

Editorial

Moving forward

This no6 Newsletter celebrates its first “birthday”. It was proposed last October in BF XIX in Belgrade, as a collective publication that was approved by the Member Federations and it has been realized thanks to the assistance and support of the national delegates.

What comes next, is the goal to upgrade the Newsletter with articles of philatelic nature, opinions on matters and affairs that may concern and interest most of us.

Looking at the contents of this Newsletter our readers would find a diverse material including Exhibitions (FIP Belgrade 2027) that shall continue the legacy of EFIRO 24, National with International participation (BF XX) and Local (Dobrocic) – as well a multidisciplinary and specialized exhibition on Navigation. In addition, Events from the Member Federations and New Publications, a specialized Article on Open Philately and a very interesting interview.

During Balkanfila XX, it was held the Balkanfila Working Group Meeting, where it was discussed the upgrading of both the Newsletter and our Website. A proposal for a Balkanfila Yearbook in English as an additional means to “export” our regional philatelic wealth to the world of philately. There were also discussed three proposal of intent for hosting the next Balkanfila Exhibition which will be elaborated in due time.

It is also worth mentioning a Round Table titled : “Investing for the Future” with eight topics introduced by the speakers. These topics were : *Our Good or Bad Habits, Communication, Cooperation, Effective Use of Technology, Innovation, Exhibitions, Philately : Hobby or Investment* and last but not least the *Threats to the Future of Philately*.

We are moving forward towards the New Year with more philatelic activities, a collective and fruitful cooperation in our Region and the World.

The Editorial Board would like to Congratulate Peter Suhadolc on his re-election, during the Shanghai Congress, as FIP Europe Director for the next four years !

Our best wishes to all for the New Year : Health, Wealth, Happiness !

BELGRADE 2027 receives FIP Patronage

The 77th FIP Congress was held in Shanghai on 3 December 2024 and during the Congress BELGRADE 2027 was granted approval of FIP Patronage.

The Union of Philatelists of Serbia and the Post of Serbia had applied for Belgrade to host the exhibition, and at the just concluded International Philatelic Exhibition EFIRO 2024 in Bucharest, while members of the Board of Directors of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP – Fédération Internationale de Philatélie) accepted the proposal.

Peter Suhadolc (Slovenia) was appointed as a representative of FIP, as a consultant for the exhibition, with the assistance of Yigal Nataniel (Israel).

“By entrusting the organization of the World Exhibition, which will be held for the first time on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, Belgrade has been shown the honour, trust and obligation to become the capital of World Philately within the specialized exhibition EXPO 2027”, stated the Post of Serbia.

The International Philatelic Exhibition will be organized by the Union of Philatelists of Serbia with the support of the Government of Serbia and the Post of Serbia.



For this occasion, in April the Post of Serbia issued a set of 6 definitive postage stamps. Instead of nominal values expressed in dinars, letters were introduced for postal traffic services, in order to ensure that stamps are continuously in use for the next three years. The letters that indicate the value of the stamps are E, X, P, O, B, G, which, in the framework of philately, adds to their collector's value.

The applied motifs speak of space exploration and are symbols of new technologies, ideas and a positive future, which is also the guiding idea of the EXPO International Exhibition. The logo of the exhibition is highlighted on the stamps, and the parallel 1967–2027 underlines the historical continuity of our country in its aspiration to be a leader in innovation in the region.

BALKANFILA XX

THESSALONIKI (13 – 16 NOVEMBER 2024)

Balkanfila XX 2024, a regional Balkan exhibition with international participation, provided an opportunity for the philatelic world of the Balkans and the eastern Mediterranean, to meet and interact in Thessaloniki, promoting the ideas of unity, friendship and advancing an even better co-operation among us.

The O.C of the Exhibition expressed its gratitude to all the members and exhibitors of all participating Federations, the National Commissioners and the Jurors for their substantial support.

Balkanfila XX 2024 was co-organized by the Hellenic Philatelic Federation (HPF) and the Hellenic Philatelic Society of Thessaloniki under the recognition of the European Philatelic Federation (FEPA) as well as the Sponsorship of the World Philatelic Federation (FIP).

VENUE and EXHIBITS

The location of the exhibition was at the center of Thessaloniki in the HELEXPO complex. Both National Commissioners & Jury members were accommodated at ABC Hotel at a close walking distance to the Exhibition Hall. Balkanfila XX 2024 exhibition attracted, in addition to the exhibitors, a large number of local and international visitors. At the spacious exhibition hall they were a number of dealers of collectibles.



11 Balkan countries participated officially in Balkanfila XX, namely : Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey. They were also invited and officially participated: Cyprus, Italy & Israel as these are countries closely related to Balkan and Eastern Mediterranean Philately. They had also been accepted exhibits related to the Balkans from: Algeria, Canada, P.R. China, Indonesia, France, Germany, United Kingdom and the United States of America. A total number of 22 countries.



The official Opening of the Exhibition took place on Wednesday, November 13 at 12:00, in a brief ceremony with the ceremonial ribbon cutting by Mr. Ioannis Refanidis (President of the O.C of the exhibition), Mrs. Chara Paschalidou (Director of Philately of the Hellenic Post) and Mr. Nikos Mallouchos (President of the Hellenic Philatelic Federation).

It is worth noting the assistance and continuous presence of Hellenic Post with trained, willing and polite staff in the exhibition area, as well as the operation of a temporary Post Office to meet the needs of collectors and visitors.

The National Commissioners are always the key-persons of an Exhibition



They were quite a few high-quality Competitive & Non competitive exhibits of all classes. At the same time a large number of the Greek exhibits were shown in Balkanfila XX for the first time. Literature Class has received 39 exhibits, such as Books, Periodicals and digital works.

The JURY and its VITAL ROLE for an Exhibition

The 13-person strong Jury was headed by Peter SUHADOLC (Honorary President and Consultant of the Jury) and Eddie LEIBU (President of the Jury).

Vice President of the Jury was George THOMAREIS and Jurors were :

Mehmet AKAN, Alexandru Dan BARTOC, Boncho BONEV, Bruno CREVATO-SELVAGGI, Nikos MALLOUCHOS, Julije MARAS, Vladimir MILIC, Alexis PAPADOPOULOS, Igor PIRC and Emmanouil KOUTSOUNAKIS as an Apprentice who had succeeded and thus became National Juror for Traditional Philately.



The experienced Juror Team not only managed to tackle an arduous task successfully within two days but they also achieved it in a fair way, as it was acknowledged by the vast majority of the exhibitors.

