a 36-member jury led by L. Berthelot, and the secretary was Ladislav Dvořáček. The exhibition offered a rich programme of accompanying events. Radio broadcasts about the exhibition were conducted in ten languages. Approximately 283,000 people attended. During the exhibition, a conference of journalists was held at which the AIJP statutes were approved, and the FIP congress took place at the end of the exhibition.



*Exhibition stamps and block.*



*Exhibition venues – Congress Palace and Industrial Palace.*

## Praga 1968

The PRAGA 1968 World Stamp Exhibition took place from 22 June to 7 July 1968, mainly in the two wings of the Industrial Palace (where PRAGA 2028 will also be held). The exhibition formed part of the celebrations marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Czechoslovakia.



Its motto was 'Philately – a Sphere of Learning and Peace'. The exhibition was held under the patronage of President Ludvík Svoboda and the FIP. The FIP Congress was also held there.

PRAGA 1968 was the world's largest philatelic exhibition at that time. Competition exhibits occupied 8,500 exhibition frames, each containing 16 sheets; a total of 1,133 stamp exhibits and 229 literature exhibits were displayed. The largest exhibits covered up to 40 frames, and national commissioners were appointed by 43 countries. The "court of honour" in the central part of the Industrial Palace featured a description of 250 rarities spanning 20 pages of the catalogue. In the Hybernian Palace, there was an exhibition of 140 postal administrations, with the total scope of the exhibition being almost 10,000 exhibition frames.

The jury awarded 66 gold medals. The main prize, donated by the President of the Republic, was awarded to P. Provera (Italy) for his collection of first editions of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia (more than 60 frames). The international prize was awarded to H. Knapp (Germany) for his collection of Saxony stamps (56 frames). The jury consisted of 46 members and 8 apprentices from 23 countries.

A total of 345,000 people visited the exhibition, an estimated 60,000 of whom were from abroad. Attractive exhibits from postal administrations and the honorary court attracted great interest. The FIP Congress took place at Karlštejn Castle.



*The President of the Republic Ludvík Svoboda is receiving special cover with the key for ceremonial opening of the exhibition.*



*Exhibition block commemorating 50th anniversary of the issue of the first Czechoslovak stamp.*

*Exhibition venues: exhibition frames in the Industrial Palace and exposition of the Postal Museum in Prague.*



## Praga 1978



The PRAGA 1978 exhibition took place from 8 to 17 September 1978, primarily at the Industrial Palace. The exhibition's slogan was 'Postage Stamps and Philately – A Sphere of Learning and Peace', and each day had its own theme with a cultural programme.

There were 1,405 competition exhibits (including 250 literature exhibits) and 143 official exhibits from postal administrations. The total exhibition area covered 7,000 square metres. Unlike in 1968, a limit of 5 frames per exhibit was introduced, though exhibits that had won a gold medal at the previous FIP exhibition could be expanded to 10 frames.

The Grand Honorary Prize of the FIP, awarded by the President of the Republic, was given to R. Ishikawa (Japan) for his exhibit "Hawaii". G. Barcella (Italy) won the Grand Prix International for his exhibit "Romagne". A total of 40 large gold medals were awarded.



*Exhibition venue: Industrial Palace.*

### *Special stationery envelope for balloon mail - "Greetings to the WIPA 1981 Exhibition".*



*Ceremonial opening of the exhibition.*

The international jury consisted of 76 members from 29 countries, including honorary members and apprentices. For the first time, postal administration exhibits were evaluated separately. A total of 335,800 people visited the exhibition, around 50,000 of whom were from abroad. Particular attractions included the one-cent British Guiana stamp and the 'Mauritius' stamp. The 47th FIP Congress took place prior to the opening.

*To be continued...*

*PRAGA 1988 - PRAGA 2028 in the next issue!*



*Official exposition of the posts administrations and museums in the exhibition house U Hybernů.*



World Stamp Exhibition

# Praga 2028



22 - 26 March

Industrial Palace, Prague

Praga 2028 is a Specialized World Stamp Championship Exhibition which is held under the Patronage of FIP and with the Recognition of FEPA.



2500  
exhibition frames



## Exhibition classes:

World Stamp Championship Class – Traditional Philately  
Postal History – Postal Stationery – Revenue – Aerophilately  
Astrophilately – Thematic Philately – Open Philately  
Picture Postcards – Youth Philately – Philatelic Literature



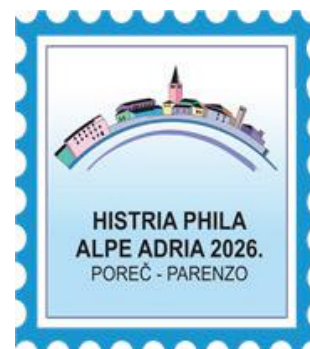
[www.praga2028.cz](http://www.praga2028.cz)



## ALPE ADRIA PHILATELY Members Meet in POREČ, CROATIA

### *Igor Piric writes:*

Alpe Adria Philately (AAP) is a working group that originally brought together philatelic organisations of the Alps Adriatic region (Austria –Burgenland, Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Steiermark; Germany – Bavaria, Italy - Lombardia, Trentino - Alto Adige, Veneto, Friuli Venezia – Giulia, Emilia Romagna; Switzerland – Ticino, Hungary – Baranya, Győr-Moson-Sopron Somogy, Vas Zala; Slovenia and Croatia), and which have been organizing an exhibition in each of their member states every year since 1995. The first exhibition was in Deutschlandsberg in Austrian Styria, and this April it will be organized in Croatia.

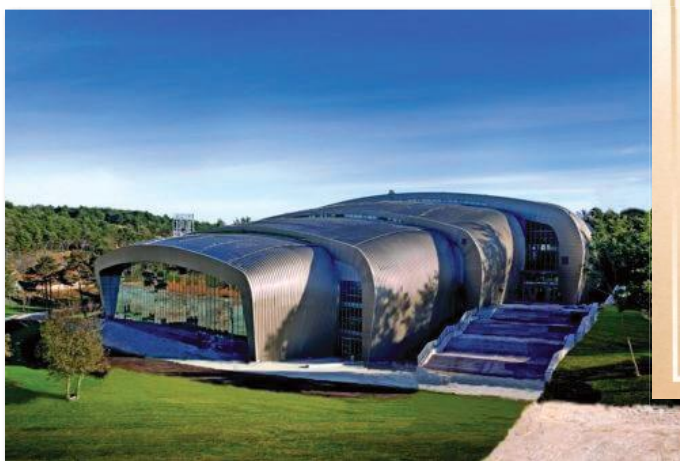


The philatelic exhibition is named Histria Phila Alpe Adria 2026 and will be held from 9th to 12th April 2026 In Poreč-Parenzo, a historic city on the Adriatic Sea on the west coast of Istria. The exhibition is organised by the Croatian Federation of Philatelists and will be held in accordance with the usual rules of Alpe Adria exhibitions. Full confirmed IREX and the rest of the information are available on the Alpe Adria website at [www.alpeadria.eu](http://www.alpeadria.eu), where the full history and current events of the regional working group are published.

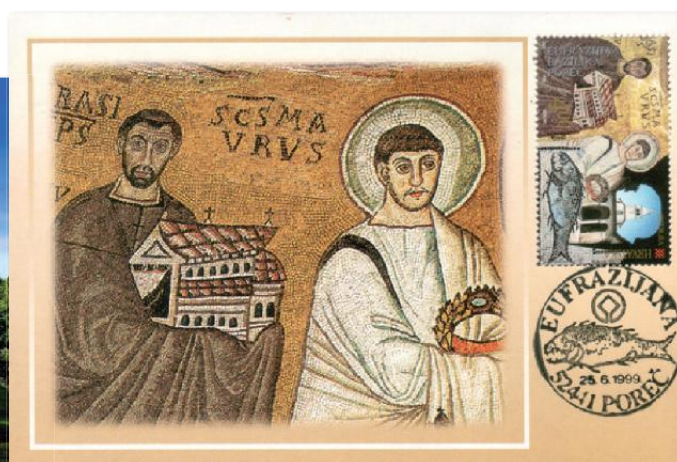
As has been the custom for some time, there will also be a special guest at this exhibition – this year it is the Portuguese Federation and its exhibitors. It is worth mentioning that Portugal was a guest at the AAP 2011 exhibition in Maribor, Slovenia, and all AAP members were invited in the northern Portuguese city of Viana do Castelo in 2019. So it is a long-standing friendly cooperation!

All eight participating countries have already appointed their commissioners (and they have already submitted their applications, which have been approved by the organizer), and the judging team has also been formed.

And another success has been achieved in the recent past, namely, two regional groups - Multilaterale and Alpe Adria Philately - have agreed to alternate exhibitions due to the significant overlap of members in each group. In this spirit, the second year of the Multilaterale series will be in Germany, and in two years the AAP exhibition will be in Hungary, most likely.



*Exhibition venue: Sports hall Žatika*



*Euphrasius basilica in Poreč, 6st century, Byzantine mosaics, UNESCO heritage.*



# The Laws of Unintended Consequences

*Chris King writes:*

The laws of unintended consequences are the most frequently enacted by legislatures since policy decisions and regulations often produce unanticipated and unexpected outcomes. This is clearly the case following Denmark's changes in postal arrangements which came into force on 1 January 2026.

In July 2024 I wrote in *FEPA News* about the changes being introduced by the Danish Postal Service as it adapts to the digital world. The article was originally published in Vol 133 No. 1513 of the *London Philatelist* in March 2024 and it concluded by saying, that it is certain that Denmark's reforms will be closely watched by other postal providers and governments - and it doesn't look good for stamps - or philatelists.

On 27 June 2023, following broad agreement on the future of postal services, Thomas Danielsen, then Danish Minister of Transport, announced that The Government (that was the Social Democrats, the Liberal Party and the Moderates), the Liberal Alliance, the Conservative People's Party, the Social Liberal Party, the Alternative and the New Conservatives (all of whom were in opposition) "have agreed on a deal that suits today's postal market ... the universal service obligation, which currently gives PostNord a special status, will cease. This means that citizens can look forward to greater freedom of choice."

"At the same time, the agreement includes a special arrangement for the small islands, which can look forward to better service than before. Under the agreement, investment will be made in facilities for parcels and letters on all small islands, so that here too it will be possible to choose freely who will deliver letters and parcels. In addition, the state will continue to support mail for the blind and international post. Tenders will be launched in these areas."

Since then, Martin Pingel, PostNord's Head of Stamps, left his post at the beginning of 2026, and PostNord ceased its letter service in Denmark. This has largely been taken over by a company called DAO, which is a newspaper and magazine delivery company, and is the only letter delivery business remaining.

The anticipated competition has not appeared, but Danes seem pragmatic about the change, as 97% of the Danish population over age 15 are already enrolled in MitID, the national identity system which links citizens to services, and 95% use the Digital Post app.

DAO received approximately 15,000 complaints in the first month, and users have reported missing or delayed letters, with some deliveries taking 4-8 weeks instead of the promised 5 days. Organisations such as Ældre Sagen, The Danish Association for the Elderly, have expressed concern that the shift disproportionately affects the approximately 271,000 Danes who still rely on physical mail for critical documents like hospital appointments and vaccinations.

On the other hand, DAO's prices are slightly lower than PostNord's were, and there have been surveys indicating that DAO is faster than PostNord, delivering 99% of domestic letters within five days compared to PostNord's 90%. However, real-world user reports in early 2026 have been more critical of consistency. It would be helpful if there was a published independent assessment.

51% of the company is owned by JP/Politikens Hus, founded on 1 January 2003 as a merger between Politikens Hus and Jyllands-Posten, two Danish newspaper companies, which together own a variety of print and digital media companies. 32% is owned by JFM, formerly Jysk Fynske Medier, Denmark's second-largest media group, which publishes 15 daily newspapers and over 40 weekly publications. The remaining 17% is owned by Berlingske Media, which produces Berlingske, Denmark's oldest newspaper, and other print and digital media. The latter is now owned by Amedia, a Norwegian media group, which owns over 100 mainly local and regional newspapers in Norway, and has now expanded into Sweden and Denmark.

# dao

**DAO** is an abbreviation for Dansk Avis Omdeling, literally Danish Newspaper Delivery, founded on 1 January 1921, and delivering newspapers across Denmark during the night. With the demise of the PostNord letter service, DAO now delivers parcels, magazines, letters, and newspapers, usually before seven in the morning, every day, 365 days a year.

The company has produced a number of labels for its letter service, and offers different service levels with two weight steps. Everything above 250 grammes must be sent as a parcel.

**Standard International** - advertised as a 4-16 business days service.

White/blue labels: For letters less than 100g DKK 46 (€6.16/£5.35) or 100-250g DKK 92 (€12.31/£10.69).

**Standard Domestic** - advertised as a 2 to 5 business days service.

White/red labels: For letters less than 100g DKK 23 (€3.08/£2.67), or letters 100-250g DKK 46 (€6.16/£5.34).

**Standard Domestic Plus** - advertised as a 1 to 2 days service.

White/orange labels: For priority delivery less than 100g DKK 36 (€4.82/£4.18) or 100-250g DKK 59 (€7.90/£6.86).

There is a next day priority service and an inland only registration service.



DAO labels in use April 2026: Courtesy of Nordfrim A/S [www.nordfrim.com](http://www.nordfrim.com)

Finally, there is a service for the blind, or partially sighted, which allows for certain items to be sent free of charge. These include materials such as Braille (embossed literature), large print texts, and audio recordings. The package must be clearly labelled *Blindeforsendelse* and include a return address so the sender can be identified if needed.



For mail sent outside Denmark DAO has contracted with the Austrian post, and all external services are routed via Salzburg, both for incoming and outgoing mail. The Austrian post uses labels and handstamps to mark its contribution to the service. This routing has led to items taking up to six weeks to deliver. Magazines and journals seem generally to follow this route, but there are no date stamps on any mail that this author has seen, so it is not easy to demonstrate the speed of the service.

Some Danish companies such as Den Danske Bank have routed overseas post via PostNord in Malmö to save time, or to provide a more certain service.



*DAO label with Salzburg post office label applied in transit to London.*



*Salzburg postal details printed on magazine cover sheet from Aller Media, Denmark sent to London.*

### Registration

DAO cannot send registered mail outside Denmark, nor can they process incoming foreign registered post. These continue to be handled by PostNord, which also continues to offer a domestic packet and parcel delivery service. To avoid the detour via Salzburg, it may be practical to send items to Denmark as registered mail.

Within Denmark, including the Faroe Islands, no item of commercial value can be included in a DAO registered letter. It has to be sent as a parcel. There are examples of registered letters being sent to the Faroe Islands being returned.

PostNord rules state that registered items may contain only documents, money, or bearer securities for international destinations. If the shipment contains goods or other items, it must be sent as a parcel. They offer a service to all countries worldwide - including the Faroe Islands and Greenland - but not within Denmark.

This is affecting stamp and postcard dealers, and there is an example of several letters containing postcards sent from Denmark on 13 January, being returned to Denmark on 29 March, having been stopped in Austria, because the contents were other than paper. There is obviously some rethinking needed.

It is not just the postal services which have been affected, there are other unforeseen consequences.



*The mail coach from Hamburg pulls in at the post office in Købmagergade, 1845, painting by Rasmus Christiansen (1863-1940).*



*Changing horses, 1845. Painting by Rasmus Christiansen (1863-1940), from the Post & Tele Museum collection. Stamp booklet issued 28 May 1998 for the opening of the new postal museum in Købmagergade, Copenhagen.*

## ENIGMA

PostNord was founded on 24 June 2009, following the merger of Post Danmark A/S and Posten AB (Sweden), combining the postal services of both countries into a single business originally named Posten. In 2014, the company sold the historic postal building at 37 Købmagergade in Copenhagen, which was the Denmark's oldest post office and its Post and Telegraph Museum from October 1998, for 400 million kroner (circa \$60 million) to a pension fund. The building has since been converted into a complex of shops and offices.

The postal museum reopened in a new location at Øster Allé, Copenhagen, as *enigma - Museum for Post, Tele og Kommunikation* in January 2017. It continues to be run by Post/Tele Museumsfond, founded in 1996 by Post Danmark A/S and TDC A/S, the largest Danish telecommunications company, with the aim of preserving and promoting Denmark's history of communication. The museum is funded primarily by grants from its founders. PostNord replaced Post Danmark A/S, and it is not clear from the last published annual report (25 March 2025) whether membership of the board will change in the future. Several members are current or previous PostNord executives.

Immediate consequences include the acquisition of the PostNord stamp collections by the museum in perpetuity. However, the museum's large archive, storage of which was paid for by PostNord, now has to be moved to another location for which ENIGMA itself must pay. This affects the museum budget, and the discouraging standard reply to online and email enquiries now reads:

### ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE COLLECTION & LIBRARY

Please note that the museum is currently unable to respond to new enquiries or accept new items and other materials. ENIGMA does not receive public funding and does not offer public access to the museum's library and collection. Academic enquiries are only accepted via email and will be answered if the museum's resources permit. Emails are retained for 3 months after receipt, after which they are deleted if the museum has not been able to process the enquiry.

