

Fédération Internationale de Philatélie



Thematic Philately Commission TCNews

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BULLETIN OF THE FIP THEMATIC COMMISSION

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Dear friends of Thematic Philately

Herewith is number #27 of TCNEWS Bulletin.

Commission meeting conducted in Korea

Our Commission meeting was conducted on 10 August in Seoul, Korea in conjunction with the FIP exhibition PHILAKOREA 2014.

The roll call gave 34 Federations represented (five with proxy (p)):

Albania, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Brasil, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark (p), Ecuador, Egypt, Finland (p), France, Germany, Greece (p), Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy (p), Japan, Rep. Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, The Netherlands (p), New Zealand, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Uruguay, Vietnam.

As Chairman of the Commission I presented the activity report over the two years since the meeting conducted in Jakarta 2012.

The main focus for the meeting was the seminar given dealing with page sizes in competitive exhibits, not only in thematic philately but all other classes too (as references). Thanks to Jeff Long in New Zealand, this issue of TCNEWS adds some more perspectives on page sizes.

My resignation

For the last 9 years I have served on the Thematic Philately Commission of the FIP; the last two as its Chairman. Though two more years still remain on my elected term, I have decided to turn my attention to demands developing philately. And so, this is my resignation.

Through participation in the Commission work, I have been pleased to be of service but philately is undergoing many challenges of different types in the different regions of the world. I want to address this situation to help philately grow and I have many ideas for this that I hope to share through different activities and exploration of new and developing possibilities.

Competitive philately and its contexts are my passion so if my qualifications as FIP judge and team leader is requested I am still available to do service.

I hope that our creation of presentations on thematic philately and exhibiting, and their easy availability to FIP leadership, has been useful in strengthening the philatelic world.

Jonas Hällström
Resigning Commission Chairman

A Brief & Self-Critical Report on Philakorea 2014

By Jin Hur, Rep.of Korea

Philakorea 2014 is over. Compared to the previous exhibitions held in Korea, its size is much reduced, but this event, as the only FIP world exhibition of this year, seems to have produced modest results. I would like to summarize Philakorea 2014 with a technical break down resulting in several subcategories, so that unnecessary overlapping of the analysis could be avoided.

Firstly, on the PR side of Philakorea. I was in charge of the PR section of Philakorea inside the organizing committee. There are not many things to which I could personally contribute, but judging from the number of total visitors, about 100,000 people, PR and advertizing campaign proved to be not that disappointing. Of course, out of 100,000 people, only 10-15% are serious collectors and the others are simple bystanders temporarily encouraged to take a look at the exhibits.

As the organizing committee released the press guideline focusing on the world rarities like "Inverted Jenny", unexpectedly huge number of people rushed to the exhibition hall to confirm with their own naked eyes. And the major newspaper and TV stations also covered Philakorea at their daily main news time, so that even non-collectors inspired by "Inverted Jenny" were tempted to visit the exhibition. Regarding the other modernized method of advertizement, lots of foreign countries' media payed an attention to the bus and subway publicity decorated by big pictorial posters, along with diversified SNS.

Secondly, Philakorea was acclaimed as a well-organized event by many visitors and neutral watchers. South Korea has hosted this kind of exhibitions already 5 times before Philakorea 2014, so that the organizing committee could manage to carry out the main procedure with ease based on the accumulated

previous experiences. In initial stage, the committee got bogged down a little because of mis-communication among the parties concerned and started also a little late, however, it got back on the right direction so soon after a rather short period of confusion. And, as usual, lots of philatelists volunteered to help make new collectors feel at home during their visit and to ensure that they make the most of what the exhibition has to offer.

Furthermore, POSA along with the Korea Post, the PCO(professional convention organizer), implemented the required processes with a very much professional way and successfully covered the abrupt accidents or emergency situations by prompt & proper measure and detailed consultations among parties. In this regard, the organizing committee deserves to be extolled from various aspects.

Some watchers criticized that, as Palmares and FIP congress were held in a row on the same last day, the visitors had to have very hectic time and the commissioners were so busy in collecting the exhibits before the departure on the next day. It was true, however, the organizing committee had no other way but to do every wrap-up procedure on the last day, because they had only 6 days up to the final, a couple of days shorter than other exhibitions, and they worried about the delay of printing of Palmares catalogue in case of holding Palmares one day earlier. In Philanippon 2011, the Japanese side handed over the copy print of award list at Palmares and later printed the book because of tight time schedule. That's why the Korean side intentionally set up Palmares on the last day, so that they could secure enough time to print the book, not the copy print. Anyway, because of this concentrated daily programs, staffs and volunteers seemed to have been totally exhausted of dismantling of facilities, returning the exhibits to the commissioners, caring the departure procedure of the visitors and so on.

Thirdly, as Philakorea was the only exhibition patronized by FIP in 2014, the level of exhibits were very convincing. According to the Palmares announcement, out of totally 519 exhibits, altogether 33 LG, 85 G and 102 LV were awarded. It pointed out that lots of highly qualified exhibits were introduced in Philakorea 2014 in spite of limited number of frames compared to the previous large-scaled exhibitions in Korea. A little disappointment was that there were only two Large Gold and 9 Gold in the thematic philately. Regardless of the comparative ratio of high-ranking medal's number of the thematic exhibits with other fields, thematic exhibits should have been more invited based on the popularity in Korea in particular.

Out of Korean exhibitors in the field of traditional and postal history, 2 exhibitors got 3 LG (one awarded 2 LG with two exhibits) and one of them received the National Grand Prix. Surprisingly he was a member of the Korean Thematic(!) Club led by me. That award is not only the greatest gift for him in his whole life ever, but also a marvelous honor of the Club itself.

Apart from exhibitors, serious philatelists of Korea seemed to have been disappointed by the poor presence of foreign dealers. A couple of world-renowned auction houses and large-scaled dealers came to Philakorea, but they found difficult to bring in lots of boxes as the Korean customs authority imposed too much complicated clearance conditions. First of all, they were obliged to write in exact number of stamps or materials. This kind of things never happened before. Calculating the exact number of them must be too much labour-intensive work and so painstaking process for the dealers and, furthermore, the identified number of stamps to be presented to the authority are absolutely meaningless. This ridiculous imposition might have discouraged them to bring in the plenty of boxes and could not meet the demand from the Korean collectors who had been waiting for 12 years after the previous Philakorea 2002. That's why the foreign dealers could neither entice the Korean

collectors to the big enough lots nor provide them with wanted and correct items to buy and collect. Most visitors were looking for the Korean and thematic materials. But handful of dealers brought only general and traditional foreign items in which they hardly were interested. Against all odds of the foreign dealers' dilemma, domestic dealers showed rather satisfactory results. Some dealers proudly declared that they sold out the long-lasting stocks of used packet stamps. It means that the temporary market of Philakorea didn't meet the demand of advanced philatelists, but it succeeded in finding some groups of new and young collectors even under the unfavorable depression period on a world scale.

Fourthly and finally, let us have a look at the thematic philately. In the FIP thematic commission meeting, Mr. Jonas Hällström, the chairman of the commission, showed the ultimate solution about the somewhat controversial discourse of size of exhibit page. And his conclusion was assisted and supported by Herr Damian Läge, the formal chairman, and Monsieur Bernard Jimenez, director of FIP board. As repeatedly identified, there is no definite rule on the size of exhibit page according to the current FIP regulations. Henceforth, exhibitors can use any size of the exhibit page provided that the exhibit leaves should fit the frames. Along with the clear definition and explanation on the subject concerned, Mr. Jonas Hällström also showed certain flexibility in arranging the leaves in frames, assuming the various circumstances of each exhibit's characteristics.

Furthermore, Korean Thematic Club of South Korea organized the special seminar inviting Herr Damian Läge who inspired the thematic field with full-pledged entertaining imaginations and logical in-depth study of traditional philatelic knowledge with an emphasis on the clear identification of complicated printing schemes. The seminar was also attended by prominent world's philatelists, like Mr. Jonas Hällström, Mr. Peter Suhadolc, the president of Slovenian

Philatelic Association, Herr Udo Decker, the president of German Philatelic Association and others. In this seminar, Herr Damian Läge presented the story telling aspect of thematic exhibits and identified main points of current thematic judging. Many of attenders are already aware on the fame of Damian Läge and the others who met him for the first time showed a great satisfaction of his kind and entertaining presentation. Herr Damian Läge also had a couple of personal consultations and discussions with serious Korean exhibitors during the exhibition period. Some of collectors brought their album leaves directly to the exhibition hall and sought Läge's valuable critiques and evaluation. Herr Damian Läge willingly accepted their suggestions and never showed even a squinting face whenever he was asked much complicated as well as somewhat irritating questions.

This seminar has no direct relation of the FIP thematic commission, however, it became an official token in the Philakorea program because the Korean Philatelic Federation authorized the seminar as the Korean Jurors' regular seminar through which jurors could renew their domestic jurors' status.

Under the going-down circumstances of world philately, Philkorea 2014 sustained the momentum of letting FIP world exhibitions keep going. This exhibition was rather down-sized because of tight budget situation compared to the previous exhibitions, therefore, it could not fully accomplish much required assignments, such as creating the new collecting group, enhancing the general level of exhibits, encouraging the other countries to hold similar sort of exhibitions, etc. However, in spite of the aforementioned unfavorable conditions, Philakorea showed a warm hospitality to the visitors of the world as usual and forged once again the philatelic status of Korea. Not a absolutely big success, but this exhibition could serve as a modest milestone further to promote the modern philately and convince the visitors that stamp collecting would be still surviving in the future.

In closing, I would like to thank once again Mr. Jonas Hällström, Mr. Peter Suhadolc and Mr. Tono D. Putranto as well as Mr. Damian Läge who greatly encouraged my Korean colleagues and gave their valuable touch on the crucial facets of each Philakorea program. I miss also other FIP thematic commission bureau members who did not come to Korea this time and am looking forward to seeing them in the near future.

New delegate appointed for Spain



Jose Ramon Moreno leaves the thematic commission after 14 years as Spanish delegate. To concentrate in his new job as FEPA President, José Ramón Moreno has resigned as Spanish Delegate of the TH Commission as well as he did with his other responsibilities. The new Spanish Delegate is Estanislao Pan de Alfaro, excellent collector on the Scout field.

José Ramón has been the Spanish Delegate since the year 2000. In 2001 he was co-opted as Bureau member of the FIP Thematic Commission. In 2004 he was elected as Secretary of the Bureau and re-elected in 2008, leaving the Bureau in 2012.

He has published over 200 articles and the 148 pages book "Thematic: Analysis and Research" (2013). From his first lecture in 1993 in his home town of Seville, he has been lecturer in 37 Seminars, 17 of them in Spain and 20 abroad, the last on the FIP Seminar in Torremolinos on the 28th of February 2014. For this year he has compromised two more Seminars.

As we all know, José Ramón is an experienced FIP Thematic Juror and Team Leader, FIP Literature Juror and Secretary at 8 FIP Exhibitions.

No doubt that José Ramón will still being an active member of the thematic community and we are looking forward to have him around the Commission for many more years in his new leadership roles.

Thank you - José Ramón - for all your hard work for thematic philately!