PALMARES and the GRAND PRIX

On Friday evening, the "Palmares" dinner took place on the roof garden of "Mediterranean Palace Hotel". The awards dinner was attended and addressed by several officials, including the Deputy Minister of Interior of the Macedonia and Thrace Sector, Mr. Konstantinos Gioulekas and the President of Hellenic Post, Mr. Daniel Benardout, who had previously visited the exhibition.

During the Palmares the Grand Prix were presented to the Winners as following :

Grand Prix International BALKANFILA:



Chirescu Andrei Alexandru,
Romania,

“The fluvial and maritime postal routes in the Romanian territories, 1840–1920”

Grand Prix National BALKANFILA:

Bauer Wolfgang, Germany,

“Greece – Incoming and outgoing mail and their destinations up to UPU, 1827–1875”.



Grand Prix International:



Popovic Vladimir, Serbia

“General classification and types of postcards of the Golden Age in the collection of Herceg Novi and its surroundings”.

Grand Prix National

Mylonogiannis George, Greece

"The Hellenic pre-adhesive period".



PHILATELIC & CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Balkanfila XX 2024 exhibition had also included a comprehensive support programme with Book presentations, an interesting Round-table on current philatelic issues, a fascinating lecture on the history of Thessaloniki with the use of philatelic material and of course the Balkanfila Working Group Meeting.

SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

Balkanfila XX was under the Auspices of Municipality of Thessaloniki and with Major Sponsors the Hellenic Post and the "A. Karamitsos" International Auctions as well as under FEPA Recognition. "FIP Sponsorship" was prominently indicated together with the FIP logo on all Banners and printed documents. Supporters of Balkanfila XX were The Ministry of Interior (Macedonia and Thrace Sector), EYATH S.A, The Hellenic Philatelic Society, National Bank of Greece Cultural Foundation, Thessaloniki History Centre, Vafopouleio Cultural Centre, Jewish Community of Thessaloniki and Papaphilippou & associates Law Firm.



BALKANFILA XX GRAND PRIX

Grand Prix International BALKANFILA:

CHIRESCU Andrei Alexandru (ROMANIA):

- *The fluvial and maritime postal routes in the Romanian territories, 1840–1920.*

AWARD of HELLENIC POST



Grand Prix National BALKANFILA:

BAUER Wolfgang (GERMANY):

- *Greece – Incoming and outgoing mail and their destinations up to UPU, 1827–1875.*

**AWARD of TURKISH FEDERATION
of PHILATELIC SOCIETIES**



Grand Prix International :

POPOVIC Vladimir (SERBIA):

- *General classification and types of postcards of the Golden Age in the collection of Herceg Novi and its surroundings.*

AWARD of The HELLENIC PHILATELIC FEDERATION



Grand Prix National :

MYLONOGIANNIS George (GREECE):

- *The Greek Pre-adhesive Period*

**AWARD of The HELLENIC PHILATELIC SOCIETY
of THESSALONIKI**



DOBRICIFILEX 2024

Francisc AMBRUS



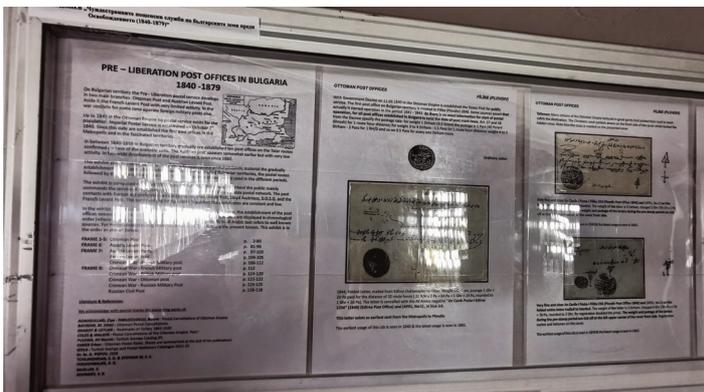
Between October 9-11, 2024, in the city of Dobrich, Bulgaria, a national exhibition with international participation took place, celebrating 145 years since the Independence of the Principality of Bulgaria and 145 years since the introduction of the first postage stamp and the first fiscal stamp into the service of state. Both issues were printed abroad. The exhibition was supported and sponsored by the Municipality of Dobrich, Bulgarian Post EAD and the Dora Gabe Library together with the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists.



The exhibition, even if it had a small number of frames, 39 exhibits in 5 competition classes arranged on approximately 200 frames, was a real success among the population and especially among the young. LG-5 exhibits, G-1 exhibit, LV-5 exhibits, V-10 exhibits, LS-7 exhibits, S-4 exhibits, SB-2 exhibits, B-1 exhibit were awarded in a medal rank.



Three exhibits were out of competition (jury members) and three others were in the honorary class. The winner of the Grand Prize of Dobrichfil 2024 is Mr. Janush Donev from Pleven for the exhibit "Foreign posts on the Bulgarian lands before the Liberation 1840 - 1879". The exhibit was evaluated with 90 points and awarded with a large gold medal. In the class of honor there were 23 frames with the issues of Bulgarian revenue stamps and their use 1879-1928. Jury: Boncho Bonev – chairman, Andrei Adam - Moldova – member, Vladimir Kurtev – member.



Personally, I was invited by the Bulgarian Philatelist Union as a member, to present 10 frames of Bulgarian fiscal philately to the class of honor. It was always an honor for me to participate with my Bulgarian friends, and I will always be with them.

Over 100 childrens from five different schools were invited to the opening ceremony, who also supported an artistic program. In the following days, high school students and students were present. Surprising but real, I followed a large number of young people buying stamps from the booth of the Bulgarian post office and then applying the special postmark dedicated to the day.



During the three days, three postal issues dedicated to the commemoration of 150 years of the UPU, the 20th century automobile, dogs in the service of man, and protected birds were launched. At the end of the exhibition, the award ceremony took place in a friendly environment specific to the recognized hospitality of the Bulgarians.



On the fourth day, a philatelic fair took place in the official hotel, Dobrudja. I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the organizers and supporters of this philatelic event and wish them much success in future exhibitions. I am shortening the article to leave space for some images that are more edifying than a thousand words.



A philatelic exhibition entitled "Navigation" at the Mitteleuropa Post & Telegraph Museum of Trieste



The exhibition was a parallel cultural event to the programme of the "BARCOLANA 56" sailing race, one of the largest and most famous sailing races in the world, held every year in the port of Trieste, Italy. The exhibition is part of the Philatelic Collection of the Maritime Museum of Crete, which has been developing in recent years. In 2010, the first stamp exhibition was held at the Museum on the theme "Lighthouses of the World" and since then the creation of philatelic collections has begun. Over time, it was decided to divide the stamps into thematic sections to enrich the collections. As a result, thematic collections have been created with a large number of stamps, which are constantly being added to, such as Navigation, the Battle of Crete, the Cretan State, the Marine Environment, the Lighthouses of the World, Christianity, etc.

