



# TCNews

BULLETIN OF THE FIP THEMATIC COMMISSION

N. 20 – AUGUST 2006

## *Dear Delegates*

The F.I.P. congress in Malaga is approaching soon. I hope to meet many of you there.

This issue of TCNews contains the agenda of our commission meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 12.00 – 13.30. I understand the information in Flash (a meeting at 8.30 a.m.) is obsolete. However, if you want to attend our commission meeting, you better confirm the timetable as soon as you are in Malaga.

Our meeting will report the activities of the past two years. Several initiatives have been started, some very successfully like the European Championship for Thematic Philately and the adjoining weekend seminar for international thematic jurors (I think, the first such seminar ever in F.I.P.). Other projects are still on their way, namely our commission website which contains only a fraction of the contents we would like to see. It was a big step to get it started (thanks to the help of Charles Bromser, who arranged the technical matters and serves as webmaster, and thanks to Christoph Gärtner who fully sponsors the page). However, many additional steps are still to be done until this website can serve as our platform for communication and for education. Hence, we will use the opportunity of our commission meeting to discuss ideas and their realisation. I would be happy if you could visit our website before you travel to Malaga – then you get a good impression about the current state of our “construction site”.

In conjunction with BELGICA 2006, Koenraad Bracke, the new commission delegate from Belgium, will publish a special issue of the magazine of Themaphila and Asphilthem (the two thematic associations in his country). This issue is dedicated to the state of thematic philately all over the world, and Koenraad has asked you to contribute a report from your country. I very much applaud this initiative because it will give us a unique overview about the very many thematic groups and their activities. If you haven't submitted your report yet, I highly recommend to do it soon. I understand the special issue will be available not only in French and Dutch but also in the original language the contribution has been delivered (so that people not only from Belgium can benefit).

After introducing the section “exhibition news” with TCNews 19, the current issue includes a section called “seminar news”. Both, exhibitors and jurors want continuing meetings for getting a deeper understanding of thematic philately. Hence, it is eminent to provide a platform by arranging such seminars. The one which Jonas Hällstöm (the new commission delegate from Sweden) organised last autumn in Stockholm might serve as a positive model for future “training camps” for exhibitors. Currently there is a strong focus on activities in Europe, so it is very important that we will be able to arrange weekend seminars for thematic exhibitors and jurors on the other continents as well. This should become one of the central goals of the commission for the period 2006 – 2008.

**Damian Läge**

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## **COMMISSION NEWS**

**information compiled  
by Damian Läge**

### **Commission meeting in Malaga - Agenda**

Delegates are invited to attend the Conference of the Commission that will take place **in Malaga on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, from 12.00 to 13.30** (in the Hotel NH Malaga, room to be confirmed locally) with the following Agenda:

1. Roll call of Delegates
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Report of the Chairman
4. The website project
5. Future seminars and material for guidance of exhibitors and jurors
6. Future exhibitions with a focus on thematic philately
7. Thematic exhibits in Open Class and One Frame Class
8. Additional subjects
9. Date and venue of the next Conference

### **Activity report Aug 2004 – June 2006**

In its 2004 meeting in Singapore, the F.I.P. commission for thematic philately elected a new bureau: Damian Läge (Germany) as chairman, José Ramón Moreno (Spain) as secretary, plus Ingolf Kapelrud (Norway), John Sinfield (Australia) and Ann Triggles (USA) as members representing the three continental federations. Giancarlo Morolli was appointed by the bureau as honorary bureau member (paying tribute to his outstanding long-term service for the commission).

Having implemented the new SREV in the 2000 – 2004 term, the bureau decided for continuing jury education and practical advise for exhibitors being two out of the three major goals of the 2004 – 2008 term. The third goal is the installation of a yearly international event of high-class thematic philately.

The implementation of the European Championship for Thematic Philately (ECTP) served this purpose of a constant international event devoted to thematic philately. Finding a special agreement with FEPA and the German philatelic federation (BDPh), the first such exhibition was held in conjunction with the international stamp fair in Essen (May 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006). 67 thematic exhibits representing 17 countries competed in eight classes (grouped according to themes). The championship concept (which is described in detail in TCNews) proved to be a great success, so that ECTP will be repeated each year in Essen.

One key factor of this success is the opportunity of having an international jury seminar on that occasion. This two-day seminar is exclusively devoted to the aspects of the evaluation of thematic exhibits. Beside the twelve ECTP jurors (from 12 different countries), 29 further F.I.P. jurors, FEPA jurors or national jurors participated in this seminar which provided a mix of theory and judging practice. The contents were based on the agreements of the 2002 F.I.P. team leader seminar in Bonn. In 2006, the focus was put on thematic development. In future years (the

seminar will be held each year in conjunction with ECTP), the seminar will concentrate on all different evaluation criteria. Continuous participation shall therefore improve the experience of the individual jurors and guarantee consistency in judgements.

This seminar will play a key role in future jury training. It is intended to publish the seminar papers on the website of the thematic commission to help those jurors who can not attend the seminar to get orientation of the proceedings and of the results provided by competent discussions. However, practical training can not be fully replaced by personal study. Hence, it is an important goal to spread these jury education efforts to seminars on the other continents as well.

