



# TCNews

**BULLETIN OF THE FIP THEMATIC COMMISSION**
**N. 21 – APRIL 2008**

## *Dear Delegates*

Isn't it a shame that you had to wait for such a long time to receive TCNews no. 21?

Unfortunately, the enormous delay reflects the state of activity of the commission's bureau: no activities at all reported from the three bureau members elected for representing the continental federations, and very little activity from your chairman. All five bureau members would certainly be able to give good reasons for not showing more activities in supporting thematic philately around the globe (most probably resulting from the "non-philatelic" part of the life or from an unfortunate accumulation of voluntary tasks). However, the current situation is unsatisfactory, and we can only hope that it will become better soon the new bureau is elected at the F.I.P. congress in Bucharest.

Our Commission meeting will report the activities of the past two years. Several of the initiatives started in 2005 and 2006 were continued, some very successfully like the European Championship for Thematic Philately and the adjoining weekend seminar for international thematic jurors. Also the national and regional exhibitor seminars throughout Europe are positive factors. Other projects, unfortunate to say, did not advance, namely the intended seminars outside of Europe and 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 arranges 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.

BELGICA 2006 turned out to be one of the largest thematic exhibitions ever, if not the largest (with 180 exhibits in thematic class, plus many other thematic exhibits in Youth, Open and One Frame class). Hence, this was the right event for producing an overview of the state of thematic philately all over the world. Koenraad Bracke, the commission delegate from Belgium, took the opportunity compiling and publishing a special issue of the magazine of Themaphila and Asphilthem (the two thematic associations in his country). Koenraad had asked all delegates to contribute a report from their country. 43 delegates responded, and the result is a unique overview

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of the very many thematic groups and their activities around the globe.

The European Championship of Thematic Philately 2008 is scheduled for May 8 – 10, again in Essen. This year, the number of entries dropped by 30% compared to the very successful start in 2006 and 2007. One of the reasons is the very dense exhibition calendar in May and June this year (with seven major exhibitions for thematic collectors within less than two months). Another reason should be seen in the fact that an annual rhythm of ECTP may be too fast for most of those exhibitors who would like to substantially improve their exhibits before showing them again at such a prestigious exhibition. Hence, an ECTP on bi-annual base might be more fruitful in a long run. Let us discuss this matter in Bucharest.

The current issue of TCNews is very much focused on the coming Commission meeting: You find the minutes of the last meeting to be approved in Bucharest, the agenda for the coming meeting plus – maybe most important – the curricula of the candidates for the future bureau. Since all three bureau members elected as regional representatives of the continental federations have to leave the bureau after two consecutive periods of service, the bureau will see major changes. I would like to thank Ann, John and Ingolf for the service of the past eight years, and I look forward of closely cooperating with those delegates becoming elected the new bureau members.

My special thanks go to Lumír Brendl, being in charge for thematic philately in his position as current F.I.P. board member. He will leave the board at the coming F.I.P. congress. I trust everybody will agree that Lumír's contributions were most valuable for thematic philately, including his efforts to make One Frame Exhibits a success on inter-national scene. Lumír's opening speech at the FEPA jury seminar in Essen gives you at least a glimpse of his activities, so I decided to print it as the final words of this TCNews.

**Damian Läge**

## **COMMISSION NEWS**

### **Past Commission meeting in Málaga, Oct 12<sup>th</sup> 2006: short report to F.I.P. board and congress**

by **Damian Läge**

Delegates from 33 countries attended the commission meeting. The report of the chairman made clear that the commission is on a good track to reach the two major goals for the period 2004 – 2008: continuing jury education, practical advice for exhibitors, and the installation of a yearly international event of high-class thematic philately.

Focus of the discussion was the commission's website. Delegates offered a number of concrete ideas to expand the contents, namely the educational parts (guiding articles, examples from well treated thematic exhibits with skillful comments, full exhibits to be studied) and the communication aspects (a section on exhibition news, links, communication forum). John Sinfield (delegate of Australia) took responsibility from the side of the bureau members for coordinating all new initiatives regarding the expansion of the commission's website.