### Danmarks Filatelist Forbund (The Danish Philatelic Federation)

The consequences of PostNord being no longer responsible for letter mail in Denmark has caused serious problems for Danmarks Filatelist Forbund, although it is true to say that there have been financial challenges at DFF for quite some time. There have also been board changes recently. In 2025, the Federation surveyed its membership and the results are gradually being published. Around 20% of the responses were from people who are either not members of a club, or are members of a club outside the federation. The DFF conducted reader surveys regarding *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, the Federation journal, in 2017, with 217 responses, and in 2007, with 630 responses. This time there were 717 responses, compared to a total combined individual membership of about 3000. Two items stand out from the federation's reports:

#### **Library**

"The library appears to be a service with limited demand. Only 10% of respondents reported borrowing materials, although 98% of those who did had a positive experience. Among those who have not used the library, two-thirds indicated that they simply had no need for its resources.

Given the low demand and the ongoing costs associated with maintaining the library, particularly rent, the DFF Board has decided to discontinue this service."

#### **DFT - Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift - The Association's Magazine**

"The survey focused on a potential shift from print to digital format. About one-third of respondents had read the magazine online. Among these, most found the experience comparable to the printed version, although approximately 25% considered it worse.

Overall, there is clear resistance to a fully digital version and this issue will be discussed further at the representatives' meeting in September, alongside other potential cost-saving measures."

### Further Consequences

More decisions have followed, reported in DFT in February and April this year.

PostNord was critical to DFF's finances. The Federation offered a cancellation service for the company, and sold mint stamps to its membership and to others. With no stamps being produced in Denmark, there is a reduced income which has resulted in a radical rethink, reported in the April issue of DFT, which is summarised as follows:

#### **Office Operations & Premises**

- Terminate part of the floor space used by the office in Birkerød.
- Clear out two basement rooms and the first-floor office.
- Vacate all first-floor premises at the DFF office and amend the lease from 1 April 2026.
- Work towards closing the physical DFF office entirely by the end of 2026.
- Reduce office telephone hours to Mondays and Tuesdays from 10:00-12:00.

#### **Financial & Cost-Cutting Measures**

- Dispose of material no longer necessary for DFF operations.
- Sell stock of new publications to Fyns Frimærke Service.
- Terminate agreements with PostNord regarding postage cancellation and stamp sales.
- Close the online shop (Newstamps).
- Temporarily keep the webshop active to complete final administrative matters.
- Conduct a clearance sale of second-hand publications and recycle remaining stock.

#### **Publications (DFT Magazine)**

- Review income and costs related to publishing and distributing DFT.
- Continue publishing DFT in print form until a representatives' meeting in September.

#### **Staffing & Volunteers**

- Reduce paid staff to a minimum.
- Discontinue regular volunteer tasks at the DFF office.
- Limit future volunteer involvement to special events only.

**Library & Archival Changes**

- Close the DFF library.
- Reject selling individual books and periodicals to members due to the complexity of the task.
- Return UPU-related work to ENIGMA.
- Return borrowed books to ENIGMA.
- Transfer selected library materials (circulars, notices, research notes) to Dansk Posthistorisk Selskab (The Danish Postal History Society) for digitisation and public access.
- Sell the entire remaining DFF library to Ulf Stenquist of Göta Frimärken.

DFF is not the only philatelic federation to have no premises and limited staff, but it is a radical change compared with the situation only a decade ago, and is a salutary warning to organised philately everywhere. Change comes gradually and then suddenly.

The DFF library has gone to a good home, and will remain largely intact, but libraries are not just for lending; they are a public good and a long term resource which is well placed to survive a magnetic pulse. A specialist library is part of a nation’s history. At the very least, the library might have been offered first to Kjøbenhavns Philatelist Klub (KPK), or to Det Kongelige Bibliotek (The National Library) in Copenhagen. Perhaps it was?

We often talk about the size of the philatelic world; according to ChatGPT, eBay listed on 20 March 2026:

|                                    |                  |  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Worldwide Stamps                   | 1.0-1.5 million  | General world issues and mixed country |
| United States Stamps               | 700k-1.2 million | One of the largest national categories |
| United Kingdom / British Colonies  | 250k-450k        | Includes Commonwealth                  |
| Europe (other countries)           | 300k-500k        | Germany, France, Italy, etc.           |
| Asia                               | 200k-350k        | China, Japan, India, etc.              |
| Australia & Oceania                | 120k-220k        | Australia, New Zealand, Pacific        |
| Canada                             | 120k-200k        | Canadian issues                        |
| Latin America                      | 80k-150k         | Mexico, Brazil, etc.                   |
| Africa                             | 60k-120k         | Often colonial-era issues              |
| Topical Stamps                     | 250k-400k        | Themes (animals, space, sports, etc.)  |
| Covers (First Day, Postal History) | 250k-400k        | Envelopes, FDCs, postal history        |
| Collections / Mixtures / Lots      | 300k-500k        | Albums, kiloware, bulk stamps          |
| Errors, Freaks & Oddities          | 30k-60k          | Misprints, rare varieties              |
| Back-of-Book                       | 80k-150k         | Revenues, postage dues, officials      |
| Other Stamps                       | 50k-100k         | Miscellaneous or uncategorized         |

There must be customers for the vendors, and eBay is not the only market place. Scandinavia has Tradera, there are other regional on line sellers, and then there’s Delcampe.

The major auction houses are selling a wealth of material, often at very good prices, and smaller houses say that they are very busy, which may be due to demographics. The box trade at fairs and exhibitions also seem to be busy.

So while there are collectors, organised philately is struggling to maintain itself, particularly in some parts of Europe. How can this be? It seems unlikely that we are heading for a world where online events are the norm, and all libraries are digital. It is hard to imagine that such a world would be good for society in general, and individuals in particular. While Ofcom, a regulator, reported that in the United Kingdom, only 5% of the population have no access to the Internet, there are other recent reports that people value disconnection from digital tools after work. It would be a mistake for philately to embrace the digital world entirely, only to discover that the analogue world has become fashionable again.

This piece began with unintended consequences, and ends with a warning that we should expect the unexpected. No one in Denmark thought that the consequences of the end of the Universal Service Obligation would be a new domestic letter monopoly, and new challenges for the National Philatelic Federation and the Postal Museum.

The lesson for philatelic federations, clubs and societies might be to plan and think ahead now, to develop their audience and to reach out to a wider public, because change can, and usually will, come more quickly than expected.

# What is Maximaphily?

*Pascal Bandry writes:*

**Aimed at those who love the colourful visuals of postage stamps, maximaphily (MX) is a philatelic discipline in its own right, which involves collecting items known as “maximum cards”.**

The origins of the maximum card (MC) date back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the first illustrated postcards were published, alongside the issue of the first postage stamps depicting symbols, people and landscapes. According to the postal rules in force at the time, the back of the postcard was reserved solely for the name and address of the recipient. The stamp and cancellation, and often the correspondence, were logically placed on the front (see attached documents).

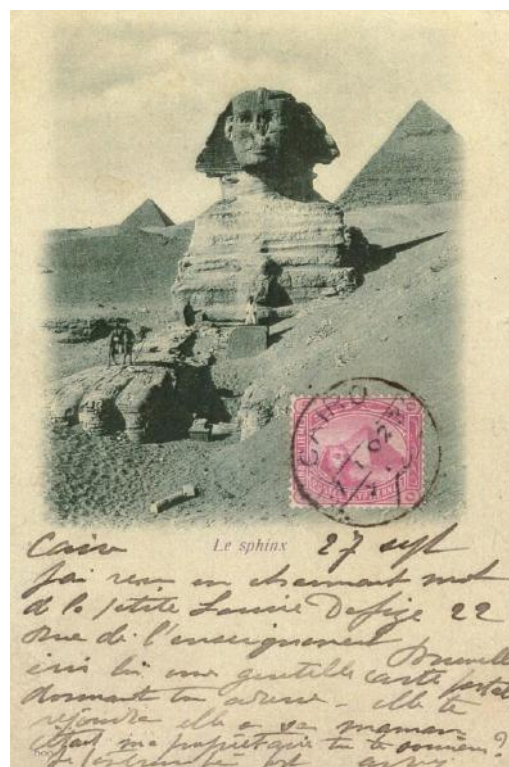
The first maximum cards were therefore the result of chance and spontaneous creations, obeying only the imagination and taste of their authors, who were seduced by the concordance. Maximaphily took off after the Second World War, and it was at this time that the association „Les Maximaphiles Français“ was created.

Since 1978, international texts have governed and standardised the rules of maximaphily (SREV and Guidelines). Philatelists wishing to collect quality items must refer to these texts. They are available in full on our website: [maximaphiles-français.org](http://maximaphiles-français.org)

“ The postcard is the showcase for the stamp and the postmark its adornment. ”



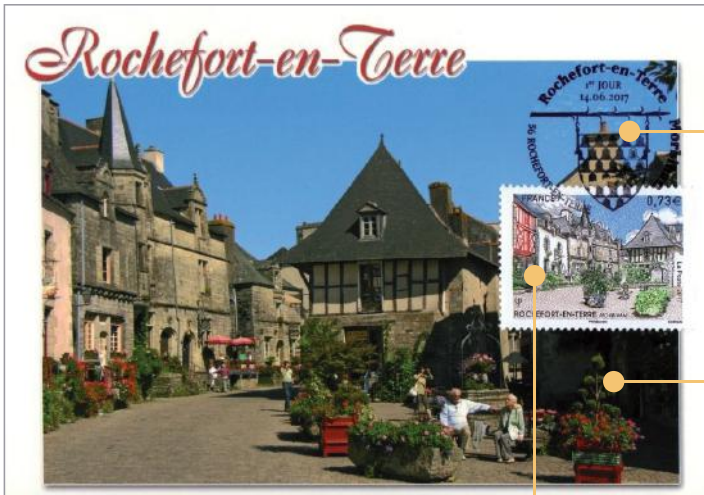
*Princess Wilhelmina. Postmark 29-08-1898, Amsterdam (Netherlands). Postal address on the reverse.*



*The Sphinx and the pyramids. Cairo postmark from 1902, location of the site. Postal address on the reverse.*

## What makes up a maximum card?

A maximum card is the result of combining, in a single document, a stamp, a postcard and a postmark that are as closely matched as possible.



3

### The cancellation.

In this example, First Day Cancellation. 14.06.2017. Rochefort-en-Terre (56).

2

### The postcard.

Rochefort-en-Terre.

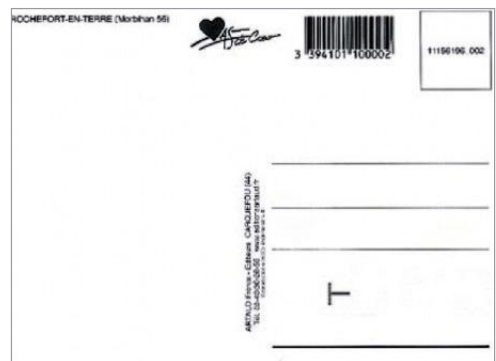
In the example, Artaud Frères publisher.

1

### The Postage stamp

In this example, the Yvert & Tellier number is 5155.

Rochefort-en-Terre Voted the most beautiful village in France in 2017.



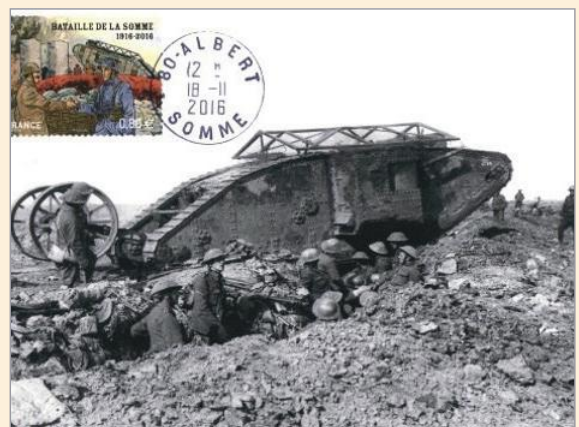
### NAMELY:

### The importance of the place of cancellation.

Before creating a CM, you must check that the location matches the subject of the stamp and the card. Inconsistent locations are the most common error. For example, for the Battle of the Somme stamp issued in 2016, the first day cancellation accurately depicts the tank, but the location is listed as PARIS.



*No CM with this OPJ is possible. The location must match, so you must choose the regular date stamp.*



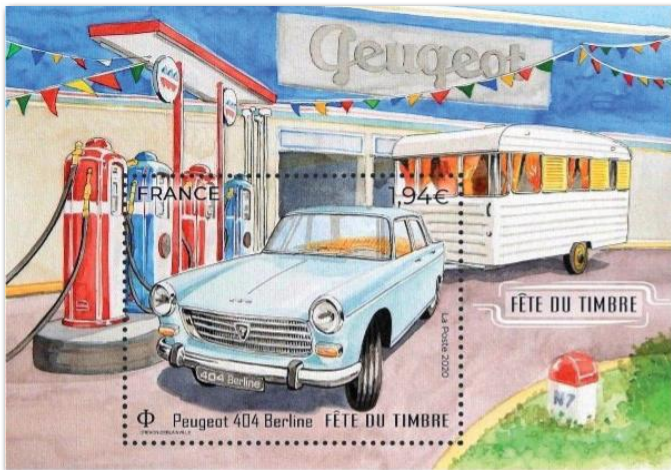
*18 November 2016 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Somme in Albert (60).*

## Which stamps should be used?

To appear on a maximum card, the postage stamp must be valid for postage, be free of defects and be affixed to the front of the postcard. The use of certain types of stamps is prohibited. Here are a few examples...



For each stamp, a press release is published by Phil@poste (the branch of La Poste responsible for stamps and fiduciary values). It is a technical data sheet with the title of the stamp and various details, including the first day of issue and a visual of the postmark created for the occasion.



This information is also available on *Philinfo* or on *toutsurletimbre.com* and/or *wikitimbres*.

It is also possible to use illustrated postage stamps delivered by automatic dispensers (LISA), stamps from „Collectors“ and certain „personalised“ stamps if their subject is of general interest.

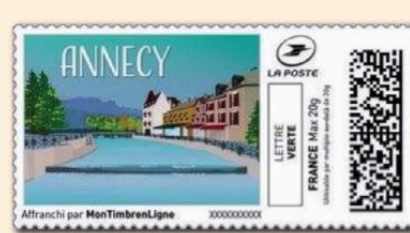
### NAMELY:

When two stamps are placed side by side to form a panorama the set may, exceptionally, appear on a single postcard to avoid the subject represented being cut off .



### Some prohibited stamps

The stamp is the basic element around which CM is built. It must be valid for postal use. Certain stamps are not accepted, such as tax stamps, prepaid stamps, revenue stamps, stamps issued in violation of the "UPU Code of Ethics", "online printed stamps", as well as service stamps, with the exception of those available to the public: United Nations, UNESCO, Council of Europe, etc.).



## Which postcard should you choose?

It should be as closely related as possible to the subject of the stamp. Its format must comply with the standards accepted by postal administrations. It should, as far as possible, be commercially available before the stamp is issued or reproduce a pre-existing document.



Therefore, reproductions of a stamp as a postcard, photographs, montages, collages, photocopies or drawings specially designed at the time of the stamp's issue cannot be considered correct.

With the exception of old postcards, the illustration must occupy most of the card's surface.



**NOT VALID**  
Copy of the stamp on a document other than a postcard.

**CM VALID**  
Painting by J. Audubon on a postcard from the National Museums.



All commercially available cards can be used except those with multiple views.

## Which postmark should be used?

It must be authentic, legible and directly related to the subject of the stamp and postcard, so, if possible, there should be a double match in terms of text or illustration.

Study of the issue dedicated to the Château de Chambord; several cancellations were available: two 1<sup>st</sup> Day and the ordinary date stamp from Vineuil, a post office near Chambord. The 1<sup>st</sup> Day cancellation (Paris) does not match the location of the stamp's subject and is therefore not suitable. This leaves a choice between the two remaining options. The 1<sup>st</sup> Day, which has a double concordance of location (text) and illustration (the castle's coat of arms), is preferable; however, the ordinary cancellation is also valid.



### NAMELY:

Each 1st Day cancellation is available from the Bureau des Oblitérations Philatéliques in Boulazac (24), up to 8 weeks after the stamp's issue date.

If you choose a standard postmark, you must ensure that it bears the name of the post office in the locality or the nearest post office serving that locality. The ROC code (Référentiel des Organisations du Courrier) is not valid (see example opposite).

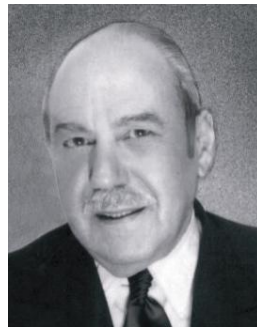


## Maximaphily

As pioneers of the maximum card collection, they worked hard to promote this type of philately by highlighting its cultural aspects. Aware of the unique nature of the concept, they worked together to first establish the status of the maximum card and then set international rules. We salute their years of dedication. Their passion remains alive in many countries.



**G. Azzis**  
France



**G. de La Ferté**  
France



**A. Furtado**  
Portugal



**G. Naudet**  
France



**Mr Monterrey-Molina**  
Spain



**L. Morera**  
Italy



**Dr V. Neaga**  
Romania



**A. Sanders**  
Belgium

In 1945, a few philatelists got together to create an association of collectors of postcards that had the distinctive feature of having the stamp and postmark on the picture side of the card. These items were given the name “maximum cards”. They quickly became popular. Although maximaphily is recognised by the French Philatelic Federation, other classes of philately have difficulty accepting it. Contact was then made with existing foreign maximaphily associations.

