



November 2012

- **The FIP Thematic Commission's delegates**

Dear thematic philatelists,

PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES THE LAST QUARTER

As you have noticed the Bureau has been very much focused on to form its organization, establish communication and to define the relationship with the National delegates and their national networks.

- I am very happy to say that we see a weekly progress in the communication with many of the national delegates. The two tasks distributed seems to be in work nationally via the delegates and our network/list with judges grow from week to week. But, still we have not heard from all delegates, so please go along with the tasks we have in focus and come back with the information we need.

- All national delegates work to connect thematic collectors in your country with each other by a national network.
- All national delegates report to the commission secretary, Koenraad Bracke kobra22@telenet.be, the name, qualification level and e-mail address to all thematic judges in your country.

In October we published TCNEWS #24. Thank you for the constructive feedback received. As you may have noticed, my article published already in TCNEWS #23 about thematic philately based on my theories about the "4th generation ...", has been received very positive, translated to other languages and republished in several magazines worldwide.

In addition to that I would like to thank Manfred Bergman, who as a responded to my article and set some records straight in a two pages article published in "Revista F.A.E.F. #136". One of the intentions I have as Chairman, introducing and develop the theories about the development of thematic philately, is to get feedback, comments and most of all additional information from knowledgeable collectors worldwide. Bergman's additional information is most welcome.

- Find attached the article by Manfred Bergman giving additional information about thematic philately's history and development

THANKS TO MARGARET MORRIS AND THE BTA WE ARE OFFERED A TOOL TO PROMOTE THEMATIC PHILATELY

Margaret Morris is a driving force in Scottish thematic philately, and for thematic philately in Great Britain too. Margaret is active in the British Thematic Association BTA and recently they published a CD with a 32-pages paper for collectors rather than exhibitors, and it does not require any prior thematic knowledge from the reader. If you are thinking about starting a thematic collection, or have an existing collection which you want to develop, Margaret's paper will give you ideas and guidance.

Thanks to Margaret and the BTA all national delegates are offered a very useful tool to communicate thematic philately on a national basis. The CD can be purchased via the BTA for a very reasonable charge including postage. The offer is presented in the attached flyer.

- In the attached FLYER, BTA offers Margaret Morris's 32-pages paper about the introduction to collect thematic philately

OUR NEXT CHALLENGE TO COME

As we all know, thematic philately is wrongly interpreted with too many rules for exhibitors. To change this paradigm, will be the main focus for the Commission to work with the next fours years term. - We know that thematic philately is quite simple and based on the five rules only, relating to the concept, the material and the presentation.

In U.S.A., our national delegate and Bureau member Darrell Ertzberger, initiated a debate in the Topical Time "TT" magazine. Darrell's initiation was intentionally provocative and started a range of reactions published in later issues of TT. The debate in the U.S.A. about topical/thematic philately reflects quite well from my perspective the challenge we have in front of us about changing the paradigms. We as thematic collectors and exhibitors have to take this debate and to stand up for the real focus. The Bureau and the whole Commission will give you all support you need, but we need to know what you need ... please let us know.

- In the attached file you find copies from the discussion in TT about topical/thematic philately

PROGRESS TO COME

We are now awaiting information about next year's international exhibitions in Australia, Thailand and Brazil. There are three occasions where the Bureau and Commission will focus on communication with collectors, exhibitors and judges.

- We are planning a Commission meeting in Melbourne, Australia, in conjunction with the exhibition in May next year.
- We are planning for Seminars and/or Commission meetings in Thailand and Brazil as well.

The F.I.P. Board has its next meeting later in November. I have as Chairman given a written report to President Tay and the F.I.P. Board, and I am awaiting direction. The Thematic Commission is anxious to support ideas and programs that emanate from the FIP's leadership.

I am very much looking forward to any direction that President Tay and the Board wish to give to us at this time if it should be different from those activities we are already performing. We see ourselves on the Thematic Commission as a resource to the FIP leadership in our area of specialty and wish to support the general goodwill toward and reputation of FIP within the global community.

Until next time with best wishes,
Jonas

Jonas Hällström

Fédération Internationale de Philatélie Chairman of the Thematic Philately Commission

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