The same applies to the efforts for guiding thematic exhibitors. Beside of weekend seminars being held in Spain (by José Ramón Moreno) and Sweden (by Damian Läge), several short seminars were given on the occasion of international exhibitions (amongst them Valencia 2004, Singapore 2004, Taipei 2005, Bukarest 2005, Washington 2006). These seminars were mainly based on the outlines of the seminar papers prepared by Giancarlo Morolli and Damian Läge, so that a consistent approach was guaranteed.

One pillar for guiding exhibitors and jurors is the new website of the thematic commission (<http://www.fipthematicphilately.org/>) which received its logical structure during the last months of 2004. Thanks to the technical support of Charles Bromser (Australia) and the continuous sponsoring by Gärtner GmbH, the website is available since 2005. Visitors will see that most of the planned contents are not available yet. Putting life into the website remains one of the pressing tasks for 2006 – 2008. In its final stage, the webpage will provide practical guidance for thematic collectors, exhibitors and juror with a clear emphasis on exhibition and evaluation matters.

*Zürich, July 4<sup>th</sup> 2006, Damian Läge,  
commission chairman*

## **New national delegates**

We welcome the following new delegates to our commission: Koenraad Bracke (Belgium), Péter Dunai (Hungary), Jørgen Jørgensen (Denmark), and Jonas Hällström (Sweden). They replace Marc Collage, Peter Kallos (both passed away), Frode Vesterby-Knudsen, and Bengt Bengtsson whom I would like to thank for their contributions during the years.

## **Delegates' addresses**

TCNews is primarily distributed by e-mail. (Only those delegates who have not reported an e-mail address will receive a printed version.) Further, all delegates' e-mail addresses are mentioned in TCNews and on our website so that collectors can contact the delegate in their country that way. However, if you as a national delegate should have an e-mail address which has changed or which is not mentioned in the address list, please be so kind to send me an e-mail so that I can add your address to the lists. From different attempts to contact delegates via e-mail, I estimate up to ten of the addresses are no longer current. Also postal addresses seem to have changed without informing F.I.P. or the commission chairman. It would be a pity if TCNews would not reach you. So please be so kind to let me know of all modifications.

## **In Memoriam**

We remember our friends who passed away recently:

**Marc Collage**, delegate of Belgium

**Juli Daragjati**, delegate of Albania

**Amhed Hamed**, delegate of Egypt

**Peter Kallos**, delegate of Hungary

**Mary Ann Owens**, past delegate of USA

**Betty van Tenac**, past delegate of Australia

**R.I.P.**

# **EXHIBITION NEWS**

**information compiled  
by Damian Läge**

## **New FIP jury teamleader**

Dr. Joachim Maas from Germany (known as experienced juror and as successful exhibitor of “UPU” and “Mathematics”) served as apprentice teamleader at WASHINGTON 2006 and was approved by the FIP board as FIP jury teamleader for thematic philately. (It is a nice coincidence that you can read his talk at the jury seminar in Essen in this issue of TCNews).

## **Washington 2006: The “best quality” thematic class ever?**

A glance on the results from Washington 2006 reveals an astonishing number of high and highest awards: 20 Gold medals and 6 Large Gold medals went to collectors showing a thematic exhibit. Out of a total of 50 thematic exhibits shown, this is more than 50% being awarded with 90 points or higher. Best to my knowledge, no previous F.I.P. exhibition provided such a high proportion of outstanding awards. Further 12 exhibits (24%) received a Large Vermeil medal, so that 76% of the thematic exhibits had a score of 85 points or higher.

The long-term average at F.I.P. exhibitions is 81 points in thematic class (measured over all exhibitions of the past 15 years). So, what happened in Washington?

The exhibition management obviously did not expect much request for exhibits in the thematic section of the exhibition. Hence, unlike to most other F.I.P. exhibitions in the past, they only planned for one jury team for thematic philately (normally two or even three teams are needed). They must have been very

surprised of the high number of applications received. The obvious disadvantage was that most of the applications had to be rejected. The 50 exhibits chosen, however, proved to be a really outstanding selection. Adding the three thematic exhibits from the championship class, nine large gold medals were awarded which had never been the case at any previous F.I.P. exhibition. On top of that, one out of the three thematic championship class exhibits was amongst the candidates for the Grand Prix d’Honneur. This was also the first time in the history of F.I.P. that a thematic exhibit received that honour.

The full list of results can be found on the commissions’ website (in the news section).

## **BELGICA 2006 – the largest thematic philately show ever?**

One year ago, TCNews 19 announced that the originally planned “promotional class” of thematic philately at BELGICA 2006 had been upgraded into a full competition class. The organising committee had an extremely lucky hand with this change, because very many collectors from all around the globe entered their exhibits. It was expected that 80 exhibits could be shown in the 500 – 600 frames provided for thematic class. It turns out to become the largest thematic exhibition, at least since Genova 1992 (I don’t have exact statistics): Not less than 180 exhibits will be shown in the thematic class, plus many more thematic exhibits in Youth, in One Frame and in Open Class. Furtheron, the Belgian national exhibition of 2006 is held in conjunction with BELGICA, and again many thematic exhibits will participate on that level (you must know that thematic philately is the leading discipline in Belgium). So if you have time to visit Brussels in November (BELGICA takes place from 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2006), you will experience the largest (or at least one of the largest) thematic philately exhibitions ever hosted on our planet.