In September 1947, the first International Maximaphilic Congress was held in Dijon, France. Together with Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian and Swiss maximaphilists (S. Taioli), a commission was set up to draw up international rules for maximaphilia. Each member made suggestions, which were centralised by the MF, and Michel Chagniot made numerous trips to Bucharest to meet with Dr Valeriu Neaga, President of the Romanian Maximaphiles, and General Smirnov of the Romanian Philatelic Federation (a keen maximaphile), in order to coordinate the views of the rules committee.

In 1972, the first Franco-Romanian maximaphile exhibition was organised at Paris City Hall with the participation of foreign maximaphiles. In 1974, in Bucharest, MF members participated in a symposium bringing together the most renowned figures in European maximaphily. On this occasion, the International Statute of Maximaphily was adopted, a basic document of the Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Maximaphily Collections at FIP Exhibitions (SREV).

This marked the beginning of international maximaphily exhibitions with „MaxiFrance 89“ at the Musée de la Poste in Paris. This was followed by numerous exhibitions, each as successful as the last, culminating in „MaxiFrance 2005“ in Corbeil-Essonnes, then “MaxiFrance 2014” in Poitiers.

The European Maximaphilic Challenge was launched in 2007 in Mâcon. It continued at „Maxifrance 2014“ in Poitiers, then in Sestri Levante (Italy) in 2017.

The winning countries of the European Maximaphilic Challenge were Spain in 2007, Italy in 2014 and the Netherlands in 2017.

The Maximaphilic Commission of the International Federation of Philately (FIP) remains very active with a newsletter, symposiums and an annual Best Maximum Card competition.



*The MaxiEspaña 2017 jury:  
E. Escalada-Goicoechea FIP Expert (Spain),  
A. Boyard (France), R. D'Agata (Italy),  
J.A. Casas-Parajes (Spain) and N. Rangos (Cyprus).*



*The winners representing the Netherlands:  
R. Van der Leeden and E. Froom at the 2017 edition  
of the CEM.*



The popularity of this Challenge will be confirmed in Valenciennes in 2021.



*International meeting of the FIP MX Commission  
“PRAGA 2018”: J. Banfield, N. Rangos and P. Bandry.*

## A Tribute to Wolfgang Maassen RDP

*Abhishek Bhuwarka (\*) writes:*

After more than two decades as President of Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatéliques (AIJP or International Association of Philatelic Journalists), Wolfgang Maassen stepped down at the AIJP Congress on 14 November 2025 (Figure 1). Tributes offered on the occasion by the board and members provided ample evidence of their heart-felt appreciation for Maassen's leadership of the organisation over this long period.



*Figure 1. Wolfgang Maassen handing over charge to Ari Muhonen, the new President.*

(\*) Abhishek Bhuwarka [abbh@hotmail.com](mailto:abbh@hotmail.com) is a writer specialized in Philatelic literature and bibliography. Philatelic history. Indian postal history especially mails going to foreign destinations. He is the editor of the website - [philaliterature.com](http://philaliterature.com) - for his library, publications, and shop. He did already compile a bibliography dedicated to Wolfgang Maassen, which can be viewed at the following link <https://thephilatelistsubstack.com/p/the-bibliophile-of-schwalmtal-waldniel>

## A Brief Biography

Wolfgang Maassen was born on 25 January 1949 in Erkelenz, a small town in West Germany. After completing his Abitur (A-levels), he took up studying humanities and passed out of university in 1974. Maassen became a college teacher and in 1979 moved to the small village of Schwalmtal-Waldniel, where he still resides.

Maassen met and married Claudia in 1973 (Figure 2). They have two children: Maike (b. 1978) and Michael (b. 1980).

Though a collector since childhood, Maassen was reintroduced into the hobby, along with Claudia, during his university days. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, he collected the stamps of Brazil and wrote the four volume *Einführung in die Brasilien-Philatelie (Introduction to Brazilian Philately)*. He later got into 'automatic stamps' (stamps produced individually by a vending machine on demand in a denomination specified by the customer).

Over the past three decades, his focus has shifted to philatelic history and bibliography. In addition, he has been involved in philatelic publishing with his company, Phil\*Creativ GmBH, dating its antecedents back to 1986. And since 1997, he has been running a digital press service called Phil\*Creativ Pressdienst (pcp).



**Figure 2. A happily married future lies ahead! Claudia and Wolfgang on their wedding day. Claudia's sister, Angela, is in the background. Photo courtesy of Wolfgang Maassen.**

## Journalistic Endeavours

Maassen's contribution to philatelic journalism has been exceptional. Over the last few decades, he has authored some 5,000 articles for a range of journals! In addition, he has served as editor of magazines as *philatelie* (magazine of Bund Deutscher Philatelisten or German Federation of Philatelists) (1989-2016), *APHV-Magazin* (journal of the Bundesverband des Deutschen Briefmarkenhandels or Professional Association of the German Stamp Trade) (2010-present), *Philatelic Journalist* (bulletin of AIJP), and his own free digital magazine for philatelic history enthusiasts *Phila Historica* (2013-present).

His bibliography includes dozens of books. It is difficult to pick amongst them but two deserve special mention. The first is the one which started my own love affair with philatelic literature - *Milestones of the Philatelic Literature of the 19th Century / Les Jalons De La Littérature Philatélique Au XIXe Siècle* (2013). The second title is Maassen's own favourite - *The Mysterious Philippe De Ferrari: Collector, Philatelist and Philanthropist / Philippe De Ferrari, Cet Inconnu: Collectionneur, Philatéliste et Philanthrope* (2017); he spent much time and money in its research and demolished many myths and false legends associated with the greatest stamp collector of all time.

## Philatelic Organising

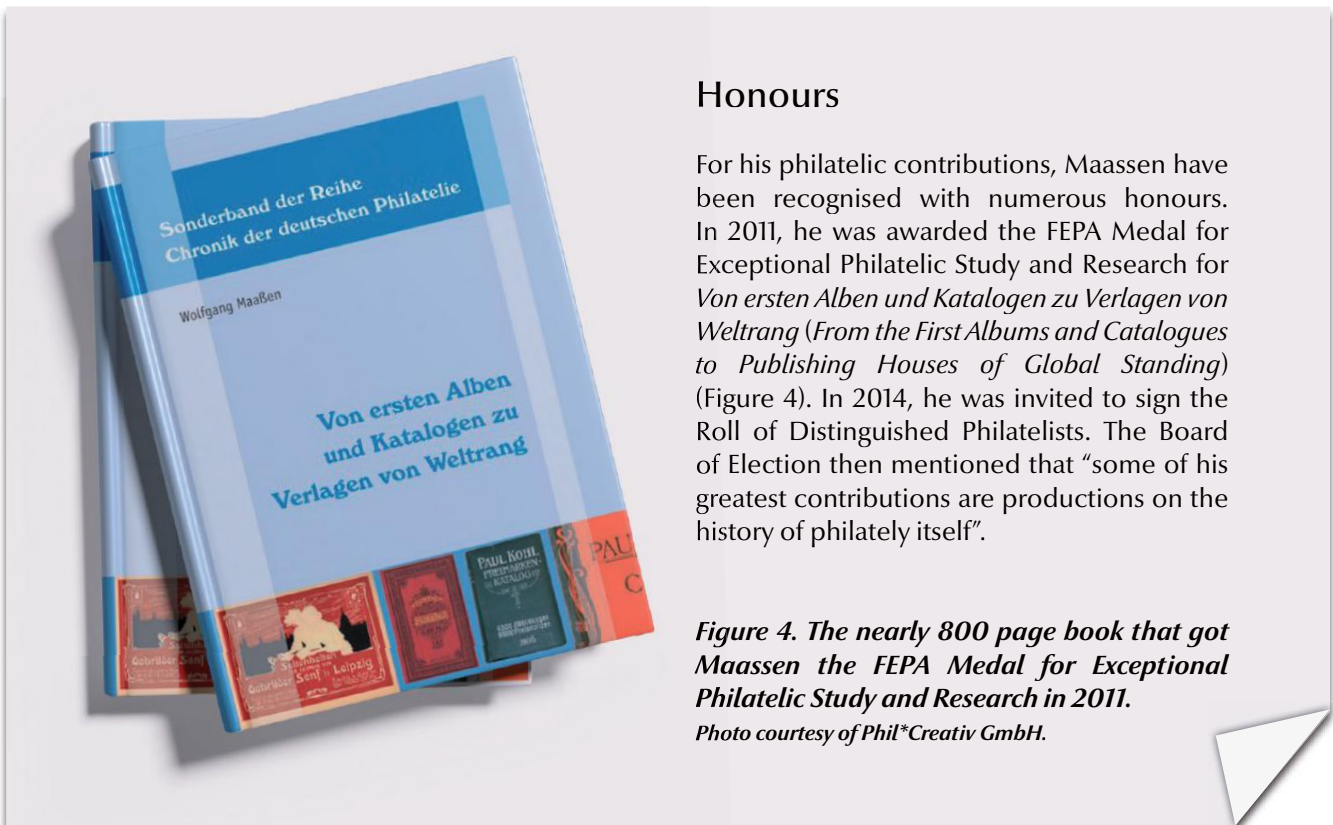
Maassen has been prolific in the field of philatelic organising too. He was the driving force behind the FEPA-level IPHLA international literature exhibition in Mainz in November 2012 which had more than 600 entries in the competition class (Figure 3). He was actively involved in a similar way at MonacoPhil in December 2013.

At Stockholmia 2019, Maassen managed the extensive philatelic literature area, which featured gems from the library of Tomas Bjäringer. As also the multi-day seminars dedicated to literature. More recently, in November 2025, he organised the two-day philatelic literature summit ahead of the sale of Bjäringer's library.

In addition, Maassen has been very dedicated to the cause of philatelic literature at FEPA and FIP events. Elected to the FIP Literature Class Commission in 2018, he was part of a three-person working group tasked with updating the FIP literature class regulations, particularly with regard to electronic materials. Although the reform was not fully implemented, an updated set of regulations was approved at the 2022 FIP Congress in Indonesia. He also contributed to the revision of FEPA's literature class regulations in 2025.



**Figure 3. Maassen at IPHLA 2012.**  
Photo courtesy of Rainer von Scharpen.



## Honours

For his philatelic contributions, Maassen have been recognised with numerous honours. In 2011, he was awarded the FEPA Medal for Exceptional Philatelic Study and Research for *Von ersten Alben und Katalogen zu Verlagen von Weltrang* (From the First Albums and Catalogues to Publishing Houses of Global Standing) (Figure 4). In 2014, he was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. The Board of Election then mentioned that “some of his greatest contributions are productions on the history of philately itself”.

**Figure 4. The nearly 800 page book that got Maassen the FEPA Medal for Exceptional Philatelic Study and Research in 2011.**  
Photo courtesy of Phil\*Creativ GmbH.

### Maassen and AIJP

The AIJP was founded by Pierre Séguy (1921-2004) at PRAGA 1962. By the early 2000s, governance had collapsed and communication broken down. At a FEPA-sponsored exhibition in Brno in May 2005, 10 members met during which only the Vice President, Jochen Stenzke, was present; he too had no knowledge of events of the previous two years. The President, Marian Szwemin, who had been elected in absentia in 2003, was thought to be ill since no one had heard from him in that period. The willingness of the other board members to serve was in question. And the financials were in diremost of the 400-odd members had stopped paying their dues. In short, the AIJP was on the verge of dissolution.

Maassen suggested a new start with a new board. He was elected President. Supported by colleagues like Aad Knikman, Miroslav Langhammer, Hans Schwarz, Rainer von Scharpen, Marc Bottu, Hans-Jürgen Dobiak, and more, he stabilised the AIJP and transformed it into one of the most respected bodies in international philately.

New statutes were drawn up. By the end of 2005, a new website had been made with Claudia's help. Over time, new sponsorship strategies were implemented which helped stabilise the AIJP's financial position. An old AIJP idea of patronage for major international events was revived.

In 2006, the *AIJP Bulletin*, the predecessor of today's *Philatelic Journalist*, was started being published again. When Pedro Vaz Pereira (later president of FEPA) joined the board, the modest DIN A5 format and the black-and-white reproduction of illustrations in the Bulletins, was retired in favour of new DIN A4 layout that Schwarz developed. However, since the earliest days, Maassen was the editor and the main author, writing most of the articles (with von Scharpen doing the translating).

There can be little doubt that Maassen has left the AIJP in a strong state. He has been so closely associated with it that the organisation has become virtually inseparable from the man. The huge responsibility of keeping the AIJP flag flying high now fall on the shoulders of the members of the board.

### Looking Ahead

How Maassen manages to find time for his various philatelic efforts can be attributed to his extraordinary work ethic. He is a workaholic spending seven days a week, 12 or more hours a day, on philately (Figure 5).

o be sure, Maassen is not planning to retire from writing and producing more books. He would also like to write an autobiography for distribution amongst family and friends. To avoid burdening his family, he is selling and handing over his library of books and archives occupying approximately 400 square metres! Last but not the least, he will continue to spend a few months every year in his home in Denia on Spain's Costa Blanca; a place which, he says, is "balm for the soul".



*Figure 5. His wife, Claudia, says that Maassen is always on his computer, even on holidays! Photo courtesy of Wolfgang Maassen.*

**Acknowledgements:** Rainer von Scharpen, Ari Muhonen, Hans Schwarz, and Wolfgang Maassen for their inputs.

# AIJP – Vision for the Future

***Ari Muhonen, President of the AIJP, writes:***

***AIJP is entering a new era, with the departure of its long-standing chairman, Wolfgang Maassen. The organisation's new chairman, Ari Muhonen, explains how AIJP will move forward.***

Founded in 1962, the Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatéliques (AIJP) was created to unite individuals who document, interpret and promote philately through the written word. For over six decades, the association has brought together journalists, authors, editors, publishers, and institutions committed to advancing philatelic literature and public communication.

The AIJP's statutes outline several enduring objectives, including promoting the interests of philatelic journalists and authors, fostering international cooperation within the philatelic press, supporting the publication, distribution and recognition of important literature, and safeguarding the rightful place of philatelic literature at exhibitions. These principles are as relevant today as they were when the association was founded.

Under the leadership of Wolfgang Maassen for twenty years, the AIJP was strengthened and given a clear voice within the international philatelic community. At the AIJP Congress in Wiesbaden in November 2025, he stepped down from the presidency, marking a historic transition. His work provides a solid basis for future development.

The renewal of the Board signifies more than just a change of personnel; it marks the beginning of a new phase. Experienced members such as Rainer von Scharpen, Vincent Schouberechts and Hans Schwarz ensure continuity and stability, while new Board members Abhishek Bhuwalka and Pol Vijnants bring fresh perspectives. This blend of experience and innovation puts the AIJP in an excellent position to address the challenges and opportunities presented by the rapidly evolving communications landscape.

The field of philatelic literature is evolving. Traditional monographs, journals and catalogues remain central to our work. However, the ways in which collectors, researchers and the general public access information are changing. Digital publications, e-books, websites and blogs are now mainstream formats for disseminating knowledge. Video presentations, and social media channels are influencing how philately is discovered and discussed by younger audiences.

Our task is to ensure that quality, credibility and scholarship continue to be the defining features of philatelic communication, regardless of the chosen format. We will continue to support stamp exhibitions, strengthen the literature class and offer patronage where it improves standards and visibility.

The board's first task was to appoint a new editor-in-chief for The Philatelic Journalist. Our treasurer, Hans Schwarz, has kindly agreed to take on the role. He is an experienced editor and therefore the best possible successor to Wolfgang. Thank you, Hans, for sharing your extensive experience as an editor-in-chief of philatelic magazines with us.

New ideas must be sought. The board is drawing up a new communications plan. We need to consider which topics to cover on our news channels. One option could be to highlight significant new books and research by our members, draw attention to high-quality electronic resources and digital publications, and report on exhibitions where literature plays an important role. It should also present new publications and products of genuine relevance to our readership, while providing informed updates on literary initiatives within the FIP and the FEPA.

The AIJP board has already met to discuss ways of promoting philatelic literature and supporting the association's members. What issues will we address? The board has its own ideas, but we can't think of everything. That is why I encourage everyone to tell the AIJP board what interests them, and how the AIJP could best support the philatelic community and the cause of philatelic literature. Get in touch, share your ideas and express your opinions!

Technical developments will influence the future of philatelic literature. To familiarise myself with this subject, I have used artificial intelligence to organise my thoughts.

### The new AIJP Board

The Board consists of a President, a General Secretary, a Treasurer, two Vice Presidents and a Director. The current members are listed below.

#### Ari Muhonen, President

Ari Muhonen, FRPSL (born 1962), is the Library Director at the Finnish National Defence University. He is currently the RPSL Publications Committee Secretary, the RPSL Liaison in Finland, and the Finnish Delegate to the FIP Literature Commission. He is a member of 18 philatelic societies including RPSL, AAPE, AIJP, APS Writers Unit #30, British Air Mail Society and Scandinavian Collectors Club.

