

TCNews

BULLETIN OF THE FIP THEMATIC COMMISSION

N. 6 - SEPTEMBER 1998

FOREWORD

There are periods in life in which it is hard to plan as things move and the lack of time generates a change in mind set, so that is harder to deal with things that in the past were business as usual. I experienced this situation in the last period, when I decided to take early retirement from a company where I spent thirty years and to act as a free lance management consultant. Furthermore the tasks in the organisation of Italia 98 have taken all my (smaller) remaining free time... so it was impossible to release TCNews in spite of the work already done. With this issue I am presenting what I prepared along time and I am looking forward to publish soon another issue.

In the last period we had a very constructive Bureau meeting in London, and we agreed on the text of the SREV based on the concepts that I presented in Istanbul. We did a very positive test at Pacific 97, performed independently by five Bureau members. Further tests planned in Moscow and New Dehli were not done due to time pressure, but the general response based on individual analysis was positive as well, with some question marks on the implementation aspects. The main difference between thematic philately and any other class is that our treatment has a theme driven nature rather than a philatelic/postal driven one. In this respect, the balance of marks must be consistent with both the current scheme of points and with the GREV.

I have not received any official feedback, but it appears that the Board of FIP has decided to put this subject directly in the agenda of the Congress of year 2000 I will discuss this matter directly in Milano before the Commission's meeting and report back. I personally believe that the text proposed is fully satisfactory and everybody in the Bureau has had the time of studying it. testing and suggesting improvements. What is missing is the implementation part, namely the Guidelines, and they can be easily prepared in the next two-three years, as any FIP Regulations becomes operational at the first exhibition that receive the patronage by the same Congress that voted the regulations.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Foreword	1
Meetings in Milano	2
Commission & Bureau Meetings	3
The FIP Thematic Commission	5
Report to the FIP Congress	8
News	9
Thematic Bibliography	10
Fight against Forgeries	11
News	11
From the last Exhibitions	13
Open Class Report	14
Italia 98 Schedule	16

Of course, this task has to be carried out within the general scheme of the GREV and the need of continuity in order not to upset collectors.

As you probably know, FIP Regulations are not compulsory at national level; but most Federation adopt them anyway so that there is no discrepancy of criteria between national and international shows. In this respect, in Great Britain it has been decided to use the proposed criteria for the new SREV as current national regulations. Franceska Rapkin reports that the first experiences show that the new regulations are sound and easy to apply.

The FIP Board is continuing the analysis of the philatelic Commissions and there has been a proposal of merging all present Commissions into four ones: Commission for Exhibitions (Exhibitions and Judging), Commission for Thematic Philately and Commission for Youth Philately, Commission for Falsifications and Undesirable Issues. I strongly objected to this recommended change, as the Commission for Exhibitions will have a bureau with representatives of Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aero Philately, Revenue Philately and Philatelic Literature. "Our" Commission will have a Bureau including also Maximaphily and Social Philately. On the basis of 30 years of membership of the Thematic Commission I feel it as a return to the discriminations of the sixties, before Frans de Troyer took over the Commission. This in spite of the accomplishments and the maturity shown over the years. Thematic philately is one of the major areas of the philately, is the growing part of philately, and has more and more to share with the other disciplines, from traditional to postal history, from postal stationery to aerophilately.

Furthermore I regret that the commission decided by the Congress and appointed by

the Board that should have defined the new structure was never installed.

ITALIA 98 will be, I hope, the best continuation of THEMABELGA 75, PORTUCALE 77, BRASILIANA 79, TEMBAL 83, ARGENTINA 85, GENOVA 92. I am glad that my country is hosting thematic philatelists for a world-specialised exhibition. I am also hoping that the arrangement of exhibits, by "subject" and not by competitive class, will make the philatelic pieces more attractive and the work of exhibitors more interesting.

On this basis I welcome you to Milan, for the Exhibition, the Conference of the Commission, the FIP Congress.