You find further information on the website <http://www.belgica2006.be>.

## One-theme exhibitions

Beside the very large shows, smaller exhibitions covering only one specialized theme become more and more attractive. They provide an excellent opportunity for worldwide meetings of collectors sharing the same interest and the same expertise, and they can give a more comprehensive overview over the state of development within a certain range of thematic philately than general exhibitions would be able to provide.

You all know of Olympilex, a worldwide exhibition for themes covering sports held every four years in conjunction with the Olympic Games. There has obviously been a bit of trouble in organising this event, but thanks to the positive intervention of F.I.P. the future of this very attractive exhibition seems to be secure: At least there will be an Olympilex in Beijing 2008, and we can be optimistic that this tradition will continue.

Another strong tradition is the Premio Massari, a worldwide exhibition for themes covering music. The next Premio Massari exhibition will be organised by the Belgian thematic association. The event will take place in Wetteren (Belgium), 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2007. For further details, you can contact Koenraad Bracke, the national delegate from Belgium and organiser of this exhibition.

The Belgian thematic association has already announced that they will also host the next world exhibition for bird themes. BIRDPEX also ranges amongst those specialised exhibitions being held regularly. This exhibition focussing on bird themes was held for the first time in New Zealand in 1990 (when the New Zealand federation devoted their annual national exhibition to birds, because the scientific world congress of ornithology was held at the same time in Christchurch). BIRDPEX is repeated every four years since (in Germany, England, Netherlands, and Denmark). In 2010 it will be hosted by the Belgian thematic association.

Scout collectors also have their own international exhibition. Next EUROSCOUT will take place in Alcalá de Henares (Spain), from 2nd – 5th November 2006. It is organised by the Club Filatelico de Scouts y Guías in Spain. You find all information about this exhibition under [www.clubfilscoutguia.org](http://www.clubfilscoutguia.org).

An annual exhibition with a focus on one theme is organised by the federation of Luxembourg: Always on the Pentecost weekend, collectors of one theme are invited to show their exhibits in the little town of Mondorf. The 2006 issue dealt with all topics of agriculture, and the next exhibition (on May 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007) will be dedicated to Geosciences and Mining. Willy Serres, the national delegate of Luxembourg in our commission, can provide you with all necessary information if you want to go there. Just contact him.

This selection gives you an overview of specialised exhibitions in the field of thematic philately. Most probably it is far from being complete, specially since only the explicitly international events are mentioned. However, these exhibitions demonstrate how attractive such continuing events can be.

## 1st European Championship of Thematic Philately (ECTP)

The first European Championship of Thematic Philately was really a success. It was held in Essen, on the first weekend of May 2006. 17 FEPA countries participated, and the jury (consisting of jurors from twelve countries) awarded the 24 medals (gold, silver and bronze in each of the eight classes) to exhibits from 10 countries.

The jury's public voting of the Grand Prix ECTP (all the eight gold medallists were the candidates) was very appealing, and after a very close run **Joachim Maas'** UPU exhibit won the Grand Prix, followed by "Homo-Aves Co-Existence" (**Leif W. Rasmussen**) and "Railways, we need you" (**Yannick Delaey**).

Lumír Brendl witnessed the exhibition as Czech delegate (bringing the exhibits from his country) and exhibitor. Here is his report:

## **ECTP 2006: What I enjoyed most**

**by Lumír Brendl**

The five sunny days of May 2006 spent in Germany at the 1st European Championship for Thematic Philately were very friendly and inspiring. As a FIP Board member responsible for thematic philately, a Czech Commissioner and also an exhibitor, I would like to express my personal impressions.

(1) The European Championship was held under FEPA Patronage and was organized by *Verband der Philatelisten in Nordrhein-Westfalen im BDPH* at Messe Essen. In this prestigious event 17 FEPA countries, 67 qualified thematic exhibits and a number of exhibitors, collectors and national commissioners (usually delegates of FIP Thematic Commission and also exhibitors) took part at their own costs. What does it mean? It means that philately, and in this case thematic philately, is not a mere hobby but that it represents much more than a free time activity or money for majority of people.

(2) Quality of exhibits, originality in themes' development and presence of such incredible variety of top and unique philatelic material used in most exhibits was surprising. It can be hardly believed that according to FIP SREV 53 out of 67 competitive exhibits received points on the level of Large Gold, Gold and Large Vermeil medals. Besides, 8 Vermeil and 6 Large Silver medals were awarded. A great success.