His main responsibilities in the past include serving as President of the Finnish Philatelic Federation from 2008 to 2014, acting as FEPA webmaster from 2013 to 2020, serving as a FEPA Director from 2017 to 2020, being a co-opted member of the FIP Literature Commission Board from 2016 to 2019, acting as FIP Literature Commission secretary from 2019 to 2022, serving as the Finnish representative in the FIP Congress from 2008 to 2024, and serving as an AIJP Director from 2019 to 2025.

Since 2007, Muhonen has exhibited at national and international exhibitions. His main collecting areas are Finnish postal history, Finnish air mail and Greek large Hermes postal stationery. He has won several gold medals at international exhibitions, including a large gold medal at the FIP exhibition in South Africa in 2022. He is a FIP Fellow Juror in Literature and Postal History, and a national Fellow Juror in Air Mail.

Muhonen is the author of several books and over 150 articles in both national and international philatelic magazines. In 2016, he received the FEPA Medal for exceptional study and research. He also has the largest philatelic library in Finland outside the Postal Museum.

#### Rainer von Scharpen, General Secretary

Rainer von Scharpen FRPSL (born 1941), married and the father of five daughters, spent his professional career as a language teacher at a Gymnasium in Mainz. A collector since the age of five, he transformed a childhood fascination into a lifetime hobby.

His principal collecting and research areas include postal stationery — particularly of the French colonies and foreign post offices, as well as the French Zone of Occupation 1945–1949 — and the study of perfins, especially those of the Kingdom of Bavaria.

Rainer von Scharpen is the author of the important reference work ***Ganzsachen der französischen Kolonien, Auslandsbüros und besetzten Gebiete. Ergänzung zum Weltganzsachen-Katalog Dr. Ascher*** (1999), which significantly expanded the foundation laid by Hugo Michel Ascher. His handbook and catalogue ***Firmenlochungen Bayern*** (first published in 2010, with a new edition in 2025) remains the standard work on Bavarian perfins. In addition, he has written more than 200 book reviews in German and English, helping to evaluate and disseminate philatelic literature to a wide international readership.

von Scharpen is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, second Vice President of the Académie Européenne de Philatélie, and a member of the Polish Academy of Philately. He was awarded a Gold Medal at the international exhibition in Bangkok in 2013, and in 2025 he received the prestigious Kalckhoff Medal of the BDPh for his outstanding contributions to research and literature. He also serves as Chairman of the BDPh Office for Research and Literature.

Since 2011, Rainer von Scharpen has brought his experience and international outlook to the Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatéliques as Secretary General, contributing to the promotion of philatelic journalism and literature worldwide.

#### **Hans Schwarz, Treasurer and Editor-in-chief**

Hans Schwarz (born 1949) graduated as a geologist from ETH Zurich. He later built a successful career as a PR consultant from 1978 to 2004. From 2004 to 2023, he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Schweizerische Briefmarken Zeitung (SBZ), shaping it into a respected voice of Swiss philately. Under his editorial leadership, the journal combined expertise, clarity and broad accessibility — strengthening dialogue between collectors, dealers and institutions.

Hans has long been active in international philatelic organizations. Since 2007, he has served as Treasurer and Board Member of the AIJP. He is also President of the International Federation of Stamp Dealers' Associations (IFSDA) since 2023. His earlier service includes membership on the board of the Swiss Stamp Dealers Association, and since 2026 he has been a member of the Chambre syndicale des Négociants et Experts en Philatélie (CNEP France).

Beyond his organizational roles, Hans Schwarz is a passionate collector and exhibitor of many years' standing. In 2018, he served as Project Manager of the exhibition "EXTREM – 175 Years of Swiss Stamps" at the Museum of Communication in Bern and authored the accompanying exhibition catalogue.

#### **Vincent Schouberechts, Vice President**

Vincent Schouberechts FRPSL has served as the Vice President of the AIJP since 2016. He is also a Board Member of the Académie royale de philatélie de Belgique and a member of the Académie Européenne de Philatélie (AEP). In Belgium, he serves as Secretary of the Société Philatélique Belge and is active within KAKSP Antwerp.

Vincent's collecting interests include Belgium's 20 centimes perforated Medallion issue, the history of the Belgian Post, airmail in the Belgian Congo between 1920 and 1935, the development of postal and philatelic literature, the broader history of philately, and horse post in Belgium.

Schouberechts has received the European Literature Award of the AEP in 2014 and again in 2017. Among his exhibition successes are a Grand Prix at Rossica 2014, a Large Gold at Antverpia 2010, and a Large Gold at London 2015.

#### **Abhishek Bhuwalka, Vice President**

Abhishek Bhuwalka's FRPSL philatelic expertise and collecting interests lie in Indian postal history, philatelic literature, and history of philately. In these fields, he is widely regarded as one of the world's foremost authorities.

Abhishek prefers to 'exhibit' through his articles. As a committed advocate of philatelic journalism, he has authored more than 50 articles in the last eight years, which have been published in respected philatelic journals such as The London Philatelist, India Post, and Philatelic Literature Review. In addition, he blogs on his websites: <https://philaliterature.com> and <https://thephilatelist.substack.com> - so that he can reach a wider audience of enthusiasts.

Abhishek was awarded the Thomas F. Allen Award for best article published in a single year of the Philatelic Literature Review in the years 2021, 2022, and 2025. He was an invited speaker at Stockholmia 2019 presenting on 'Early Indian Philatelic Literature' and 'Journal of the Philatelic Literature Society and its Supplements'. He has given many Zoom presentations on philatelic literature and postal history.

Abhishek is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. He also holds memberships in Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatéliques (AIJP) (of which he was elected Vice President in November 2025), American Philatelic Society (APS), American Philatelic Research Library (APRL), Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS), India Study Circle for Philately (ISC), Philatelic Congress of India (PCI), and Philatelic Society of India (PSI) etc.

In his professional life, Abhishek was a banker for 20 years in India's largest and most valuable private sector bank - HDFC Bank Limited - where he specialised in foreign exchange and FX and interest rate derivative sales.

### **Pol Vijnants, Director**

Pol Vijnants FRPSL (born 1962) is a member of over a dozen major philatelic societies, including the International Postal History Fellowship (IPHF), the World Association of Postal History Experts (WAPE), the American Philatelic Society (APS), the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) and the Postal History Society of Canada and the French Colonies Society (Col.Fra).

He was elected Director of the AIJP in November 2025. He is also the founder of the International Postal History Library and the James Van der Linden Postal History Research Centre, as well as being the president of the James Van der Linden Medal elections committee. He has served on the Postgeschichte Live jury in Sindelfingen several times, both as a member and as jury president.

As an exhibitor, Pol Vijnants has proven to be highly versatile. His specialisms include postal history topics such as stampless overweight mail in the period before the UPU (1736–1876), British North American postal history up to 1878, fines on transatlantic mail between Britain and British North America (1840–1876), French postal offices in Rome from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and Franco-Swiss tax markings (1828–1850). He has also created traditional philatelic exhibits focusing on Czechoslovak issues, including Holubice and Hradany. Pol has also exhibited in the literature category many times. He has won several gold and large gold medals at international exhibitions.

Pol Vijnants is an extremely prolific philatelic author. His bibliography consists of over 20 books and numerous articles in several international magazines. His current research projects include the postal history of Macao (with Luís Frazao), maritime mail markings pre-1876, the postal history of Prince Edward Island, private ship letter stamps from around the world, French foreign offices (route de Rome), and the Cope line and full-rigged handstamp of Philadelphia.



*The AIJP Board*

# The British Library Digitises Landmark Siam Collection, 1881–1918

*Richard Morel writes:*

## The Row Collection is now freely accessible worldwide on Internet Archive

London, January 2026: The British Library Philatelic Collections has digitised and published one of the earliest specialist philatelic studies devoted to a single country online. The Row Collection of Siam (Thailand), 1881–1918 focuses on postage stamps, postal stationery, and postal marks from a pivotal era in Thai history.

Formed by British zoologist and philatelist Richard Williams Harold Row (1884–1919), this monumental collection comprises 24,473 items on 1,358 pages within twenty-three volumes. More than a century after Row's death, it stands as enduring testimony to his meticulous research techniques and unrivalled depth of knowledge.

“Thailand’s philately during this period is particularly significant for philatelic and colonial history,” said Richard Scott Morel, Curator of the British Library Philatelic Collections. “Siam’s stamps and postal stationery issued under King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) and King Vajiravudh (Rama VI) were powerful artefacts symbolising the Chakri dynasty’s modernisation programme. They were deliberately designed to project sovereignty and successfully resist colonial encroachment at a time when many neighbouring states fell prey to European powers.”

The complete collection is now freely accessible worldwide via the Internet Archive, with high-resolution 600 dpi PDF scans to empower detailed research. Browsable, standards-compliant metadata is simultaneously available through the UK National Archives’ Discovery catalogue.

“The project’s combination of rigorous archival standards with genuine open access makes it a major milestone in activating philatelic heritage for the digital age,” Morel added. “Researchers, collectors, and the simply curious worldwide can now explore Row’s lifetime work exactly as he left it, whilst also encouraging responsible scholarly reuse through a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial (CC BY-NC) license.”

This initiative marks the beginning of a wider programme to digitise the British Library’s world-class philatelic collections. The current metadata provides a strong structural foundation, and we welcome collaboration with philatelic societies, clubs, and researchers to enrich the content and advance its scholarly value.

Explore the Row Collection today: <https://archive.org/details/the-row-collection>

## About the Author

Richard Morel is the curator of the British Library’s philatelic collections. He is a recognised expert in the management, conservation and historical research of stamps and postal materials held by the prestigious British institution.

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# The Intelligent Collector

## On the promise of artificial intelligence for philately and postal history

*Eric Scherer & Claude AI write:*

For most of its existence, philately has been a discipline of patience, of magnifying glasses and catalogues, of dealers who could place a stamp's origin by the shade of its gum and the tooth-count of its perforation. It is a field that has always rewarded accumulated human expertise and knowledge above almost everything else, which nowadays can be found in countless books, brochures and online web resources accumulating the vast knowledge of philatelic research. Philately has been a domain of paper and philatelic knowledge always has been stored on paper. Yet a revolution is under way — one that promises not to replace that expertise but to augment it in ways that would have seemed beyond imagination just a few years ago.

Artificial intelligence, and in particular the class of systems known as large vision-language models, is beginning to find its footing in the world of philately and postal history. The implications are far-reaching, touching cataloguing, authentication, historical research, conservation, and the accessibility of the hobby itself. The following shows certain areas of application of AI.

### Stamp Recognition

Maybe the most obvious application is visual identification. A collector presented with a stamp unfamiliar to him faces a combinatorial challenge of enormous scope: hundreds of issuing entities across time, thousands of individual issues, and within each issue, a constellation of varieties distinguished by watermark, paper, color shade, perforation gauge, overprint type, and printing method. Human experts spend decades mastering even a single country's output.

Modern image-recognition systems, trained on the millions of digitized stamps now available through institutions like the Smithsonian, the British Postal Museum, and major auction houses, are supporting identification. The easiest is just to upload an image or scan of a stamp and perform a reverse image search on Google. Several stamp recognition apps are available in virtual space. Just type "Stamp recognition app" into Google search and you will find the most prominent of them. On YouTube you will even find video clips where such applications are compared. As all AI driven apps at the moment, the results are not perfect, and AI apps have a certain tendency to hallucinate. By such it is possible that AI mixes up a UK Penny Blue with a Half Anna India Litho. In the case of image recognition such faults are so obvious that the user easily can detect a faulty result. Still hallucination in AI generated text is also very frequent. AI easily produces bilateral postal contracts and indicates sources down to the page number that never have existed. Therefore, one key lesson of using AI in philately – as well as in any other domain – always double check all text and results produced by AI.

Still until now, AI available on the broad market cannot determine certain plating or granular color deviations. One reason is obvious – quality of scans. Still soon properly trained AI in private networks will be able to do such. Such applications will be of help for skilled experts, again the results need to be double checked. If your own knowledge is not enough to perform such a check, the use of AI driven results is not advised.

### Authentication and Forgery Detection

Critical Few problems in philately are more consequential — or more lucrative for bad actors — than forgery. Here artificial intelligence offers the promise genuine capabilities – still it should be noted, that this is a future promise, not an application reliable today. If trained with the right data and material, like high resolutions scans produced under repeatable circumstances, AI will be able to identify features like printing variations, quality paper, ink layering,

and impression depth that not easily visible to the naked eye and difficult to characterize even under magnification. When combined with advanced imaging techniques — ultraviolet, infrared, and X-ray - data that at the moment only experts, museums and advanced conservation laboratories can now provide — AI models can construct a “fingerprint” of an item’s physical constitution than any traditional catalogue description conveys.

## Postal History and the researching archives

Beyond the individual stamp lies the broader field of postal history: the study of covers, routes, rates, markings, and the development of postal systems in the context of the political and economic order of the world.

A single auction catalogue from a major postal history sale may contain thousands of lots, each described in dense specialist prose: transit marks, rate periods, ship names, despatch offices, censorship types. Aggregated across decades of catalogues, dealer price lists, journal articles, and correspondence archives, the textual record of postal history is vast, largely unindexed, and accessible only to those who know exactly what they are looking for. Natural language processing systems can read, index, and cross-reference this material at a scale that no research team working conventionally could hope to achieve.

The possibilities that follow are significant. Researchers studying the postal history of a particular conflict, trade route, or colonial relationship can, in principle, query a corpus of digitized catalogues and literature and receive a synthesis of what is known — with citations — in seconds rather than months. The author of this text is currently using Google Notebook and uploads hundreds of such material. Patterns invisible at the level of the individual lot become legible when thousands of items are analyzed simultaneously: the statistical distribution of rates, the emergence and disappearance of particular postmarks, the routing decisions that reveal the hidden geography of an empire’s communications.

As an example, I uploaded the Official Bulletins of one of my main collection areas for a period of 50 years – several hundred documents and ten-thousands of pages – and asked Google Notepad to produce a list of all postage rates found in these bulletins. An easy task for AI, an impossible task for me as a person just considering the issue of time. By combining literature on historical development of my area of collection with postal bulletins I even found interrelations between political and historical events related to a specific events in postal history there the original context was not known or discovered before.

## Future Vision. Cataloguing and the Long Tail

The major catalogues — Stanley Gibbons, Scott, Michel, Yvert — are monuments of human editorial labor, updated in varying cycles by small specialist teams working against the pressure of an ever-expanding philatelic universe. They are, by any honest assessment, imperfect: coverage of some regions and periods is thin, listed values may lag the actual market by years, and the cataloguing of varieties, errors, and postal history material often lags decades behind specialist monographs.

AI systems offer a plausible path toward something more dynamic: a catalogue that updates in near-real time by ingesting auction results, adjusting valuations against current market data, and flagging newly documented varieties based on dealer and collector reports. This is not a distant prospect — the infrastructure of online auctions and digitized philatelic literature already exists; what has been lacking is the analytical layer capable of processing it intelligently.

For collectors working in areas too specialized to merit detailed treatment in the general catalogues, AI-assisted tools could enable the creation of community-maintained specialized catalogues at a fraction of the traditional editorial cost. A dedicated group of collectors focusing on, for instance, the airmail routes of South America in the interwar period could annotate, classify, and publish their accumulated knowledge in structured, searchable form with technical assistance that simply did not exist before.

This leads us to the necessity to digitalize our philatelic knowledge and make it accessible. This will mainly be a prospect but also a challenge for all those highly specialized study groups and philatelic associations that have been doing in-depth research in their respective domain for decades and even centuries. Philately always has been about sharing of collective treasures and the knowledge around it. AI will offer a new perspective on sharing philatelic knowledge in the future and by this preserving it.

### Accessibility and the Future of the Hobby

Philately faces a demographic challenge that is openly acknowledged within the hobby: the average age of organized collectors is high, and sustained growth in membership of philatelic societies has proved elusive for decades. Part of the barrier to entry for new collectors is precisely the accumulated and gatekept expertise that makes the hobby so rich — it is also, for many, bewildering and unwelcoming. AI could serve philately as a patient and knowledgeable guide: answering the novice's questions about postal history, identifying the stamps in a mixed lot acquired at an estate sale, suggesting areas of specialization that might suit a collector's particular interests. It could translate the specialist vocabulary of exercising certificates, decode the abbreviations of old auction catalogues, and locate relevant literature on any topic. This is the kind of ambient expertise that currently requires personal connections to established collectors or dealers — connections that new entrants to the hobby may simply lack. The real promise of AI in philately is not speed or scale alone, but the redistribution of access to knowledge.

None of this implies the replacement of human judgment, human relationships, or the irreducibly personal pleasures of handling fine material and corresponding with fellow specialists. The great collections of the future will still be assembled by human beings with particular sensibilities and obsessions. But those collectors will, if the technology develops as it promises, have access to tools that compress decades of learning into something far more immediately navigable.

### Cautions and Limits

It would be naive not to acknowledge the risks. AI systems trained on existing philatelic literature will inherit the biases and lacunae of that literature: over-representation of Western European and North American material, under-representation of postal history from the global south, and the systematic exclusion of items that never made it into the catalogues at all. Garbage in, garbage out remains an iron law of machine learning, and philatelic garbage — misattributed lots, erroneous catalogue entries, forged certificates that entered the literature as genuine — is not rare.