Giancarlo Morolli

COMMISSION MEETING MILANO, 30 OCTOBER,

9.00 - 11.00, Sala Ferrary

Agenda:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous conference
3. Activity report of the President
4. New SREV and related Guidelines
5. New trends for the FIP Philatelic Commissions
6. Miscellaneous

The Bureau will meet at 11.15 of the same day in the Jury room

COMMISSION & BUREAU MEETINGS

in Istanbul (October 1996) and London (March 1997)

Meeting of the FIP Thematic Commission, Istanbul, 4th October 1996

1- Roll call of delegates

32 federations were represented with also the presence of the observers from U.A. Emirates, Slovenia and Latvia.

2- Approval of the minutes of the meeting on Seoul

All delegates approved the minutes.

3- Report of the President

Giancarlo Morolli presented the status of Thematic Philately, which is increasing in quality and interest all over the world. The commission has 59 delegates (that's to say that 20 federations have no delegates yet).

The commission is working regularly with a meeting of the Bureau every year and some others events, especially seminars, open to collectors on the occasion of international exhibitions.

He commented also the possibility to present thematic philately to new audiences, in order to attract new collectors, not necessarily during the exhibitions. Giancarlo Morolli takes into example the last World Congress of Prehistory and Protohistory in Forlì (Italia) where it was possible to make promotion of our class.

Then he urged the delegates to inform the Bureau of the commission and to support TCNews, for instance by sending data of what is published in the respective country.

To continue to promote thematic philately, he insisted about the work of the commission in

developing an educational program for jurors and collectors, insisting on the 3 majors aspects of thematic: the plan, the development and the philatelic elements.

Then he pointed out the need of pursuing the homogeneity of the thematic Regulations with the SREV's of the others classes of philately.

Finally, he asked the delegates to distribute TCNews to the national associations and at least, to the international jurors.

4 - FIP President message

The President of FIP, D.N.Jatia, visited the commission and insisted on all the tasks of the commission, not only those concerning rules and jurors but also especially development and promotion. He asked the delegates to look to the open-class that is now well accepted in the North of Europe but also in others parts of the world. D.N.Jatia suggested preparing a kind of guidance for those federations who want to organise it.

The delegates of Australia, Philippines, Germany and Norway gave some information about the way they manage it in their country.

Dr. Nelwan, Indonesia, presented a new thematic special initiative related to a prize about Ecophilia (environment of the earth).

Giancarlo Morolli thanked very much the President of FIP: for his intervention then.

4- Election of the President and Bureau

Giancarlo Morolli, Italy, is designated as President for the next 4 years by 31 votes and one abstention.

Bernard Jimenez (France)

29 votes

Gunnar Dahlvig (Sweden)	27
Hans-Walter Bosserhoff (Germany)	26
Franceska Rapkin (U. K.)	25
Jose Antonio Hernan (Spain)	19
Nestor Ferre (Argentina)	17

are elected as Bureau members. Other candidates, not elected:

Dan Angelescu (Romania)	16 votes.
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Meeting of the Bureau, Istambul, 4th October 1996

First Section

Giancarlo Morolli welcomed the presents: H.-W. Bosserhoff, G. Dahlvig, B. Jimenez, F. Rapkin, J.A. Hernan and M. Bergman, and summarised the meeting of the Presidents of Commissions with the FIP Board.

On that occasion it was proposed to reduce to four the number of commissions:

- philatelic technical commission
- youth commission
- thematic commission
- literature commission.

He commented that, considering the position of many FIP presidents, this position from the Board has to be reconsidered, otherwise it would not be approved.

Giancarlo Morolli asked the members of Bureau to propose a place for the next meeting, in the first part of March 97. Franceska Rapkin informed that it would have been be a possibility to meet in London.

Second Section

(after the election of the Bureau)

Election of Vice President

Gunnar Dahlvig was elected Vice President of the Commission.