Jonas Hällström

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French Proofs – a further comment

By Joachim Maas, Germany

In TCNews No. 26 Gunnar Dahlvig published an article about French Proofs with a lot of interesting information and a conclusion, in which he finally discusses which types of French “proofs” are worth to be exhibited. I think Gunnar's statements need some clarification and addition.

Quoting the Thematic SREV in his last chapter Gunnar misses one important aspect: “Appropriate postal-philatelic material is that which ... has been issued, intended for issue, or produced in the preparation for issue,” Thus the philatelic appropriateness as well as the philatelic importance of “proof-like material” depend on the fact whether the item is necessary for the production process of a stamp or stationery or another type of philatelic material. Sometimes it is difficult to decide about this necessity clearly. Then the general rule should be: the philatelic importance of an item increases with its closeness to the production process!

In his article Gunnar presents five types of French “proofs”. Let us discuss their philatelic importance according to this rule. Undoubtedly type 2 (sepia printer’s inspection die proofs) and type 3 (trial colour proofs) result from the production process.

The importance of type 2 is the highest, followed by type 3 of the earlier method (trial colour die proofs). Type 3 of the later method (trial colour plate proofs) also result from the production process, but the printery produced more stamps than needed for inspection purposes, giving them a lower importance than those of the earlier method.

Deluxe sheets (type 4) are not needed for the production process; they are just “presentation issues”. Exhibitors could argue that perforated deluxe sheets could be used for franking and they therefore are appropriate material. On the other hand they are “superfluous additional” issues with no philatelic importance. The same statements hold for imperforated stamps (type 5). Since 1941 they have been distributed to high government officials and therefore are "presentation issues" similar to German stamps with imprint "Muster" (= sample). They are even not valid for franking, and I really don't think that imperforated stamps up to 1941 are varieties of the production process. Otherwise they would have been valid for franking; but I have never seen a used copy of an imperforated French stamp.

As for type 1 (artist's die proofs) Gunnar states that they were made in order to introduce the result of the engraving to deciding postal authorities. On the other hand other authors state that they are just “presentation issues”. I prefer the latter statement, as the engraver produced more such “proofs” than necessary for inspection purposes. So at least their philatelic importance is clearly much lower than that of the sepia printer's inspection die proofs (type 2) or the colour proofs (type 3). My opinion that artist's die proofs are not closely related to the production process is confirmed by the existence of another type of French proofs not mentioned in Gunnar's article: stage die proofs (épreuves d'état). They were made by the engraver during the engraving process in order to control the quality of his work. Generally the stage is mentioned, e.g. 1er état (= first stage).



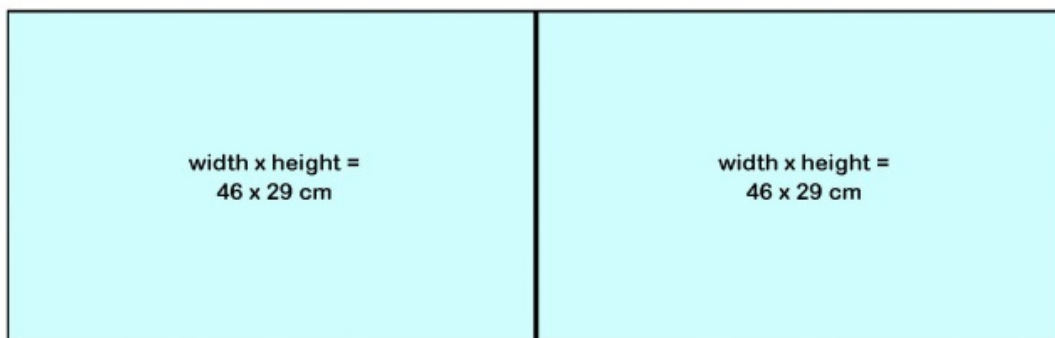
These stage die proofs clearly result from the production process and generally only very few copies exist. Thus, their philatelic importance is nearly as high as that of the sepia printer's inspection die proofs.

Conclusion: Only stage die proofs, sepia printer's inspection die proofs and colour trial proofs (die proofs and plate proofs) result from the production process and therefore are philatelicly important, whereas artist's die proofs, deluxe sheets (minister's sheets) and imperforated stamps in the issued colour are only "presentation issues" and therefore do not improve the rarity or philatelic knowledge of an exhibit.

Thematic Judging at Brasiliana 2013

By Jeff Long, New Zealand

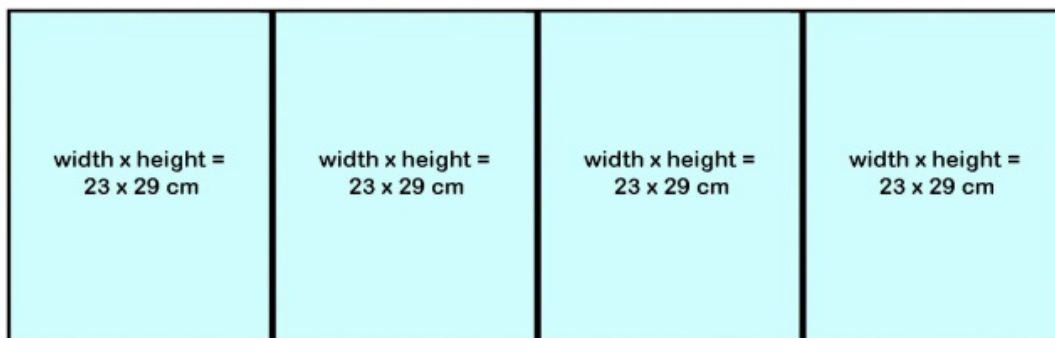
At the Melbourne 2013 exhibition held in May 2013 there was apparently some concern that of those exhibitors with five frames, very few qualified for eight frames unless they were exhibits using double-size or 'three to a row' page size. I was judging at this exhibition, but in the One-frame, Modern Traditional and Open (some only) classes. By the time my judging work was completed, my brain was somewhat philatelically overloaded, so I spent little time after that looking at other exhibits. However, it was suggested to me that looking at thematic entries at *Brasiliana* might see a pattern emerging with regard to 'double-size' and '3-pages to a row' size sheets. (See Figure 1 for a comparison and note the dimensions shown are based on the typical New Zealand maximum sized 'normal' page of 23 x 29 cm [width x height]). I wasn't judging at this exhibition, so had plenty of time to look at exhibits.



2-pages per row



3-pages per row



4-pages per row

Figure 1 Comparison between 2-, 3- and 4-pages per row. Overall results

There were a lot (82) of thematic entries: - 23 in the Nature category; - 35 in the Culture category; - 24 in the Technology category. The bulk (nearly 50%) of the entries came from Brasil (14), Germany (8), China (8), Italy (5), Poland (4) and Argentina (4). Twenty-four other countries were represented with 3 or fewer entries. When all of the entries were distributed by the Continental Federation they are part of - FEPA (Europe), FIPA (Americas) and FIAP (Asia) - a summary of the results are shown in Table 1.

	LG	G	LV	V	LS	S	SB	No
FEPA	2	9	14	3	5	3	2	39
FIPA	-	3	4	5	6	4	1	23
FIAP	1	6	6	4	1	3	-	20
Overall	3	18	24	12	12	10	3	82

Table 1: Level of award by Continental Federation

[An analysis of the marks showed the average awarded by Continental Federations were FEPA 84, FIPA 80 and FIAP 86 with an average for all entries being 83. If one takes into account that, as the host nation, Brazil was able to enter a larger number of exhibits and their results reduced the average for FIPA these data do not appear to show any significant difference between the Federations notwithstanding a common view that FEPA countries generally score best. Analysis and comment by authot.]

Results by page size

The results of Large Vermeil or above achieved in the three categories for 8-frame or 5-frame exhibits were recorded by the number of pages in each row of the exhibit and shown in Table 2. Note that where there were only a few pages of double size (ie 2-pages/row) in the exhibit it was classed as a 4-pages/row exhibit.

	pages/row	Nature			Culture			Technology			All Categories			Total
		LG	G	LV	LG	G	LV	LG	G	LV	LG	G	LV	
	2-pages	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	4	-	4
8-frame	3-pages	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
	4-pages	-	2	6	2	4	1	-	4	3	2	10	10	22
	2-pages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	2	3
5-frame	3-pages	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	3
	4-pages	-	-	1	-	1	8	-	-	1	-	1	10	11
	ALL	1	2	8	2	7	10	-	9	6	3	18	24	45

Table 2: Results by category, 8- or 5-frame and number of pages per row

What does this tell us?

In the Nature category, there were two LV and above in the '3-pages to a row' category, and one in the '2-pages to a row' category. One of these three exhibits using oversized pages had previously received a LG, and one of the other two qualified to move to 8-frames next outing. Of note, two out of 10 exhibits on regular size pages similarly qualified.

In the Culture category, there was one LV and above in the oversized categories which qualified to move to 8-frames at the next outing. **Ten** exhibits using regular pages similarly qualified.

In the Technology category, there were a lot more oversized exhibit pages on display – seven in total. Of those with 5-frames, four qualified for 8-frames at the next outing including one exhibit using regular pages.

I am not sure there is a discernible pattern here!

Problems with oversized pages

There was a problem for exhibitors using oversized pages at this exhibition because the IREX (regulations for this particular exhibition) stated the frame size was 98cm wide, but I gather this was the external frame measurement and the space for material was much less than this. However, the regulations also stated the maximum page width was 22cm, so four pages of this size would have easily fitted into the frames (*compare with our normal 23cm wide page limit*).

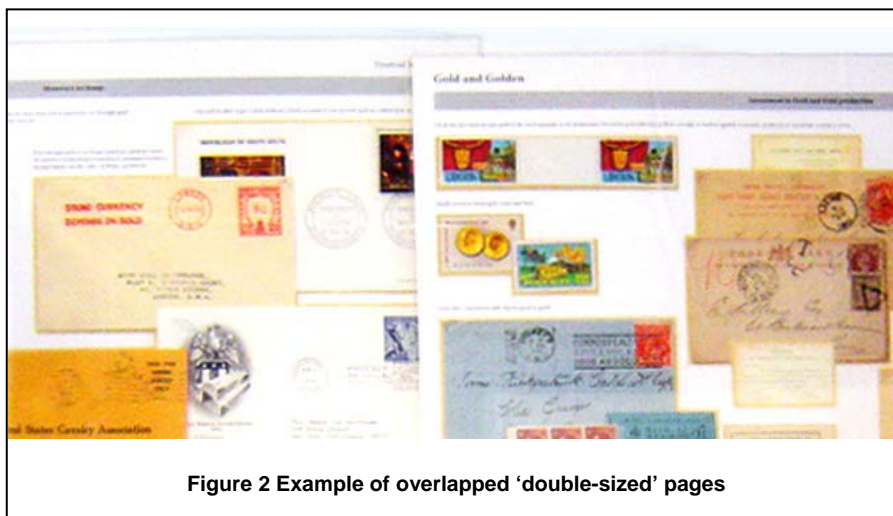


Figure 2 Example of overlapped 'double-sized' pages

At least half of the exhibitors with oversized pages used pages which were far too big, and hence many of them had significant page overlaps when the material was mounted in the frames (see Figure 2). I asked about this and was told that no penalty had been applied as exhibitors had been given the wrong information re the frame width. Nevertheless, the human brain being what it is, I daresay there was some subconscious penalty resulting.

