

TC NEWS

BULLETIN OF THE FIP THEMATIC COMMISSION

N.4 - MAY 1996

FOREWORD

TCNews N. 4 eventually is ready ! Its final preparation was frozen in order to publish the latest information before the Congress and the meeting in Istanbul.

My first comment is a thank to all those delegates who circulated copies of the bulletin within their national thematic community. Once again I urge all to amplify this service aiming at better communications between the Commission and the collectors. I received letters from non delegates asking why N.4 was not there yet or insisting their addresses to be included in the mailing list. As a rule, I repeat, this service has to be provided by the delegates as they know better their country collectors, they can keep the mailing list up-to-date without any effort and, overall, a photocopy made in France or in Italy looks exactly the same.

My second comment refers to the contents of TCNews. I was preparing an article, but at the last moment I decided to wait. I believe that the bulletin must be agile and articles should be exceptions...otherwise we should produce a magazine, that is currently out of our scope of effort. What we need is short information of international relevance. For this reason I started a Bibliography corner, that for the moment is based only on publications I received or acquired personally. I ask each delegate to submit similar data so that the effort of thematic publishers and authors can be made visible in more countries, for the collectors. Reports about national events shall not be published, unless of international interest because of their innovative (e.g. open classes).

The term of the Bureau shall expire at Istanbul and I wish to thank all members, Hans-Walter Bosserhoff, Gunnar Dahlvig, Nestor Ferré, José Antonio Hernan, Bernard Jimenez, Franceska Rapkin, and Manfred Bergman, member ex officio for the Thematic Groups. I thank also Betty Van Tenac, Han Siem and René Roger Berberat for their support and the participation to the Bureau meetings. In the last years we have been able to meet once a year for a weekend of very constructive discussions, that would have been impossible in a normal exhibition environment.

The key development we have launched in the recent meetings is the education programme. A first set of charts was made available to about 25 Federations and it is widely used : it has been translated in different languages. We will announce at the Congress a programme of seminars for jurors, to be led by Bureau members, for countries or regions, so that we can expand the knowledge of more philatelists involved in thematic philately.

Giancarlo Morolli

IN THIS ISSUE :

Foreword	1
Bureau Meeting in Berlin	2
What about Fiscal Stamps ?	3
Open Class at Nordia 95	4
News	5
Thematic bibliography	6
Olympex '96	7

BUREAU MEETING IN BERLIN

2 & 3 March 1996

Present : Hans-Walter Bosserhoff, Gunnar Dahlvig, José Antonio Hernan, Bernard Jimenez, Giancarlo Morolli, Franceska Rapkin ; guests : Dieter Jaretzki, Joachim Maas, Han Siem.

Excused : René-Roger Berberat, Manfred Bergman, Nestor Ferré, Betty Van Tenac.

Giancarlo Morolli thanked Hans-Walter Bosserhoff, the Philatelic Society of Berlin and the BDPH for their support, for the organisation of the meeting and the very friendly hospitality. Dieter Jaretzky presented the good wishes and the greetings of the President of the BDPH, who was not able to attend due to a concurrent event of the Federation.

SREV & Guidelines

- After a thorough review of inconsistencies and duplication among the GREV, the SREV and the Guidelines a new text for Guidelines was prepared. In order to make it shorter and take the emphasis out of presentation, the text with the recommendations on this subject has been moved to a separate document, which is only an attachment to the Guidelines. This text will be submitted to the FIP Board by the end of April 1996.

- As agreed in Lausanne, Hans-Walter Bosserhoff prepared a new document based on the current Guidelines, capitalising on his long-standing professional experience in defining regulations and making them understandable to the public. This document will be treated as a publication of the Thematic Commission and, if well received, proposed to FIP for further consideration also in other classes. The refined document ready for English translation next October and the Bureau will review it in Spring 1997, so that it could be presented in meetings in Moscow and San Francisco.

- In addition to a couple of minor changes, it was decided to propose to go back to 25 points for development and to attribute 5 points for the relevance of the thematic or philatelic development, depending on the nature of the exhibit. (More details about the Guidelines and the SREV will be circulated in due time to the delegates).

• Detailed criteria & Evaluation Form

The Bureau is working on a judging form listing subcriteria, to be used for training purposes or to sort out tough evaluation cases. The normal evaluation form will be prepared in the next months and presented in Istanbul.

Education Programme

José Antonio Hernan presented the draft in spanish of a publication devoted to collectors interest in thematic philately. Giancarlo Morolli shall review it and circulated the summary to the members of the Bureau for comments.