In a second part of the discussion, models for weekend seminars and specialized thematic exhibitions were explained. Apart of the annual European Championship for Thematic Philately (including a two-day FEPA seminar for thematic jurors), multilateral national exhibitions, team cups (like Eurothema) and one-topic exhibitions (like Premio Massari) can serve to develop thematic philately on all levels of exhibiting. Jointed seminars of neighbour countries provide the opportunity to either attract people being interested to become exhibitors on national level or experienced exhibitors and jurors who want to expand their knowledge about thematic exhibiting on a high level standard. To serve these two purposes, different seminar concepts are offered by members of the bureau.

With regards to Open Class and One Frame exhibits, it was made clear that each class was created for (at least) two different purposes, namely for encouraging collectors to become exhibitors and for showing high level exhibits of appropriate themes. These different purposes require different regulations and guidelines and must not be mixed, neither on national nor on international level.

## **Detailed Minutes of the Commission meeting in Málaga, Oct 12<sup>th</sup> 2006**

**by Jose Ramón Moreno, Secretary**

The Chairman of the Commission, Damian Läge, welcomed the National Delegates (especially those attending a Commission's Meeting for the first time) and showed his appreciation to the Spanish Federation and to the Organising Committee of Espana 2006 for the excellent facilities provided for the meeting.

José Ramón Moreno, Secretary made the Roll Call: 33 National Federations including all Bureau Members and Honorary President Giancarlo Morolli were represented.

A minute of silence was kept in the memory of the delegates who passed away in the last two years.

The Chairman presented the Activity Report of the last two years, published in TC News issue in August 2006. He highlighted the success of the ECTP (European Championship of Thematic Philately) held last May in Essen, Germany. A second edition will take place in May 2007, including a seminar for Thematic Jurors. It is important to extend these seminars at different levels, not only in Europe where it is easier for its shorter distances, but all around the world. Whenever possible, such seminars should be organised in conjunction with the major exhibitions as it would happen the following November in Belgium.

The Commission website is running since 2004 and there are already some interesting information to be found, thanks to John Sinfield and Charles Bromser. The Delegates were requested to verify that their facts and particularly their e-mail addresses are up to date.

One of the future projects for the website is to include a guide book of thematic philately, with articles about each criteria. To achieve that, the collaboration of all commission members is essential: first, telling what you would like to see included in the site and second, which responsibilities are you ready to take.

An open discussion about future options for the website revealed a number of interesting aspects:

The Russian Delegate, Oleg Poljakov suggested to present the best exhibits in the web to be able to learn from it, as many collectors are not able to visit the big exhibitions.

Syed Imtiaz Hussain, delegate from Pakistan, would like to see two or three exhibits awarded Gold or Large Gold and covering different topics in our site.

Vojtech Jancovic, from Slovakia, offered his help as he is a professional in computers. He thinks it is interesting for many collectors to watch at the web what is allowed to exhibit and what is not and to receive as much explanation as possible about border line material. Also an illustrated dictionary of thematic terms would be appreciated. Regarding the exhibits to be shown on the site, in his view it would be nice to put some very good exhibits and some which are built according to the regulations and guidelines but made in an easier way and not containing rare material, in order to demonstrate the not very advanced collector that they could also do it.

The Delegate from Costa Rica, Luis Fernando Díaz, would like that the Webmaster sends information about the requested resolution of

the images, to guarantee efficiency in the collaboration process.

Eliseo Rubén Otero, delegate from Argentina, votes for including some exhibits in the range of Silver to Vermeil, to promote philately.

Anne Triggles proposed to present the evolution of an exhibit from 10 or 20 years ago until today, even if it might not be easy to find images of the early versions of such an exhibit.

Giancarlo Morolli mentioned that there are already a number of exhibits in the internet. He asked the national delegates to send links to those exhibits to John Sinfield to be placed on the Thematic Commission website as well.

Syed Imtiaz Hussain informed of a virtual exhibition in Pakistan. They showed also the points obtained by each exhibit and in this way the viewers can learn.

In the opinion of the Slovak Delegate, Peter Osusky, it would be positive to start sending to the web what already exists, for not to lose time scanning new things but instead taking advantage of what already is available. It is also important to include the links.

Damian Läge pointed out to pay attention to the frequent change of website addresses, so links need to be constantly checked and updated. Our website should be very easily found by everybody, and should be included as a link in all philatelic pages. It is the task of every national delegate to do this in his country.