New SREV

Giancarlo Morolli proposed as top priority to continue the work again on the SREV to be presented on the 1998 Congress. The new rules should be tested in San Francisco, Moscow and New Dehli.

Fiscals

Giancarlo Morolli pointed out that the Commission is not against fiscals, but there is the need of a clear statement that philately is composed of two parts: postal philately and fiscal philately. The position of the Bureau is very clear: thematic philately is a part of postal philately and only fiscal stamps postally used are admitted. Other fiscal items shall be treated as borderline material.

Short term task of the new Bureau

Each member of the Bureau was assigned a task that de facto represented the continuation of his/her previous engagement for the Commission.

Meeting of the FIP Thematic Bureau, London, 4th March 1997

The meeting was attended by Bureau members G. Morolli, G. Dahlvig, B. Jimenez, F. Rapkin, J.A. Hernan, by the invitees I. Kapelrud and B. Sole, and by . Eliseo Otero, FIP Board member in charge of the thematic commission, arrived from Buenos Aires to participate to the meeting.

The meeting was hosted at the British Philatelic Centre, and supported by the Association of British Philatelic Societies.

Output of the meeting was the text of the SREV, unanimously agreed by the attendees. This proposal would be kept confidential until test were duly performed, as further changes, even if aimed at achieving better results in implementation, would create confusion among collectors.

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- Now the Commission has **62 members.**

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REPORT TO THE FIP CONGRESS

MILANO, 31 OCTOBER - 1 NOVEMBER 1998

I am pleased to report on the activities of the FIP Thematic Commission, that in the last two years has continued its work to pursue its main objectives, as agreed in the last meeting.

1. 60 Federations members have appointed a delegate to the Thematic Commission, and as it is pleasant that new FIP members have joined the Commission, it is regrettable that some others of ancient philatelic tradition are perpetuating a sleepy relationship, through delegates who have not given signs of life since years. The Commission, by definition, is the sum of its delegates, and its strength and effectiveness depends on their support. "Mail box" delegates should be replaced by more active ones, even if less knowledgeable, to ensure an appropriate link between the Commission and thematic philatelists of a country.

Unfortunately a significant change of my professional status and of the related working schedule, prevented me from ensuring regular communication to the delegates. All my free time was absorbed in the organisation of Italia 98, with a thematic class presenting more than 200 exhibits, *TCNews* will be released again very soon and after the Congress I shall make sure to implement again the necessary continuity of information.

2. The Bureau had a very important and constructive meeting in London and unanimously defined the text of the new SREV. Its goals are:

- To implement the refinements suggested by the experience made using the current regulations approved in Granada, and
- To converge with the scheme of the GREV and the SREVs of the other classes. This was not possible in 1985, as the thematic class was one of the very few with a longstanding and solid experience of regulations as well of their thorough implementation at F.I.P. exhibitions as well as at national and local ones.

The new text does not introduce any substantial change, but simplifies the rules using an approach formally similar to that of the other competitive classes.

These Regulations were tested at Pacific 97 on 8 exhibits by a team composed of 5 Bureau members. A detailed report was circulated and the areas for improvement of the text were clearly identified. Due to time reasons tests planned at following exhibitions were not performed, but all the Bureau members made own analysis on the occasion of other international and of national shows. Conclusions should have presented in a meeting at Garcia Lorca 98, but concurrent engagements of several Bureau members did not allow to hold the meeting.

The text was duly submitted to the FIP Board for the agenda of this Congress and it will be presented to the delegates in Milano for a first analysis. As the Board decided in its recent meeting in Luxembourg to have the subject in the agenda of the following

Congress, further tests and analysis will be carried out in the next period.

3. Thanks to the support of national Federations and of the organizers of international and national exhibitions, several education events were run by myself and by almost all members of the Bureau. The material prepared by Gunnar Dahlvig and myself for the education of jurors was used to this purposes, and several delegates reported a successful utilization of the presentation made also available to them. The seminars in China, run together with Börje Wallberg, president of the Traditional Philately Commission, were a special occasion to present thematic philately concepts and implementation to philatelists who are looking forward to the first FIP world exhibition in their country.