So do exhibitors using oversize pages have an advantage?

Not in theory, and neither in fact at this exhibition. However, having said that many of the oversized page exhibits could display larger items. These exhibits also displayed many fewer straight stamps than many other exhibitors. I think the main advantage for those using oversized pages is that because this is a relatively new development, these exhibits have been significantly refreshed, so they look more 'up-to-date' and have clearly been re-written since earlier times. As well, bigger items often provided more scope for developing a storyline. *Using 3 or 4 stamps to complete a page in terms of using space, and not specifically tying these items to your storyline will result in a reduced mark for development.*

On the other hand, using oversize pages may well mean the exhibitor has more 'white space' than a traditional page size, and there also a tendency to use larger items which may have only a small proportion of relevant material.

Other Observations at Brasiliana 2013

I have already mentioned the overlapping larger page sizes, so remember that it will look much better if your material fits tidily in the frames!

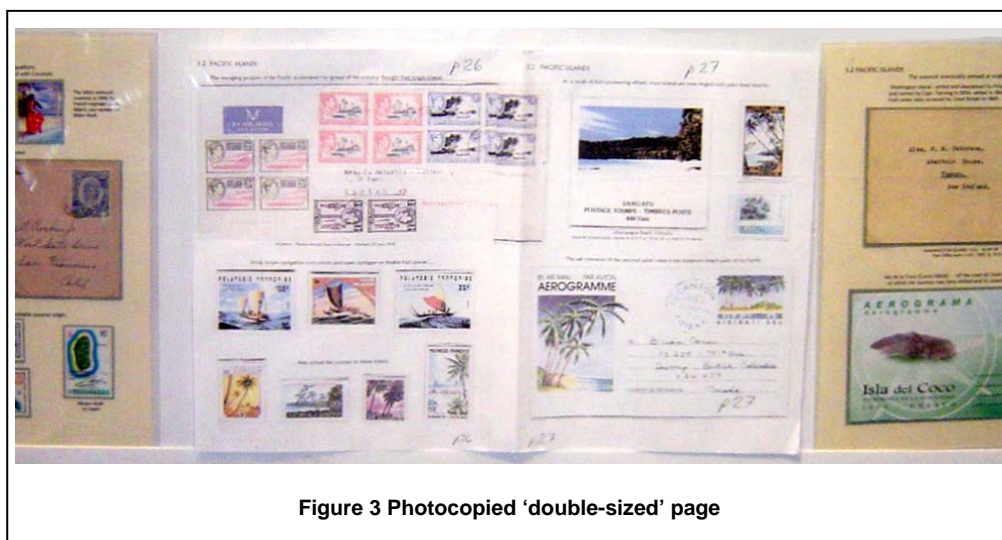


Figure 3 Photocopied 'double-sized' page

One exhibitor had two double-pages in the exhibit (see Figure 3), and they were just fairly rough photocopies, but still received 89 points. I am presuming there was a reason for this, but it seems generous. *[It appears this could have been the exhibitor's way of advising how a double-sized' page was meant to be inserted within the frame. Author.]*

Another exhibitor included two large documents, one just a price list. Neither had any philatelic justification for inclusion (eg no revenue stamps attached), but still received a good award. A further exhibit included 2 picture postcards (not prepaid) but still received 85 points. Another exhibit (awarded 84 points) included three examples of the *backs* of envelopes, not postal stationery and, even if they were, I fail to see they were acceptable. A similar mark was given to an exhibit on fairly bright green paper! I did ask the team leader of one of the thematic teams about what penalties might be imposed for such material. The answer was probably none unless there was a lot of such material, in which case probably one or two marks might be deducted. In two cases, these were 5-frame exhibits, which now have the go-ahead to exhibit 8-frames next time. In other cases, they were already 8-frame exhibits, so you might expect the exhibitor should know better.

My conclusion was that the exhibits in question had very good material and well-developed themes, so scored well in these areas, and the marks for treatment were affected only a little, if at all. Perhaps using open class material is gaining some acceptance in thematic exhibiting?

Overall

There was no discernible pattern in terms of results between exhibits using oversized pages, and those using regular pages. It is true that most exhibits on larger pages scored LV or above, but looking at them there did seem to be a difference in the quality of these exhibits compared with many exhibits on regular pages. Yes, there were ‘flash’ items in many cases, and perhaps more postal history emphasis (eg four pages of Swedish feather stamps, four pages of Great Barrier pigeon mail material in the only LG exhibit) but the overall impression was that the exhibits looked ‘fresher’ and certainly each piece displayed had to earn its keep in the exhibit.

Thematic Judging at Philakorea 2014

Jeff Long, New Zealand

Following on from the analysis of results at Brasiliana 2013 written by myself and with added comments by Bob Gibson (Editor of THEMENZ, the Thematic Assn of New Zealand), this article examines the results from Philakorea 2014, with emphasis on the question of page sizes.

Results by page size

There were many fewer thematic exhibits in Korea than in Brasil. 15 entries scored Vermeil or lower. 21 scored LV or better (Brasil 45). The results of Large Vermeil or above achieved for 8-frame or 5-frame exhibits were recorded by the number of pages in each row of the exhibit, as shown the table below. Note that where there were only a few pages of double size (ie 2-pages/row) in the exhibit it was classed as a 4-pages/row exhibit.

	pages/row	Nature			Culture			Technology			All Categories			Total
		LG	G	LV	LG	G	LV	LG	G	LV	LG	G	LV	
	2-pages	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
8-frame	3-pages	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	5
	4-pages	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	1	2	1	3	4	8
	2-pages	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	2	3
5-frame	3-pages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
	4-pages	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
	ALL	1	2	2	1	6	4	-	1	4	2	9	10	21

Results by category, 8- or 5-frame and number of pages per row

What does this tell us?

In the Nature category, all three exhibits of 8 frames scoring LV or better used 3 pages to a row. The 2 exhibits qualifying for 8 frames at the next outing used standard pages.

In the Culture category, of the eight 8 frame exhibits, 1 used double pages, 2 used 3 to a row and 5 used standard pages. Of the 2 exhibits which qualified to move to 8-frames at the next outing, 1 used double pages and 1 used standard pages.

In the Technology category, all three 8 frame exhibits used standard pages, and of those with 5-frames, one qualified for 8-frames at the next outing using double pages and one 3 to a row.

Focus on page sizes only (LV and above only)

Six exhibitors used 3 to a row format, and five of these scored G or LG. Of the four exhibitors using double pages, two scored G and two LV. Of the twenty six exhibitors using standard pages, one scored LG, three G and 7 LV (although 4 of this latter group reached 85 only). In summary, seven of the eleven exhibitors obtaining LG or G awards used double pages or 3 to a row format. This a definite pattern.

So do exhibitors using oversize pages have an advantage?

Statistically, at Philakorea the answer is yes. The region of origin doesn't seem to make a difference, as six of the LG and G exhibitors came from Europe and six from other regions, Globalisation of the stamp market is alive and well! What is evident, though, is that those exhibitors using larger page sizes have a preponderance of larger items in their exhibits, a significant number of which would not comfortably fit onto standard pages. Stamp-dominated exhibits on larger pages mean that following the storyline can be difficult, and therefore some exhibits (not just in the thematic class) may not score very well for treatment.

As commented on in the report of Brasiliana 2013, the main advantage for those using larger pages is that because this is a relatively new development, these exhibits have been significantly refreshed, so they look more 'up-to-date' and have clearly been developed or re-written since earlier times. As well, bigger items often provide more scope for developing a storyline. However, using a small number of stamps to complete a page in terms of using space, and not specifically tying these items to the storyline will result in a reduced mark for development.

Overall

Exhibitors using larger page sizes scored much better than those using standard pages. This might be helpful to consider if you are wanting to improve your medal level, but also consider:

- how recently you have rewritten your exhibit ?
- have you chosen the page size which best suits the material you want to exhibit ?
- have you "stood back" for an overall impression of your exhibit and material ?
- and are you driven to obtain the perfect mark for development of your exhibit ?

Personally, I think a more significant issue for thematic collectors is how tough the judges can be in awarding marks for rarity!

Thematic RDPs

By Brian Sole FRPSL, United Kingdom

John Abdy Lyons FOSBERY RDP, FRPSL
Great Britain



Introduction

As one of the Founder Members of the British Thematic Association (BTA), I agreed to write an article on the early years of the BTA for the magazine "Themescene", as part of the 30th anniversary celebrations. This was published in the March 2014 issue and to my surprise created some interest. Jonas read the article and enquired if I could write a similar article for TC News on the signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists who had an involvement with thematic philately.

I decided that I would write about those RDPs I had respected during my early attempts to form my own thematic philately exhibit. The list was fairly short: *Franceska Rapkin*, *Alma Lee*, *Mary-Ann Owens*, *Giancarlo Morolli*, and *Gunnar Dahlvig*. Then I decided to include other RDPs I knew, whose names did not immediately come to mind as collectors of thematic philately: *Francis Kiddle*, *John Fosbery*, *John Griffiths* and *Joseph Wolff*.

My initial source for information was "The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists" by Ronald Butler plus the 3 Addenda published since the book was written. For more detailed information on collections formed, awards received and Jury duties I referred to my collection of 16 Palmares, beginning with THEMABELGA '75 and ending with LONDON 2010. When writing about Giancarlo Morolli and Gunnar Dahlvig, I consulted recent issues of TCNEWS.

The final decision was to present each RDP in the order that his or her name appears on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelist, in year order of signing. I have tried to include a few light-hearted comments and hope that this will be a useful record in the future.

- Signatory of the Roll 1986 at Norwich
- Born 2 October 1909
- Died 8 January 2005

John played an important part in the development of philatelic studies relating to Central and South American republics. He formed major collections of Nicaragua, Venezuela, Brazil, Haiti and Mexico, winning gold medals in Vienna and Madrid for his Brazil exhibits and in Prague for a Haiti exhibit. His ability to study Brazil material in depth was rewarded at Sofia in 1979, where he received the F.I.P. Research Award. In 1972 he founded, and became President of, the Spanish Main Philatelic Society. He wrote numerous articles, which were printed in the London Philatelist and other learned Journals.

Although not renowned for his interest in Thematic Philately, he did claim to have introduced the word "thematics" into common usage among collectors. In the 1940s John bought a collection of stamps depicting animals from Harmers for £20. He found the collection fascinating and realised the potential for collecting by subject instead of by country or countries. Never one to let the grass grow under his feet, John started dealing in themes and was amazed at the response!

John placed an advertisement in Stamp Collecting in 1948 and recommended readers to “collect thematically”. He believed that the word entered the collector’s vocabulary at that time, although he did admit that the late Albert Harris had used the word in 1936.

John always considered that thematic philately should be enjoyable and fun. He abhorred the idea of rules for thematic collecting; collectors should be able to do whatever they liked. If he was still alive today I am sure he would claim to have invented “Open philately”.

The British Thematic Association (BTA) was formed in 1984, and Franceska Rapkin was appointed as the first Chairman. Despite Franceska forming a hard-working committee, John did not consider enough was being done to publicise thematics. John signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the Norwich Philatelic Congress and also arranged two thematic evenings at the Congress. On the first night he invited 6 collectors to put up displays, which were well received. On the following night he gave a 40-minute display of his own entitled, “The Adventures of Christopher Columbus”.