(3) A brand new approach in choosing three best Champions – the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place out of 8 best evaluated exhibits in 8 competitive classes was applied: each juror (Jury President Damian Läge plus 12 jurors) was asked to allot each winning exhibit within

the particular class from 10 to 1 points. The scale was 10, 7, 5, 3, 2 and 1 point. It was not done in secret, but in public. The audience carefully followed, juror by juror, the progressing or degressive number of allotted points. Sometimes it was quite thrilling! This "technology" was an original idea never used before, as far as I can remember. It was a very good way how to attract interest even of those people who have never before been involved in stamp collecting. After the procedure finished, the name of the first European Champion in Thematic Philately for the year 2006 was announced. The Champion and ECTP 2006 Grand Prix winner is Joachim Maas from Germany for his theme "Der Weltpostverein" – 73 points allotted in public and Large Gold for 96 FIP points. He is followed by Leif W. Rasmussen from Denmark (63 points) for his "Homo-Aves Co-Existence", and Yannick Delaey from Belgium (51 points) for "The Railways, we need you".

Damian Läge – the initiator of ECTP, Jury President and the organizer of FEPA Seminar for Thematic Philately, BDPH and Nordrhein-Westfalen organizers as well as all jury members, THANK YOU! You did a great job. Also congratulations to European Champions and all thematic exhibitors awarded the Certificates and medals for their thematic efforts.

Thematic Philately again proved its strength, quality and high thematic and philatelic standard. Thematic Philately undoubtedly is an indivisible and very important part of philately and its culture.

## Results of the 1st European Championship for Thematic Philately

### 1. Arts and Culture

1	Schmidt, Alfred	Germany	The Statues of Knight Roland	93
2	Albe, Felix	France	Hymne au Soleil	92
3	Mäkinen, Jukka	Finland	Domus Dei - A History of European Church Architecture	87
4	Schuurhuizen, Paul	Netherlands	Culture of bread	86
	Studzinski, Wieslaw	Poland	History of the European Architecture	86
6	Griffiths, David	Great Britain	Here be Dragons	85
	Maurizio, Amato	Italy	Romanesque Architecture	85
8	Goubel, Yvette	Belgium	Fondations et développements monastiques en Occident	80

### 2. History and Organisations

1	Maas, Dr. Joachim	Germany	Der Weltpostverein	96
2	Maia, Julio	Portugal	That Glorious Deed ...	95
3	Bottu, Dr. Mark	Belgium	If you want to be my disciples ... Monastic life	94
4	Speksnijder, D.	Netherlands	Columbus discovers the new world	93
5	Brendl, Lumir	Czech Rep.	Troubled Times in Bohemia 1620 - 1918 and CSR 1918-1945	91
6	Campo, Jose Angel	Spain	The World War II	89
7	Lindquist, Per	Sweden	The power of Humanity (Red Cross)	88
8	Batistini, Alviero	Italy	European Integration 1919-1957	86
9	Gotschi, Rudolf	Austria	Das Rote Kreuz - Helfen ohne Grenzen	82
10	Fouquet, Marc	France	L'homme dans le Grand Nord	78

### 3. Man and Everyday Life

1	Zimmermann, Albrecht	Germany	Kinder, Kinder ...	91
2	Gorretta, Ezio	Italy	Vocations: be yourself in Christ	90
3	Fontaine, Nicole	France	Le Tissage = de la matière première ou produit fini	88
4	Zimmermann, Paul	Austria	Sparkassen, Banken, Börsen	81
5	Schiller, David	Czech Rep.	Leipzig - nicht nur die Messestadt	76
6	Bakker-Bakker, Guurtje	Netherlands	Der Schrebergarten - Meine Lust u. mein Leben	75

### 4. Sport and Leisure

1	Majander, Jari	Finland	The Wheels of Chance - An Introduction to Cycling	92
2	Huhnen, Ernst	Germany	Laufen - Springen - Werfen - 3000 Jahre Leichtathletik	89
3	Zhochov, Valery	Russia	The Olympic Tradition will live	88
4	Schutz, Charles	France	La petite reine	87
	Francesconi, Andrea	Italy	The Rimet Cup	87
6	Suhadolc, Peter	Slovenia	The conquest of the unprofitable world	85
7	Osusky, Peter	Slovakia	For the Glory of Sport - Coubertin's Heirs	83
8	Suys, Jean-Pierre	Belgium	Tennis - Le Sport en Blanc	82
	Prange, Ryszard	Poland	Basketball Report - I love this Game	82
10	Schaffer, Richard	Austria	Motorsport	78

## 5. Transport and Technology

1	Delaey, Yannick	Belgium	The Railways, we need you	95
2	Van den Bold, Willem	Netherlands	May I introduce myself? My name is Automobile	94
3	Maas, Bruno	Germany	Druckkunst und Papierherstellung	93
4	Hällström, Jonas	Sweden	The history of the square-rigged sailing vessels	91
	Oliveira e Sousa, E.	Portugal	L'automobile	91
6	Arencibia, Manuel	Spain	El Mundo del Automovil	90
7	Leppänen, Jarkko	Finland	Electricity Changed the World - from Production to Use	88
8	Polyakov, Oleg	Russia	USSR- USA: From Space Race to Cooperation	87
9	Frick, Gabriel	France	Evolution Technique des Vehicules Automobiles	86
10	Jankovic Vojtech	Slovakia	My Life as a Bicycle	85