4. At the previous Congress a complete review of the role and the structure of the FIP philatelic Commissions was set as a short term objective. On this occasion I wish to repeat my strong disagreement with the proposed grouping and the denomination of the new Commissions and I am sure that the special Commission appointed by the FIP Board after the last Congress will have soon its first meeting and duly analyze this matter. In particular:

- I am against the fact that the Thematic Commission is *de facto* excluded from dealing with the matter of exhibiting and judging. This cancels twenty-five years of constructive cooperation of thematic collectors with the F.I.P. Board.
- I disagree that regulations are the only "raison d'être" of a Commission. I believe that my Commission has been

instrumental to reach global philatelic objectives of the F.I.P. (furthermore thematic is the leading specialty in some countries) and has developed a strong education action.

5. Finally, I wish to thank Dr. Eliseo R. Otero, the FIP Board director in charge of our Commission, for his constant attention and support to the Commission, the French Federation that has, as usual, taken care of the mailing costs of general communications to the delegates and all Bureau Members for their cooperation.

I have the pleasure of welcoming all the delegates to Milano, and I am looking forward to having very constructive meetings:

Dr.Ing. Giancarlo Morolli

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Olympilex 96: the most visited exhibition in Atlanta

In spite of the lack of advertising, promotion and signage, 63.000 people made Olympilex 96 the most visited exhibition in Atlanta during the Olympic games. Dr. Manfred Bergman presented a detailed report to the Bureau including a list of actions to be taken to make this event even more successful, in Sidney.

He also pointed out that, in spite of the IOC philatelic encouragement, many countries, directly or through their agents, originated too many stamps, blocks, minister sheets and the like. Action has been promptly taken to address this issue for the next future, in cooperation with FIP and UPU.

DELEGATES ARE ASKED TO SEND THEIR E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR ESTABLISHING A MORE FREQUENT AND FASTER COMMUNICATION

Fight against Forgeries

At each FIP exhibition the Expert-Team selects two exhibits by lot out of each class and controls them very carefully. The Team arranges random checks of the other exhibits. The mission of the Expert Team is to prevent forged, faked and repaired items from being shown at exhibitions.

The Expert-Team worked very hard at the last shows and reached significant results, in full co-operation with the Jury. Some more thematic exhibits were inspected, either on initiative of the Expert-Team, or upon request of the jurors in charge of the thematic class.

A systematic approach has been put in place to ensure the appropriate collection and storing of data, including photocopies and photographs of the suspected items. The relevant FIP Commission, under the presidency of Paolo Vollmeier, has also circulated a checklist for the Expert-team leaders that it is worth to summarise hereafter:

1. In case some items are assumed to be forged or faked:
 - a) If there is no doubt among the Expert-Team members, the findings are reported to the Jury Presidium that decides according to GREX Art. 41.3 (Downgrading or disqualifying the exhibit).
 - b) If the Expert-Team members are not 100% sure, due to the lack of appropriate reference material on the spot, no action is taken as far as the award is concerned. The team presents the situation in writing to the commissioner and to the exhibitor, who has to provide a certificate, to be put behind the sheet at the next exhibition.

Repaired stamps, redrawn cancellations, etc. should be also dealt with severity.

2. Exhibits containing pieces identified as questionable at previous exhibitions should be duly controlled, to see if certificates are present as required, unless the said items are no longer shown in the exhibit.

(Note: in order to avoid disappointing last minute problems, exhibitors who were likely to be accepted for Italia 98 and had open situations in this respect, had to provide Mr. Vollmeier either a certificate or a declaration that the items had been removed, before their the O.C. sent the final entry form).

Exhibitors involved, as well as the relevant national federations and commissioners, shall be duly informed by the President of the FIP Commission for the Fight against Forgeries. He has taken over the responsibility of making sure that the findings of the Expert-Team and the decisions of the Jury are circulated as soon as possible after the end of the exhibition.