The Commission Chairman informed that future seminars are scheduled for Nordia, Brussels (during Belgica 2006), Essen 2007 (on occasion of ECTP) and in Beijing, China (a three days seminar). The bureau members would be available as speakers if additional seminars should be planned.

Future exhibitions focussing on thematic philately will include ECTP which will be organized annually in Essen except in 2009 (when a full FEPA exhibition will take place).

Damian Läge encouraged the delegates to organize national and multinational exhibitions specialized in thematic philately.

Koenraad Bracke, Delegate of Belgium, informed that his federation will organize in 2007 the "Massari Prix", the well known Music Thematic exhibition.

The Open Class and the One Frame Class are demonstrating to be efficient ways of attracting new exhibitors from those who collect a theme but think it would be complicated to mount a large exhibit. They can start with just 16 pages as One Framer or with very few and simple rules in the Open class.

Date and venue of next Conference: The next Thematic Commission meeting will be held in Bucharest (Romania) during the EFIRO World Exhibition (20-28 June 2008) in conjunction with the next FIP Congress.

## **Commission meeting in Bucharest - Agenda**

Delegates are invited to attend the Conference of the Commission that will take place **in Bucharest on Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, from 8.30 to 10.30 a.m.**, Saidon room (60), hotel Phoenicia with the following Agenda:

1. Roll call of Delegates
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the Málaga Commission meeting
4. Report of the Chairman
5. Election of the Bureau for the period 2008 - 2012
6. The website project
7. Future regional exhibitions and seminars with a focus on thematic philately
8. Additional subjects
9. Date and venue of the next Conference

## Activity report Oct 2006 – Jan 2008

In its 2004 meeting in Singapore, the commission elected the current bureau: Damian Läge (Germany) as chairman, José Ramón Moreno (Spain) as secretary, plus Ingolf Kapelrud (Norway), John Sinfield (Australia) and Ann Triggler (USA) as members representing the three continental federations. Giancarlo Morolli was appointed honorary bureau member. Following the option provided by the F.I.P. congress 2006, Koenraad Bracke (Belgium; for publication matters) and David Braun (México; for developing thematic philately in Central America) were appointed additional bureau members. Special thanks go to F.I.P. board member Lumír Brendl who has not only done an excellent job as coordinator but was the most active national delegate in terms of seminars, reports and active presence at a high number of national and international philatelic events.

Having implemented the new SREV in the 2000 – 2004 term, continuing jury education and practical advice for exhibitors formed 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 2006). After another successful ECTP in 2007, the third such exhibition will follow in May 2008. Essen has now become a “hotspot” of thematic philately.

Beside of the participation of high level thematic exhibits from 15-20 countries, a 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 of the twelve ECTP jurors (from 12 different countries), further 20-30 F.I.P. jurors, FEPA jurors or national jurors participate in this seminar which provides a mix of theory and judging practise. The contents are 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 2007 on the philatelic aspects of evaluation, 2008 on thematic knowledge and on the appropriate use of postal stationery. In future years (the seminar will be held each year in conjunction with ECTP or another international event of thematic philately in Essen) the seminar will little by little concentrate on all different evaluation criteria. Continuous participation shall therefore improve the experience of the individual jurors and guarantee consistency in judgments.

This seminar shall play a key roll in future jury training and shall give F.I.P. a basis for the selection of new apprentices (from the national jurors participating in the seminar) and of the future team leaders. For those parts which are based on talks, 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.

After seven international seminars for thematic exhibitors in the period 2004 – 2006, the last 15 months showed lesser activities, mainly due to the reduced number of international exhibitions in 2007. Beside of national seminars with international participation (like the annual seminar for Thematic Philately in Austria), NORDIA in Finland was used for another successful Scandinavian weekend seminar and the afternoon seminar at BELGICA 2006 was very successful as well. These seminars were followed by various publications in the Finnish, Swedish, Dutch,

and Belgium thematic magazines supporting the sustainability of the seminar success. In general, the linking of talks/seminar and publications has become an important factor in communicating the mainstream development of thematic philately worldwide. Just naming one example, the recently issued Romanian Manual of Thematic Exhibiting (by national delegate Dan Dobrescu) follows the initial seminar which was given by José Ramón Moreno in Bucharest in 2005. Such manuals, issued in national languages, make thematic philately much better understandable in the respective regions.