The titles chosen for the exhibitions of these collections are comprehensive but also reflect the theme of the exhibition in the best possible way. The term Navigation is commonly used in the maritime and shipping world in the following three areas : as Science, as Technique and as a category of Sailing. The stamp series to be exhibited are in harmony with these three main categories. This exhibition is part of the Museum's permanent collection on "Navigation", which is exhibited both in the main area and in the MORO - Permanent Exhibition of Ancient and Traditional Naval Architecture.

For its presentation at the Postal and Telegraphic Museum of Central Europe in Trieste, Italy, the exhibition is set up from the beginning and consists of stamps, commemorative stamp sets, personal stamp sheets, commemorative leaflets, Fliers, "Maximum Prepaid" Cards, First Day of Issue Envelopes from around the world on approximately 200 cards, dating from 1930 to 2020.

Each card has been curated and created so that each philatelic material (stamp, Faye, leaflet, card) after being framed with a black background and laminated, is displayed with captions for both the material itself and the date and title of issue. Additional philatelic material will also be placed in the mobile displays, a continuation of the exhibition.

The wealth of historical information provided in the stamp series is remarkable, as we meet great explorers and navigators throughout the centuries, such as Christopher Columbus (1451–1506), James Cook (1728–1779), Ferdinand Magellan (1480–1521), Vasco da Gama (1460–1524), etc. Works by important painters such as the Dutch Willem van de Velde the younger (1636–1672) or the British Richard Wright (1723–1775), depicting important naval battles that changed the course of history. Also, stamp sets and philatelic products in general from around the world provide the opportunity to find information and data on many historic ships and events. States and smaller island clusters with a rich philatelic production arouse our curiosity and challenge us to learn about the subject matter of the philatelic material they have issued, their geographical location and their culture.

The exhibition is organized by the Maritime Museum of Crete under the presidency of Emmanuel Petrakis in collaboration with the Hellenic Foundation for Culture of Italy, under the direction of Aliko Kefalogianni, the Postal and Telegraphic Museum of Mitteleuropa under the direction of Emanuela De Domenico and the Italian Post Office. The exhibition will once again offer the public elements of study and cultural reflection, in the context of the friendship that has always linked Greece and the city of Trieste. It is under the auspices of the Consulate General of Greece, the Consulate General of Cyprus and the Greek Orthodox Community of Trieste. The exhibition run until 26 October 2024.

On February 5th, 2025 this exhibition will open to the public in Ljubljana at the Central Offices of Post of Slovenia. Co-organizers of the exhibition are the Hellenic Foundation for Culture of Italy, The Post of Slovenia, the Slovenian Philatelic Society and the Maritime Museum of Crete, under the Auspices of the Hellenic Embassy in Slovenia in Ljubljana.



Minutes of the 13th BALKANFILA Representatives Meeting at BALKANFILA XX Exhibition

16 participants from 10 Balkanfila Member Federations attended the Meeting: Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Türkiye. Igor Pirc, BF Secretary, welcomed all present participants and proposed the Agenda, which had been sent out with the Invitation three weeks ago. The Agenda was unanimously accepted.

Agenda and Conclusions of the Meeting

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of 12th Balkanfila Meeting in Bucharest

Minutes of the 12th Balkanfila Meeting in Bucharest was unanimously accepted.

2. Evaluation of the current Balkanfila Exhibition in Thessaloniki

Those present estimated that BALKANFILA XX in Thessaloniki is perfectly prepared, set up in spacious and bright halls, and that the organizer put a lot of effort into preparing for the exhibition.

3. Election of the new Balkanfila President

The tradition in the election of the president of the Working Group Balkanfila is that the organizer of the current exhibition takes over the presidency until the next exhibition, therefore Ioannis Refanidis was elected as the president.

4. Development of philatelic cooperation among Balkanfila Federations, Balkanfila Website, Balkanfila Newsletter and more!

The **Balkanfila Newsletter** has become an established form of communication among the Balkanfila membership (6 in 16 months). Editor Christos Gikas urged members to contribute more substantively; announcements of frequent new mailings will be in the BF Newsletter supplement in the future.

Francisc Ambrus (Ferry) kindly maintains the **Balkanfila Website**. The website has many messaging options. On the one hand, it contains basic information about the Balkanfila Working Community, its members (National Federations), and exhibitions to date; however, the possibility of publishing current news from the Balkanfila region is not taken advantage of.

Conclusions: The Editorial board of the website (F. Ambrus, C. Gikas and I. Pirc) will prepare a more transparent structure of the branching of areas and provide a home page for news.

BF members review the data and communicate the necessary updates on the www.balkanfila.eu, and send corrections to the address ipirc711@gmail.com.

National coordinators, appointed for the Newsletter also take on these tasks, have been nominated in Belgrade, in 2023 (the full list is found on the last page of the Newsletter).

The Greek representative, Christos Gikas, proposed upgrading our cooperation by suggesting that we prepare an edition of the Balkanfila Yearbook. It should present each member's most important contribution to Europe and the world philately. This proposal was elaborated and emailed to all members for consideration.

The agreement is that on **Wednesday, April 9 at 6 p.m. CET**, we will hold a WEBEX video meeting, at which all presidents of the Federations and one more member of the Board will be present.

The president of the Albanian Federation, Julian Demeti, proposed (and immediately implemented) a **Balkanfila group on WhatsApp**. All members are invited to provide him with additional contacts, which will ensure smooth communication.

5. Timetable for future exhibitions

The President of the Serbian Federation, Vladimir Milić, announced the possibility of organizing the XXI Balkanfila exhibition in 2026, as a preparation for the FIP World Exhibition EXPO 2027 in Belgrade.

The President of the Romanian Federation, Ion Chirescu, announced his readiness to organize the XXII Balkanfila in 2027 or 2028.

Both announcements were warmly welcomed, as exhibitions are the most important factor in our cooperation. Final decisions will be communicated with an invitation and IREX in due course.

6. Miscellaneous

+ group photo

Next Balkanfila Meeting
will be at the time of
the XXI BF Exhibition
in Belgrade.



“Investing for the Future” : a Round Table Discussion

On 15 November 2024, during Balkanfila XX in Thessaloniki, eight prospective speakers were invited to participate in a Round Table Discussion titled “Investing for the Future”.