Gunnar Dahlvig presented the programme for the education of national and international jurors. It was agreed to add a list of organisation requirements and to offer the programme, based on the education material of the Thematic Commission, to all Federations.

Fiscals

Giancarlo Morolli was charged with drafting a proposal after the meeting, to be circulated to the Bureau Members and the Commissions Presidents, based on the comprehensive discussion.

New Developments

• Open Class

Gunnar Dahlvig presented the results of NORDIA 95. In the discussion, it was made clear that there should be constant attention to identify the different targets of our actions, i.e. newcomers or dormant collectors and exhibitors. The essence and the characteristics of these two worlds are different, hence decisions made for the Open Class should not impact the Competitive ones.

• Deltiology

There is pressure to pay more attention, as borderline material, to non postal items with a close relationship with the carrying of correspondence, such as picture post cards, letters and vignettes.

The Commission shall continue tracking the development of the Open Class and assess any other request coming from the delegates

WELCOME TO...

Welcome to the delegate of the Chinese Taipei Philatelic Society

Mr. Shou-I Chu
7F, No. 298 Minchuan E.Rd., Sec. 6
Taipei 114
Taiwan

Mr Youssef Behboud
6-28 Andishen
1 str Beheshti Avenue
Teheran 15698
Iran

who is the 58th delegate to the Thematic Commission, and to the new delegates,

Mr Frode Vesterby Knudsen
Finlandsvej 15
DK 9500 Hobro
Denmark

Tsugumi Shirai
Sun-Select # 105, 3-35-8
Shin-Ishikawa, Aoba-ku
Jokohama 225
Japan

Mr Martin East
67 Process Alice Avenue
Glenwood
Southern Africa

Mr Larry N. Carino
27R Alvero St Xavierville Subd
1108 Quezon City
Philippines

Mrs Ann M. Trigg
4865 Spaulding Drive
Clarence, New York 14031
U.S.A.

Mr Ingolf Kapelrud
Sjöraakveien 1
4070 Randaberg
Norway

Mr Menachem Lador
POB 23477
Jerusalem
Israel

with many thanks to their predecessors Tage Bocker Knudsen, Takashi Tani, Raymond V. See, Herman Stein, Mary Ann Owens, Professor Eylan and Eivind Evensen.

Please note the following changes of address:

Dr Ruben Reis Kley
Caixa Postal 9546
BR 01065 - 970 Sao Paulo
Brazil

Mrs Franceska Rapkin
Eaglewood, Sheethanger Lane,
Felden, Hertfordshire HP3 0BG
Great Britain

Mr Carlos E. Kron
Echeverria 2075/79 6° A
1428 Buenos Aires
Argentina

(Mr. Kron is the delegate of Paraguay)

WHAT ABOUT FISCAL STAMPS ?

At the FIP Congress in Tokyo (1991), during the discussion of the SREV of the Section for Revenues it was felt necessary to modify Art. 3.2 of GREV in order to ensure a seamless implementation of the specific SREV; and to avoid a logical discontinuity between the same and the GREV. This modification was not embedded in the GREV at that time and only recently the FIP FLASH reinstated the text as approved by the Congress.

Since that text could be interpreted as a full opening of Revenue stamps in any FIP class, without any condition, the Bureau of the Thematic Commission felt necessary to ask a clarification to the Congress, according to the principle that a Commission is technically

responsible for the SREV of its class. Some SREVs, like our, had already considered this matter directly or in the Guidelines, and it would have been surprising that a change of the GREV in order to accomodate a new (non postal) class would have automatically impacted the SREVs of all other (postal) classes, without any involvement of the relevant Commissions.

A motion, stating that the SREV of the postal classes are the only documents regulating the possible inclusion of Revenue material in the same classes, according to the nature and the peculiarities of each class, was drafted immediately after the meeting in Berlin and has been brought forward as a motion to the Congress by the Swedish Federation.

The President of the Commission and several Bureau members, in their contacts with Revenue experts, were told that in several cases the Revenue material has not been yet studied in depth. The Revenue Section and the competitive class will certainly stimulate broader and deeper studies. As of today, the lack of reference documentation will not allow

a serious evaluation of the same material by the largest majority of thematic jurors. The Bureau is keeping the subject open, while confirming the position that Revenue items are examples of border-line material as described in the Guidelines.