National magazines of Thematic Philately are substantially improving in many countries, supported by active editors and writers and by efficient communication across the borders. Two (out of several) examples for the fast growth in quality (relating to both, content and technical standards), are the magazines of South Africa and the Netherlands. They have now arrived in the “premier league” of thematic magazines and serve as fine examples for those many countries in which thematic philately is currently a fast growing discipline. The state of worldwide thematic philately is at best reflected in the special issue of the thematic magazine of Belgium which Koenraad Bracke edited for BELGICA 2006: It gives an overview of activities in thematic philately in no less than 43 countries, each of them being represented by an illustrated one-page report (most reports written by the national delegates).

The website of the thematic commission (<http://www.fipthematicphilately.org/>) which was started in 2005 was intended to become another major cornerstone for reaching the goal of guiding exhibitors and jurors. Unfortunately, relatively little was done during the report period, with updates of the commission information and some few articles provided by Dr. Joachim Maas and the commission chairman. The bureau members having taken that responsibility at the last congress showed no action at all. Hence, it will remain one of the main tasks of the coming

period filling the website with life so that it can serve its essential purpose of keeping the worldwide thematic community informed. This is especially important for those regions with are currently not covered by seminars and specialised thematic exhibitions.

As can be seen from this report, international activities in thematic philately are still mainly based in Europe. Hence, it is very important starting new activities in the other regions of the world. Having appointed David Braun (México) member of the bureau serves this purpose: He is currently preparing a specialised thematic exhibition and a seminar for Latin America which is to become one of the focus areas for the 2008-2012 period. South and East Asia may become further areas of intensified support by the future bureau. Succession management provisions have been made ensuring to get the right people into the bureau for leading and supporting this process. The list of candidates for the three seats of bureau members underlines these efforts. It will be important running a parallel process of a) attracting and guiding new exhibitors in these regions and b) selecting the most talented exhibitors for becoming experienced national and international jurors. Only if both will be done successfully, thematic philately will grow in these regions.

Open Class exhibiting is to a large degree inspired by principles of thematic philately. After implementing this new discipline on F.I.P. level, it is important to attract the right people to the right exhibition class without disguising the peculiar difference in choice of material. It remains a task for the future developing such a clear seminar concept for Open Class exhibiting like it is currently used for Thematic Philately. Further on, information is to be compiled for guiding each individual to the class in which he/she will probably be most successful. This is currently seen as another important task for the coming four years.

*Zürich, February 29<sup>th</sup> 2008, Damian Läge,  
commission chairman*

## **Candidates for the bureau 2008-2012**

The Commission meeting in Bucharest will see the election of the new bureau. To be elected are: chairman, secretary, and three representatives of the three continental regions forming FEPA, FIAF and FIAP.

In addition to the five elected members, the chairman will appoint two members for special tasks.

The following delegates are candidates for the bureau of the Commission for Thematic Philately 2008 – 2012:

### **Candidate for Chairman**

#### **Damian Läge (Germany)**

Present chairman of the Commission. Well known by his various publications, talks and seminars on Thematic philately. FIP Thematic Juror and Team Leader, FIP Jury Secretary. Active exhibitor (“Australian Birdlife” and “Fascination in Feathers”), he has entered the Championship Class after three Large Gold awards.

### **Candidate for Secretary**

#### **José-Ramon Moreno (Spain)**

Present secretary of the Commission. FEPA General Secretary and FEPA Open Class Director. President of the Spanish Thematic Commission. Thematic collector since 1984, awarded with FIP Gold medals. FIP Thematic Juror and Team Leader, FIP Jury Secretary. Well known author of more than 100 articles in different philatelic magazines. Has given many Thematic Seminars in Spain and abroad.

### **Candidates for the Bureau**

#### **FEPA**

##### **Alfred Kunz (Austria)**

Vice President of the Austrian Philatelic Federation. National Thematic Juror. Active

exhibitor, awarded with FIP Gold medals for his “Wine” exhibit.