He persuaded the London & Provincial Stamp Club (L & P) to sponsor “THEMATICA ‘87” at the Victory Services Club, London W1 on 30 May 1987. He provided the financial backing and insisted on planning the whole event. Dealers’ tables were intermingled with tables for Specialist Thematic Groups; a free 28-page programme was given to visitors and talks and displays took place throughout the day. John also organised “THEMATICA ‘88” at the same venue on similar lines and introduced a Prize Draw. John used the free Programme to promote thematic meetings at the L& P Stamp Club meetings in September and November 1988.

Failing health and a sudden stroke, resulted in John handing over the reigns of “THEMATICA ’89 to Maurice Gale of Cameo Stamps. Maurice Gale extended the Exhibition into two rooms, with Dealers in the Carisbrooke Hall and collector activities in the El Alamein Room. John was bitterly opposed to this change. However Maurice placated John in two ways. He introduced a one frame thematic competition, with no rules, which received 24 entries in 1989. Visitors voted for the best exhibit and the owner received the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy for one year, with a replica trophy to keep permanently. Secondly, Maurice agreed that John could always have a table to sell his thematic material on the balcony of the Dealers’ Hall.

When John heard that “GENOVA ‘92” was going to be predominately a Thematic Philately Exhibition he wanted to display, despite never having received a national thematic philately award. Undeterred by not receiving an application from the British Commissioner he proceeded to badger the Italian organisers to let him display, but to no avail. However John continued to support THEMATICA, to 2000 and beyond. The show went from strength to strength, with Children’s competitions, souvenir sheets designed by Jeffery Matthews, leading designer of British stamps; more overseas dealers and a glossy free programme for visitors.

The “THEMATICA 2005” programme included the sad news that John Fosbery, founder of THEMATICA nearly 20 years earlier, had died. Stuart Henderson, Chairman of “Friends of Thematica”, and the Secretary of the L& P Stamp Club in 1987, when it all began, wrote “Thematica was John’s brainchild. I assisted with physical help; the London and Provincial Society gave financial support and agreed to underwrite any losses should any be incurred. As it happened, there were none.

“Thanks to John Fosbery sowing the seed back in 1987, THEMATICA continues to grow and flourish. Although there are not many aspects of philately that have remained untouched by his influence and strong views, THEMATICA will undoubtedly become his memorial. My overall memory of John will be of a remarkable man whose enthusiasm for philately never waned. He enjoyed taking on the philatelic establishment and was always prepared to share his knowledge with other collectors. Even a few days before he died, he was planning to start a new thematic group.”

He was laid to rest in a simple graveside ceremony on a sunny but cold February morning in 2005 on the outskirts of Newton Abbott. Sadly the rising cost of renting the Victory Services Club and difficulty in booking sufficient thematic dealers resulted in THEMATICA ending with “THEMATICA 2008”.

I am indebted to the late G. Clive Akerman who wrote and published an extensive review of John Fosbery’s life, in 2005, which included many personal tributes to John.

**John Oliver GRIFFITHS *RDP FRPSL*
Great Britain**



- Signatory of the Roll at Eastbourne 1987
- Born 1923
- Died 13 April 2001

John Griffiths was Honorary Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society London from 1973 to 1982. He was resident in California when he signed the Roll but returned to the United Kingdom in 1992, having lived in USA for 10 years. He was awarded the Grand Prix d’Honneur at STOCKHOLMIA in 1974 and a second Grand Prix in Bangkok in 1983, for his fine collection of the line engraved stamps of Great Britain and of South Australia, respectively.

His successes in the Thematic Philately Class at International level included 3 Gold medals and a Large Vermeil medal at GENOVA ‘92 (where he gained the highest British award), for “History of Railways during the Steam Era”. A further collection, “European Settlement of North America aided by the Horse” was awarded Large Vermeil medals at PACIFIC ‘97 and THE STAMP SHOW 2000, London.

John had been very active on the judging scene in the USA and on his return to the UK acted as a thematic judge at STAMPEX, from time to time.

John presented a paper to the Royal Philatelic Society London in 1993 with the purpose of explaining what was expected of a Gold Medal Thematic Exhibit, under the existing FIP Thematic rules. His son, David, followed in his footsteps as a philatelist and exhibited a thematic collection of “Roses”, at National level. David is currently dealing successfully, under the trade name of “Thames Themes”.

**Alma LEE (née GRUNBERG) RDP FRPSL
Great Britain**



- Signatory of the Roll at Cardiff 1991
- Born 1914
- Died 3 July 2000

Alma began collecting in the 1950s and played an active role in her local Society and in the Middlesex Philatelic Federation, almost from the outset. Her first display at Society level was thematic, entitled “A History of Switzerland”. Alma went on to specialise in the stamps of Switzerland and served as a National judge in several classes from 1973 onwards. Her Swiss collection gained her National awards and she went on to receive Large Gold medals in the Traditional class at International level in the 1980s and early 1990s. She was elected President of the Helvetia Philatelic Society in 1982, a position she held for many years.

Although continuing to specialise in Switzerland throughout her collecting life, Alma also actively encouraged both Youth stamp collecting and Thematic Philately by giving talks to local Philatelic Societies. She was the delegate for Great Britain on the F.I.P. Thematic Commission from 1981-1987. In 1983 she wrote the booklet “Introducing Thematic Collecting”. It was published by the British Philatelic Trust in conjunction with the National Philatelic Society; reprinted in June 1984 and again in 1990, with a few revisions.

She was appointed to the British Thematic Association (BTA) Committee as its Co-ordinator F.I.P. at the formation of the BTA in 1984, until succeeded by Franceska Rapkin in 1987.

Alma was the first lady to follow her husband, Ronald A G Lee, as a signatory of the Roll. Ron Lee formed many collections and was extremely active in national and international organised philately. He signed the Roll at Harrogate in 1965.

**Mary Ann Aspinwall OWENS RDP
United States of America**



- Signatory of the Roll at Edinburgh 1993
- Born 24 June 1928
- Died 21 November 2005

Mary-Ann Owens was the first person to sign the Roll whose collecting, and other activities, entirely revolved around thematic philately.

Mary-Ann was a member of the American Topical Association from 1961 and received the ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist Award in 1969. She pioneered the establishment of thematic philately as an important exhibiting class both at National and International levels. She was an accredited Judge in Thematic Philately from 1974 for the ATA and subsequently for the American

Philatelic Society. She served as an Apprentice Juror at THEMABELGA '75, the first World Exhibition of Thematic Philately and was subsequently accredited as an International FIP judge. Mary-Ann also acted as United States Commissioner at many International Stamp Exhibitions.

Mary-Ann was the author of numerous articles on thematic collecting and frequently gave talks on the subject. From 1979 she was a member of the American Postmaster General's Stamp Advisory Committee.

One of her early thematic exhibits was "The Beautiful Blue Danube" for which she was awarded a Gold medal at CAPEX 1987. She formed an outstanding exhibit "The Elephant and its Relationship with Man", which was the first thematic exhibit to achieve a Large Gold medal. Mary-Ann went on to exhibit "The Elephant" in the FIP Championship Class at Singapore '95 and Capex '96. She also collected and exhibited "Frogs" and a collection on Umbrellas, entitled "Brolliology" which gained a Large Vermeil at The Stamp Show 2000, held in London..

Mary-Ann also exhibited on Genealogy in what was called "The Display Class" in the USA and would now be called "Open Class". Non-philatelic material such as photos, postcards and maps and similar material were permitted but philatelic material was expected to dominate. She was very proud to have traced her family tree back to the 1200s in Ormskirk, Lancashire, UK.

She joined the American Philatelic Society in 1964 and was awarded the Luff Award for her Exceptional Contribution to Philately in 1991. Following her death, she was honoured by the Society who added her name to the APS Hall of Fame, in 2007.

Francis E KIDDLE *RDP FRPSL* Great Britain



- Signatory to the Roll
1995 at Chichester
- Born 1942 –

When Francis signed the Roll he was President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, having been a Council member since 1977. He was actively involved in organised philately in the UK and at International level. Francis was Secretary to the Jury at GENOVA '92, a World Exhibition of Thematic Philately. He had served on the Jury at PHILEXFRANCE '89 and was Assistant Secretary to the Jury of STAMP WORLD '90. At LONDON 2010 he was Jury President. His philatelic interests include, Traditional, Postal History, Revenues, Philatelic Literature, Cinderella, and more recently Thematic Philately.

Due to his wife's interest in Golf, he encouraged her to form a Golf thematic collection but could not resist adding items to the collection himself. He displayed 5 frames of Golf at SPRING STAMPEX 2006, as part of a larger display by members of the British Thematic Association. In his spare time, Francis keeps Goats and inevitably a collection on the theme of Goats has been formed. Francis has qualified as a National and International judge in Thematic Philately.

**Franceska RAPKIN RDP FRPSL
Great Britain**



- Signatory to the Roll 1998 at Scarborough
- Born 1936
- Died 13 December 2001

Franceska was born in Germany and was brought to England at an early age by her parents. Her main collecting interest was Germany and she built up a specialised thematic collection of the 1936 Olympic Games. At International level she received Gold Medals at ISRAPHIL '85 and OLYMPHILEX '88. Franceska was an accredited International judge at seven FIP Exhibitions and Secretary to the Jury at OLYMPHILEX '96.

Franceska began a long period in organised philately as Secretary for the Annual Convention of the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society in 1975. In the same year she became Secretary of the Melville and Youth Committee of the British Philatelic Federation, (BPF) and, on election to the BPF Council in 1982, became its Chairman.

In March 1984, she placed an advertisement in the philatelic press suggesting collectors of Olympic Games stamps contacted her with a view to forming a specialist society. Within 6 months 60 members had signed up and Franceska became the Chairman and Editor of the Society of Olympic Collectors. In the same year Franceska was elected Chairman of the newly formed British Thematic Association (BTA) and President from 1995.

She was granted Life membership of the BTA in December 2000 and John Hayward presented her with a Scroll at the AGM in 2001.

For her outstanding work for organised philately, Franceska was awarded the BPF Congress Medal in 1985. She became a Council member of the Royal Philatelic Society London and remained a Committee member of the Germany & Colonies Society for many years.

Franceska wrote articles for beginners in Stamp Magazine and Stamp Lover and regularly displayed to philatelic Societies at home and Overseas. Her longest trip to give a lecture was to Xiamen in China. She also encouraged many thematic collectors to improve their collections and was always willing to give advice to anybody who wanted help.

Franceska had encouraged her husband Leon to take up collecting. This had led to him gaining gold medals for his German exhibit and an extensive involvement in organised philately. Although Franceska never admitted it in public, she was upset that Leon had signed the Roll in 1984 on the Isle of Man and thought she had been overlooked. However, she was pleased to be invited to sign the Roll in 1998.

After a long fight against cancer Franceska eventually lost the battle on 13 December 2001. On that day a meeting was taking place at the Royal Philatelic Society London, with every display by a Lady member. The irony was that Franceska had made all the arrangements.

In memory of Franceska's dedicated work for the BTA, a cut glass bowl on a plinth is presented each year to the author of an outstanding article in the Society's magazine, Themescene. The first recipient was Ian Paton, who had been the Membership Secretary from 1991 and Franceska's son, Simon, presented it.