A list of topics was suggested in advance, from which the speakers were asked to select theirs on a “first come, first served” basis, with the option to address a topic of their own choice. Each speaker was allocated seven minutes of approximately 1000 words. A brief Q&A session followed each presentation.



Here are the highlights of each presentation:

Ambassador Viktor Gaber (North Macedonia) on “**Our Good or Bad Habits**” stated : “Our

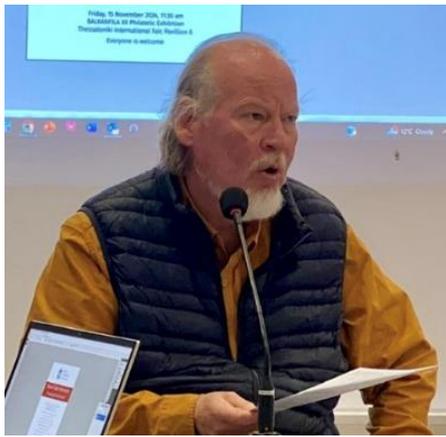


Union has launched a program to promote philately among students and youngsters as philately emphasises the development of personal focus, desire to explore new subjects, and willingness to compare and learn – key elements that form the essence of stamp collecting”.

The speaker wondered if new generations are educated through philately on issues of solidarity, empathy, humanism, and philanthropy. In addition, an introvert or extrovert attitude of philatelists depends on factors related

to a person’s focus on the collection as a strictly private affair or as an activity to share with others.

Christos Gikas (Greece) on “**Communication**” argued that “Philatelists do communicate but



not in an effective way as most of us are not just lacking the required skills of expressing with Clarity, Brevity, Simplicity, Humanity and Authenticity but as well as we are missing the Essence of Philately which is to look at postage stamps as carriers of an unspoken visual message, similar to trademarks or logos, exporting national or multinational positioning on official ideology and world viewing”. Furthermore, an analysis on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of Philately is needed in order to plan an effective communication strategy.

Dr Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi RDP, FRPSL (Italy) on “**Cooperation**” focused his presentation on



the collaboration between Philately and Academia referring to his personal experience as the Director of the Istituto di Studi Storici Postali “Aldo Cecchi», based in Prato, Tuscany, which is committed to the preservation of, research in, and sharing of knowledge on postal history and organized communication. The speaker pointed out that : “These are the Institute’s four missions: conservation of its considerable bibliographic, archival, documentary and museum collections; making heritage available to researchers; organisation of cultural events; and scientific

research”.

“All this together with, on the one hand, looking to the future and linking it with tradition: on the other, looking to internationality. The Institute publishes a series of monographs and a scientific journal. It is the only private institution in Europe dedicated to these themes, and it constitutes an international reference point for those who are working in the area of postal history.

Every two years we organize an international scientific conference is organized aiming at universities whilst the three editions were attended by researchers from 17 countries.

Finally, the speaker stated that : “Philately is a very important part of postal history (in the academic sense) and this is a virtuous example of collaboration. The focal point is to present philately as a research tool, a material approach to history. Reading history through documents. Postal archaeology. With the Academy we can and must collaborate. I believe that this will be the future”.

Vladimir Milic (Serbia) on **“Effective Use of Technology”** initially said that “the digitalization



of literature and its online accessibility is a revolution which the Union of Philatelists of Serbia has already employed for *Philatelist* magazine since its first issue in 1949” and then he referred to the advantages of electronic communication such as speed, cost–efficiency, accessibility, and ease of storage. Significant benefits of Technology include the more accurate examination of stamps and covers due to the introduction of modern technologies and the improvement of visual presentation of exhibits.

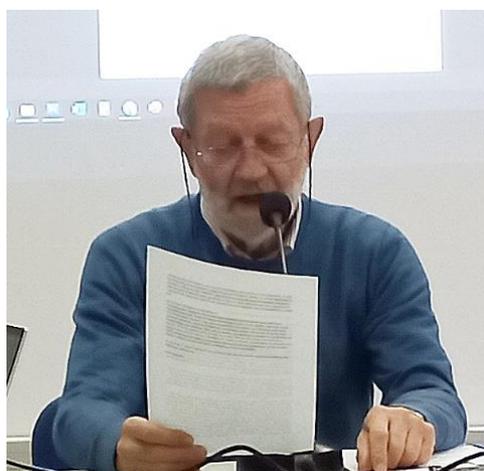
Dr. Claudio Ernesto Manzati FRPSL (Italy) on **“Innovation”** claimed that “so far, we have not produced any practical result” adding that “the collections we exhibit are mostly



unattractive to a non–philatelic public” and “innovation will come from ideas, through brainstorming, by a team of a few philatelists, and many participants from other sectors, including women and young people”. These ideas have to be later transformed into a 3–5 year strategic plan and take the competition events to public places (eg a shopping centre etc) and display the reproduction of a single frame, with a QR Code”. Referring to the *Post Horn* Magazine, the speaker mentioned that the editorial board in order to attract a wider audience focused on an

innovative editorial strategy that would tell stories with visually attractive graphics and images. According to the speaker three key–questions have to be asked in regard to the future of philately: What should we stop doing? What should we start doing? What good aspects we must maintain and strengthen?

Prof. Peter Suhadolc FRPSL (Slovenia) on **“Exhibitions”** speaking on the benefits said



that “collectors present their best exhibits, compete for the top awards, learn from other exhibits, search for material, meet other collectors, and socialise. Organisers help collectors and exhibitors to gather, attract them to their country, and increase their visibility within the philatelic world”. Prof. Suhadolc pointed out that the biggest problem in organizing an exhibition is funding it as in Europe postal administrations do not sponsor the exhibitions and sponsoring from dealers, auctioneers, and collectors will probably not support the events. The

speaker claimed that exhibitions will likely persist, at least at a regional level whilst digital

exhibitions do actually reduce costs but their disadvantages are the lack of dealers and meetings in person, a possibility of fraud, as scans are used instead of originals. Therefore, a mixture of real and digital exhibits might be a future possibility and our duty is to encourage existing collectors to turn into exhibitors.

Kemal Giray FRPSL (Turkey), on “**Philately : Hobby or Investment**” commented that it is



definitely a hobby, if it satisfies a collector’s needs by providing the pleasure of filling gaps in their collection, offering education, and creating opportunities to socialise. The speaker said that Philately can also be an investment “if collectors can buy at low prices and sell significantly higher. Since all collectable rarities are potential candidates for investment, philately is no exception” clarifying that stamps should never be offered as an investment which has been a trend initiated by investment portfolios and postal authorities, because that often leads

to financial losses. Concluding the speaker emphasized on the enjoyment of philatelists feel when adding a new item to the collection or the delight of solving a philatelic riddle that is something truly invaluable.