##### **Koenraad Bracke (Belgium)**

President of the Belgian Association of Thematic Philately. FIP Thematic Juror. Active exhibitor (“Owls”). Organiser of many national and international thematic exhibitions. Author of more than 100 articles in national philatelic magazines and journals. Editor of Themaphila. Fluent in eight languages.

##### **Jonas Hällström (Sweden)**

The candidate nominated by FEPA congress. Secretary of the Swedish Association of Thematic Collectors and President of the board of the Swedish Committee for Jury and Exhibition matters. FIP Thematic Juror. Active exhibitor, awarded with FIP Gold medals for “Square-rigged Sailing Ships”. Author of more than 100 articles in national philatelic magazines and journals. Editor of the journal “Motivsamlaren”.

#### **FIAF**

##### **David Braun (México)**

Active exhibitor, awarded with FIP Large Vermeil medal for “Bridges”. Organiser of a specialised thematic exhibition for Central America in November 2008.

##### **Darrell R. Ertzberger (U.S.A.)**

FIP Juror in Thematic philately. Chairman FIAF Thematic Commission. Chairman of several national and international exhibitions in Washington DC. Active exhibitor.

#### **FIAP**

##### **Tan Ngiap Chuan (Singapore)**

FIP Juror in Thematic philately. Active exhibitor, awarded with FIP Gold medals for “Waterfalls”. Organiser of several regional philatelic events in Singapore.

## **Appointed bureau members**

For improving the efficiency of the work, the F.I.P. congress in Málaga gave allowance to the commissions' chairmen to appoint two additional bureau members from the list of delegates. The procedure was to be carried out in close cooperation with the F.I.P. board member in charge for the respective commission.

In October 2007, Koenraad Bracke (Belgium) and David Braun (México) were appointed bureau members, Koenraad for supporting the publication process, and David as coordinator for thematic philately in Central America.

## **New national delegates**

We welcome the following new delegates to our commission:

Alfred Kunz (Austria),

Geraldo de Andrade Ribeiro (Brasil),

Daniel Szeto (Hong Kong),

John Fitzsimons (Ireland),

Ryszard Prange (Poland),

Vojtech Jancovic (Slovakia).

They replace Peter Riedl, Ruben Kley, S. Chan, Heloise Mitchell, Ludwik Malendowicz, and Peter Osusky whom I would like to thank for their contributions during the years.

64 national federations are represented in the Thematic Commission. The current list can be found on the commission's website.

## **Delegates' addresses**

TCNews is primarily distributed by e-mail and is available on our website. Those delegates who have not reported an e-mail address have been asked in written to provide the Chairman with an electronic address (but not one single response was received).

Further, all delegates' e-mail addresses are mentioned 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 friend **George Guzzio** who passed away recently. He actively supported American and worldwide thematic philately over decades.

*R.I.P.*

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

*and*

## **FEPA JURY SEMINAR (Essen, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007)**

After a delay of one year, the results of ECTP 2007 are published on our website only in parallel with this TCNews 21, and only few days before ECTP 2008 will take place. For getting an impression of ECTP 2007, please read the report written by Ray Todd, Vice President of F.I.P who attended the exhibition and the jury seminar, and the opening speech of Lumír Brendl, F.I.P. director in charge of thematic philately.



# **ESSEN**

## **Capital of European Thematic Philately?**

by **Raymond Todd**

I had the pleasure and honour of being invited to attend the Internationale Briefmarken Messe which was the site for the European Championship of Philately staged on 3 to 5 May 2007 in Essen. My thanks go to the BDPH and its regional federation of Nordrhein-Westfalen group for their kind support.

The event was staged in the hall in conjunction with many dealers present, postal administrations, philatelic talks (16 spread over the 3 days), specialist societies booths and most importantly thematic seminars spread over 2 days.

The competition was split into 8 specialist groups (as opposed to the FIP split of just 3 groups) with 4 panels of 3 judges allocated to each work on 2 groups.

The groups were split as follows:

Arts & Culture

History & Organisation

Man & Everyday Life

Sport & Leisure

Transport & Technology

Medicine and Science

Animals & Plants

Agriculture and Pets

For me the split into the 8 sections was very interesting and a distinct departure from what we have become accustomed to in FIP exhibitions. The judging was undertaken quickly and efficiently and time was allowed to cross check other teams results.