OPEN CLASS AT NORDIA 95 IN MALMÖ, SWEDEN 27-29 OCTOBER 1995

As was presented in TC News n°3, the Nordic exhibition NORDIA 95 introduced an experimental open class. The number of entries in this class, 150, was higher than the total of all the "conventional" classes, what underline the interest among the exhibitors. The main difference between this open class and other similar experiments, was that the exhibits were judged by a jury, which had the same medals to distribute as the "normal" jury. The class even had a Grand Prix.

The open class was great success with the public. Every day it was crowded in front of the Open class frames, while it was as empty as usual at the other classes. A dealer with his stand close to the Open class said that he had got a new experience : "The visitors normally go straight from the entrance to me and then to the frames. Here they went the opposite way."

About 80% of the exhibits were in some way thematically built up. Some of them were plain thematic collections -the exhibitor only took the chance to participate as no qualification was demanded. Other exhibits also were "normal" thematics to which were added postcards, photos, etc. In some cases these non philatelic additions only made the exhibit more attractive to non-professionals, but many exhibits -beyond the increased attractions- also were really improved by these additions.

The big benefit of this class however was all the imaginative ideas, the realization of which should be impossible without the use of the non-philatelic items. Most of the ideas are impossible to describe with few words, but they got the highest awards and attracted the highest attention by the public.

Knowing how the thematic collectioning started -with drawings, photos, maps etc.- I can see how the open class put us back on square zero, where it all started. Also knowing about the struggle to be accepted in the philatelic family by banning all non philatelic items -a struggle which is still going on- I look at this class with doubt (as thematic

leader) but with interest (as federation president).

A seminar at NORDIA 95 with federation presidents from seven countries, the FEPA president and one FIP vice president as participants, stated that this class was the so far best attempt to attract new collectors and also a way to meet the demands from the members to have the possibility to get high awards without being a millionaire. **This class has come to stay.** The next attempt in Sweden will probably be at an exhibition in 1997 with participation from all the countries around the Baltic Sea.

As a thematic leader I think that our rules must continue to develop in the direction we have agreed upon. But if the open class is getting popular -it already is according to the NORDIA 95 experiences- we have to face two problems :

☛ the public prefer the open class exhibits. It was almost empty in front of the thematic frames at NORDIA 95. And what the public prefer, the Post prefer, and the Post is the big sponsor of the exhibitions.

☛ the collectors may also prefer the open class as it gives more possibilities for the imagination any therefore is more interesting. As no points are given for Rarity, this class also may attract the "grass roots", which may affect the coming generation.

As most open class collections in principle are thematic, I think that the national thematic federations and clubs already have existing open class collectors as members and in the future will try to enlist them -new members are always welcome. And as a matter of fact, most parts of our regulations and guidelines are applicable to the open class exhibits as well. The exceptions are the parts dealing with non philatelic material and Rarity.

If and when the open class is growing in many countries, the commission must have a policy on how to meet or adopt the newcomer.

Gunnar DAHLVIG

THE JURY AT CAREX '96 AND ISTAMBUL '96

Each Organisation Committee has announced that the thematic section of the Jury will be composed of two groups, as follows:

Capex 96

N. Ferre (leader), G. Guzzio, F. Rapkin, J. Maas (Germany, apprentice)

G. Morolli (leader), L. Lopez, V. Sinegubov, E.R. Otero (Argentina, apprentice)

Istanbul 96

G. Morolli (leader), I. Kapelrud, A. Ilyuschin

B. Jimenez (leader), K. Dostal, E. Capucio

PRESENTATION FOR EDUCATION OF JURORS & EXHIBITORS SENT TO 14 COUNTRIES

After the seminar in Singapore, this Presentation was requested by 14 delegates, who have been sent the full presentation on paper and on diskette. Some of them have already reported a positive experience with the utilisation of this material, and suggestions are welcome to improve the effectiveness of the same.

AUSTRALIAN AWARD FOR BETTY VAN TENAC

Our delegate Betty Van Tenac was elevated to the Australian Philatelic Order Award by the Australian Philatelic Federation Executive. The proposal was largely based on Betty's activities as thematic collector, her longstanding commitment for spreading the concepts of thematic philately at first in her country and more recently to the FIAP territory, and her contribution to international cooperation in thematic philately.

MEETING WITH THE FRENCH THEMATIC COMMISSION

On the occasion of the 4th French National Thematic Exhibition the Jury, chaired by Robert Deroy and composed, among others, by international jurors Pierre Fallot and Bernard Jimenez, had Giancarlo Morolli as senior consultant. Dr. Morolli attended also the meeting of the national Thematic Commission, where the education of jurors was a major subject of the discussion and the action plan of the Commission.