Julian Cherata AIEP (Romania), on “**Threats to the Future of Philately**” pointed out five areas



that could either endanger or revitalize Philately if they are promptly tackled. These five threats are : *Forgeries* as forgers now have the tools to produce forgeries difficult to detect. *Demographics* that pose a significant long-term challenge to the survival of Philately due to losing its most experienced members over time, and only partially replaced by younger enthusiasts. *Falling prices* due to an oversupply of material leading to declining prices for common items. *Collaboration* as it is necessary to create an environment where everyone benefits and the hobby

thrives. *Exhibitor’s disappointment* when exhibitors receive fewer points than in previous presentations of the same exhibit, they may feel discouraged and abandon philately. By identifying these challenges, we can work together to protect and revitalize philately. Let's use this moment as a call to action to innovate, collaborate, and get inspired.

Finally, the Round Table Moderator **Costas Chazapis** commented that he was amazed that the Discussion concluded smoothly after just 90 minutes, demonstrating that the chosen format –short speeches followed by even shorter Q&A sessions– was highly effective offering a unique opportunity to hear so many constructive contributions in such a short time.

The detailed proceedings can be read online at : https://fepanews.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Round-Table-Discussion-Proceedings_ver2.pdf

Türkiye philatelic report from September 2024 to December 2024

HAFNIA 2024 FEPA EXHIBITION



The first FEPA Exhibition of the year was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, between 17–20 OCTOBER at the Øksnehallen Center, displaying 2655 frames from 563 collections from 63 countries.

8 countries in the jury –represented the Balkan countries. Mehmet Akan was appointed to the Postal History class and served on the international jury. FIP Director Peter Suhadolc / Slovenia was very successful as the JURY Secretary for this exhibition.

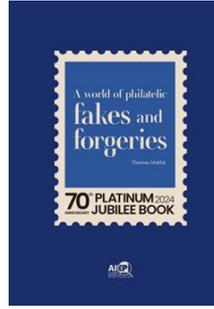


Palmares



Award ceremony Yasemin Yazgan

AIEP CONGRESS at HAFNIA 2024



AIEP Vice President Yakup Nakri represented Turkey. The most important result of the congress that concerns us is that our brother Akthem Al-Manaseer became an international AIEP expert as a result of the election at the AIEP general assembly.

ULM



The International German Postal History Masters Ulm hold on 24–26 October 2024, and high-level postal history collections and books in the field of postal history will participate in the Fair as competitors.

Türkiye (Turkish Philatelic Academy) has been invited to the Fair, where a country is invited every year, for 2024. On behalf of the Turkish Philatelic Academy, coordination of the Türkiye's participation to the Ulm Exhibition is carried out by Turkish Philatelic Academy Director Dr. Murat İbrahim Çelebi.

As a result of the competition, gold, silver and bronze posthorn awards were given according to the jury's evaluation and from Türkiye: Bülent Papuççuoğlu's "Postal History of the Ottoman Empire: Devlet-i Aliyye Ottoman Empire Postal Branches" GOLD, Hülya Papuççuoğlu's "Prephilatelic Period (Postal History of the Ottoman Empire (1840–1862))" collection SILVER, Alan Mellaart's "Ottoman Registered Mail (1840–1923)" collection BRONZE medal winners.



Turkish participants

BALKANFILA XX SELANİK

The Balkanfila XX exhibition was held in Thessaloniki, between November 13 – 16, 2024. Murat Hazinedaroğlu was the Turkish National Commissioner, and Mehmet Akan served as the International Jury. More than 50 Turks, including eight Federation & Academy board members, participated in the exhibition as officials, exhibitors, philatelists, or merchants. The exhibit's collections were high-level. A total of 31 Turkish exhibits (which is the largest number ever in an international exhibition) were accepted from the Türkiye applications.



Jury room



Jury, Commissioner and Officers dinner organized by the OC.



One of the dinners of the Turkish participants.



Gold and Large Gold medals were given at the Palmares dinner.

Turkey has won 6 Gold and 3 Large Gold medals.



Turkish participants.



Gold and Large Gold Award ceremony in Palmares.

Thanks to the Greek Federation for this perfect organization.

BALKANFILA WORKING GROUP Meeting

During the Balkanfila exhibition the Balkanfila Working Group Meeting was held with the participation of eighteen representatives. Murat Hazinedaroğlu and Mehmet Akan represented Türkiye. One of the decisions taken at the meeting is to hold bilateral exhibitions of the neighbouring countries. Christos Gikas, who also proposed, suggested that the first exhibition will be held between Ayvalık and Midilli. This idea was welcomed by the Turkish postal administration and local authorities in Ayvalık. We will establish a joint organizing committee with the Greek side and try to realize the project.



from ZİYA Ağaoğulları collection

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

Compulsory Guests (No 77 – November 2024)



On November 21, our dear friend and TFA member Bülent Yilmazer who is the President of the Başkent Philatelic and Urban Research Society and METU Aviation Engineering Department Aviation History course instructor presented a section that concerns both philatelic, urban history and aviation history, as exciting as a movie script.

He told the story of the days when the B-24 heavy bombers that remained in Turkey during World War II had to land and their crews were continuing in Turkey presented his seminar titled "Compulsory Guests". More than 20 persons have followed the seminar till midnight.

H.P.S Anniversary Book Presentation in Thessaloniki

On November 15th, during Balkanfila XX in Thessaloniki, the Anniversary Book of the Hellenic Philatelic Society (H.P.S) was presented by Nikos Mallouchos, President of the Hellenic Philatelic Federation (H.P.F). This was the second presentation of the Book, the first was a week earlier in Athens, for our fellow philatelists that they were participating in the ongoing Exhibition.

Nikos Mallouchos, initially referred to "the achievement of a cultural society that has been operating for a century, fulfilling the need of its members to escape from the worries of everyday life and seek a state of mental euphoria through the collection of simple everyday items as well as to research and study of facts related to the basic use of stamps, that is to facilitate communication between people at close or distant distances".

The main characteristic of this Anniversary Book is, as N.M. stressed, the approach that emerges from its content. From the outset, the Board had decided that it wasn't going to be a collection of philatelic rarities but the "Traces of Communication", but to include insignificant but intriguing items without excluding at the same time extraordinary ones".