Delegates of the FIP Thematic Commission are urged to pass on this information to all their national exhibitors who are entering international exhibitions.

**DELEGATES ARE INVITED TO
GIVE THEIR CONTRIBUTION
TO TCNews
BY SUBMITTING INFORMATION
OF INTERNATIONAL RELEVANCE**

- **ACTIVITIES**
- **PUBLICATIONS**
- **SPECIFIC PHILATELIC ITEMS**

Seminars in China, Greece, India and Portugal and Italy

Giancarlo Morolli and Borje Wallberg were invited to China by the Shi Weilin, on behalf of the All China Philatelic Federation. On that occasion they run two separate seminars on Thematic and Traditional philately to about 100 advanced collectors and jurors in Xiamen, and a joint session in Guilin. These presentations were very well received and the active participation of the audience made these events very constructive.

Hans-Walter Bosserhoff run a thematic seminar at Indipex 97.

Bernard Jimenez was invited by the.

Ruben Kley, José Antonio Hernan and Ingolf Kapelrud gave a thematic seminar on the occasion of PORTUCALE 98.

Giancarlo Morolli gave a SEMINAR AT Israel 98 and a presentation to Italian national exhibitors meeting in Ravenna.

Franceska Rapkin signs the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

Franceska Rapkin, member of the Bureau, FIP thematic juror and successful exhibitor (last result: Gold at Israel 98) signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelist last June in .

Margaret Morris and Giancarlo Morolli receive the ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist Award

On the occasion of the American Topical Association breakfast at Pacific 97 Jerry Husak, founder of the Association and chairman of the

Committee, presented the DTP Award to Margaret Morris and Giancarlo Morolli. They are the first recipients of the award from outside North America.

Ruben Kley President of FEBRAF

Dr. Ruben Reis Kley, delegate of Brazil in the Thematic Commission, was elected President of the Federação Brasileira de Filatelia (FEBRAF) for the years 1997-2000. He took over from a previous delegate to this Commission and outstanding thematic philatelist, general Euclydes Pontes, named Honorary President of FEBRAF. Beside the presidency of the Federation, Ruben Kley will continue his activity in the Thematic Commission.

Open Class Round Table in Milano

At Milanophil 97, the yearly philatelic event held in Milano, Gunnar Dahlvig, Teddy Dahinden, and Michael Adler presented the experiences and the trends of the Open Class. At the meeting, chaired by Giancarlo Morolli, Enrico Veschi, General Commissioner of ITALIA 98, announced that this exhibition would host an Open Class as well.

Sending of the Thematic Philately presentation

The presentation put together by the President and used as a basis of several seminars has been already made available, free of charge, to a number of delegates, who in turn have translated and adapted the same to their specific needs. Those who have not yet requested the text and the diskette (Microsoft Word 6.0 file) can contact the President of the Commission.

Education Program of the Commission

As presented at the Commission's meeting in Istanbul and then described in detail on the FIP Flash, the package put together by Gunnar Dahlvig with the support of the President is available as a base for seminars. Most of the Seminars run in the recent months were based on this outline and the supporting material. Delegates who intend to organise this type of seminars with the active support of the Commission can contact Gunnar Dahlvig.

New Director of the American Topical Association

Dr. Paul E. Tyler became executive director of the ATA July last 1st. The new mailing address for the ATA is P.O. Box 50820, Albuquerque, NM 87181-0820. He is the fourth chief executive officer of the ATA, after Jerry Husak, Don Smith and Douglas Kelsey.

ATA 50th Anniversary

ATA is going to celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. Its motto is "ATA 1949- 1999 Serving the world of thematic philately".

They have announced an international participation to the National Topical Stamp Show '99, scheduled on July 30-August 1 at the Four Points Grand Milwaukee Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For information address your request to George Griffenhagen, 2501 Drexel St., Vienna, VA 22180, USA.