ITALIA '98 - AGAIN A SPECIALISED THEMATIC EXHIBITION IN ITALY

Italia '98 has been officially announced and the President of the Italian Republic has granted his High Patronage. The Organisation

Committee has already started its work, with Enrico Veschi as Commissioner General. At large, the team is the same of Genova '92: Giancarlo Morolli, Maurizio Tecardi and Michele Picardi are in charge respectively of the Philatelic, Technical and Publications Commissions. The exhibition will be held at the Milan Fair, the same venue of Italia '76, from October 23rd to November 1st, 1998. It will host four competition classes: postal history, Aerophilately, thematic philately and literature. Patrick Pearson, appointed as FIP Coordinator, visited the exhibition ground on the occasion of the issue of first two stamps (also in booklet) and of bulletin N°1, that will be circulated before Capex 96, where the official presentation will take place.

TWO SEMINARS FOR JURORS IN SOUTH AMERICA

In November 1995 Nestor M. Ferrè has organised two seminars for jurors and advanced collectors, respectively in Buenos Aires and Montevideo. Among the many participants, international and national jurors from Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Venezuela and international jurors for Traditional and Aero-philately, who made, with their contributions, a very interesting opportunity for a deeper understanding of the Thematic SREV and the related Guidelines.

MALAYSIAN MAGAZINE SUPPORTS THEMATIC PHILATELY

Our delegate C. Nagarajah, as Honorary Editor of PSM, (The Malaysian Philatelist) hosted in the Vol. 25 Nos 3 & 4 articles from Mary Ann Owens and Franceska Rapkin and the study of Gunnar Dahlvig "Stamp Booklets" prepared for the THEMA project. In Vol. 26 Nos 3 & 4 the article on "The Franking privilege" was published after our TCNews.

MEETING WITH THE DELEGATES AT SINGAPORE 95

As decided by the Bureau in Lausanne, a meeting with the delegates will be scheduled at each world or international Exhibition. In Singapore the president and Bureau members Bosserhoff, Hernan and Bergman met about 15 delegates, with a large participation from the FIAP region. It was an important occasion for sharing the themes under discussion in the Bureau and to inform the delegates about the main activities and issues.

INTERNATIONAL THEMATIC SEMINAR AT SINGAPORE '95

The Organisers of Singapore 95 invited Dr. Giancarlo Morolli to give a seminar within the very comprehensive program of meetings and conferences which enriched the exhibition. Their objectives were achieved thanks to a large audience which followed the presentation with great attention. Dr. Morolli used the charts of the standard presentation available within the FIP Education program and supplemented it with other transparencies out of his display at the Royal Philatelic Society.

FRANKING METERS OF COSTARICA - A STUDY BY LUIS FERNANDO DIAZ

Our delegate Luis Fernando Diaz has written a 10 pages article on the above subject, which is available on request. The text is in Spanish.

ARTICLE 3.1 OF GREV CHANGED

I call the attention of the delegates on page 30 of the report of the 60th FIP Congress in Tokyo. Under 7a "Approval of the SREV of the Section for Revenues" it is reported an addition to Art. 3.2 of GREV "... or other payment of official dues including revenues".

THEMATIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

We start a new corner, hoping to spread information about thematic literature world-wide. In case of incomplete address, please check with the national delegate. Of course, timely information about new publications is welcome.

General Thematics

Hatsching - Poststempel und Thematische Philatelie (Postmarks and Thematic Philately), 64 pages, Verlag für philatelistische Literatur (in German)

Migoux - La Philatélie Thématique, - 192 pages - Editions G.I.P., 7, rue Saint Lazare, F 75009 Paris, France (in French)

Siem - Thema en Plaan - Bonddsreeks van Filatelistische Publikaties - 75 pages (in Dutch)

Books and Catalogues on material of thematic interest

Frimärkshäften (Cover of Swedish Stamp Booklets) - Vol. 2 (1980-1994) - 42 pages - Svenska Motivsamlares - c/o Gorän Modén - Frösö Prästgård - S 83200 Frösön, Sweden, in Swedish and English)

Benes-Tosnerova - The Post in the Ghetto Terezin 1941-1945 - Profil - Praga

Having taken part to the Congress I wish to comment that, as made evident by the layout of the report, the change was approved only in order to achieve a seamless implementation of the specific SREV under discussion at that moment. Otherwise there would have a logical discontinuity between the same and the GREV. Hence, there is no direct impact on the Regulations of any other class and, in particular this cannot be a justification for a free utilisation of these items in thematic exhibits.