Sven Gunnar DAHLVIG RDP FRPSL
Sweden



- Signatory of the ROLL 2000 in London
- Born 1924 -

Mr Dahlvig exhibited “The History of Sweden 1521- 1654” at THEMABELGA held in Brussels, 13-21 December 1975, the first World Exhibition of Thematic Philately, and was awarded a silver medal. His “History of the Viking Period”, was awarded the Grand Prix at NORDIA ’98 and at the National Swedish exhibition FJLFILL in September 2002, he was awarded the Grand Prix of the Championship Class. He has also exhibited “Tennis”, which won him Vermeil medals at CAPEX ’96 and ITALIA ’98 and for his Vikings exhibit he was awarded a Large Vermeil, at LONDON 2010.

Mr Dahlvig has written extensively on the subject of Thematic Philately and has published two catalogues, “Swedish Thematic Cancellations 1866-1959” in 1982 and “Swedish Thematic cancellations 1960- 1968”, in 1990.

At AUSTRALIA ’98 Mr Dahlvig entered the new experimental Social Class of philately with, “Philately, What is That?” This was open to the public to vote for their favourite exhibit. He also entered ITALIA ’98 Open Class with, “Philatelic Titbits or Culinary Philately”. The note in the catalogue states, “This exhibit illustrates one of the most pleasant parts of the

social philatelic life, the feast in company with good friends. Furthermore it also shows some milestones in my philatelic life. And it is all realized by philatelically illustrated menus.” More recently, he entered “Handbook for Open Collections and Exhibitors” in the experimental Open Class at LONDON 2010, as an encouragement to more collectors to form Open Class exhibits.

He wrote a series of 4 articles in “TC News”, the Bulletin of the FIP Thematic Commission, under the title “What’s wrong with Thematic Exhibits?”, commencing January 1999. He added together the number of awards of Large Gold, Gold and Large Vermeil, at ITALIA ’98, for Postal History, Aerophilately and Thematic exhibits. The percentage of entries achieving these awards was 72.5% for Postal History, 60.2% for Aerophilately but only 35.5% for Thematic Philately. He carried out a similar exercise by adding the results at 7 International Exhibitions in 2000 and 2001. This produced mean averages of Postal History 65.7% and Thematic Philately 39.5%. Gunnar Dahlvig suggested it was much easier for a collector of one country, traditional or postal history, to acquire material, compared with thematic collectors. He produced graphs to show that if thematic collectors were given one higher medal the results would be similar to those of postal history and traditional exhibitors. He reasoned that traditional and postal history collectors gained higher marks for research by reading one or two specialist books whilst thematic collectors had to search a far wider field. These findings were reproduced in a number of national magazines. Giancarlo Morolli was against any form of upgrading thematic exhibits but proposed a number of ways that judging of thematic philately could be improved, in July 2002 “TC NEWS”.

Subsequently, Giancarlo Morolli and Damian Läge jointly ran several seminars around the world for jury members and exhibitors with the intention of encouraging more consistency in judging and a greater understanding by exhibitors of how exhibits are evaluated.

From 1976 until 1989 Mr Dahlvig was President of the Swedish Thematic Association and then became its Honorary President. In 1977 Mr Dahlvig was elected as the Swedish Delegate to the FIP Thematic Commission and in 2000 he became its Vice-President, before standing down as a delegate in 2004. Gunar Dahlvig has acted as the National Commissioner for Sweden at many FIP Exhibitions and often acts as the Swedish delegate at FIP Congresses. He has been a member of the Jury at more than a dozen FIP International Exhibitions, including GENOVA '92, the World Exhibition for Thematic Philately, and at numerous National Exhibitions.

In 1996 Mr Dahlvig received the Strandell Medal for distinguished philatelic service. This medal was established in 1961 to commemorate Nils Strandell, the "Grand Master of Swedish Philately", who signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1922.

Joseph Wolff *RDP* Luxembourg



- Signatory of the Roll 2003 at Gateshead
- Born 1934

Joseph Wolff's thematic interest is telecommunications and he has received international gold medals. In addition he has a traditional collecting interest, "Luxembourg during German occupation".

In 1974 Mr Wolff became an accredited FIP judge and has acted as chairman or vice-chairman at International exhibitions. He has been chairman of the jury at many national exhibitions.

Mr Wolff's main involvement in philately has been directed towards Youth. At TEMBAL '83 he was a member of the Jury responsible for judging the Youth exhibits. He gives lectures and conducts seminars with youth leaders and young collectors. Mr Wolff writes articles in the daily newspapers and has made television appearances in order to promote an interest in stamp collecting by young people. The Luxembourg Postal Administration has distributed his book on stamp collecting to all primary schools in the Duchy. The book has been reprinted many times and translated from the German into English and French.

He was elected Vice-President of FIP in 2002 and in the period 2006 – 2010 he acted as Chairman of the FIP Youth Commission, Director, Vice-President and then President of FIP.

Giancarlo MOROLLI RDP FRPSL
Italy



- Signatory of the Roll 2010 at Leamington Spa
- Born 3 March 1939

Giancarlo Morolli was appointed delegate to the FIP Thematic Commission in 1968. In 1975 he was elected as Vice-President of the Commission during THEMABELGA, the first world exhibition of thematic philately, held under the patronage of the FIP. He worked closely with the President Frans de Troyer on three main projects; to consolidate the Commission's structure; broaden the consensus on a wider scale and support exhibitors to improve the quality of their thematic exhibits. Due to the serious illness of Frans de Troyer, who was unable to stand for re-election in May 1977, Giancarlo was elected President of the Thematic Commission at the FIP Congress in Amsterdam.

He continued working towards the action plan begun by Frans de Troyer. The consolidation of the Commission's structure involved including more key experts in the Bureau and inviting others as guests to provide advice. When FIP established special regulations for its philatelic Commissions some changes were necessary. By involving key leaders of South American thematic philately, who had pioneered the first international thematic Exhibition, TEMEX 61 in Buenos Aires, consensus was broadened. Giancarlo acted as FIP co-ordinator for

PORTUCALE 77 in Porto and again at BRASILIANA 79, a world thematic philately exhibition and the first FIP exhibition in South America.

In 1981 Bud Hennig, responsible for the American Philatelic Society's (APS) links with FIP, invited Giancarlo to speak at TOPEX '81 to promote the Thematic Commission's attitude towards exhibiting and judging. At the same exhibition Giancarlo had constructive talks with officers of the American Topical Association (ATA), the largest thematic association in the world. This in due course led to the ATA becoming an active member of the APS.

The Thematic Bureau members provided feedback from collectors at the three world thematic exhibitions and analyzed the different experiences. This helped the drafting of content for seminars at FIP world exhibitions and other philatelic events.

The Commission extended its arm in Asia by organising seminars to support the education of jurors and exhibitors at exhibitions held in New Delhi India, 1980; Tokyo Japan, 1981; Bangkok, Thailand, 1983; Seoul South Korea and Melbourne Australia, 1984 and Auckland New Zealand 1990. In 2004 the Commission had 68 members with approximately one third from the Far East.

After the election of Ladislav Dvoracek as FIP President, in 1980, it was decided to create uniform regulations for all philatelic classes. Thematic philately regulations were already in operation and members of the Commission were expected to apply the same rules nationally. This did not apply to all classes. Giancarlo was invited to join a working party, which included the FIP President, FIP Secretary and FIP president of the Postal History Commission to produce a common prototype. This was prepared and subsequently modified as a result of changes requested by presidents of the other philatelic Commissions. The outcome was the approval of the GREV (General Regulations of the FIP for the

Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions) and the SREVs (Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Exhibits in each Class at FIP Exhibitions) at the FIP Congress in Rome in 1985. The Thematic Commission was granted some freedom to amend its SREV over time to prevent exhibits being penalised by changes. The Regulations were streamlined in 1992 and common regulations were approved at the Madrid Congress in 2000.

Giancarlo Morolli served on many International Juries including THEMABELGA 1975, PHILEXFRANCE '82, TEMBAL '83(Vice-President), GENOVA '92 (President), CAPEX '96, PACIFIC '97, PRAGA '98, ITALIA '98, STAMP SHOW 2000. He held seminars at all international and national exhibitions where he served as juror and a number of national thematic associations and federations requested him to run seminars for both jurors and exhibitors.

Shortly after the British Thematic Association (BTA) was formed, Giancarlo Morolli kindly attended an all day meeting at Spring Stampex 1985 in London, at the invitation of the President Franceska Rapkin. He presented a slide show in the morning and then commented on displays put up by members and answered numerous questions in the afternoon. There was an attendance of over 70 and it was a great success.

Giancarlo rarely entered competitions himself, partly because of his huge involvement in the promotion of the hobby. However at ITALIA '98, he displayed a non-competitive entry entitled, "Considerations on Thematic Philately", and the catalogue entry reads, "This exhibit, built for non competitive reasons, depicts the key aspects of thematic philately using material from the author's collections. It analyzes the different types of philatelic material to be used as bricks for building the thematic development, according to the information they present. Then it illustrates the concept of thematic development and supplements it with examples of the

History of Radio communications and Atomic Energy."

The American Topical Association honoured him in 1997 by the presentation of the "Distinguished Topical Award". During the European Championship for Thematic Philately at Essen in May 2007, Giancarlo Morolli was awarded the FEPA Medal for his numerous activities on behalf of thematic philately for over 25 years.

He served seven terms as President of the FIP Thematic Commission and stood down at the 68th FIP Congress in Singapore on 2 September 2004.

Conclusion

I have enjoyed researching the backgrounds of the RDPs listed above. It has helped that I have known, or knew, some for many years. However, as my sources were not as extensive as I would have liked, I would welcome receiving details of any omissions, amendments or inaccuracies in the text.

*Brian Sole FRPSL
August 2014*

50 years ago (a document of historical interest)

By Ernst Schlunegger, Switzerland



The sender was classified by the authority in the GDR as a "company", so the import of the newsletter of 16 pages was not acceptable. Not registered mail in the GDR did not reach the receiver, but then a way out was found: those newsletters were sent to a contact in Hungary, and the resident member could then forward the parcel without problems to the GDR.

On the other hand, we remember that in those days the German Library in Leipzig (National Library) always requested free copies of our brochures and publications.

In the fall of 1964 the FIPCO, that was how the international thematic collectors association was called, dissolved and was incorporated into the Thematic Commission of the FIP. The working groups became thematic groups of the FIP.

The newsletter NAVICULA still exists today, with no. 297 in the 55th year, with a total of 11,000 pages. Since 1974 the thematic group has been led by Ing. Ingo Maahz from Südbrookmerland.



There have been exactly 50 years since the posting of this envelope. It contained the printed newsletter NAVICULA no. 8 of the FIPCO working groups III c / 2 "Ships & Shipping» and IVa "Medicine".

Thematic literature in older days and now

By Ernst Schlunegger, Switzerland

Organised Thematic Philately looks back today on a period of over sixty years, and almost as long there have been publications about this collection area. The nature of such publications has naturally changed considerably, both in content and especially in the typographical layout. In the beginning publications in colour were virtually impossible due to financial reasons, also illustrations of any kind caused high costs. With the advent of new reproductive techniques also philatelic publications were published in improved quality and lower cost. Today, an author may design his book even himself, scan pictures and paste them in the manuscript. The cost of prepress can be reduced considerably, and so today associations and thematic groups have the opportunity to offer their publications at affordable prices. On the other hand a better print quality is required by the publisher of such publication.