Finally, the President of H.P.F noted that "it is up to the readers to delve into its content and discover aspects of philately that they might never have imagined".

At the end of this presentation the Editor of the Anniversary Book, Costas Chazapis offered copies to the Director of Philately of Hellenic Post Mrs. Charikleia Paschalidou as well as to the participants of the publication who were present : Claudio Manzati, Ion Chirescu, Mehmet Akan and Kemal Giray.



A CHRISTMAS STAMP was VALIDATED in BULGARIA

At "Christmas Plovdiv 2024" the Christmas stamp was validated. In fact, it was validated by Santa Claus himself, accompanied by Snow White, the Christmas Elf, the artist Kapka Kaneva and, of course, the head of the Regional Department of Bulgarian Post, Mrs. Ivanova.



Santa Claus handed out gifts to the children, and they happily showed him envelopes and cards that they had pasted with the new stamp. They even danced to Christmas tunes.

We, the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists has once again shown how such holidays should be organized. Thanks to Bulgarian Post for the cooperation! It is happiness to see the children with the postage stamps.



After the October celebrations in Dobrich with many, many children, now in Plovdiv we are also showing them the beauty of philately!

A big congratulations to everyone involved in the organization !

Vladimir Milich speaks to Balkanfila Newsletter

Recently a New Philatelic Federation Board was elected in Serbia, with you as the President, what are the priorities and the goals of this New Board ?

First of all, I thank you for your initiative for this conversation. Managing the national association, which has a history of 75 years, is certainly an honor, but it is an even greater obligation towards our predecessors who created the association as an institution of Serbian philately. It is precisely in this light that the concept of the team I gathered is based on old matrices, but refined with a modern approach. We have set several goals towards which our association will move, but certainly the largest part of the activities will be on the organization of the world philatelic exhibition in Belgrade 2027, the organization of which has just been confirmed at the FIP Congress in Shanghai. Some of the goals in the new four-year mandate are: seminars in cooperation with Post Serbia and the PTT Museum in Belgrade with focus on Serbian and Yugoslav philately, twice or more time a year, organizing online philatelists meetings and digitization of FILATELISTA, our national philatelic magazine.



Contract signing ceremony between FIP and the Union of Philatelists of Serbia

One of the main topics in philatelic discussions is “the Future of Philately”, in your opinion will Philately survive in the years coming ?

This question corresponds irresistibly with the question of Technology and the Internet: Executioner or 'salvation' of philately? When the Internet age arrived, my expectations were "in stark contrast" to what I had experienced using digital technology. Now, many years later, I can freely state that the Internet (as a resource, of course, not as a goal) is a salvation for philately, so philately has no reason to worry about its future.

Philatelists as passionate collectors give value to material most people do not understand and/or ignore, how can this closed circle step out of its introversion ?

The mentioned circle can only be understood by a true philatelist. The rest, to call them that, don't want or, better said, can't understand that passion. Trying to explain the meaning of that passion is a futile task – but what you can do is show the level of love you have for philately. Because in the end all that is needed is love.

What are the actions that organized philately could take in order to “export” philately to more people ?

This question is as old as our hobby. So far, no one has given a concrete answer, but it is certain that organized philately can and must respond to the challenges of the digital age. And that means maximum use of the resources of general digitization and digital media. This is the only way to retain existing philatelists and potentially reach new collectors. The activities of our association are directed in that direction. Also, the BALKANFILA newsletter is a school example of such an action.

What are the pros and cos of the “digital age” in regard to Philately ?

Philately, that is, people who have leading roles in philately should not think on the level of pro et contra. Namely, digitalization is not a matter of choice, it is imposed as an option that the 21st century is going through. The only thing we can do is to optimally apply it within the framework of philately, and all with the aim of further improvement.

The current image of Philately –as shown in our Websites, publications etc.– both to philatelists and non-philatelists is it on the right track ?

Of course it is, but that doesn't mean it can't be better and faster. Many alliances, associations and federations accepted the new reality and adapted to it relatively quickly. Today, electronic communication almost dominates, both through e-mails and through announcements on official websites. Few national federations today do not have their official internet presence. That tells you enough about the level of awareness in philately.

Is Organized Philately, in your opinion, a “necessary evil” or a positive occupation ?

Organized philately is certainly necessary for any progress. It enables the dissemination of knowledge, the presentation of research, and mutual communication between different levels. Then synchronized and continuous notification, and finally what is perhaps the most important, which is exposure. Exhibition philately is a consequence of organized philately, it is actually the last stage in the cycle, i.e. the collection process. Otherwise, everything would end up at the level of file cabinets in the closet or what we colloquially call salon philately.



Vladimir Milich (President of the Union of Philatelists of Serbia) and Peter Suhadolc (FIP Director for Europe)

What are the philatelic areas and topics that you as a collector, researcher and exhibitor interest you more ?

It is important, above all, to remain a philatelist despite all consciously accepted obligations. I am still intensively collecting the areas of Serbia 1840–1918 and Yugoslavia 1918–2003. Some parts of those collections received their exhibition form through the class of traditional philately and through the class of postal history. And some new exhibits from the collections are being prepared. It's just a matter of time, how many obligations will allow me to do all that...

OPEN Philately : Tips for exhibitors

by Francisc AMBRUS, FIP OPEN Class Juror

It is difficult to present a seminar of several hours within just a few pages, but I will try to be as objective as possible and present the main lines that lead to a successful exhibit.

Before being a Juror, I am an exhibitor in the OPEN class and I consider that even after the eight exhibitions (BELGICA 2006–Silver 82p, LAVRION 2009–G 85p, ANTWERPIA 2010–V 83p, BALKANFILA 2012–G 85p, SALON DU TIMBRE 2014– V 81p, NOTOS 2015–LG 95p + SP, PRAGUE 2018–LV 88p, LIBEREC 2022–G 90p) after changing the title three times, attended ten specialized seminars, evaluated as juror almost 200 exhibits in the four international and world exhibitions where I judged this class, I still have something to learn. Every time I reconstruct the old version of the exhibit and reconsider everything I have learned until now. It is possible to observe the evolution and involution of the score. This is due to factors independent of our will, but this does not mean that we must disarm. In most cases, the jurors assigned to this class are thematic ones, and not all of them have a deep knowledge of non–philatelic material. That is why it is the duty of the exhibitor to send the plan page and an explanatory synopsis in advance, and to respect the criteria and exhibition requirements included in the regulations and IREX. The synopsis is the place where in up to two pages you can explain more than the space on the frames allows, give indications to the jury about the exhibit structure and come with additional historical and thematic information, mention the place where the rarities are and provide explanations. Finally, provide the references in your bibliography to help understand your work.