JURY IN SINGAPORE

H.-W. Bosserhoff (Team Leader), M. Bergman (Jury Secretary), L. Honggui, J.-R. Moreno, B. Sole (apprentice);

R. Deroy (TL), C.H. Lock, E.O. Buttini, J. Jorgensen (apprentice).

Congratulations to Jorgen Jorgensen (DK) who has been approved by the FIP Board as thematic juror.

Gold Medals in the Thematic Class:

Dahinden (94 + F), Hautsching (93 + SP), Hellsten (93 + Fel), Jimenez (93), Kermes (93), Lage (90 + Fel), Siem (91), Sinfield (94 + SP), Van den Bold (92), Zimmermann (93)

Checklists, Books and Catalogues on Specific Themes

Aquila - Le Radiazioni Postali (Radiology on Stamps) - 136 pages - Giulio Bolaffi Editore, V. Cavour 17 F, I 10123 Torino (in Italian)

Brenke - J.F. Kennedy and his family - 40 pages - American Topical Association, P.O.Box 65749, Tucson, AS 85728, U.S.A.

Lera - Bats in Philately - 64 pages - American Topical Association, P.O.Box 65749, Tucson, AS 85728, U.S.A.

Rossi - Rugby and Philately - 158 pages - Giuliano G. Rossi, V. Togliatti 41, I 20017 Mazzo Milanese di Rho (MI), Italy (in English)

Springer and Raasch - Fishes, Angling and Finfish Fisheries - 110 pages - American Topical Association, P.O.Box 65749, Tucson, AS 85728, U.S.A.

Walker - Collect Shells on Stamps - 202 pages - Stanley Gibbons, 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH, Great Britain

Sini - Calcio Annulli Speciali (Football Special Postmarks) - 584 pages - CIFT, Dr. Pienabarca, Via San Bernardino 26-28 - 67100 L'Aquila, Italy (main text in Italian, French, German and English)

NEW THEMES AT SINGAPORE & NEVERS

This list is just taken out of exhibition catalogues and does not want to give any evaluation on how the ideas expressed in the titles have been implemented in the individual exhibits. Some themes could be already have been exploited in some countries, but they are at least not as common as many others.

Dentistry (S. Hsiao)
Tea (X. Jiao)
The Night (B. Jimenez)
Archery (K. Kehasukcharoen)
The marvellous Waterfalls (N. Tan)
Salt & Sodium (M. Vantillard)
L'Hellenisme (D. Laporte)
Turtles (J Chochois,

Cheloniens (T. Dekarz)
Helios, sun of life (J. Combes)
Integration of youth in the society (C. Flourin)
The voting right (M. Frick)
Black Africa (A. Betti)
Under development : a bad that evolves (A. Mermier)

THE BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the British thematic Association, a new Chairman has been appointed. Brian Sole takes over from Francesca Rapkin, who has been the Chairman of the BTA since its formation in 1984. Francesca has been appointed the President of the Association, a position that was created especially for her. She will serve a four year term. However, she will continue to act as the British delegate on the FIP Thematic Commission and on the Thematic Bureau.

OLYMPEX '96

Great Britain has two national stamp exhibitions each year. The Autumn exhibition is the time for aspiring exhibitors to attempt to earn their vermeil medal for international participation, and the spring exhibition has for long been a far more relaxed affair with invited exhibits. Recently, it has been the practice to invite one or two societies to stage an invited display of a particular theme or topic. In Spring 1994 and 1995 the displays were of the postal history and philately of Australia, Cyprus and British West Africa ; in 1993 the display and exhibition was aerophilatelic.

1996 is the Olympic Year and the Society of Olympic Collectors has been invited to mount the spring exhibition. Spring Stampex is always seen as an opportunity to introduce

non-collectors to the wonderful hobby of stamp collecting and the olympic theme is ideal for this purpose. Apart from exhibits from British and some invited overseas Olympic philatelists, the displays will also include material from the archives of the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, the British olympic Association, the British Museum and the National Postal Museum. It is hoped to have an Olympic celebrity at the exhibition for some part of each day to sign autographs and to answer questions.

The exhibition is taking place from 27 February till 3 March at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London's Westminster, right in the heart of the metropolis. For further details write to Francesca Rapkin, Eaglewood, Sheethanger Lane, Felden, Hertfordshire HP3 OBG, Great Britain.