It is not the object of this paper to comment on all publications on thematic philately or even list them all by name. The attempt of such a bibliography was undertaken in the 1980s by George Griffenhagen, Giancarlo Morolli and Ernst Schlunegger, but there is no complete and updated list so far.

However, at this point we would like to underline the importance and significance of literature for all collectors and for any thematic collecting area. It helps the collector when preparing his exhibit, but it also supports the promotion of philately.

A. Pioneer works of thematic philately

The thematic collectors had to fight initially to ensure that this new collection direction was recognized. It took a lot of education and persuasion, that one was not simply labelled as "images collector". With numerous articles in the philatelic trade press various authors tried to publicize thematic collecting. The collector itself had to be trained and educated to some extent, so that the "constructive philately", as thematic philately was initially called, received the recognition it deserved. In this sense, early extensive publications were published, with the purpose to promote thematic philately. There were publications mainly related to how to collect thematically and others that focused on a specific thematic area. None of these publications deserves the predicate "standard work" because they are no longer appropriate in individual points.

We must start with a publication by Prof. Dr. Lucien Brown (1886-1962) of the year 1949: «Konstruktive Philatelie, Ein Beitrag zur Philatelistischen Volkserziehung» ("Constructive Philately, A contribution to philatelic popular education"), Hermes-Bücherei Strasbourg, 70 pages. This was to some extent the birth not only of thematic philately literature, but of thematic collecting in general, even if some individual collectors may be found, which have been studied a topic previously.

In the same year Günther Hildsberg published a brochure «Motiv-Sammlung» ("Topical Collection"), Leipzig, 1949, 16 pages.

Wolfgang Poser 1958 published a booklet, «Wie gestalte ich meine Motivsammlung» ("How do I design my topical collection"), 56 pages, and 1962 «Theorie und Praxis der Motivphilatelie» ("Theory and Practice of Topical Philately"), 69 pages, both in VEB Verlag Enzyklopädie.

„Zauberwelt der Briefmarke, Sammeln nach Motiven“ („Magic world of stamps, collecting topics“) is a book by Herbert Stritter, which is published 1961 in the Weite Welt Bücherei of Franck (112 pages). Stritter (1910-1979) was an early advocate of topical philately, his book was aimed at the general public and less to potential exhibitors. Stritter has also published numerous articles on thematic regulations and exhibiting.

One of the first publications with more educational background in the form of a pamphlet, came out in Spanish by Mario Bueno Heimerle (ca. 1935-1991): "Guia de la Filatelia Tematica" ("Guide of Thematic Philately"), Barcelona 1967, 64 pages.

There was then a little later a similar work in French: "La Philatélie Thématique" („Thematic Philately“), by Marc Dhotel & Jean-Louis Nagel, Paris 1974, 40 pages. Dhotel (1911-1983) was a long-time Chairman of the French thematic collectors organization, secretary of FIPCO and member of the FIP Thematic Commission. Nagel (1895-1976) was head of the FIPCO working group "Botany" and editor of the Swiss «SMV-Nachrichten».

1975 Abbé Frans de Troyer (1914-1977) from Belgium published his book "La Philatélie Thématique" („Thematic Philately“) in French, at the same time also appeared an issue in Flemish. (Editions Pro-Post, Bruxelles, 125 pages). The author had been elected in 1970 as President of the FIP Thematic Commission. De Troyer enjoyed high reputation in the Latin countries, but he was somewhat conservative, showing little understanding of the thematic groups. His dogma was "There is only one Philately". His book was because of the language not so widely spread.

Orn Gramh (* 1943) published in 1978 in Norway a brochure "Motivfilateli" („Thematic Philately“), 28 pages. This gives the possibility to refer to his father Odd Gramh, the founder of the "Norske Motivfilatelisten" and President of the FIP Thematic Commission from 1969 to 1970.

For the 25th anniversary of the Schweizerischen Motivsammler-Vereins (SMV) was published «Einführung in die Motivphilatelie» ("Introduction to Thematic Philately") by Dr. Ernst Schlunegger (* 1940), Richard Borek Philathek, Brunswick, 1978, 348 pages, at the time the most extensive work in this field. In this book the history of FIPCO is presented, many pioneers of thematic philately are listed, advice for collectors is given. The company Borek wanted to establish a series of publications, but it was only followed by a single sequel, "Plants and Animals on Stamps". The financial success was obviously too low.

Margaret Morris wrote «Thematic Stamp Collecting», Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, London, 1977, 32 pages, now also available on CD.

«Le Guide du Collectionneur Thématique» was published in 1980 by Emile Bayle (1902-1995), 140 pages, Fédération des Sociétés Françaises Philatéliques, Paris.

In the same year appeared "Thematic & Topical Stamp Collecting" by Alfred J. Branston (B.T. Batsford Ltd. London, 1980, 192 pages).

As no. 96 in their manual series (see below), the American Topical Association (ATA) in 1981 published a booklet "Adventures in Topical Stamp Collecting", with as authors George Griffenhagen (* 1924) and Jerome Husak (* 1932). Griffenhagen was for many years the editor of the magazine "Topical Time", Jerome Husak the founder and longtime president of this thematic collectors organization. This is a simple guide, but we find in it an extensive directory of related magazines and publications.

Alma Lee published in 1983 a booklet "Introducing Thematic Collecting", National Philatelic Society, London, 36 pages.

An extensive work was first published in countless episodes in the Deutschen Briefmarken-Zeitung, then published in 1991 in paperback in two volumes in Insider Verlag Riehen: Hans-Walter Bosserhoff «Motiv-Philatelie, Handbuch und Ratgeber» "Thematic Philately, Manual and Guide", Volume 1 Das Sammelgut für die Motivsammler (= The philatelic material for the thematic collectors), 414 pages, Volume 2 Ausarbeitung einer Motivsammlung und Ausstellungsreglement (= Development of a thematic exhibit and exhibition regulations), 197 pages. Bosserhoff (1931-2009) was a leading figure in the German thematic philately and its publication represented an immense work, the examples shown focused highly on a single topical area (ships and navigation). Since then, no such work has been on the market.

B. Newsletters, magazines

Let's look back again. It began with simple newspaper articles in the trade and daily press, which had the purpose of making the then emerging new type of stamp collecting popular. Soon after that appeared, after the founding of the first thematic collectors organizations, the first periodicals, in print technically and in content for today's conditions in very modest quality.

In the first place we have the magazine for Europe ("Périodique") HERMES, the journal of the International Association for Constructive Philately, at that time the organization of thematic collectors. Editor was Louis Schneider of France, vice-president of the FIPCO 1950-1956. From the French name of this association, Fédération Internationale de Philately Constructive which existed until 1964, resulted the abbreviation FIPCO. HERMES first appeared in January 1951, with inclusion of the statutes, founded in Strasbourg in 1950. The issue no. 6 June 1952 (Volume 2) was dedicated to the IMOSA, the International Thematic Stamp Exhibition IMOSA in Saarbrücken. HERMES appeared in 1951 with 4, 1952 with 3, 1953 and 1954 with 2 issues. Because of the loss-making financial situation the publication of HERMES in 1954 had already to be stopped. This was followed from 1956-1960, by a new magazine in a smaller format, in German language under the name FIPCO-Kurier with 4 issues per year. There was also a French edition of the COURIER FIPCO, 1956 and 1957, each with 4, 1958 with 3, 1959 and 1960 each with one issue. These two magazines were abandoned in 1961, and the magazine "INTERNATIONAL FILATELIE" was intended to be the official organ of the FIPCO, until the dissolution of the FIPCO in 1964 and transfer to the Thematic Commission of the FIP.

Publications of the working groups and thematic groups

In the 1950s, the first Motiv-Arbeitsgemeinschaften (= thematic working groups) (now: Motivgruppen) were founded. In 1955 the FIPCO-Zentralstelle für Motivsammlerberatung (= FIPCO central office for thematic collectors consultation) under the leadership of Alfred Speck from Zurich (1919-2002) was renamed the Zentralstelle für die Arbeitsgemeinschaften (= central office for the working groups). These associations have been long the most active cells of thematic philately. They published, usually at irregular intervals, own newsletters, in simple reproduction process. One exception

was the handout «Die weisse und die schwarze Kunst» of the Arge «Papier und Druck» (= "The white and the black art" of the working group "paper and printing"), whose director Leo Wienands owned a printing company and therefore the messages could be published in clean printed loose-leaf system.

Even today they are still there, those bulletins of the thematic groups. In appearance, design and content they have evolved. Most appear in printed form, richly illustrated, some in small editions of simpler forms of reproduction. Below we give a few examples.

«GABRIEL» is probably one of the oldest thematic magazines or newsletters, founded in 1942 by Father Gabriel Schmidt OFM (□1965) and Father Clemens Anheuser OFM (1897-1968). It appears even today, although not as part of a thematic group, but of a great collectors guild.

The publications of individual subject groups as ZOOPHILA (Zoology), GLÜCKKAUF (Mining and Earth Science), PHILATELIA MEDICA (Medicine and Pharmacy), Technology and science, Ornithology, are in A4 format. All are well illustrated and excellent in content.

Most newsletters are in A5 format, for example Railways, IMOS / Olympiads, Civil Engineering, Arts, Maps, Coins, Music, Christmas.

The newsletter «Der Musikus» ("The musician") is published in three languages (German, English, French) and has a number of pages in colour.

NAVICULA, the newsletter thematic group "Ships and navigation" (° 1959) appears since many years in the loose-leaf system A5, with a total of more than 10,000 pages, which is why the continuous pagination was newly continued with the addition of "A" at 1.

References to other associations and thematic groups is available at the Internet: <http://www.vpha-online.de/>

Publications of national thematic collectors associations

USA: On a second level, handouts of national or regional organizations are then published. First of all we should mention TOPICAL TIME, the journal of the American Topical Association, probably the oldest publication dedicated to topical philately. It appears since 1949 every two months, since 2012 in colour, and has readers and members almost around the globe. Previously, from 1947 to 1949, there was the "Topical News» of the Topical Stamp Club.

Germany: Founded in Germany in 1949, the Motivsammler-Gilde MSG (Section of the FIPCO) has been publishing a brochure since 1956 (Der Deutsche Motivsammler, Verbandsnachrichten der Motivsammlergilde), from January 1962 as the MOTIV-POST. With the death of her publisher Ernst Herd (□ 1964) the magazine stopped in 1964. Instead of an independent journal, reports were published in the journal SAMMLER-DIENST, this even after the splitting of the DMV (Deutsche Motivsammler-Vereinigung). Significant names are among others: Prof. Alois Joerger (1898-1966), President of the FIPCO 1959-1964; Heinrich Ente (*1918), president of the MSG; Walter Lippens (1913-2000), chairman of the DMV. Today in Germany there is no national thematic collectors organization any more, hence no corresponding journal.