## 6. Medicine and Science

1	Fürstenberg, Irmgard	Germany	Von nationaler Gesundheitsvorsorge zur Weltgesundheitsorganisation	95
2	Heino, Raino	Finland	Weather - from Observation to Forecasts	92
3	Viala, Patrick	France	L'optique	91
4	Boorn, Steve	Great Britain	The Heart is Life	90
5	Vandenhoute, Johann	Belgium	From Abacus to Laptop	88
6	Struik, P.	Netherlands	Mutter Erde ... nichts als Dynamik	87
7	Österdahl, Bengt-Goran	Sweden	The history of chemistry	86
8	Lopez-Calviz, Manuel	Spain	Pequenos Dioses	85
9	Franchi, Adolfo	Italy	Albert Einstein and the Theory of Relativity	80

## 7. Animals and Plants

1	Rasmussen, Leif W.	Denmark	Homo-Aves Co-Existence	95
2	Roussel, Jean Claude	France	L'arbre	91
3	Vanhaelewijn, Guy	Belgium	Les Elephants - Derniers Survivants des Probiscidiens	90
4	Andreasson, Linda	Sweden	Wild Cat Animals	87
5	Heiland, Manfred	Germany	Sperlingsvögel im europäischen Lebensraum	86
6	Lacarra, Antonio	Spanien	Persecution and Extermination of Mammals and Birds	83
7	Horin, Elfriede	Austria	Ich bin wie ich bin (Frogs)	77

## 8. Agriculture and Pets

1	Abram, Michel	France	Rencontre avec le Cheval	93
2	Wehmeier, Friedrich	Germany	Das Pferd - vom Beutetier zum Weggefährten des Menschen	92
3	Kunz, Alfred	Austria	Wein - Geschichte, Kultur und Wirtschaft	91
4	Hongisto, Heikki	Finland	Sugar in the Life of Mankind	86
5	Iglesias-Xifra, José Luis	Spain	Beekeeping and Bees	85
	Padova, Paolo	Italy	Run, Horse, Run	85
7	Ten Have, Hermann	Netherlands	About cows and calves	78



# SEMINAR NEWS

information compiled  
by Damian Läge

## **1<sup>st</sup> FEPA Jury Seminar for thematic jurors (May 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> 2006 in Essen)**

The evaluation criteria (as important part of the exhibition rules) list the aspects for which points are allotted in the judging process. However, there is no indication how many points should be given when a certain quality of an exhibit is identified during the judging process. This decision is completely up to the jury team. Hence, scores for the same exhibit can considerably vary from exhibition to exhibition, even when the jurors identify the same strongholds and weak points in a certain exhibit. In some cases, there might be consistency within the exhibition (e.g. the relative ranking of the exhibits is correct), but consistency from one exhibition to the next can fail.

The negative impact of these circumstances can lead to severe disappointment of exhibitors (people having positively worked on their exhibit but receiving a lower score when the next jury team is more strict with allotting points). For this reason, it is eminent to create a certain homogeneity when judging.

It is the explicit goal of the FEPA seminars for thematic jurors to create this common view on allotting points. The first seminar was held in conjunction with ECTP 2006. It focussed on the evaluation criteria of Innovation and of Thematic Development.

For the first, Joachim Maas gave a talk which is published on the following pages. For Thematic Development, a F.I.P. team leader seminar (held in 2002) had defined what should be expected for allotting 12 out of the 15 points (the maximum). 12 out of 15 points (80%) form the average score given in a long

term run at F.I.P. exhibitions. Hence, this score should reflect the average quality of thematic development on international level. Mistakes found by the jury should lead to lower scores, aspects of outstanding development should award extra points.

This schema was tested during the seminar by judging six selected exhibits exclusively for the aspect of thematic development. Six teams consisting of six to seven jurors each were build to allow discussion on the frames.

Complementing this exercise, two jurors (Ezio Gorretta and Jonas Hällström) presented the development of their exhibits in separate talks. Since they use two very different approaches, these two talks matched well documenting the wide range of possibilities for achieving a highly successful thematic development.

In addition to the focal topics (innovation and thematic development), the “start-with-the-average-score” benchmark approach was widened to the other evaluation criteria. A deeper analysis of these aspects will follow over the next years, because the seminar will be continued annually, always on occasion of ECTP.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> FEPA Jury Seminar for thematic jurors (May 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 2007 in Essen)**

The special time frame of the Stamp Fair in Essen (Thursday to Saturday) allows a FEPA seminar for thematic jurors in conjunction with ECTP, starting Saturday afternoon and ending Sunday noon. All FIP and FEPA jurors are free to join the seminar, and future candidates for FEPA apprenticeship will also get the opportunity to participate.

The seminar will include lessons, discussions and active team judging of selected exhibits. The main goal is to find a common understanding of how to allot points to certain quality of exhibits when being shown on international level.

Participation is free of charge (accommodation can be arranged subject to availability and has to be paid unless jurors serve at ECTP). Jurors who would like to attend are kindly requested to contact Damian Läge or the organisation committee not later than January 31<sup>st</sup> 2007. Thematic jurors on national level can participate as observers as long as the total number of jurors does not exceed 40 (the maximum capacity for the seminar).