Each European country was entitled to enter up to 8 of the groups with just one entry – this seemed to work well as there was a very good blend of exhibits spread over the 600 frames (12 sheet).

The awards ceremony was conducted in the afternoon and provided for a live presentation of marks for the championship; the selection process previously being done in the jury room on a points basis. The presentation included the previous years champions as well in the process. This was very interesting as there were varied marks but the winner was quite clearly quickly identified as Wolf Hess (Germany) whose exhibit on Tuberculosis was outstanding.

A FIP/FEPA teaching seminar for jurors was held on Saturday 5 May under the guidance of Damian Läge. This provided for all present to be placed in teams to judge one exhibit in each of the groups – these results were then discussed at length with the all present.

Damian Läge also introduced as a main topic the points allocated in exhibitions to Condition and Rarity and the concept of weighted marks for Condition compared to the level of those allocated to Rarity for a particular exhibit. In short, unless an exhibit scored highly in Rarity, the points for Condition should be reduced because of the lack of Rarity. This concept was understood by most people in attendance although it would be a new and challenging idea for other disciplines of philately.

The following day, power point presentations on the use of Postal History items in thematic exhibits were given first by Giancarlo Morolli and then by Wolf Hess. Again these were very interesting and a credit both to the presenters and the organizer Damian Läge. Also assisting to a large extent was Joachim Maas, another one of the German thematic stars on the horizon.

The European Thematic Championships will be held again next year at Essen on May 8 to 10. Essen must be the capital of European Thematics!

## ***ECTP 2007 – opening speech at FEPA Seminar***

**by Lumír Brendl, FIP Director**

Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues and friends,

I am happy I am taking part in the European Championship for Thematic Philately 2007 in Essen for the second time. I am here not only as a member of the FIP Board responsible for thematic philately, but also as an exhibitor, commissioner and an ECTP jury member. Thank you for the invitation.

I am glad to inform you that in Málaga last October another thematic philatelist was elected an FIP Board member – mon ami Bernard Jimenez. As far as I know, it is for the first time in the history of the FIP Executive Board that two thematic philatelists act there as its members.

And there is one more thing that makes me feel happy: the initiative taken by the Belgian delegate to the FIP Thematic Philately Commission, Mr. Koenraad Bracke. On the occasion of BELGICA 2006 he issued a special almanach called BELGICA 2006 THEMATIC PHILATELY. He did it in collaboration with 42 national delegates out of which 26 are delegates from European FEPA countries. The almanach is a mirror of contemporary thematic philately. Congratulations, Koenraad! And thanks to all of you who helped him to realize such an interesting and instructive handbook. The almanach shows once again to other branches of philately as well as to the public how attractive and educational thematic philately IS and CAN BE. While some time ago Thematic

Philately learned from Traditional Philately (thematic studies, types of stamps, projects, etc.) and from Postal History (using pre-philately items and a variety of postal history material), it can now serve a good example for both these classes. Both Traditional Philately and Postal History are learning from Thematic Philately how to make their exhibits more attractive not only for other stamp collectors but for the general public, too. Let's recall the conclusions of the Traditional Philately Symposium (Austria, October 2004) published in the FIP FLASH, and the conclusions accepted by the Postal History Commission meeting and workshop held in Málaga in October 2006. In general, it is recommended the TP and PH exhibits to tell a STORY (like thematic exhibits do) to be more attractive for the public.

I am sure this year's ECTP will bring even more ideas and examples of how thematic philately exhibits could enrich the knowledge of stamp collectors and exhibitors by elaborating new themes and using new or innovative philatelic material.

As I am also responsible for the FIP Projects Nr. 18 and 20, I'd like to underline that a special attention should be particularly given to thematic One Framers. A seminar on OFE will be held in St. Petersburg during the Exhibition, on June 24, 2007. And at PRAGA 2008 World Philatelic Exhibition, which is a specialized exhibition, OFE will be one of its four competitive FIP classes: TR, PH, Literature and OFE. I am sure PRAGA 2008 will welcome a number of good thematic One Framers and I hope to meet many of you in Prague and also at WIPA 2008 because the two exhibitions are being prepared in close cooperation. Thank you for your attention.

**TCNews** is published by the **FIP Thematic Commission**

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