There is also the question of what is lost when expertise becomes cheap and ubiquitous. Part of the value of philatelic knowledge, to those who hold it, lies precisely in its scarcity. Finally, there is the problem of trust. An AI authentication system that incorrectly certifies a forgery — or incorrectly flags a genuine rarity — causes real harm to real people. The standards of accountability that apply to human expertisers will need to be developed and applied to algorithmic systems, and that process will be neither quick nor comfortable.

Philately has survived the telegraph, the telephone, the aeroplane, and the internet — each of which was supposed, in its time, to render postal communication and its documentary residue obsolete. It will survive artificial intelligence too, and very probably be enriched by it. The magnifying glass will not be put away; the catalogue will not gather dust. But alongside them, increasingly, will sit tools of a different kind that can help many collector see a little further into the extraordinary history carried within a perforated square of paper.

**Remarks:** The author of this text used a free version of “Claude”, an AI tool provided by Anthropic, to produce the initial version of this text. At the moment the author is working on a book on the Postal History of French India. He regularly uses Claude and ChatGPT to search for historical sources for certain topics. He is analyzing archival texts either from resources available online libraries like BNF Gallica is the digital library of the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the British Library, as well as texts from printed books scanned via the Adobe Scan App on his smart phone. This material is uploaded to Google Notepad and then analyzed and cross analyzed to create rate table, shipping schedules, and evaluate the historical context of postal degrees, announcements and contracts.

# Historic Initiative in the Study of Ottoman Postal Heritage

## *Oral Avci (\*) writes:*

The Osmanlı Posta Tarihi Araştırma Derneği (Ottoman Postal History Research Association) held its First General Assembly four months ago, marking a milestone not merely administrative in character, but historic in significance.

For the first time in Türkiye, a dedicated civil society organization was formally established with the explicit mission of researching, documenting, preserving, and academically interpreting the vast legacy of Ottoman postal history. This initiative represented the institutional consolidation of a field spanning more than eighty years of organized postal development across three continents—Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The Ottoman postal system was far more than a communication network; it functioned as an instrument of governance, sovereignty, diplomacy, and modernization. From the establishment of the Posta Nezareti in 1840 to the issuance of the first Ottoman stamps in 1863 bearing the imperial Tughra, the postal administration became one of the Empire's most enduring institutional frameworks. Its routes, post offices, cancellations, foreign postal interactions, and philatelic materials collectively narrated a complex story of power, reform, and international rivalry.

The Association was founded with the following objectives:

- To conduct and promote scholarly research in Ottoman postal history
- To preserve archival material, stamps, covers, and postal documents
- To organize exhibitions, conferences, and academic symposia
- To publish bulletins, monographs, and research findings
- To foster cooperation among collectors, historians, and academic institutions
- To transmit this rich heritage to future generations within a structured scientific framework

The First General Assembly marked the official beginning of a new institutional chapter. It signified the transition from individual scholarly and philatelic efforts to an organized platform dedicated to safeguarding and advancing Ottoman postal heritage.

Four months after its foundation, the Association stood as a structured initiative committed to strengthening academic rigor, encouraging collaboration, and positioning Ottoman postal history within the broader international scholarly discourse.

Together, memory was institutionalized. Together, sovereignty was preserved in ink and paper.

(\*) Born in Kirkuk, Iraq, in 1960, Oral AVCI is a Turkish philatelist, researcher, and author specializing in the postal history of the late Ottoman Empire. He is the author of *Mail & Might: The Struggle for Supremacy in Ottoman Jerusalem (1872–1917)* and *Iraq: Postal History of Ottoman Iraq During the British Occupation 1914–1923*. His research focuses on the intersection of postal networks, diplomacy, and imperial rivalry in the Middle East. Avci is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society London and the European Philatelic Academy. He is also a founding member of the Ottoman Postal History Research Association.

# Philately and Social Network

## How Digital is Reinventing an Analog Hobby

*Marco Occhipinti writes:*

Philately is one of the oldest forms of modern collecting. It has never been just a pastime, but a real field of study that intertwines history, economics, politics, art and communication. Each stamp is a document: it tells who issued it, in what context, with what symbolic and practical intentions. For a long time, this universe has developed through traditional tools: albums, catalogues, clubs, exhibitions, specialized magazines. However, the advent of social networks has radically changed this ecosystem, introducing a new dimension of sharing, speed and interconnection.

This is not a simple technological adaptation, but a cultural transformation that is redefining the way collectors meet, learn and share their passion.

Digital has not replaced traditional philately: it has made it more visible, more accessible, more interconnected. And, in some cases, it has brought it back to the center of attention of new generations.

### From the philatelic circle to the global network

Until recently, the life of the philatelist, often a solitary figure linked to a small circle of contacts, revolved around physical spaces: local clubs, annual fairs, exhibitions and conferences. Access to philatelic knowledge depended to a large extent on the possibility of meeting other enthusiasts or obtaining specialized magazines or specialized publications.

Today, platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube have transformed these boundaries into one large virtual community. A collector is no longer limited by geography: he can dialogue daily with thousands of people who share his same interest, regardless of country or language.

This global network has created a sort of philatelic “collective intelligence”, in which knowledge is no longer concentrated in a few figures or institutions, but distributed and continuously updated with a new level of interaction, faster, more horizontal, more participatory.

Thematic groups, digital forums and video channels have created transnational communities that share not only images of stamps, but interpretations, hypotheses and discoveries. In this sense, social media have democratized philatelic knowledge.

This democratization broadens the collector base, attracting people who would never have attended a traditional club, and diversifies interests, with more creative thematic collections that are less tied to the classic canons.

In this way, the emergence of global communities is fostered. Italian collectors dialogue daily with Indian, American and Japanese enthusiasts. This exchange favors the circulation of knowledge on little-known issues; the discovery of postal traditions from other countries; the possibility of comparing catalogues and evaluations; the construction of international exchange networks.

Philately thus takes on a cosmopolitan dimension, which enriches the practice of collecting and broadens cultural horizons.



Ph. TimMedia- envatoelements.com

## Visuality and storytelling: the stamp as a story

Philately has always been a visual discipline, but social networks have enormously amplified this narrative characteristic. High-definition photographs allow you to observe details invisible to the naked eye: microtexts, printing defects, color variations, watermarks.

On Instagram and TikTok, the stamp becomes the object of visual storytelling, while on YouTube entire channels are dedicated to tutorials, historical analysis and collection reviews.

This has made philately more accessible even to non-experts: watching a video explaining an issue is often more immediate than consulting a catalog page.

Social networks have therefore transformed the stamp into narrative content. Telling stories in short form, linking an issue to a contemporary event, creating thematic series curated as virtual exhibitions: each post becomes a micro-story, capable of attracting even those without technical skills.

## Social networks as tools for education

One of the most important aspects of philately's online presence is its educational function. Social networks allow an informal but continuous form of learning: every post, comment or video can be a micro-lesson in postal history. The new generations, who have grown up in a digital environment, can thus approach knowledge that would otherwise appear distant and complex.

In this sense, social media are playing a role similar to that, in the past, specialized magazines had, but with an incomparably greater reach and speed.

Social networks have also changed the way philatelic research is done. Printing errors, new varieties or rare pieces are often detected thanks to the collaboration between several users. An image posted in a group can attract the



AI Generated image

attention of an expert who recognizes a peculiarity, giving rise to discussions that enrich collective knowledge. The story of Sfizi.Di.Posta, already featured in the pages of this magazine, is a case study.

This process reduces collector isolation and fosters a more scientific and verifiable approach to the study of stamps.

Not only that: these new digital identities can borrow in forms of authority. In social networks, in fact, authority does not derive only from technical competence, but also from the ability to communicate. This is how new figures are born: the collector-popularizer, the philatelic photographer, the issue reviewer, the “curator” of thematic content. Recognition passes through likes, comments, followers: forms of digital symbolic capital that complement traditional certifications of expertise.

### Market, confidence and risks

The economic dimension of philately has not remained immune to the influence of social media. Today it is possible to buy and sell through dedicated groups, participate in informal auctions, obtain quick valuations, exchange material with collectors from other countries.

However, this openness involves risks: circulation of fakes, approximate evaluations based on perceptions rather than catalogs, speculation on recent issues, absence of guarantees typical of auction houses, scams, are just some of the difficulties that can occur in transactions that take place without any control and any guarantee.

Consequently, to avoid or at least stem the problems described above, the online community has developed forms of self-regulation, based on reputation, public debate and transparency.

At the moment, in my opinion, social media cannot replace traditional means. It is possible that in the near future, the correct use of artificial intelligence applied to the global philatelic market could help overcome all of the difficulties listed above.

## Platforms

The philatelic presence on social media is now widespread. Each platform has developed its own “philatelic culture”, with specific languages and dynamics.

**Facebook:** the great global forum. Facebook hosts thousands of groups dedicated to philately, from the most generic to the most specialized. Here you will find international sales and/or exchange groups, groups dedicated to individual geographical areas, thematic groups (Olympics, fauna, military postal history), evaluation and identification groups. Facebook’s strength is its community: long discussions, exchanges of opinions, requests for help, informal auctions.

**Instagram:** philately as an aesthetic. Instagram has turned the stamp into an artistic object. The macro-photographs, the thematic compositions, the collections “curated” like museum galleries have attracted a young audience, often extraneous to traditional philately.

**TikTok:** philately in 30 seconds. TikTok has introduced a whole new language: short, dynamic, often ironic videos that tell the story of an issue or show the discovery of a rare stamp. It is a language that favors surprise, curiosity, quick narration.

**YouTube:** the new philatelic teaching. Tutorials on how to recognize fakes and varieties thrive on YouTube; technical explanations on perforations, watermarks, print runs; reviews of catalogs and instruments; reportage from exhibitions and conferences. It is the platform that comes closest to the popular tradition of specialized magazines.

**Reddit:** philately as a technical discussion. Reddit is home to very active communities, often with a more technical and international slant. Here you will find in-depth discussions, comparisons between catalogues, analysis of rarities.

To understand the impact of social media, it is useful to look at some concrete cases. In several Facebook groups, collectors have unearthed little-known issues, generating discussions that have involved experts and led to new research.

Some stamps have gained global visibility thanks to a single viral post. It happened, for example, with thematic issues related to contemporary events, which attracted the attention of non-philatelic users.

On Reddit and Discord, real study groups have been born, which analyze varieties, fakes, print runs, with a level of depth comparable to that of traditional circles.

## Conclusions

The relationship between philately and social networks is not a simple technological adaptation, but a cultural transformation. Philately is becoming a more open, participatory and global practice.

The integration between philately and social networks also presents critical issues: misinformation such as misjudgments, philatelic myths, urban legends; oversimplification or short content that sacrifices complexity; algorithmic addiction in which the visibility of content is decided by commercial logic; fragility of communities with groups that dissolve and contents that disappear. These elements require a critical approach and greater awareness on the part of collectors.

In this new ecosystem, the stamp continues to be a witness to history, but its voice now resonates through a network of screens and connections, reaching audiences that old albums could never have imagined.

# Creating a Statute of Postal History as a Field of Studies



## **Bill Hedley writes:**

“The ‘Aldo Cecchi’ Institute of Postal History in Prato, Italy, is dedicated to promoting research in the field of postal history and fostering close ties between academic historians and postal history collectors. In pursuit of these objectives Bruno Crevato Selvaggi has successfully organised three international conferences at the Institute since 2019, with a fourth scheduled for June 2026. The conferences have highlighted the wide range of studies relating to postal history currently underway in academic circles and confirmed that closer cooperation between academic researchers and collectors could be mutually beneficial. To promote this, a consultation was carried out with a group of institutions involved in research on postal services, and a Disciplinary Statute was drawn up. This is set out in the document below.

## **Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi writes:**

To promote this objective, a consultation was carried out with a group of institutions involved in research on postal services, and a draft Disciplinary Statute was drawn up, which has been translated into the document below, which we are pleased to share with all the Federations in its final form.

I propose this **Manifesto** to be presented to the international community of scholars, and I’m inviting them to sign it.

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 / 4 novembre 2025 / 4 Novembre 2025 / 4 de noviembre de 2025

## 1. Creating a Statute of Postal History as a Field of studies

A **statute of a field of studies** is a non-prescriptive set of definitions, tools and rules shared among scholars concerning that subject. In particular, it defines:

- The basic concepts of that field of studies
- Its field of competencies
- Its goals
- The tools used by researchers
- Relationship with other historical fields of study.

## 2. An Overview of the Term ‘Post’ and Organised Communication

The classical world, the Middle and Far East during the Middle Ages, and the early modern era had efficient, dedicated systems of organised communication.

However, no such organised system existed in Europe during the early Middle Ages. The situation there was characterised by political fragmentation, closed economies and a lack of major road infrastructure with postal stations. Along with Church communications, prototype postal services began to be organised privately by monasteries, universities and others.

During the Middle Ages in Europe, as commercial activities started to grow again, more letters were sent, roads were used more intensively, and handover points began to be revived. All this led to the development of fragmented and disorganised communication services, lacking a unified and strategic vision, and the technical innovation necessary to satisfy the increasing communication needs of political authorities, bankers, businessmen and other new actors who were beginning to appear in the social order.

The scene changed between the late 14<sup>th</sup> and the early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, for a series of associated political and technical reasons. A new postal system was developed, based on speed deriving from a new system of horse-changing postal stations, as well as on principles of universality and regularity. This was a veritable revolution in both concept and speed compared to the slow, pedestrian system of the previous age, which operated only during daytime.

The result of this historical course of events was that from the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, stable and well-structured organisations created organised postal systems throughout Italy and Western Europe which were private or state-controlled. The modern postal system was born. It superseded the intermittent and restricted systems of the previous age and was destined to revolutionise European social habits, taking a central role in society.

From the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards the postal system – a modern invention which was looked upon with astonishment for its speed, the shortening of great distances, the universality and regularity of its service – became an established reality in Western Europe and complemented other local or occasional services. This ensured access to organised communication to most places in Central and Western Europe.

During the modern age there is a deep institutional link between postal systems and the building/asserting of sovereignty. There are diverse examples of this in many geopolitical areas.

The establishment of a postal system on the major communication routes, operating with public licences and under a monopoly regime, is thus inseparably connected with the birth and evolution of the modern State.

From the perspective of governments and their respective diplomacies, the postal system thus became an instrument of primary importance first and foremost in terms of political communication.

The Italian word '*posta*' spread throughout Europe and came to be used in a wide variety of contexts.

The postal network was a great driving force for economic development; thanks to this network, the great flows of information developed, leading to the emergence of a European public consciousness and opinion, as well as exchanges of knowledge among European scholars.

We know the Republic of Letters, *Res publica literaria europea*, a postal phenomenon and concept that enabled the birth of an international scientific community in the early modern period up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Writing letters became one of the foundations for political, informative, social and emotional relationships, as confirmed by the emergence of journalism, and epistolary novels of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

This mature system continued until the Napoleonic age when a profound nationalisation and systematisation of the service began. There was a greater diffusion of postal offices as well.

Since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, a change in the industrial and economic conditions, a higher literacy rate and the growing need for a more modern service led to completely different postal offerings in all the continents, where many major issues can be identified. For instance: cheaper tariffs; new services offered (including financial services); use of modern technologies for transport (steamship navigation, train, and later motor vehicles and aircraft) and the mechanisation of work; complementarity with the telegraph and telephone; increased frequency of services; widespread diffusion of postal offices; simplification of international procedures, leading to the creation of the Universal Postal Union; attention to monopolies and relationships with complementary private services; strong growth in the number of people employed and consequent social issues.

In short, postal administrations acquired an important role in the state and in society until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century when many places have begun, or even concluded, the process of privatisation and transformation of postal administrations into private companies.

During the course of history, postal systems developed in other geopolitical areas, with or without similar characteristics.

### 3. A Historiographical Introduction

An early historiographical approach to the postal system and organised communication dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It developed mainly within postal administrations, with a predominantly historical-legal approach focused on their own historical development. Historians and academics generally paid little attention.

In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a new collecting element emerged in the philatelic field called 'postal history'. The objects are collected, selected and arranged in a consistent way to tell a story, including entire documents sent by post (letters and other objects). In its most advanced phase, the focus is on the type of object and franking, on the stamps and other postal marks, on the tariff paid, on the systems and routes of forwarding documents.

Recently, the focus has extended to include studies on the impact of postal services on humanity and vice versa.

In short, postal history is an approach describing and studying postal organisation and services by means of the material culture of documents carried by post.

In the meantime, academics have paid only slight attention to postal topics. Some interest was shown in the organisation and timing of news transmission during the medieval and modern age, as well as social, economic, and institutional aspects (i.e. function, regulations, personnel, policy) in more contemporary times.

In general, however, the topic itself was considered marginal, obscure, merely technical and not historiographically interesting, despite the fact that the importance of postal history had been authoritatively pointed out by major historians.

Reciprocal, too, was the distrust between the world of scholars and the world of collectors, often seen as amateurs.

In Italy, the *Istituto di Studi Storici Postali* (now named after its founder, Aldo Cecchi) was founded in 1982. Among other goals, it was founded in order to act as an intermediary between these two worlds that, at the time, clashed with each other – the humanities and academics, and enthusiasts of the refined form of philatelic collecting. Its more than 40-year history has shown that this idea has always been pursued.