### **Weekend seminar for thematic exhibitors in Stockholm (Oct. 2005) – a model for personal guidance**

In October 2005, the Swedish Association of Thematic Collectors organized an international seminar for thematic exhibitors (Flash 94, page 11 provides you with the report written by Jonas Hällström). The 20 Finnish and Swedish participants experienced two very instructive days, because the seminar was not only based on presentations and talks but to the same degree on discussing the individual exhibits which the collectors brought. These exhibits were either presented by a powerpoint presentation (followed by helpful comments from experienced jurors and the other exhibitors) or were displayed in exhibition frames so that everybody could watch and comment them.

Using this mixed form of talks, presentations and discussion proved very helpful to all participants, specially since the different exhibits spread over all levels ranging from real starters to gold medallists on international level. This form of exhibitor seminars might therefore serve as model for similar events in future. The Finnish and Swedish exhibitors immediately decided to continue in October 2006 already, on occasion of NORDIA in Helsinki. Similar seminars might also be held in other regions of the world.

## **INNOVATION**

This is one of the talks given on occasion of the FEPA jury seminar in Essen (May 6th – 7th, 2006). The article will be published on our commission website. There, you can find all illustrations to which the text refers.

(<http://www.fipthematicphilately.org/>)

### **The new Thematic SREV: Innovation**

**by Joachim Maas**

According to the Thematic SREV the criterion treatment is divided into the sub-criteria title and plan (15 points), development (15 points), and innovation (5 points). As innovation is the only "new" sub-criterion of the new SREV, it is worth-while having a detailed look at it as for exhibitors as for jurors.

Innovation can be shown by

- new themes
- new overall concepts
- new development of chapters or sub-chapters
- new development of pages or parts of pages
- new thematic application of material

In order to understand these five different possibilities and to distinguish between them, they are explained using some examples.

**New themes** are demonstrated by the title and / or the subtitle of the exhibit. Nevertheless, new themes should not be evaluated without considering the concept. *New themes with boring concepts*, which only consist of simple lists and which do not reflect environment, causes and effects, consequences, cross-references and so on, *are not really innovative*. So it is not only sufficient to deal with a new species of animals, a new sports-discipline or a famous person never dealt with before, but such a new theme should be combined with an interesting plan. Consider the following fictitious example:

Umberto Miller, the famous composer

1. Precursors
2. His Life
3. His Works
4. In memory of Umberto Miller

This concept is known from dozens of exhibits dealing with famous people. Obviously, this is *not* an example of innovation, though the theme is completely new.

Of course, it is not always possible to create new themes. Therefore, new *concepts* are much more important than the theme itself.

**New overall concepts** can be demonstrated by subtitles and / or by plans. Considering the title of the famous exhibit "Australasian Birdlife - a look at the bird world of the South Pacific region along zoogeographical lines", we realize a new theme combined with a completely new concept: the zoogeographical approach, which enables the exhibitor to demonstrate a lot of really new, important and interesting aspects.

Consider a second example. Exhibits dealing with paper making, printing, book publication and the press are usually divided into four or five parts: (writing), paper making, printing, book publication and the press. These chapters then are dealt with separately, each chapter covering a very large period of time, without reflecting their mutual influence. So in order to avoid these disadvantages, the following new concept shows a clear historical evolution emphasizing the interdependence between the technical and the historical development:

Printing and paper making, motors of book publication and the press

1. Putting down written information before the invention of typography
2. The invention of printing by movable types about 1440 ...
3. ... gives impetus to book publication and to the press since 1500
4. Progress in paper making and printing techniques since about 1800 ...
5. ... supports modern book publication and the modern press

The third possibility of demonstrating innovation is a **new development of chapters or sub-chapters**. Let us have a look at an example: The evolution of writing. Usual approaches emphasize the appearance of "characters" (pictograms, cuneiform writing, hieroglyphs, ...). Such approaches do not demonstrate the very essence of the development of writing. So the following new approach puts more emphasis on the way in which the "characters" represent the content and later on the phonetic structure of languages. This concept combines examples from different cultures on one page and results in the following headings of the pages (see figures 1 – 5 on the website of the commission):

- Precursors of writing: picture- and symbol-technique
- Logography, representing the content of languages
- Beginning of phonetic writing
- A revolutionary development: first alphabets

Often it is not possible to create new overall concepts or new development of complete chapters. Therefore exhibitors can use a fourth possibility of demonstrating innovation: **new development of pages or new thematic interpretation of items**. Consider three examples (again, to be studied on the website):

Figure 6 is taken from the thematic field "the press" and shows a new thematic interpretation of the cancel "Genève, gazettes". This item should have been expected in a subchapter dealing with the distribution of newspapers. Here it is interpreted in the following way: In the 16th century written news-"papers" were sold on the "Rialto", a central place in Venice; the price was one "gazetta", and the name of the coin was transferred to the papers, so that gazette has become a synonym for newspaper up to now.

Figure 7 is taken from an exhibit dealing with mathematics and shows an etymological interpretation of the word "calculate": Calculating developed from counting with pebbles (Latin "calculi").

As for the last two examples one might object that these are excellent examples for demonstrating thematic knowledge, but they don't really demonstrate innovation. Of course, both examples are strongly based on thorough thematic knowledge. The use of the items in this thematic connection is so surprising that the combination of the thematic statement with the items really demonstrates innovation.