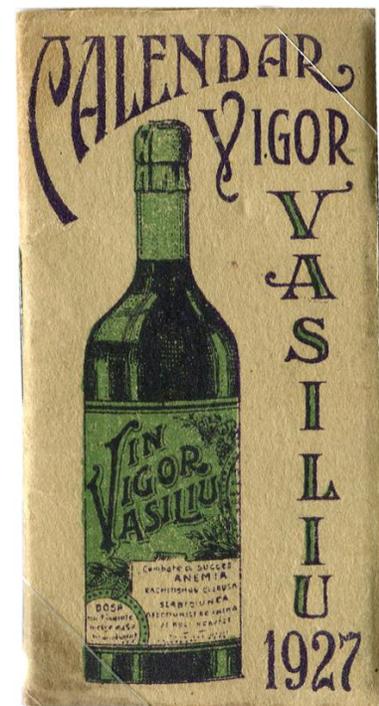
It was only in 2022 that the OPEN Philately was recognized as an official FIP class



and I had the honor of being the first to pass the FIP Juror exam in Cape Town 2022 for the OPEN class. Last year Iva Mouritsen, a young exhibitor who has a new and constructive vision, with three LGs in her record at world exhibitions and who personally held several seminars on this topic, joined me as Open Philately Juror. Other young jurors with a vision much closer to this class will join us and possibly experienced jurors will cross-accredited. The newly constituted FIP commission is working on the specialized rules and guidelines and preparing the Commission web page. I believe that the future is ours, the potential of this class, is surpassing by far that of other exhibition classes. From the exhibits I have seen in the last 20 years at more than 40 exhibitions I have attended, I consider that there are enough high-class exhibitors with the power to continue, improve and become extremely good competitors. It is important to try to be present at as many exhibitions as possible that list this class, to view the exhibits, to learn from them, to improve your own conception and, very important especially for me, to participate to all seminars regardless of the class. I know it involves additional costs, but without that we cannot progress by staying at home and buying material online. Maybe you consider it a waste of time to physically participate in seminars and exhibitions. It's not like that. The OPEN exhibit in the technical description mentions elements that are also found in the other classes, according to the variety of the exhibited material. Learn and apply what you have learnt in your own exhibit using the main elements without turning it into an exhibit specific to other classes. The thematic story and technical descriptions are part of the scoring given to philatelic and non-philatelic knowledge and personal study and research. You can watch the official FIP OPEN seminar using this link: <https://www.f-i-p.ch/wp-content/uploads/Thailand2023-FIP-Qualifying-Seminar-Open-Philately-Bangkok-pski.pdf>.

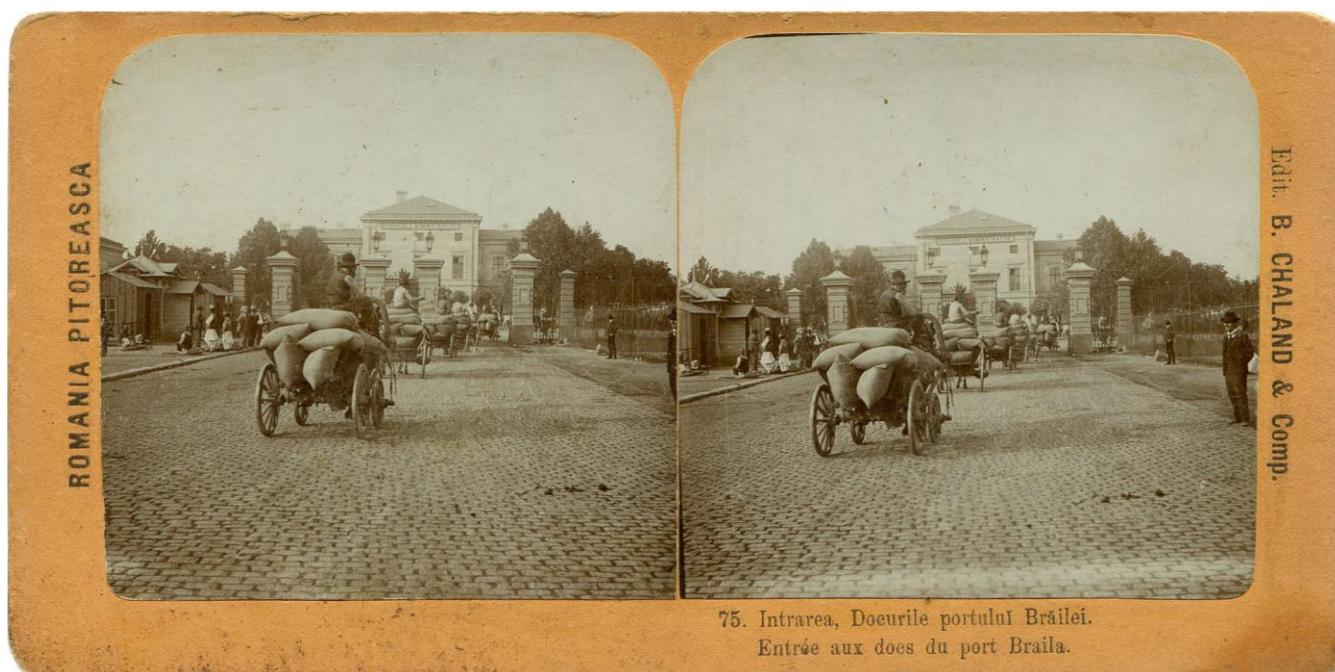


After giving you some general ideas about Open Philately, I will present you some sheets from my current exhibit and my personal view for my future one. You will have the opportunity to see the current version at BALKANFILA XX, still without the future improvements, but we can discuss them right there together. From here I try to convey only my personal ideas not being inspired by seminars, you can access the seminars yourself and choose what is useful both from my article and from other sources. The OPEN PHILATELY class offers the opportunity to present to the viewers the huge variety of collectible pieces together with philatelic pieces, which in turn are collectibles, merged into a story-telling exhibit.



To begin with, the most important thing is the chosen subject you want to present and **how much it will arouse the interest of the viewers** (visitors and jurors, family and friends). Try to find a **subject that is less known** but still has **philatelic importance**. Read and re-read the regulations applied to the class and follow the related seminars. Check the material you have and organize it logically. You may want to transform an existing thematic exhibit into an OPEN one. Check the possibility of including in the exhibit non-philatelic items (up to 50% of the exhibit) that are **less than five mm thick** and do not have **exaggerated formats**, even if they might be the cherry on the cake. Also consider that the exhibit must be transported in most cases by someone other than you, usually a national commissioner, by plane or train. He should be able to mount it without problems of material thickness or dimensions, depending on the frames allowed by the organizers.