The work of the Institute (workshops, meetings, talks, publications, research support) has certainly been fruitful and has helped with mutual understanding and, therefore, overcoming mistrust.

### 4. The Current Situation

Over the last two or three decades, academic circles and international research centres have shown a growing interest in the history and organisation of postal systems. Interest is also emerging in other humanities and social sciences, e.g. geography and sociology. Several scholars have taken up the subject, perhaps as part of their research on the history of trade, travel, or information, and some with a specific interest in postal topics.

Suspicion of the academic world towards the research of 'non-professionals' is fading, and today the **relationship is reciprocal and fruitful**.

Scholars appreciate the results obtained by amateurs with the study and interpretation of material culture, i.e. the objects sent by post; amateurs appreciate the broad historiographical framework and interpretation offered by scholars.

Both worlds are no longer solely engaged in their field of interest. On the contrary, they are open to interdisciplinary dialogue.

Several **doctoral theses** on postal topics on the history of communication have been defended in various European, Asian and American universities.

I do not yet know of (except for one episodic case in Italy) specifically dedicated **university courses**.

There is only one **international scientific review** (with a Scientific Committee and double-blind peer review) specifically dedicated to the topic, *Archivio per la storia postale*, and two **monographic series**: *Quaderni di storia postale*, by the Istituto di Studi Storici Postali "Aldo Cecchi", and another by the international academic publisher Peter Lang ([www.peterlang.com/series/hpc](http://www.peterlang.com/series/hpc)).

## 5. Next Steps

Today postal history is a field of studies in formation, equipping itself with its own tools and with the involvement of academic researchers, and thus is achieving academic recognition.

I therefore propose this **Manifesto** to be presented to the international community of scholars, which also contains a theoretical apparatus to give foundation and solidity to the path of acquiring the statute.



You can download the full text of the charter via the QR code or use this link:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/15Xv1pgvMEhW\\_Yq5RqASg9xrqgr03fioD/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15Xv1pgvMEhW_Yq5RqASg9xrqgr03fioD/view?usp=sharing)

# 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference Postal History

## Prato, 18-20 June 2026

### Multidisciplinary and Diachronic Perspectives

The Istituto di Studi Storici Postali “Aldo Cecchi” was founded in Prato, Tuscany, in 1982. The Institute is committed to the preservation of, research in, and sharing of knowledge on organised communication. These are the Institute’s four missions: conservation of its considerable bibliographic, archival, documentary and museum collections; making heritage available to researchers; organisation of cultural events; and scientific research. All this together with, on the one hand, looking to the future and linking it with tradition: on the other, looking to internationality.

The Institute publishes a series of monographs and the scientific journal *Archivio per la storia postale*.

It is the only private institution in Europe dedicated to these themes, and it constitutes an international reference point for those who are working in the area of postal history. Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi is its director.

In 2019 the Institute organised an international Conference with participants from numerous European and American countries. Not only was this a major scientific event, it was an occasion for introducing international scholars, who needed to meet and share methodologies, experiences, ideas and research programmes. It was also possible to take an overview of the state of the art of international research.

The *Proceedings* have already been published. The second edition of the Conference took place in 2022. The third edition of the Conference took place in 2024, when the *Proceedings* of the 2022 Conference were presented. The fourth edition of the Conference will take place in 2026, where the proceedings of the 2024 Conference will be presented.

Previous editions have featured academics and independent scholars from various countries: Italy, France, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Greece, Germany, Romania, the United Kingdom, Norway, Turkey, the USA, Canada, Argentina, Uruguay, South Africa, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and India.

What are the themes of this edition? The centrality of the post in society, and the consequent breadth and diversity of its interests, make postal history a naturally rich and multidisciplinary research field. For this reason, the title of this Conference welcomes proposals from all aspects of the many disciplines of postal history, from antiquity to the present day, and allows us to examine all subjects connected with postal history, within the widest chronological and geographical spans.

The programme is still being finalised (you will soon find it at [www.issp.po.it](http://www.issp.po.it)), but we can already reveal that there will be a presentation covering a topic that is very close to the heart of both the Institute and FEPA. The theme reflects a core belief of the Institute: the need for synergy between the academic world and that of philatelists. FEPA, meanwhile, is directly involved through its president. Indeed, Juraj Kittler, a professor at St. Lawrence University in the USA, and our president Bill Hedley will jointly present a paper; here is the title and abstract.

**Expatriate Italian Merchant Communities in the Mediterranean and Seabound Mail Carriers in the 14th and 15th Centuries.**

It has been generally accepted that the Italian expatriate merchant communities stationed overseas, mainly those positioned around the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Basin and the Black Sea, were in continuous communication with their mother cities. This dynamic can be implied from several surviving collections of letters. For example, Pisan merchant Pignol Zucchello, who operated out of Venice, exchanged dozens of letters with his business partners active in Candia, Famagusta, Tana, and Alexandria between 1336 and 1350. Similarly, the epistolary heritage of Biagio Dolfín, who worked as Venetian consul in Alexandria between 1418 and 1420, reveals that he was in constant

communication not only with the Venetian authorities but also with his business partners in Venice via ships passing either through Korfu or Crete. Finally, the thousands of letters contained in the Datini correspondence further corroborate this claim, although they—just as the other surviving merchant correspondence—very rarely mentioned how the seabound letter carriers operated and whether they also required some form of postage for the mail they carried.

Among the rare exceptions that give us significantly more insight into the logistics of seaborne mail carriers is a commercial contract signed in 1308 between two ship owners in Genoa and a merchant association with trade interests in Tunis concerning the transport of their mail between the two commercial centers. Although it was briefly mentioned in 1868 by Luigi Tommaso Belgrano in *Archivio Storico Italiano*, the actual document stored in the notarial archives in Genoa remains under the radar screen of those who study postal history. Even more revealing in this aspect is a letter recently sold at auction by Corinphila Auction house in Switzerland. It is at the center of our presentation because it is a very rare surviving advice of shipment from 1485, which contains a list of bundles of letters (*mazzi*) dispatched to Venice by twelve commercial firms stationed in Aleppo, transported by a Venetian merchant state galley or a private ship. It explicitly states that the postage for the expedition was covered by the *cottimo*—a special fund at the disposal of the Venetian consulates to cover their operational costs. The entire dispatch was addressed to the *Provveditori de Comun*, which—before the establishment of the Venetian board of trade (*Cinque Savi alla Mercanzia*, as of 1507)—oversaw many aspects of commercial operations in Venice. There are several notes in other hands added to the dispatch which document which firm member picked up each bundle at the office of the *Provveditori de Comun*, located in the Rialto commercial hub of Venice where the mail was subsequently disbursed.

The scope of our presentation is to introduce both newly (re)discovered documents. In particular, we will put an emphasis on the advice of shipment, which was described by the auction catalogue as a bill of lading—an invoice or packing slip listing the number and descriptive quantity of the merchandise. We argue that its discovery and correct interpretation further corroborate a call for collaboration between postal collectors and historians. Through its analysis, we attempt to fill some important gaps in our understanding of how maritimemail transports were organized and logistically supported.

See you in Prato! Participation is free. For logistical information: [issp@issp.po.it](mailto:issp@issp.po.it) or [raffaellagerola@gmail.com](mailto:raffaellagerola@gmail.com)



*Photo: the group of participants for the 2024 edition.*

# FEPA Medal 2025 for Exceptional Study and Research (Nominations)

Benito González Bugallo (Spain)

***Mail and Scout services in Prague 1914–1918 in the revolutionary period***

Written in English; published by infinitoo.es in 2025.

Available from <https://postscoutinprague.com>

Presentation: <https://youtu.be/vBAnhUUYows?si=HZuFD9qCBEVTajyz>

During the birth of Czechoslovakia in November 1918, the Czech Scouts provided a vital and well-organised service: the organisation and delivery of official mail. From 7 to 25 November 1918, Scouts selflessly carried correspondence by hand between government bodies, organisations and officials, ensuring speed, security and secrecy at a critical moment for the new state. This publication presents the results of meticulous historical research into this revolutionary period, offering a visual and documentary journey through Czech postal and Scout services during the First World War and the dramatic events in Prague leading to the fall of the Habsburg monarchy and the creation of the First Republic. It highlights rare and previously unpublished documents, early overprinted Austro-Hungarian stamps, Scout postal material, routes, maps and original photographs, complemented by a detailed and practical glossary.



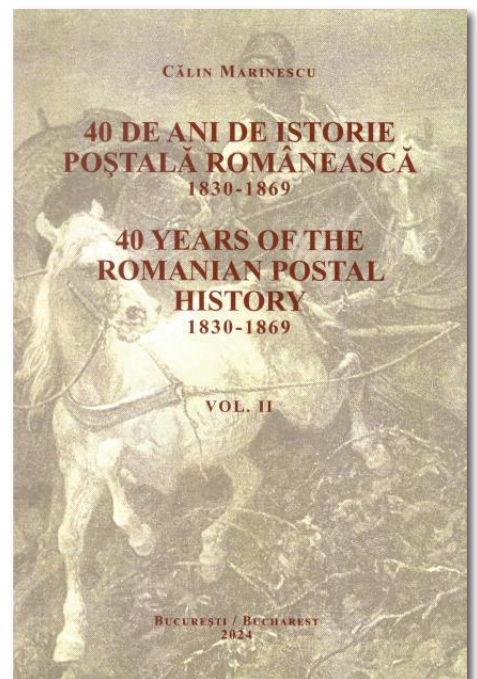
Călin Gheorghe Marinescu (Romania)

***40 Years of the Romanian Postal History 1830–1869***

Written in English and Romanian; published by Art Group, Bucharest, in 2024.

Available from the author ([calinghmarinescu1955@gmail.com](mailto:calinghmarinescu1955@gmail.com)).

This bilingual two-volume study offers a comprehensive and rigorously documented examination of the development of postal services in the Romanian territories during the nineteenth century. Spanning 948 A4 pages, the work is based on extensive archival research and original postal sources, including official documents, maps, forms and contemporary references. It reconstructs postal routes, markings, organisational structures and regulations from both the pre-stamp and early stamp periods, clarifying several key historical aspects. The study also analyses postal relations between the Romanian principalities and neighbouring countries, placing local practices within their regional context. Carefully structured and accessible, it provides an essential reference for collectors and postal historians interested in this formative period of Romanian postal history.



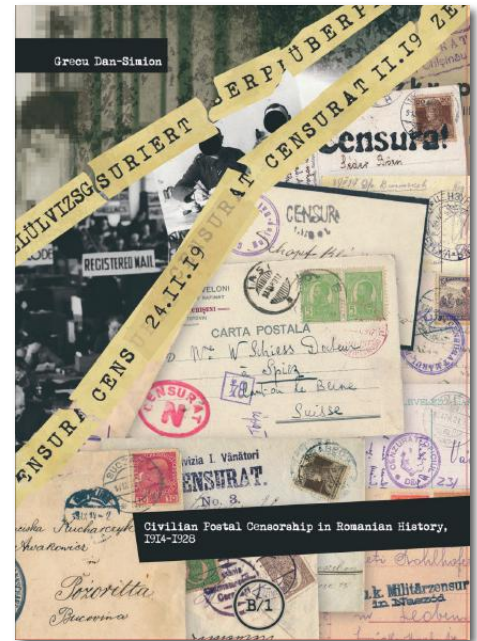
Dan-Simion Grecu (Romania)

**Civilian Postal Censorship in Romanian History, 1914–1928**

Written in English; published by Yolans Com SRL in 2025.

Available from the author (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100007191677944>).

The 560-page A4 colour monograph is a comprehensive reference work on civil postal censorship in Romania during and after the First World War. Written in English, it analyses censorship handstamps and practices across both historical and modern Romanian territories, highlighting the influence of major regional powers such as Austria-Hungary, Germany, Russia, Bulgaria, Serbia, France and Turkey. All recorded censorship markings are illustrated on complete postal items, supported by detailed explanations and enlarged images that show wear and usage over time. Beyond cataloguing the markings, the study provides valuable historical context that clarifies how and why censorship was applied. As part of a broader multi-volume project on twentieth-century Romanian postal history, it offers an essential and up-to-date resource for researchers and collectors worldwide.



Erling Johan Aune and Kristian Aune (Norway)

**Norwegian parcel post rates 1875–2000 (website)**

<https://www.norske-portotakster.no/pakkepost/pakkeporto.html>

## Norske pakkeposttakster 1875 - 2000

*Norwegian parcel post rates 1875 – 2000*

[Forside \(Home\)](#)

[Pakker/andremulige pakker/ander pakker \(Parcels/tariff parcels/other parcels\)](#)

[Fostpakker \(Postal parcels\)](#)

[Takster for postpakker 1881 - 1981 \(Rates for postal parcels 1881 - 1981\)](#)

[Takster for luftpostpakker 1959 - 1981 \(Rates for airmail parcels 1959 - 1981\)](#)

[Soneretakster 1981 - 1992 \(Zone rates 1981 - 1992\)](#)

[SAL-pakker 1981 - 1992 \(SAL parcel 1981 - 1992\)](#)

[Prioriterte pakker og økonomipakker 1992 - 2000 \(Priority parcel and economy parcel 1992 - 2000\)](#)

[Registrering av fellebrev \(Registration of parcel card\)](#)

[Mankoliste kildemateriell \(Missing source material\)](#)

[Siste nytt \(Latest news\)](#)

[Litteratur om norske portotakster \(Literature on Norwegian postage rates\)](#)

[Antall besøkende fra 15. mai 2022](#)

**02469**

12. november 2025

Pakkeposttakster til utlandet er et stort og omfattende område i norsk filateli. Det var forskjellige takster til hvert land, og det var ofte flere forskjellige forsendelsesveier. Et eksempel på dette er pakketakster til Tyrkia i 1912. Takstene er delt opp i forsendelsesveier, forskjellige byer, forskjellige lands posthus i byene, vekstsatser etc. Totalt er det 69 takster! Skulle pakkeposttakstene 1875 - 2000 vært utgitt i bokform, hadde det blitt flere tusen sider.

Vi jobber med å systematisere pakkeposttakstene til utlandet i perioden 1875 - 2000, og vil legge dette ut som pdf-filer. Det vil være en del mangler i takstene, da vi etter 30 års innsamling av kildemateriell fremdeles mangler noen pakkeposttakster og rettelser til disse (se "Mankoliste kildemateriell" i menyen til venstre).

Parcel rates abroad are a large and extensive area in Norwegian philately. There were different rates for each country, and there were often several different shipping routes. An example of this is parcel rates to Turkey in 1912. The rates are divided into shipping routes, different countries' post offices in the cities, weight rates, etc. In total, there are 69 rates! If the parcel rates 1875 - 2000 had been published in book form, it would have been several thousand pages.

We are working on systematizing the parcel post rates to foreign countries in the period 1875 - 2000, and will publish this as pdf files. There will be some shortcomings in the rates, as after 30 years of collecting source material we are still missing some parcel post rates and corrections to these (see "List of missing source material" in the menu on the left).

Vi har opprettet en [Facebook-gruppe](#) for Norske portotakster.

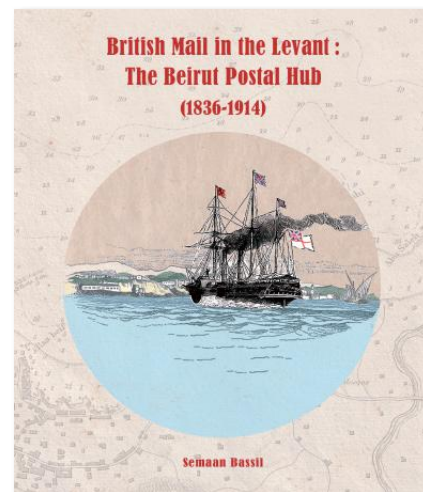
The “Aune brothers” volumes on Norwegian postal rates are fundamental reference works for collectors and postal historians. The first publication, issued in 1997, provided the first systematic overview of Norwegian domestic postal rates, filling a major gap in existing literature. This was followed in 2022 by a comprehensive study of foreign postal rates, covering the period from 1875 to 2000, with the exception of airmail and parcel post. Ongoing research into parcel post rates is shared through a dedicated website and Facebook page, where collectors can both access new findings and contribute information. This open and collaborative approach demonstrates how specialised postal research can be effectively communicated in the digital age and made freely available to the wider philatelic community.

Semaan Bassil (Lebanon)

***British Mail in the Levant: The Beirut Postal Hub (1836–1914)***

Written in English; published by Cedarstamps Publishing in 2025.  
Available from the author (bassil.semaan@gmail.com).

The book is a unique and thoroughly researched study of British postal operations in the eastern Mediterranean. Drawing extensively on primary and secondary sources, it analyses postal material within its wider historical and geopolitical context, highlighting Beirut's strategic role in British communications over a 75-year period. The narrative traces the conveyance of mail between Britain and India via Beirut from 1836, the establishment of a British packet agency in 1840, and its transformation into a full post office in 1873 following changes in transport policy. The study concludes with the closure of foreign post offices at the outbreak of the First World War. Throughout, it examines pre- and post-UPU mail, including a dedicated chapter on British mixed-franked mail used exclusively in Beirut, and documents previously unrecorded postage stamps.