Figure 8 shows a thematic interpretation of philatelic varieties. The three stamps with the knight philatelically demonstrate the steps of the printing process, and the thematic text says: "As out of nothing a game like chess appeared ....".

In figures 6, 7 and 8 items are used which are not new for the whole theme, but which are interpreted in a new and surprising way or which are used in an unexpected subchapter. Furthermore, a fifth possibility of demonstrating innovation is **the application of items which** - in the thematic sense - **are completely new for the whole theme.** Consider three examples:

Figure 9 shows a proof of Pythagoras' theorem using 8 Columbian triangular stamps.

Figure 10 as well is taken from the thematic field of mathematics. The page deals with the Greek mathematician and philosopher Pythagoras, who tried to explain nearly everything by proportion of numbers. You would expect the US fancy cancel from the classical period showing a lyre to be integrated into an exhibit dealing with music rather than in a connection with Pythagoras. The thematic reason is that the starting point for Pythagoras' theory was the discovery that harmonic intervals are based upon simple proportions of the length of strings of music instruments like the lyre.

The last example (figure 11) is taken from an exhibit about chess and shows items, four of which would not be expected in this field of theme. The text explains that at the end of the European Middle Ages chess was especially

popular among knights and minstrels and so became one of the knightly arts, besides e. g. riding, music, bird-catching and archery.

Summarizing, we have seen that there are a lot of possibilities of demonstrating innovation and that innovative concepts or development and surprising elements are much more important than the creation of new themes. So, this new sub-criterion is a chance for exhibitors more than a risk.

On the other hand, jurors should try to avoid the risk of allotting too few points because of taking into account the same mistake or omission several times. According to the new SREV, innovation should no longer be taken into account when deciding about the points for plans or for development. As for the evaluation of plans the new SREV explicitly does not contain the former aspects of originality and creativity any longer.

Proposal for allotting points for the sub-criterion of innovation:

Known themes combined with <b>simple concepts:</b>	0 – 2
New themes combined with <b>simple concepts:</b>	3
Known themes combined <b>with good concepts, good development and some/ a lot of new items:</b>	3 – 4
New themes combined <b>with good concepts, good development and some/ a lot of new items:</b>	4
new or known themes combined with <b>innovative concepts or innovative development or a lot of new items:</b>	5

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# 2<sup>nd</sup> EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP OF THEMATIC PHILATELY

information compiled  
by Damian Läge

After the very successful implementation of the European Championship concept in 2006, I am happy to be able to announce that ECTP will continue in 2007 (May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, again in conjunction with Messe Essen, Germany).

As you know, ECTP divides the world of thematic philately into eight different thematic groups. In each group, an European champion has been awarded in 2006. These eight champions get the chance to exhibit again in 2007, namely in a special class called “class of the champions”. The best exhibit of this class will automatically be a candidate for the Grand Prix ECTP.

If an European champion exhibit has been shown at least once in the “class of the champions”, it can return into one of the eight thematic classes next year.

This additional regulation will keep ECTP attractive for both, for the eight winners of the previous year (they get a second chance to win the Grand Prix and can later on return into the thematic classes for winning another title) and for all other exhibitors (because the same exhibit cannot win one of the eight classes two times in a row so that in 2007 eight other exhibits will become European champions).

Beside these additions, the concept of ECTP remains the same.

In conjunction with ECTP, the FEPA seminar for international thematic jurors will be continued in 2007 (May 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>). If you want to participate, please register early so that we can distribute remaining seats to those national

jurors who would like to attend the seminar as observers. (The experience from 2006 has shown that there is much demand for the seminar).

## Duties of the national delegates

As national delegate for thematic philately from a European country, you will be actively involved with the selection process of the exhibits. You are the person who best knows the thematic exhibits from your country, so that you should be the right person to distribute the bulletins to your collectors, to gather the applications and to forward the best ones to the exhibition committee.

Every FEPA country can only show one exhibit per section (plus exhibits in the “class of champions”, of course). Hence, it is important that you as the delegate choose the best one which will represent your country within each specific class.

During the second half of September, you will receive a number of ECTP bulletins. ***Please be so kind to forward them to those collectors in your country who have a thematic exhibit which has already received a FEPA or FIP award at a previous exhibition.*** Please remind the collectors that – given they want to participate in ECTP – you need the application forms back until November 30<sup>th</sup> 2006 so that you can send them to the ECTP committee arriving there not later than end of December 2006.

I would also ask you to forward one bulletin to your national federation keeping them informed about this exhibition. If the number of bulletins which you received should not be sufficient, you can ask for more copies at the address of the organising committee stated in the bulletin.

Due to the special nature of a championship, exhibitors are generally requested to be personally present for the exhibition. (The stamp show in Essen is very attractive itself, and most of the best thematic dealers from all



over Europe will have a booth there. Hence, it is very recommendable for every serious thematic collector to go there). However, one collector or the other might be unable to come to Essen. In this case, somebody else can deliver the exhibit. *Please be aware that there will be no national commissioners as we know this position from general FEPA or FIP exhibitions.* The reason is – beside of the fact that most exhibitors will be present in person anyway – that the numbers of exhibits per country will be very restricted so that costs per exhibit would be inappropriate. If there is a juror from your country invited for ECTP or joining the FEPA seminar for thematic jurors, he might certainly be willing to carry exhibits if necessary.