Austria: After the war years, «Der Motivsammler» (= "The thematic collector"), a newsletter edited by Karl Koisser and Otto Krause (first Austrian representative in the FIPCO), was first published on 08/01/1948. In 1950, the Interessengemeinschaft für Briefmarkensammler (FB) was established. At the same time as section of this association a thematic group (IFB-MG) began, with its own information sheet «Der Neue Weg» (= "The New Way"), editorial Hellena Pianta, until 1951 as a supplement to the «Wiener Briefmarken Tauschpost», then as a single number. 1962 saw the origin of ÖMSA (Österreichischer Motivbriefmarken-Sammlerverein), and since 1991 the newsletter

“ÖMSA-Vereinsnachrichten“ has appeared, first produced typewritten, printed since 1995 as ÖMSA newspaper. However, this newspaper has not been issued since 2002.

Switzerland: Founded in 1952 by Dr. Helmut Portmann (1911-1999) as Motivsammler-Vereinigung, later renamed Schweizerischer Motivsammler-Verein (SMV). At the beginning (1955) the SMV newsletters in A4 format appeared as reproduction, since 1963 as a printed booklet in A5 format. In 1972 the magazine SMV-THEMA was created, to which next to the SMV also several thematic groups cooperated (Architecture, Automobiles, Nobel Laureates, Botany, Zoology, IMOS, Shipping, Flags). These thematic groups were gradually stopping to exist. Since 1983, Erna Streit is the editor, the magazine is now called «THEMA Motiv-Philatelie» and has appeared in colour since 2012, now in its 42nd year. On the Internet: www.thema-philatelie.ch

France: The Association Française de Philatélie Thématique (AFPT) edited the first time in April 1961 a private bulletin, for many years with as editor and publisher Marc Dhotel. Dr. Jehan Daubresse (1889-1978) was vice-president of the FIPCO and honorary president of the French thematic collectors association. Jean Moissette (1917-1995) was editor of the newsletter «La Philatélie moderne» of the French section of the FIPCO. On the Internet: <http://themaftp.online.fr>

Italy: Under the title "Notiziario Tematico" was printed in 1963 an excellent magazine, a nice print and edited with many professional articles from the Centro Italiano di Filatelia Tematica (CIFT). Well-known persons of this group were among others Nino Barberis and Dr. Giancarlo Morolli (* 1939). In 2006, format and presentation has changed - the superbly designed magazine now appears in colour. On the Internet: <http://www.cift.it/>

Netherlands: "DE BEELDFILATELIST" was the newsletter of the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Thematische Filatelie, founded in 1952, which also had his own study groups for different thematic areas. Chief editor was from 1953-1954 Johan de Ven (1888-1964). Later, the magazine was named THEMA, based on

the magazine Thema International from Switzerland. One of the earliest names include Dr. I. van Bueren (1904-1967) and Piet Th. Van der Heyden (1908-1978). On the Internet: <http://nvtf.nl/>

Belgium: In Belgium, first published in 1962, the magazine ECHOPHIL of the Fédération Belge de Philatélie Thématique (in French), and then in 1965 THEMAPHILA in French and Dutch. Chief editor was a long time (since 1968) Robert DELLERE, also temporarily general secretary of the AIJP. Rombaut Van der Auwera (□ 1980) was the first president of the FIP Thematic Commission, later on Frans de Troyer became president of the commission. Meanwhile, more than 200 issues of THEMAPHILA have been published. On the Internet: <http://www.themaphila.be/>

Luxembourg: In 1955, the "Association de Philatélie Constructive Luxembourg», the PHILCOLUX was founded with Georges Heischling (1915-1974) as president, from 1971-1999 Willy Serres (* 1936) followed, and in 1999 Roger Thill. They never had their own magazine, but since 1959, every year in Bad Mondorf the EXPHIMO has been organised, a national thematic stamp exhibition with international participation. Two anniversary brochures have been published: 1983 with 25 EXPHIMO exhibitions and 2008 on the occasion of the 50th edition. On the Internet: <http://philcolux.lu/>

Sweden: Olle Cronsjö (1899-1972), a professional journalist (editor), founded the Swedish section of the FIPCO and published numerous articles on thematic philately. Since 1997, its own magazine "Motivsamlaren" has appeared with two issues per year. From 1997-2009 Jonas Hällström acted as editor, since 2010 it is Sten-Anders Smeds. Numerous brochures in Swedish are also offered, such as "Svenska motivstämplarna» (Swedish thematic obliterations). On the Internet: <http://svenskamotivsamlare.se/>

Finland: The Finnish thematic collectors organization was founded in 1954 and has published since 1960 an own magazine in Finnish. On the Internet: <http://en.wikicollecting.org/finnish-society-for-thematic-philately-stamp-collecting-club>
Denmark: The club's magazine "Motiv nyt" of "De Danske Motivsamlere" now appears in the Danish language in Volume 24. On the Internet: <http://motivsamler.dk>

United Kingdom: The newsletter of the British Thematic Association (BTA) appears now in Volume 27, four times a year under the name "THEMEScene". On the Internet: <http://www.brit-thematic-assoc.com/>

C. Brochures, books, catalogs Bücher

Publications of thematic collector groups

We have seen an impressive development in thematic publications in brochure or book form. In the beginning perhaps we may see the Motivlisten, the thematic lists, as a pioneer in the German language area. The individual working groups composed lists without indication of value for their subject area, with stamps of the whole world, then published by the working groups in a simple reproduction process and distributed in the loose-leaf system. Such collections were still possible, even extensive thematic areas such as 'ships' did not include 10,000 relevant stamps, a number that has multiplied until today. The greatest lists included one hundred pages. The purpose of these lists was to deliver to the beginning collector a basis for the development of his or her collection, at the same time they represented a good advertising medium for this new way of collecting.

The American Topical Association (ATA) was founded in the USA in 1949. They printed quite early the first "Handbooks", and this still continues in the present time. Meanwhile, more than 160 such publications about all sorts of topics have been published. Some of them are simple "checklists", in which all stamps related to the topic are listed as in the above

described subject lists of FIPCO, for example, Handbook no. 82 "Birds of the World on Stamps" Then there are brochures that provide much more detailed information, for example, Handbook No. 36 "A History of Religion on Postage Stamps" or No. 39 "Medical History in Philately". These manuals have evolved both in design as well as in informational content. (More information on the internet: www.americantopicalassn.org).

Modeled after the ATA launched the Schweizerische Motivsammler-Verein (SMV) in 1969 its own series, first with very modest simple brochures like no. 1 «Die Blattgestaltung in der Motivsammlung» (= page design in a thematic exhibit) and no. 2 «Der Motivsammler am Anfang» (= the thematic collector in the beginning). These were meant for the beginning collector. Soon then followed extensive documentation and manuals, for example, «Die Motive der Schweizer Werbedatumstempel» (= the topics of the Swiss obliterations), «Motivhandbuch Liechtenstein» (= thematic handbook Liechtenstein) (Volume 1), «Motivhandbuch Schweiz» (= thematic handbook Switzerland). Until now 35 titles have been published, the last ones in colour. No. 35 «Motivhandbuch Liechtenstein 1985-2011» (Volume 2) was finally awarded the Literature Prize winner. (For more information see: www.thema-briefmarken.ch)

Publications of the thematic groups

Individual thematic groups were also active as publisher and editor of manuals. It is not possible to mention here all publications. Particularly active is the thematic group «Christmas», that publishes a manual or catalog in loose-leaf system on all the stamps related to Christmas, regularly updated.

Also in loose-leaf system was the multi-volume «Enzyklopädie der maritimen Motive», published over many years by the thematic group «Schiffe und Schifffahrt» (= ships). It comprises several thousand pages. The relevant stamps are country-wise and

chronologically listed, with detailed descriptions and background information, a work that is unique in its kind. Due to the volume the entire work is on 2 CDs. All maritime obliterations are also included on a CD. The Michel-Verlag then published in 2011 on the basis of this work a 260-page booklet with CD, in which all types of ships shown on stamps are listed. The images can be found on the accompanying CD, but the background information is missing. On the Internet: <http://www.navicula.de/>

Very active is the thematic group «Sport & Olympiaden» (= Sports & Olympics), which has been published under the symbol IMOS extensive documentation about this collection area. Very useful here is the systematic listing of the thematic obliterations. An excerpt from a stamp catalogue, each one may create himself - the listing of obliteration images needs a bigger input of a collector group. On the Internet: <http://www.imos-online.net/>

Especially may be mentioned the publications of the thematic group «Literatur – Theater - Märchen» (= literature, theatre and fairy tales), once a 300-page «Motivliste» or thematic list (2005) and the «Katalog der Märchenstempel» (= Catalogue of the fairy tales obliterations) (2007, 318 pages, with many illustrations), or «Deutsche Märchenstrasse» (= German Fairy Tale Route) (2003, 145 pages). The newsletter is published three times a year under the title "Pegasus". On the Internet: <http://www.arge-pegasus.de/infoblatt.php>

Of the thematic group “Music” a little brochure «J. S. Bach auf Briefmarken» (= J.S. Bach on stamps) has been published and an additional publication on Bach obliterations (Leipzig 2003). The thematic group refers on its website to other books about music stamps. «Alphabetisches Nameverzeichnis aller Musik-Persönlichkeiten» (= alphabetical list of all music related artists) (Luxembourg 1972, 100 pages) goes back to the former president of the thematic group, Robert Henx.

On the Internet: www.motivgruppe-musik.de/musikus/Musikus

Individual publications of individual authors

In addition to the pioneer literature on thematic philately in general, mentioned in the introduction, outside of organized philately soon appeared books and brochures on individual thematic areas. Authors found partly a commercial publisher who could take over the publication of a printed book, or a trading company which subsidized the printing. With the advent of offset printing and cheap reproduction process, it became easier to make such publications in self-publishing and at your own risk. Not all publications of this kind meet the current requirements of a good book. Often the quality of the print and the pictures is not so good, it often lacks a useful search and subject index. There are books, that focus more on non philatelic readers, others depend largely on the interests of future exhibitors. Both groups are suitable for the advertisement of collecting stamps by themes. The titles listed here are based more or less on random, so not represent a value judgment. The order is based on the year of publication.

An early work was published by James Watson in 1959: *Ships on Stamps*, Faber & Faber (141 pages). It has activated the enthusiasm for ship stamps.

Erdöl ungewöhnlich kommentiert in German (= Petroleum unusual commented), Georg Hansen, Winter House AG Kassel, 1966. 104 pages. The colourful stamp images are well commented.

Ships on Stamps, Ernest W. Argyle, Picton Publishing, Chippenham, England. 1970 ff. A series of approximately 10 brochures with all stamps with identifiable vessels were presented, each with a photograph of the corresponding vessel.

Medical History in Philately and Numismatic, Dr. Gerhard J. Newerla, USA, 1971, 500 pages, with numerous short biographies.

Sportsegeln auf Briefmarken (in German) (= Sailing Sports on stamps), Gerhard Meyer-Uhl. Delius Klasing Bielefeld 1979, 144 pages. ISBN 3-7688-0312-0.

Plant Stamps of the World, Dr. Yuzuru Ogura, Japan Philatelic Society Foundation, Tokyo, 1984, 460 pages. Plants listed by countries and with b/w illustrations, with a search index for plant families and species.

Zeitmassstäbe der Erdgeschichte (in German), Heinrich Jäckli, Birkhäuser Verlag Basel, 1985, 150 pages, ISBN 3-7643-1718-3. The book with a scientific basis is richly illustrated, the stamps are integrated rather at the edge.