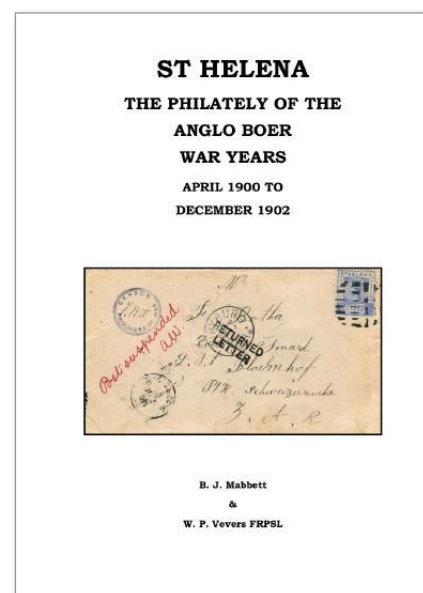


B. J. Mabbett & W. P. Vevers (UK)

***St Helena / The Philately of The Anglo Boer War Years / April 1900 to December 1902***

Written in English; published by The Stuart Rossiter Trust in 2025.  
Available from the publisher.

This publication offers a comprehensive study of both the philately and historical context of Boer prisoners held on St Helena. Based on long-term research, including extensive work in the St Helena Government Archives, it examines postal rates, mail routes and ships, carried correspondence, postal and censor markings, censorship rules and identified censors. It also documents the Army units and naval vessels responsible for guarding the camps. Richly illustrated, the book features numerous postcards produced on the island and at Deadwood Camp, widely used due to their lower cost and their depiction of camp and island life. Additional research in the National Archives at Kew, South African sources and non-philatelic publications has led to new findings, including the identification of all censors, a previously unrecorded censor marking, a short-lived special postage rate and evidence of mail quarantining from the Cape.

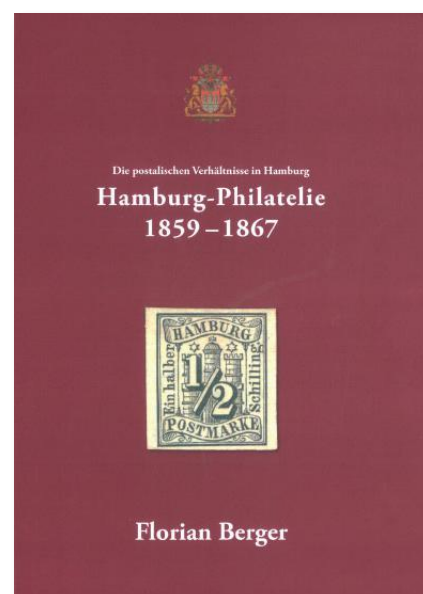


Florian Berger (Germany)

***Die postalischen Verhältnisse in Hamburg / Hamburg-Philatelie 1859–1867***

Written in German; published by Heinrich Köhler Verlag, Wiesbaden, in 2025.  
Available from the publisher.

This monograph provides a long-awaited, comprehensive study of Hamburg's complex postal and philatelic history in the nineteenth century. It examines the exceptional situation between 1859 and 1867, when seven different postal administrations operated simultaneously in Hamburg, each responsible for specific destinations. This unique arrangement produced a wide range of rare frankings, schilling-denominated stamps, shipping documents and foreign



mail. The study places particular emphasis on Hamburg's own stamp issues following its entry into the German-Austrian Postal Union, detailing their usage for German territories, neighbouring countries and overseas destinations. Rich in post-historical context, the work offers a detailed analysis of stamps, postal stationery, postmarks and routes for each administration. Clearly structured and generously illustrated with original material, it stands as an essential reference for collectors and researchers interested in Hamburg's postal history.

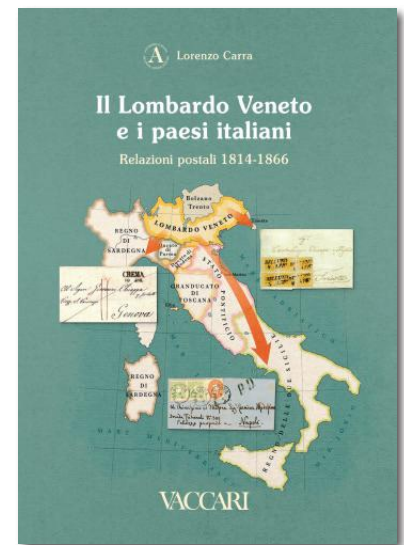
**Lorenzo Carra (Italy)**

***Il Lombardo Veneto e i paesi italiani / Relazioni postali 1814–1866***

Written in Italian; published by Vaccari in 2025.

Available from the publisher.

This work represents a comprehensive and authoritative survey of postal relations between Lombardy-Venetia and the Old Italian States during the decisive period from the Restoration to the end of the Third Italian War of Independence. Condensing over twenty years of research into 448 pages and illustrated with approximately 2,000 colour images, it combines depth with exceptional documentary richness. Central to the study is the meticulous reconstruction of the regulatory framework governing mail exchange, providing a clear understanding of how postal communications evolved alongside political and economic relations. Although focused on the Italian peninsula, the book has a strong international dimension, as Lombardy-Venetia functioned as a key postal gateway linking Italian territories with Central European networks. Thoroughly structured and rigorously documented, it stands as a cyclopaedic reference that significantly advances scholarship in postal history.



## Catalogue of Slovenian Philately, Volume 3.

**Dr. Veselko Guštin writes:**

The catalogue „Postage Stamps of Foreign Administrations and of Occupied Slovenian Territories“ has been published by the World Stamps Project (WSP) and edited by Andrej Verbič and his team. I must say that for the first time in its history, Slovenian philately has received a catalogue that finally provides comprehensive and in-depth coverage of the entire territory of present-day Slovenia in the period from 1941 to 1945. The catalogue contains everything you need for your traditional or postal history collection: the names of post offices (in Italian, or German, or Hungarian), postal rates, a list of all stamps used during this period, a list of known errors, and, of course, a price list. I must here commend the author for having highlighted the difference between a stamp used in Italy or Germany or Hungary with the symbol „⊙“ and one cancelled with a postmark used in Slovenian territory, marked with the symbol „S⊙“, i.e. cancelled with a „Slovenian“ postmark.

The book with 328 pages contains the following chapters: Introduction, Italian Occupation of Julian Venetia 1918–1920, Kingdom of Italy, Italian Social Republic, German Occupation of Upper Krain, Carinthia, and Styria, Hungarian Occupation of Prekmurje, Province of Ljubljana (Italian and German occupation), Julian Venetia Zone A and the Free Territory of Trieste, Zone A. Both B Zones are covered in Volume 2! The catalog is bilingual (Slovenian and English), and we hope it will also be appreciated by collectors outside Slovenia.

Order it from the author Andrej Verbič (info-wsp@t-2.si). The price is 28 euros.



# Perfins Kingdom of Bavaria. Handbook and catalogue Rainer von Scharpen presents second, enlarged edition

**Wolfgang Maassen RDP writes:**

In 2010, Rainer von Scharpen published the first edition of his work under the title '*Perfins of Bavaria*', and even then the figures were impressive. The 555 pages contained images of around 650 perforations, showing both the front and back, as well as more than 1,000 documents.

The texts were in French, English and German. At IPHLA 2012 in Mainz, the major international exhibition of philatelic literature, this work was awarded a Grand Vermeil Medal with an honour prize.

Now, 15 years after the first edition which has long been out of print, a second edition is available. According to the author, it has been extensively revised and enlarged to 477 + III pages, is now completely in colour, again in A4 format, and contains over 650 perfins with illustrations from the front and back, and also features over 500 documents (cards, envelopes) with letterheads.

The secret behind the remarkable increase in information despite the reduced number of pages is easy to discover when you take a closer look at both books: the new edition was professionally typeset and designed by an expert (Dietmar Schmitz). This not only made it possible to significantly reduce the number of pages required, but also to include new content. The French translation of the introductory chapters also fell victim to the red pen. In return, two new chapters were added: postal stationery cards with embossed addresses as perfin forerunners, and company address cancels applied to pre-cancel square-number stamps as perfin precursors.

However, the most significant innovation is probably the elaborate integration of lexical data and facts on the history of the companies that created the perforations, with which the author aims to establish a link to contextual (social) philately. This is undoubtedly a truly valuable improvement, especially since thanks to partial funding by the ArGe Bayern (classic), the new reduced retail price of €89 for the book, now produced as a hardcover, makes it affordable not only for collectors of (Bavarian) perfins, but also for local history collectors with an interest in history. Access to the contents is made easy by detailed German and English indexes for names and companies, places inside and outside Bavaria, topics and stamp issues. This work can be recommended without reservation and is also likely to be a handbook catalogue that will play an important role in future exhibitions and/or literature awards.

Key details: DIN A4 format, 480 pages, colour, hardcover, retail price: € 89 plus shipping costs. Orders should be sent to the author, Rainer von Scharpen, Tucholskyweg 5, 55127 Mainz, tel. 0 61 31/7 17 27, email: rainervonscharpen@t-online.de.



# Memorie dell'Accademia Italiana di Filatelia e di Storia Postale, Vol. I, 2025.

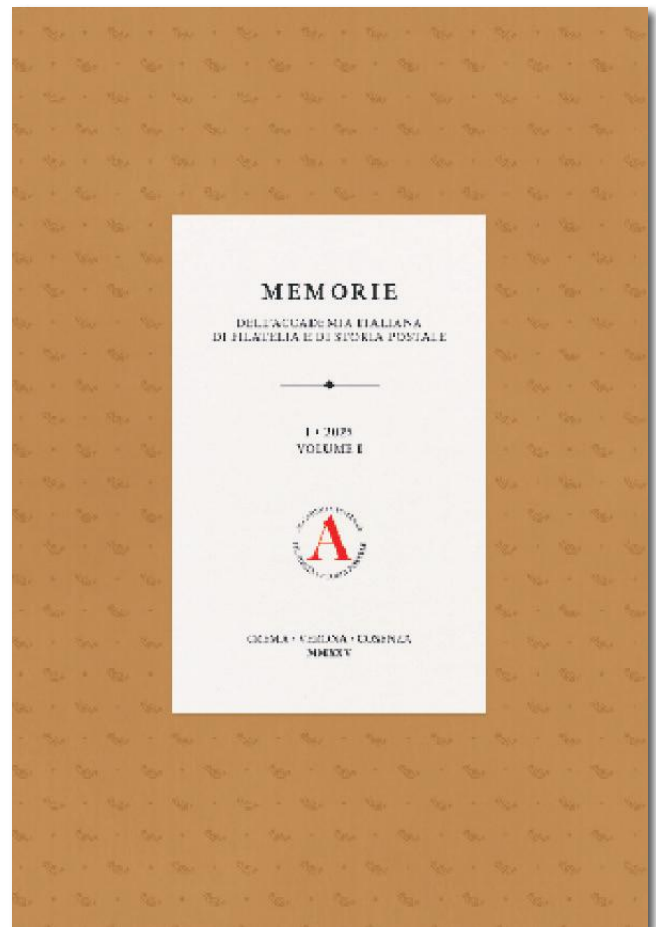
(Memoirs of the Italian Academy of Philately and Postal History)  
28 × 21 cm, 144 pages, fully in color, hardcover.  
ISBN 9791224302964. Available from Vaccari, €40.

The first volume of the *Memoirs of the Italian Academy of Philately and Postal History*, edited by Clemente Fedele and Thomas Mathà, presents itself as an ambitious and necessary work that reignites attention on a long-standing academic and collecting tradition. The Academy, heir to the *Italian Academy of Philatelic and Numismatic Studies* (1975–1996), resumes with this volume a well-established practice: the publication of memoirs as a means of disseminating knowledge, preserving historical memory, and fostering interdisciplinary dialogue. The volume, dedicated to the theme “Epidemics and Communications,” gathers the proceedings of the conference held in Bolzano in 2023, offering a fascinating overview of how epidemics have influenced postal communications over the centuries.

The book is divided into several sections, each contributing to unraveling the complex relationship between epidemics, the postal system, and society. Thomas Mathà, President of the Academy, emphasizes that the *Memoirs* are not merely conference proceedings but a testament to cultural vitality—a bridge between the academic world and a broader public.

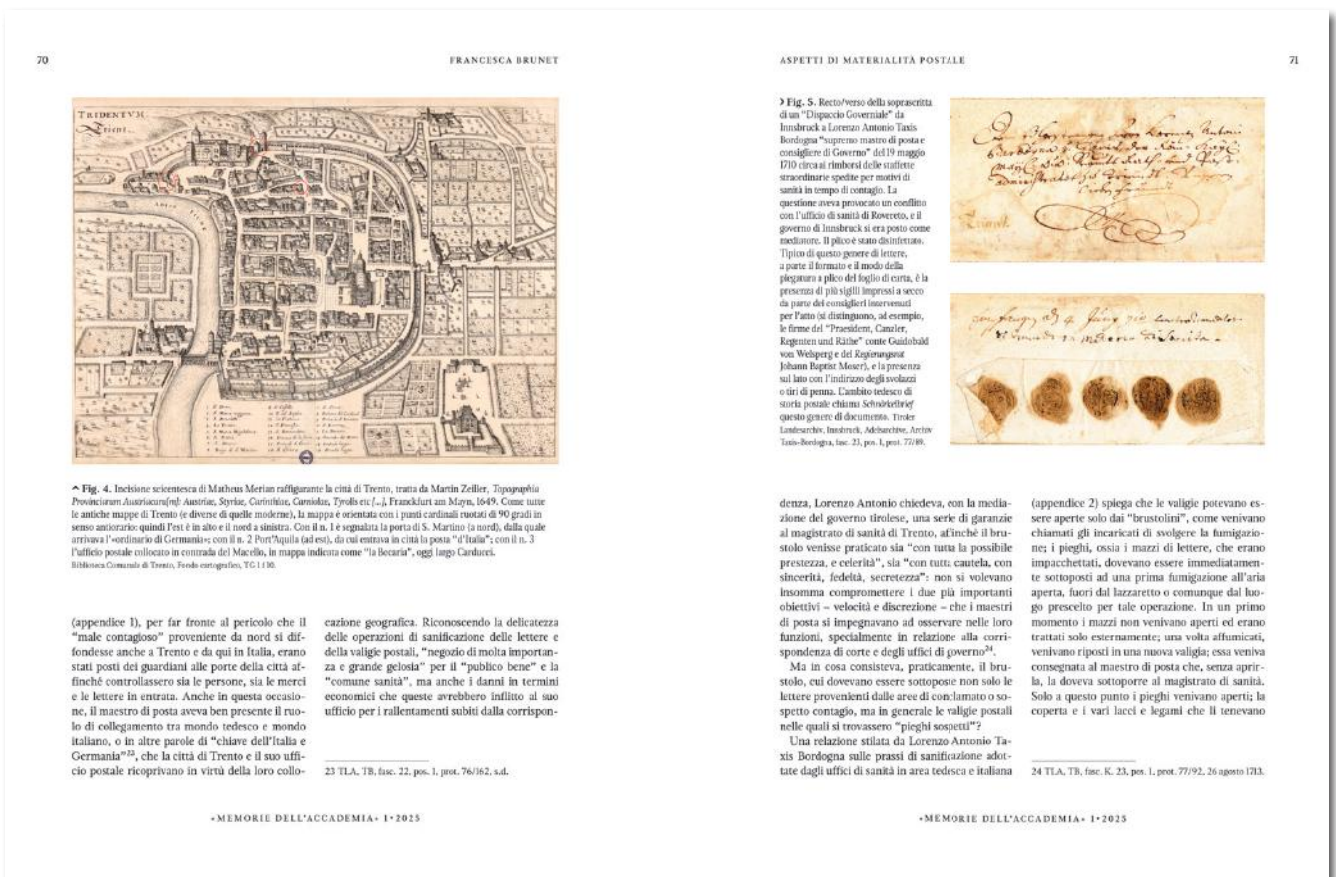
The introduction by Clemente Fedele and Thomas Mathà, *Lettere appestate* (“Plague Letters”), provides a historical and philatelic interpretation of the topic, taking inspiration from the *Epidemics and Trade* exhibition at the Bolzano Mercantile Museum. It highlights how letters, though potential vehicles of contagion, were also indispensable tools for managing health emergencies, circulating news, and coordinating containment measures.

Several thematic essays follow. Francesca Brunet analyzes the *Material Aspects of Postal Communication* through archival documents, showing how letter disinfection practices influenced the geography of communications. Her study, based on sources from the *Taxis Bordogna Archive*, reveals how the Trentino–Bolzano postal routes were crucial nodes in the European network, subject to strict sanitary controls. Rocco Cassandri and Martino Laurenzi explore *The Control of Pandemics between Medicine and the Post*, offering a medico-historical perspective on containment measures—from theriac to sanitary cordons. Federico Pigozzo reconstructs *Contagion Prevention in Verona between the Middle Ages and the Modern Era*, while Alberto Caroli focuses on *Tuscany, Corsica, and Liguria: Napoleonic Postal Health*, emphasizing the importance of maritime routes alongside terrestrial ones. Giorgio Migliavacca examines the methods of perfuming, disinfecting, and purging letters in his essay *Postal Disinfection Marks between Carinthia and Tyrol*, showing how techniques varied by era and region.