Thanks to the French Federation

The French Federation has been supporting the Commission by taking care of the expenses related to the activities of the secretary general, including the production and the postage for our newsletter.

THEMATIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

General Thematics

Aspekte zum Aufbau Thematischer Sammlungen - 240 pages - BDPh -Mainzerstr. , Frankfurt a -

N. Barberis, V. Mento, G. Morolli, M. Picardi - La Presentación en las colecciones temáticas - updated by J.R. Moreno Fernandez - Atalaya Filatélica - Sevilla, Spain - 46 pages

D. Läge - Thematische Bearbeitung - die individuelle Gestaltung einer Motivsammlung - 82 pages - Verlag für philatelistische Literatur - Mühlstrasse 16 - D 79539 Lörrach, Germany

W. De Doncker, Y. Delaey, J.A. Desimpelaere - Le Timbre Poste, du project a l'object de collection - Jidephil - Elf Novemberlaan, B+8930 Rekkem, Belgium - 450 pages (French, Dutch, English)

Checklists, Books and Catalogues on Specific Themes

O. Bortolato - Il Mito di Olympia - 32 pages - Biblioteca Civica Comune di Martellago (Ve), Italy

T. Burge - Physics on Stamps - 206 pages - Ted Burge, Yew Three House, Vicarage St., Painswick, Stroud, Glos GL 6XS, Great Britain - Europe £ 6.50 or 15 DM; America £ 8 or US\$ 12; Far East £ 9 or US\$ 14 (all postpaid - airmail). The checklist is available in three separate formats: Scott, Gibbons and Michel.

H.Burkhalter, F. & N. Wirght - Railways of the World on Stamps - American Topical Association - P.O.Box 65749 Tucson, AZ 85728, U.S.A. - US\$ 20 postpaid

Topical Time Volume 30-31 Reprint (1979-80) - American Topical Association - P.O.Box 65749 Tucson, AZ 85728, U.S.A. - US\$ 8 postpaid

From the last Exhibitions

ISTANBUL 96

Giancarlo Morolli (Italy), Team Leader, Bernard Jimenez (France), Team Leader, Edoardo Capucio (Brazil), Karl Dostal (Austria), Alexander Ilyushin (Russia), Ingolf Kapelrud (Norway),

PACIFIC 97

Gunnar Dahlvig (Sweden), Team Leader, Giancarlo Morolli (Italy), Team Leader, Bernard Jimenez (France), Ruben Reis Kley (Brazil), José Ramon Moreno (Spain), Mary Ann Owens (United States), Josef Wolff (Luxemborg). Apprentices: Frank Alusio (Canada), Damian Läge (Germany)

MOSCOW 97

Hans Walter Bosserhoff (Germany), Team Leader, Robert Deroy (France), Team Leader, Karl Dostal (Austria), Frode Knodsen (Denmark), Seong-Kwon Kim (Korea), Luis Lopez Lopez (Venezuela), Ludwig Malendowicz (Poland), Maurizio Tecardi (Italy). Apprentice: Ghys (Belgium), Vsevolod Furman (Ukraine).

INDIPEX 97

Hans Walter Bosserhoff (Germany), Team Leader, Bernard Jimenez (France), Team Leader, José Ramon Moreno (Spain), Lee Soon Kyu (Korea), Alexander Ilyushin (Russia), Eliseo Otero (Argentina). Apprentice: Alois Furstenberg (Germany).

ISRAEL 98

Giancarlo Morolli (Italy), Team Leader, Han Siem (Netherlands) Team Leader, Ingolf Kapelrud (Norway), Jorgen Jorgensen (Denmark), Maurizio Tecardi (Italy), Antony Virvilis (Greece). Apprentice René R. Berberat (Switzerland).

PORTUCALE 98

Bernard Jimenez (France), Team Leader, Ruben Reis Kley (Brasil), Team Leader, José Manuel Castanheira da Silveira (Portugal), José Antonio Hernan Sejas (Spain), Ingolf Kapelrud (Norway), Francesca Rapkin (Great Britain)..