For exhibits from outside the European Union, the exhibition committee will assist exhibitors to cope with the German customs regulations by providing all necessary forms.

The following section is a (slightly shortened) reprint of the special regulations of ECTP as you will find it in the bulletin. (For further questions, you are very welcome to contact me.)

## **Special regulations for ECTP 2007**

(shortened version)

### 1. General idea and location

The European Championship for Thematic Philately (ECTP) shall join the best thematic exhibits in Europe in one single show, promoting the competitive aspect in high quality exhibiting, securing or even increasing the high standard of thematic exhibits in a long term perspective.

ECTP is recognized by The European Federation of Philatelic Associations (FEPA) as official European Championship for Thematic Philately and was held for the first time in 2006.

ECTP will be arranged in conjunction with the International Stamp Fair in Essen dated May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2007. The stamp fair at the

fairgrounds of the Messe Essen is organized in a professional manner and ranks amongst the most successful philatelic fairs in Europe.

The exhibition itself will be realized by the German Philatelic Federation BDPH, namely by its regional federation of Nordrhein-Westfalen.

### 2. Concept of the championship competition

*Champions' Class.* The eight champions of ECTP 2006 can show their exhibits in the Champions' Class, the number of frames ranging between 7 and 11 (choice of the exhibitor). The jury will choose the best exhibit of this class as additional candidate for the Grand Prix ECTP (see below). An exhibit which has already won the Grand Prix ECTP in a previous year is not eligible for candidate.

Participation in the Champions' Class is the prerequisite for future participation of this exhibit in one of the competitive classes.

*Competitive Classes.* The exhibition will comprise 8 different competitive classes grouping the thematic range of exhibits as follows:

- class 1: Arts and Culture
- class 2: History and Organisations
- class 3: Man and Everyday Life
- class 4: Sport and Leisure
- class 5: Transport and Technology
- class 6: Medicine and Science
- class 7: Animals and Plants
- class 8: Agriculture and Pets

Up to ten exhibits from ten different FEPA countries can be shown in each class. An exhibit comprises 7 – 11 frames of 12 pages each (German standard frames, 100 x 100 cm, contain space for three rows of four A4 pages each).

*Awards.* In each class, one gold medallist (“European Champion”) will be elected from the exhibits shown. Further on, one silver and one bronze medal will be awarded to the runner-ups. This makes 24 medallists at each

ECTP. From the eight European Champions, the jury votes for the Winner of the Grand Prix ECTP.

The ranking of exhibits within each class follows the order of points awarded by the jury according to GREV and SREV for thematic exhibits. The Grand Prix ECTP will be voted in public during the award ceremony with every juror contributing his own ranking of the very best exhibits.

*Participants.* Every thematic exhibit which has been shown at least once on FIP or FEPA exhibitions can apply for participation (unless it has been European Champion in one of the classes in a previous year. In this case, an exhibit has to be shown in the Champions' Class before being able to return into one of the competitive classes.)

It is the decision of the exhibitor which of the eight classes is the most appropriate. (However, he can be overruled by the selection committee in cases of obvious inconsistencies). The exhibitor is free to choose the number of frames ranging from a minimum of 7 up to a maximum of 11.

*Applications.* All entry forms are gathered by the national delegates for the FIP commission for Thematic Philately. They submit the entries for their countries and make sure that the best exhibits are nominated for competition.

All collectors who want to participate at ECTP 2007 have to submit their application to the national delegate of their country not later than November 30<sup>th</sup> 2006. The national delegate will forward the applications to the organisation committee of ECTP not later than December 20<sup>th</sup> 2006.

Every FEPA country can only submit one exhibit per class. Only if less than 10 applications are received for one specific class,

the selection committee may nominate further exhibits from countries which are represented in this class already to reach the maximum of 10 exhibits.

The selection committee of ECTP will select those 10 exhibits for each class having the highest awards at previous FIP or FEPA exhibitions. In any case, however, the two exhibits of each FEPA country having the highest qualifications will be accepted so that each FEPA country can be represented by at least two exhibits.

The exhibition fee for both, the Champions' Class and the Competitive Classes is €20 per frame and payable after notification of acceptance of the exhibit.

*Transport of exhibits.* Each exhibit shall be brought and collected by the exhibitor himself or by his authorized agent. In the special case of a championship, the exhibitors are in general requested to be present during the exhibition and the award ceremony. For this reason, no national commissioners are appointed for this purpose (as usual with general exhibitions on FEPA level). However, exhibits can also be sent in by mail or of course be carried by jury members from the respective country.

Exhibitors or their agent have to mount / dismount the exhibit (if not sent in by mail). The mounting of frames shall take place on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m., the dismounting on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> of May, from 5 p.m. onwards.

To forward an exhibit by the post shall only be possible in exceptional cases which have to be announced beforehand. A storage of the exhibits after the exhibition or a reposting of the exhibits shall generally not be possible.

*General regulations and Jury:* See bulletin.

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**TCNews** is distributed thanks to the

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