The volume also includes a rich bibliographic essay (over 600 entries) compiled by **Clemente Fedele**, listing hundreds of sources—books, articles, and archival documents—on postal disinfection, from the first anti-epidemic measures of the 15th century to 19th-century practices. The indexes of the previous **Memoirs** (1978–1995) and the list of Academy members complete the work, providing a valuable resource for scholars and collectors alike.

This volume is therefore a fundamental work for anyone interested in postal history, the history of medicine, or philatelic collecting. Its principal merit lies in bringing to light a documentary heritage often overlooked, showing that disinfected letters are far more than mere collector's items: they are testimonies of fear, survival strategies, and power dynamics. At a time when the pandemic has heightened awareness of the importance of communication and health measures, this book offers a historical lens through which to understand how past societies faced similar challenges. It stands as a bridge between past and present, inviting reflection on how history can illuminate the crises of our own time.



70 FRANCESCA BRUNET



Fig. 4. Incaisione scienziistica di Mathieu Merian raffigurante la città di Trento, tratta da Martin Zeller, *Topographia Provinciarum Austriacarum* (n.1. Anstria, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Tyrolis etc. [-]), Frankfurt am Main, 1649. Come tutte le antiche mappe di Trento (e diverse di quelle moderne), la mappa è orientata con i punti cardinali ruotati di 90 gradi in senso antiorario: quindi l'est è in alto e il nord a sinistra. Con il n. 1 è segnalata la porta di S. Martino (a nord), dalla quale arrivava l'ordinario di Germania; con il n. 2 Porta Aquila (ad est), da cui entrava in città la posta "d'Italia"; con il n. 3 l'ufficio postale collocato in contrada del Macello, in mappa indicata come "la beccaria", oggi largo Carducci. Biblioteca Comunale di Trento, Fondo cartografico, TC.1.130.

(appendice 1), per far fronte al pericolo che il "male contagioso" proveniente da nord si diffondesse anche a Trento e da qui in Italia, erano stati posti dei guardanti alle porte della città affinché controllassero sia le persone, sia le merci e le lettere in entrata. Anche in questa occasione, il maestro di posta aveva ben presente il ruolo di collegamento tra mondo tedesco e mondo italiano, o in altre parole di "chiave dell'Italia e Germania"<sup>23</sup>, che la città di Trento e il suo ufficio postale ricoprivano in virtù della loro collo-

cazione geografica. Riconoscendo la delicatezza delle operazioni di sanificazione delle lettere e della valigie postali, "negozio di molta importanza e grande gelosia" per il "pubblico bene" e la "comune sanità", ma anche i danni in termini economici che queste avrebbero inflitto al suo ufficio per i rallentamenti subiti dalla corrispon-

23 TLA, TB, fasc. 22, pos. 1, prot. 76/162, s.d.

ASPETTI DI MATERIALITÀ POSTALE

Fig. 5. Recto/verso della soprascritta di un "Dispatch Governabile" da Innsbruck a Lorenzo Antonio Taxis Bordogna "supremo maestro di posta e consigliere di Governo" del 19 maggio 1710 circa al rimborso delle stufette straordinarie spedite per motivi di sanità in tempo di contagio. La questione aveva provocato un coacervo con l'ufficio di sanità di Rovereto, e il governo di Innsbruck si era posto come mediatore. Il plico è stato disinfectato. Il tipo di questo genere di lettere, a parte il formato e il modo della piegatura a plico del foglio di carta, è la presenza di più sigilli impressi a secco da parte dei consiglieri incaricati per l'atto (si distinguono, ad esempio, le firme del "Präsident, Camelier, Regenten und Räte" come Gaidobald von Weisgerber e del Zapfenmeister Johann Baptist Moser), e la presenza sul lato con l'indirizzo degli svolazzi o tiri di penna. Cambio tedesco di storia postale chiama *Schreibbrief* questo genere di documenti. Taxis Landesarchiv, Innsbruck, Archiv, Archiv Taxis-Boedogna, fasc. 23, pos. 1, prot. 77/89.



denza, Lorenzo Antonio chiedeva, con la mediazione del governo tirolese, una serie di garanzie al magistrato di sanità di Trento, affinché il brustolo venisse praticato sia "con tutta la possibile prestezza, e celerità", sia "con tutta cautela, con sincerità, fedeltà, segretezza": non si volevano insomma compromettere i due più importanti obiettivi – velocità e discrezione – che i maestri di posta si impegnavano ad osservare nelle loro funzioni, specialmente in relazione alla corrispondenza di corte e degli uffici di governo<sup>24</sup>.

Ma in cosa consisteva, praticamente, il brustolo, cui dovevano essere sottoposte non solo le lettere provenienti dalle aree di confluente o sospetto contagio, ma in generale le valigie postali nelle quali si trovassero "pieghe sospettive".

Una relazione stilata da Lorenzo Antonio Taxis Bordogna sulle prassi di sanificazione adottate dagli uffici di sanità in area tedesca e italiana

(appendice 2) spiega che le valigie potevano essere aperte solo dai "brustolieri", come venivano chiamati gli incaricati di svolgere la fumigazione: i pieghi, ossia i mazzi di lettere, che erano impacchettati, dovevano essere immediatamente sottoposti ad una prima fumigazione all'aria aperta, fuori dal lazzaretto o comunque dal luogo prescelto per tale operazione. In un primo momento i mazzi non venivano aperti ed erano trattati solo esternamente; una volta affumicati, venivano riposti in una nuova valigia; essa veniva consegnata al maestro di posta che, senza aprirla, la doveva sottoporre al magistrato di sanità. Solo a questo punto i pieghi venivano aperti; la coperta e i vari lacci e legami che li tenevano

24 TLA, TB, fasc. K. 23, pos. 1, prot. 77/92, 26 agosto 1713.

# Mail & Might – The Struggle for Supremacy in Ottoman Jerusalem 1872-1917

## *Aniello Veneri writes:*

Author: Oral AVCI. Hardcover, 470 pages, bilingual English-Turkish, 393 illustrations, documents and photographs, 17 maps, over 240 quotations. Self-published in 2025. ISBN 979-12985868-0-2 Price €100.00, can be ordered by email at [board@posthornmagazine.com](mailto:board@posthornmagazine.com). Shipping costs €20.00 for Europe by Priority Mail

This is not simply a book about stamps and postal documents (envelopes), but rather an academic and richly illustrated journey into one of the most complex intertwining of postal history and geopolitics in the late Ottoman world. *Mail & Might: The Struggle for Supremacy in Ottoman Jerusalem 1872 - 1917* by Oral AVCI makes it clear that postal history is not an appendix to philately, but a critical lens through which we can understand how empires communicated, competed and asserted their power. Below is the link and QR code (readable via smartphone) to connect to a video describing the book's content in English.



[https://youtu.be/\\_KNtryCetM](https://youtu.be/_KNtryCetM)

The book argues that stamps, postmarks and envelopes are not just collectibles, but historical documents that reflect political tensions, social structures and shifts in the balance of power in the Levant, of which Jerusalem was a key part. The postal heritage of the Ottoman Empire emerges not only as an aspect of the history of communication, but also as a vital component of the cultural and political legacy that shaped many modern states in the region.

Although foreign post offices in Jerusalem and the Holy Land in the 19th and 20th centuries have been the subject of previous specialist studies, such research has been mostly limited to the field of collecting, focusing on cataloguing and chronology. Avci's work, on the contrary, delves into the roots of these services, places them in the broader Levantine context, and examines their presence in Jerusalem as part of imperial rivalry and the question of Ottoman sovereignty. In doing so, it goes beyond the narrow case studies of Austrian or French services and demonstrates how, at the time, Jerusalem's postal institutions had become a multifaceted arena of global competition for supremacy.

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The book is structured in six chapters. The first provides an overview of the geography, demography, and religious significance of the Levant and Jerusalem. The second and third chapters explore the Ottoman administrative system and the development of the Ottoman postal administration in Jerusalem, including post offices, routes, tariffs, and Santelli & Micciarelli services as examples of the *iltizam* system.

The following chapters focus on foreign postal services—Austrian, Russian, French, German, and Italian—first in the Levant in general and then in Jerusalem in particular. Avci shows how these were not simply technical services

but an integral part of broader diplomatic, economic, and religious strategies. The sixth chapter, *Mail & Might*, is particularly interesting: it places postal operations in the theatre of international rivalry, examining French *politique catholique*, Austrian “cooperation in competition”, the Russian “Greek project”, the German Drang nach Osten and Emperor Wilhelm II’s visit in 1898, as well as Italy’s attempts to maintain a foothold in the Levant. The story culminates with the Ottoman administration’s efforts to reassert its sovereignty through the creation of new post offices in the Jewish quarter and Mea Shearim, the strategic use of tariffs and, finally, the dissolution of foreign post offices on the eve of the First World War.

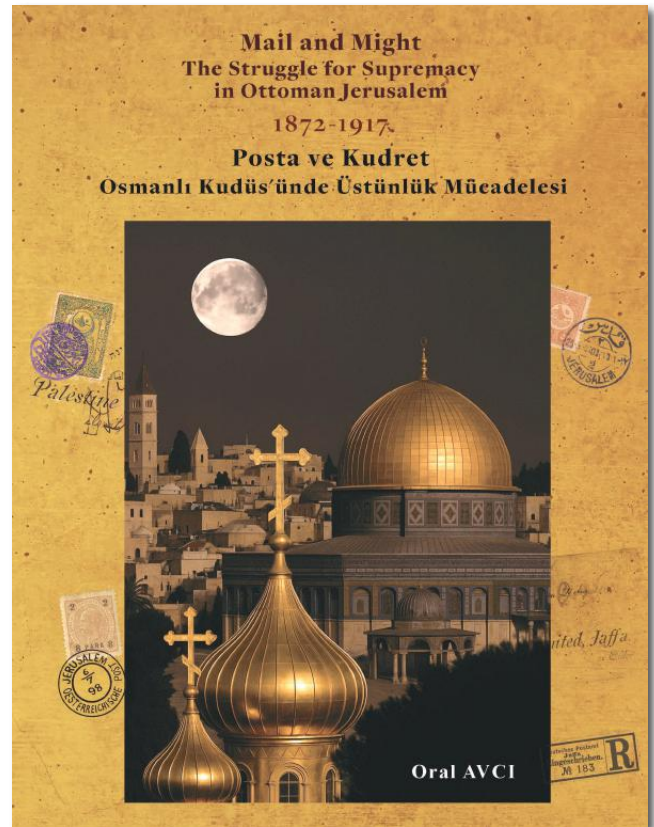
The volume is richly illustrated, with over 100 stamps from different countries, more than 70 covers (26 of which are rare), 17 maps and 393 illustrations, documents and postcards, which bring the narrative to life. With over 240 citations, the book maintains a high standard of scientific consistency, basing its analysis on both Ottoman archival materials and secondary literature.

Adding further weight to the volume is the foreword written by **Turhan Turgut, RDP, FRPSL**, the world’s leading authority on Ottoman postal history. Inducted into the **Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2023**, Turgut has served as jury chairman at international philatelic exhibitions on several occasions. His authoritative voice confirms the importance of this work for both philatelists and historians of communication and empire.

This is Avcı’s second major contribution to postal history. His first book, **The Postal History of Ottoman Iraq During the British Occupation (1914–1923)**, received five international awards at world philatelic exhibitions. With *Mail & Might*, Avcı expands his pioneering research from Mesopotamia to the Levant, producing another extraordinary and innovative work that blends philatelic evidence with historical research.

Interdisciplinary in scope, this bilingual volume will appeal to philatelists, collectors, historians, and general readers alike. Avcı’s writing combines academic rigour with engaging prose, reminding us that postal history is not a niche activity but a key to understanding diplomacy, empire, and the formation of the modern Middle East.

*Mail & Might* is destined to become an indispensable reference not only for philatelists, but also for scholars of Ottoman and Jerusalem history, international relations, and the history of communication.





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## BOSTON 2026 WORLD EXPO



23–30 May 2026

Boston Convention and Exhibition Center

FIP Patronage ♦ FEPA Recognition

# Events Calendar

## 2026

|                  |                                       |   |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 29 April - 2 May | BALKANFILA XXI, Pernik, Bulgaria      | Multinational Exhibition, FEPA Recognition<br><a href="https://balkanfilaxxi.eu">https://balkanfilaxxi.eu</a>   |
| 8-10 May         | NORDIA 2026, Espoo, Finland           | Multinational Exhibition, FEPA Recognition<br><a href="https://nordia2026.fi/en">https://nordia2026.fi/en</a>   |
| 23-24 May        | EXPHIMO 2026, Bad Mondorf, Luxembourg | International Thematic Exhibition<br><a href="https://www.philcolux.lu">https://www.philcolux.lu</a>  |
| 23-30 May        | BOSTON 2026, Boston MA, United States | General World Exhibition, FIP Patronage, FEPA Recognition<br><a href="https://boston2026.org">https://boston2026.org</a>  |
| 26 June - 1 July | MACAO 2026, Macao, China              | Specialised World Exhibition, FIP Patronage<br><a href="https://www.macao2026.org.mo">https://www.macao2026.org.mo</a>  |
| 17-19 July       | BEPHILA 2026, Bernau, Germany         | Germany-Sweden Bilateral Exhibition, FEPA Recognition<br><a href="https://www.bephila.de">https://www.bephila.de</a>  |
| 28-29 August     | PHILHAINAUT '26, La Louvière, Belgium | National Exhibition with international participation<br><a href="https://klbp.be/pdf/2026/philhainaut26%20-%20flyer.pdf">https://klbp.be/pdf/2026/philhainaut26%20-%20flyer.pdf</a> |
| 3-12 September   | DvanajstoOkno Kranj, Slovenia         | International Narrow Theme Exhibition<br><a href="https://fzs.si/dvanajstookno2026">https://fzs.si/dvanajstookno2026</a>  |
| 4-6 September    | ABPS NATIONAL, Nottingham, UK         | National Exhibition<br><a href="https://www.abps.org.uk/forthcoming-exhibitions">https://www.abps.org.uk/forthcoming-exhibitions</a>  |
| 10-12 September  | STAMPA 2026, Dublin, Ireland          | National Exhibition<br><a href="https://stampa.ie">https://stampa.ie</a>  |
| 17-19 September  | EGYPHILA 2026, Cairo, Egypt           | National with international participation, FEPA Recognition   |
| 23-27 September  | EXFILNA 2026, Mérida, Spain           | Spanish Philatelic Championship<br><a href="https://exfilna.es">https://exfilna.es</a>  |
| 7-11 October     | SRBIJAFILA XVI, Belgrade, Serbia      | National Exhibition with international participation, FEPA Recognition  |
| 15-18 October    | ITALIA 2026, Rome                     | European Literature Exhibition, FEPA Patronage<br><a href="https://italia2026.filatelia.info">https://italia2026.filatelia.info</a>   |
| 18 October       | FEPA Congress 2026, Rome              | FEPA Annual Congress  |
| 22-24 October    | Internationale Briefmarken-Börse Ulm  | International Stamp Fair<br><a href="https://briefmarken-messe.de">https://briefmarken-messe.de</a>   |
| 28-31 October    | STAMPEX 2026, London, UK              | International Stamp Fair<br><a href="https://www.stampexinternational.com">https://www.stampexinternational.com</a>   |
| 29-31 October    | ÖVEBRIA, St Pölten, Austria           | National Exhibition<br><a href="http://www.bsvstpoelten.at/impressum/oevebria-2026">http://www.bsvstpoelten.at/impressum/oevebria-2026</a>  |
| 19-24 November   | PHILATAIPEI 2026, Chinese Taipei      | Specialised World Exhibition, WSC, FIP Patronage<br><a href="https://taipei2026.post.gov.tw/taipei2026/en/Default.jsp">https://taipei2026.post.gov.tw/taipei2026/en/Default.jsp</a> |
| 3-5 December     | MONACOPHIL 2026, Monte Carlo, Monaco  | International Exhibition, FEPA Recognition<br><a href="https://monacophil.com">https://monacophil.com</a>   |

## 2027

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|------------------|--|--|
| 15-17 April      | ECTP 2027, Bulle, Switzerland            | European Championship of Thematic Philately, FEPA Patronage  |
| 30 June - 4 July | SLOVFILEX 2027, Bratislava, Slovakia     | Specialised World Exhibition, FIP Patronage, FEPA Recognition<br><a href="https://www.slovphilex2027.sk/en/home">https://www.slovphilex2027.sk/en/home</a> |
| 4 July           | FEPA Congress 2027, Bratislava, Slovakia | FEPA Annual Congress   |
| 12-17 October    | BELGRADE 2027, Serbia                    | General World Exhibition, FIP Patronage, FEPA Recognition<br><a href="https://www.belgrade2027.org">https://www.belgrade2027.org</a>                       |

## 2028

|               |            |   |
|---------------|------------|---|
| 22-26 March   | PRAGA 2028 | Specialised World Exhibition, FIP Patronage, FEPA Recognition |
| 26-29 October | IBRA 2028  | World Exhibition (details TBA)                                |

Check the Events Calendar regularly at <https://fepanews.com/events> for the latest updates, including any last-minute changes made by the organisers.