	IST 96	PAC 97	MOS 97	IND 97	ISR 98	PORT 98
LARGE GOLD	0	2	1	0	1	2
GOLD	7	6	10	9	9	5
LARGE VERMEIL	16	18	16	12	16	9
VERMEIL	23	24	22	14	13	15
LARGE SILVER	9	19	21	17	13	10
SILVER	8	6	25	14	5	6
SILVER BRONZE	2	2	7	6	3	2
BRONZE	5	0	9	3	1	2
CERTIFICATE	3	0	3	0	0	0

OPEN CLASS REPORT *by Gunnar Dahlvig*

In the Bureau meeting in Istanbul, Gunnar Dahlvig was asked to put together a summary on the different approaches to the Open Class. He presented his work at the Round Table in Milano and supplemented it with a list of non-philatelic items used by these exhibitors.

The Open Class is getting increasingly popular all over the world. As the majority of the exhibits at the so far arranged exhibitions with Open Class are presented in a thematic way, we have to deliberate whether this new class is a competitor to the thematic class or a possibility to concert new exhibitors to the "pure" thematic collecting.

The Open Class is still on an experimental stage and the rules (if any) are different in different countries. So far the class has mostly been realised at propaganda exhibitions and at exhibitions on national or lower level. But also NORDIA 95, NORDIA 96 and Swiss Stamp Open 98 had big Open Classes (NORDIA 95 with 150 entries and Swiss Open with 59 entries), all with tremendous public successes. And in 1999 the two FIP exhibitions IBRA 99 and AUSTRALIA 99 will have judged Open Classes. The FIP Board is very interested in the experiments and it is not impossible that in the future Open will be an accepted FIP class.

It may be of interest to compare rules already used and to be used at future exhibitions.

NORDIA 95 (= Swedish regulations)

1. At least 50% of the material must be philatelic
2. At least 50% of the philatelic material must be from the last 20 years
3. Minimum 2 and maximum 5 frames

4. Judged by a jury comprising one traditional/postal historian juror, one thematic juror and one artist
5. Judging criteria:
 - Idea and originality 40
 - Knowledge (philatelic and/or thematic) 40
 - Presentation 20
 -
 - 100
6. The exhibits are awarded medals by the same point scale as the ordinary competing classes.

NORDIA 95 (= Swedish regulations)

1. About 50% of the exhibit should comprise philatelic items
2. Minimum 3 and maximum 5 frames (12 ages/frame)
3. Judged by a jury comprising a media representative, an artist, an artisan and a stamp collector
4. Every exhibitor receive a medal
5. The three best exhibits will get a special prize
6. Judging criteria:
 - Presentation and balance of the exhibit
 - Originality of the exhibit
 - Knowledge of the material.

NORDIA 96 = NORDIA 95

Australian regulations (Social Class)

The class comprises material associated with postal service, or with postage stamps, which is neither concerned with illustrating routes, rates or markings nor is a postage stamp or an item of postal stationery or a philatelic book as such, but which has an intimate connection with the

objective of a postal system or the paraphernalia of postage stamps and philately. This class can also include material demonstrating the interaction between postal systems and the social history of an area (from village to continent).

The following sub-classes are indicative and are not limiting. The limits will eventually be drawn by collectors themselves.

- Telegrams and related material
- Greeting cards including valentines
- Illustrated and pictorial covers (printed or hand illustrated)
- Post Office and Official Stationery (without postage imprint)
- Philatelic Libraries
- Philatelic History (albums, hinges, perforation gauges - the tools of philately)
- Officially used documentation bearing stamps and their use (letter balances, stamp boxes, model post office impediments, etc.)
- Post Office equipment (mail bags, uniforms, etc.)
- Local studies based on postal and social history.