Graubünden durch die Lupe (in German), (= Graubünden through the magnifying glass, Art and Culture on postage stamp). Terra Grischuna, Chur 1988. 148 pages. ISBN 3-7298-1048-0. With detailed text stamps and also letters are shown on the canton of Graubünden.

Farmasia Postimerkeissä / Pharmaceutical Philately, Matcus Olli, Jyväskylä, Finland, 1989, 116 pages. ISBN 951-95006-5-0. Trilingual: Finnish, Swedish, English. With colour illustrations and good monographs.

Cinéphilatélie (in French), Pierre Girard. Morrison Editions, Paris. 1996. 232 pages. Beautifully presented, with colour reproductions of stamps and postmarks and a register.

A Philatelic Ramble through Chemistry, E. Heilbronner, FA Miller, Verlag Helvetia Chimica Acta, Basel 1998. 268 pages. ISBN 3-906390-17-9. Excellent documentation with numerous colour images, with a scientific basis. With a directory of stamps and postmarks and a name index.

75 Years of Skiing History in Stamps, James Riddell, Swiss Academic Ski Club & FIS, Bern 2000. 123 pages. ISBN 3-908152-01-1. Large size reproduction of all stamps on the theme of skis.

Die Zähne der Schildkröten (in German) (= The teeth of the turtles), a catalogue, not only for philatelists, Frank Wisskirchen. Munich 2002, 272 pages. ISBN 3-00-009036-3. An interesting introduction supplements the catalogue section, in which over 1500 stamps are recorded and displayed in colour. The various species of turtles, 105 in number, are listed with the scientific name and other information. Various registers facilitate the search of the stamps and the turtle species.

Auf Fahrt mit Passagieren, Fracht und Post, Schifffahrtsgeschichte auf Briefmarken (in German), (= shipping history on stamps), Hubertus Guschok. Koehler Publishing Company Hamburg 2004, 224 pages. ISBN 3-7822-0888-9. According to a thematic plan (as in a thematic exhibit) numerous topics from shipping are shown and illustrated with reproductions of postage stamps and letters. A good basis for the development of a corresponding collection.

Captain James Cook The Explorer, Barry Floyd, Traveller's Tee Thematic Services, Raunds, GB, 2007, 270 pages. The magnificently designed book shows only stamps from countries that Cook has travelled!

Publisher-related publications

A few publishers outside of philately have allowed various publications. Also for this are a few examples listed. In contrast to them are companies that have specialized in the publication of philatelic catalogues, and in particular thematic catalogues. For the thematic collectors thematic catalogues provide an important basis for their work, even if he often defines his collection area other than the catalogue publisher. Price quotations are indeed useful in relation to the budget of a collector, but not required. Thus, even an older

catalogue retain its information value, about new releases the collector can find information in the stamp magazines.

In Drei Kastanien Verlag of the Luther city Wittenberg a richly illustrated booklet was published in 2002 (in German), "Die Reformation des Doktor Martin Luther, das ist mehr als der Anschlag von 95 Thesen" (= The Reformation of Dr. Martin Luther, which is more than the stop of 95 theses") by H. Ulrich Jobsky. A year later, in 2003 followed a similar booklet on «Lucas Cranach, Renaissancekünstler im Dienst von Macht und Glaubenslehre» (= Lucas Cranach, Renaissance artist in the service of power and faith" by Dr. Richard Thomas.

The medicine factory W. Spitzner published in the 1960s several small brochures on stamp topics: Berühmte Mediziner auf Briefmarken (= Famous physicians on stamps), Quellen und Badeorte in der Philatelie (= sources and resorts in philately) (1963 both by Prof. Dr. S. Gutmann), Geschichte der Pharmazie in philatelistischer Sicht (= History of Pharmacy in philatelic point of view), 1953 by Walter Maiwald.

ECHOPHIL, a publishing house of the Belgian thematic philatelists in Brussels, has published a long series of small booklets in French, including: No. 169 „Les plantes médicinales“ (1966, 32 pages) and «Médécine et Philatélie» (= medicine and philately) (1968, 2 volumes 122 & 158 pages) of Jehan Daubresse, one of the French pioneers thematic philately: "Littérature et Philatélie" (= literature and philately) by Paula M. Brabant, a prominent thematic collector from Belgium (1966, 100 pages); in several volumes appeared then "Musique et Philatélie" (= music and philately) by Joseph Michenaus.

LE MONDE DES PHILATELISTES, the publisher of the French stamp magazine with the same name, published from 1965 to 1975 various brochures about astrology, then a series of "La France en Thématique" (= France on topical stamps).

In SIEGER-Verlag «Weihnachten in der Philatelie» (= Christmas in philately) was already published in 1964 by Clemens Anheuser (Lorch 1964, 104 pages), and 1966 followed a «Katalog der Weihnachts-siegelmarken» (= Catalogue of the Christmas seal stamps), and in 1968 an «Olympia-Katalog» (= Olympic catalogue) (351 pages).

The traditional British company Stanley Gibbons offers thematic catalogues: airplanes, mushrooms, motor vehicles, trains, ships.

Domphil: Since 1988 the Spanish company Domfil publishes thematic catalogues for different areas: sports, chess, scouts, animals and many others.

D. Internet

Also the internet has great importance for philately, which must be mentioned too in relation to the literature. Numerous thematic philately organizations have their own website through which you can often get information on relevant literature. A selection of such addresses we have included in the preceding text. Various publications are only available in digital form on the internet, without a printed form.

The German thematic group «Kunstgeschichte» (= history of arts) for example, offers its catalogue on painting stamps exclusively on the internet under www.arge-kunstgeschichte.de. Before that was in 1982 «Kunstgeschichte Handbuch» (= History of arts guide) by Heinrich Ente (Laatzen, Germany, 200 pages).

The Schwaneberger Verlag as editor of Michel catalogues offers the catalogue also on the internet at <https://ssl.philatelie.de/onlinecatalogue>, for thematic collectors a valuable tool. So he can find with the search button all stamps of his collecting area. He obtains a list by country and chronologically arranged, on request, with or without pictures. The search certainly has its pitfalls – words are

only recognized when they are stored in the catalogue text. On the other hand terms with a completely different meaning may slip in. Those looking for "fish" will also get fishing boats and fishermen, which may be in this case desirable. The search for "bear" brings partly unintelligible results, such as a reference to a person named "Clara Barton". The search for 'Bern' gives as a result a stamp of "Simón Bolívar" (1783-1830), Latin American national hero on a painting of Ricardo Acevedo Bernal (1867-1930). The search is therefore syllable-related and not on the meaning of the word, but in many cases this can be quite helpful.

www.fipthematicphilately.org/themsoc.htm is for example an important address for gathering further information, even if it is not about literature in the first place.

We find in German a «Kurze Geschichte der Thematischen Philatelie» (= Brief History of Thematic Philately) as another example under http://www.vms-phila.de/vms_thematik.html#

Then you will often find also references to literature in the catalogues of philatelic libraries, not only the great libraries, but sometimes also in the library of a local or regional association, for example <http://nordenfjeldskefilateli.com/Bibilotekliste.pdf>

Finally

In conclusion we can say that thematic philately literature has developed in pleasing manner and could play an important role. Unfortunately it is but the fact that the average collector pays too little attention to this literature - he likes more to give his money on some cheap stamps instead of a book full of philatelic information. And here the internet plays an important role - certain publications on the internet can be cheaper produced and offered. In our eyes though, a nice printed book is in any case preferable to a document on the internet, as long as you do not want to copy individual passages from a publication.

Activity Calendar Compiled by Secretary Koenraad Bracke

Dates	Name	Venue	Details
2014			
17-20 September	Autumn Stampex	London, UK	National exhibition (special guest Germany)
19-21 September	Österreichisches Thematik-Symposium	Rankweil / Vbg, Austria	Thematic Seminar (in German)
23-27 September	EXPO VI-MA 2014	Villa Maria, Argentina	National exhibition
24-28 September	SPM EXPO 2014	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	FIAF exhibition (special guest France)
3-5 October	Brabantphil '14	Aarschot, Belgium	National exhibition
10-12 October	Adelaide Stampex 2014	Adelaide, Australia	National exhibition
10-12 October	FEPA Jury Seminar	Berlin, Germany	Jury Seminar Thematic Philately and Postal History
10-24 October	KIPROS-HELLAS	Larnaca, Cyprus	Bilateral exhibition Cyprus-Greece
17-19 October	POSTEX 2014	Apeldoorn, Netherlands	National exhibition
18-19 October	SYDFRIMEX 2014	Eskildrup, Denmark	National exhibition
20-24 October	EXFIL 125	Santiago de Chile	Multilateral exhibition
24-26 October	ROMAFIL 2014	Rom, Italy	National exhibition
5-9 November	VIANNA 2014	Viana do Castelo, Portugal	National exhibition
8-9 November	International Seminar	Sao Paulo, Brasil	International Seminar Thematic Philately (also PH & TR)
14-16 November	National Postage Stamp Show	Toronto, Ontario, Canada	National exhibition
14-18 November	BAYPEX 2014	Taradale, New Zealand	National exhibition
21-23 November	NORDIA 2014	Lillestrøm, Norway	Multilateral exhibition (Nordic countries)
1-6 December	MALAYSIA 2014	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	World Youth Stamp Exhibition & Thematic Philately; FIAP exhibition

2015			
17-21 February	Spring Stampex	London, UK	National exhibition
13-15 March	WERNAMO 2015	Värnamo, Sweden	National exhibition
13-21 March	EXFILNA 2015	Aviles, Spain	National exhibition
18-25 March	ÇANAKKALE 2015	Çanakkale, Turkey	Multilateral exhibition
23-28 March	FIN DEL MUNDO 2015	Rio Grande, Argentina	International FIAF exhibition
10-12 April	LAPOEX 2015	Lahti, Finland	National exhibition
24-28 April	TAIPEI 2015	Taipei, Chinese Taipei	30 th Asian international stamp exhibition
7-9 May	ECTP – London 2015 EUROPHILEX	Essen, Germany	European Championship Thematic Philately (in cooperation with LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX)
13-16 May	LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX	London, UK	International FEPA exhibition
22-25 May	PHILA-FRANCE 2015	Macon, France	National exhibition
5-7 June	TRONDHEIM 2015	Lerkendal, Borway	National exhibition
31 July – 2 August	National Topical Stamp Show 2015 (NTSS)	Portland, Oregon, USA	National thematic exhibition
14-19 August	SINGAPORE 2015	Singapore	International exhibition
3-6 September	Bilateral stamp exhibition	Gotha, Germany	Bilateral exhibition (Germany & United Kingdom)
29 September – 2 October	2nd Seminar Thematic Philately	Quito, Ecuador	Seminar Thematic Philately
30 October – 1 November	NORDIA 2015	Täby, Sweden	Multilateral exhibition (Nordic countries)
12-15 November	NOTOS 2015	Athens, Greece	Multilateral exhibition (21 countries)
20-23 November	HONG KONG 2015	Hong Kong	FIAP
2016			
28 May – 4 June	World Stamp Show NY 2016	New York, USA	International FIP exhibition
10-12 June	National Stamp Show	Roeselare, Belgium	National exhibition
October	Taipei 2016	Chinese Taipei	International FIP exhibition (with FIP Congress)

FIP Thematic Philately Commission Delegates (September 2014)

by Secretary Koenraad Bracke

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