The exhibits are evaluated according to the following point scale:

- Treatment and Importance	30
- Knowledge and Research	30
- Condition and Rarity	25
- Presentation	5

	100

Minor changes in the point scale are foreseen for AUSTRALIA 99.

German Regulations

1. Exhibits already shown in competition are not accepted
2. The philatelic elements must represent at least 30% of the exhibit
3. Minimum 3 and maximum 5 frames (12 pages/frame)
4. Judged by the visitors and a special commission. The final result will be

composed of the evaluation by the visitors (60%) and by a commission (40%).

5. All participants will get a diploma and a commemorative medal. The three best exhibits will get a special prize.

Foreign items used in the open class collections

1. Paper printed items

- a) Postcards or photographs
- b) Maps printed or drawn
- c) Napkins, stickers, tickets for festivities, cigarbands
- d) Official documents, passports, saving books, etc.
- e) Banknotes, engravings and other artworks
- f) Chewing gum cards, collectable gifts, pencils etc.

2. Metal items

- a) Shield with pointed indications
- b) Usable objects as primus lightning device, pitchforks with golf
- c) Coins, remembrance items, beer bottle openers, paperclips
- d) Insignias of functions, etc.

3. Needle work or tissue products

- a) Woven or tissue products
- b) Dolls, miniature items,
- c) Gloves
- d) Fibres

4. Natural found items

- a) Wood in many different forms and qualities or worked into forms
- b) Hair or a seal
- c) Grasses and straws
- d) Sand

5. Other items

- a) CD's, telephone cards, ID cards, etc.

OPEN CLASS AT ITALIA 98

To supplement Gunnar's report we recap the highlights of Italia 98 Open Class that will host 51 exhibits from Italy, USA, Sweden, Belgium, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Philippines, Russia, India and Thailand.

Exhibits shown must:

- Follow a logical thread
- Consist, for at least 50%, of items of philatelic nature. As the remaining 50% could be shown any other material freely chosen by the exhibitor: postcards, photographs, maps, tickets, telephone cards, medals, press cuttings, adhesive labels, decorations, etc.).
- Have a size of 24 to 60 pages.

Exhibits consisting of philatelic pieces only will be also accepted.

Evaluation of exhibits will be made, for 50%, by the visitors and, for the remaining 50%, by a commission appointed by the O.C.

The commission will be composed by a journalist, an expert of communications, a philatelist, and an artist as well as by the Chairman of the O.C. No official philatelic juror can be appointed.

The commission's evaluation will adhere to the following criteria:

• Presentation of the exhibit:	25
• Development and originality of the subject and of items	45
• Knowledge	30

	100

Market value of the items on display shall not be considered.

Each exhibitor shall receive a souvenir medal and a diploma of participation. Furthermore, the three best exhibits will be awarded a prize made available by the Organising Committee of ITALIA 98.



ITALIA 98 Schedule

23 October

- 11.00 Opening Ceremony
- 14.00 Opening to the public

24 October

- 15.00 Assembly of UIFOS (Italian Sport Olympic Philatelists' Union)

25 October

- 15.00 Assembly of CIFR (Italian Center of 2nd WW Resistance Movement)

27 October

- 14.00 Congress of AIJP

30 October

- 9.00 Meeting FIP Thematic Commission
- 11.15 Meeting of the Bureau of the FIP Thematic Commission
- 16.15 Assembly of FEPA
- 20.00 FIP Congress Dinner (invitation)

31 October

- 9.00 FIP Congress
- 10.00 CIFT World Thematic Day (open to all foreign collectors - with exchange of items - bring your own!)
- 20.30 Palmares (ticket)

1 November

- 9.00 FIP Congress
- Meeting of the International Study Unit "Motor Vehicles"
- 16.00 Closing Ceremony.

TCNews N. 8 will be issued in February 1999.
News and reports must be sent to G. Morolli by 15.12.93.
Input should be sent either on diskette or via e-mail, in MS WinWord or text format.
Address: gmoroll@tin.it.