The **TITLE** should be as related as possible to the plan and development of the theme and the story. Make a logical plan that unfolds the story coherently and intelligibly, with a few clear chapters and each with no more than four subchapters without exaggerating their number. The first page should contain, apart from the title (do not use enormous fonts that take up space), plan and bibliography (abbreviated if it is too much) short texts about philatelic interest, treatment, rarities and personal research. These are the first elements that open up the perspective of the exhibit. The Title and Plan is assigned up to 10 points. It could be also useful to have an explanatory legend for the symbols used in the sheets and at least a philatelic object or piece to introduce the subject. Do not forget to number the sheets and in developing the plan into chapters and sub-chapters to report the related sheet numbers next to them. These are useful for a faster subsequent evaluation for open discussions with the jury.



The **criterium Treatment** (in the new Guidelines it will be more properly called **DEVELOPMENT**) has 20 points. Constrain the theme and develop it clearly and the story should arouse the desire and interest to see it (innovation). Give the visitor the chance to find new and interesting things in the chosen theme and story and share your knowledge with them through short thematic descriptions and short philatelic and non-philatelic (technical) descriptions. Find the way in which the piece, the story and the descriptions are connected and in the same visual space. Try to find a balance on the page between pieces and texts. Most viewers want to see on the page the (sub)chapter header, the short general story about what is on the page, the story related to the piece and its description. Where appropriate, for rare items, use elements that lead to their quick visualization and explain why they are rare. Be innovative in treatment and presentation. Do not try to show that you have a lot of material for each story, put one or two different items connected to the story, which provide continuity. Avoid repeating the material for the same subject, even if it

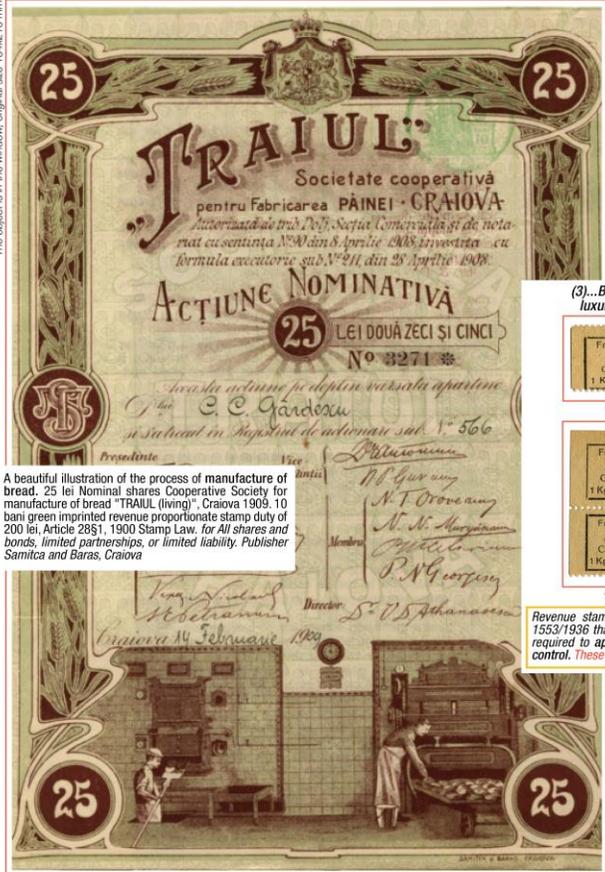
represents the subject from a different angle and is issued by another authority. Try to use a good percentage of rare material (artwork, proofs, essays, postal history covers, models, errors, clear varieties, etc. that contribute to the 20 points rarity) instead of the common material but do not exaggerate and explain it correctly (study and research). The condition of the pieces should be as good as possible, clean, attractive. Change the story if some parts have no related items. You have the open Road and you are the only one who track it as optimally as possible.



PRESENTATION (5 points). The sheets should be as clean as possible, architecturally organized (as if you put several imaginary squares and rectangles each including the item, the related story and the description), logical, airy, clear and understandable. Use several types of fonts without exaggerating and the same for each type of description. For the chapters and subchapters a big and bold font, the story with a clear and readable font of 12 pts if possible (try to use a graphic editing program like Corelle, Adobe InDesign or Quark Xpress for Windows or Pages for iOS because Word does not give you the opportunity to play with spaces and alignment), in the technical description use fonts that quickly distinguish between the important elements (italic and regular, regular bold) and different colors. I use red for the explanation of rarity and blue for quick references or provenance. Avoid large white spaces and balance all the upper and lower white space of the sheet (page). Use the space on the sheet evenly by arranging the items according to the story. Avoid overlapping pieces as much as possible. Use the windowing technique when the piece is much too big and visually only a percentage of it is dedicated to the story. The items included in technically edited frames (linear borders) can suggest the degree of interest and rarity using different colors (no more than two) and a decent thickness that does not distract the eye from the item. I use a thin gray for common parts, a double frame with gray for items of high interest and a red frame for rare items. Do not use too many rare pieces when you first exhibit, keep some when you will have to exhibit in eight frames, so each time change something in the content and introduce more and more rare items. For starters, 20% very rare items out of the total in each frame will support you. Do not forget the numbering of the sheets. Many do not respect this, and they lose points.

TREATMENT is very important, reflecting all your work. The way you approach the story and the permanent relationship to the title and plan, the arrangement on the page, the ease of following (chapter, story-related and varied pieces correctly described), differentiated fonts, page numbering lead to the 20 points allocated. Correlate the short story of the piece with the technical description similar to the principle of Maximaphily (the support together with the postmark and the stamp must be closely correlated and each of the three elements complement each other, offering a plus in the general context).

14.2: Flour and bread (1)...Advertise on shares of a private company - 10 b tax stamp perceived



A beautiful illustration of the process of manufacture of bread. 25 lei Nominal shares Cooperative Society for manufacture of bread "TRAIUL (living)", Craiova 1908. 10 bani green imprinted revenue proportionate stamp duty of 200 lei, Article 28§1, 1900 Stamp Law. for All shares and bonds, limited partnerships, or limited liability. Publisher Samfita and Baras, Craiova

(2)...First Luxury Loaf (French bread) advertise



(3)...Bread stamp control, luxury loaf "FAVORITA"



1 kg white bread



1 kg brown bread

Revenue stamps arising by Royal Decree 1553/1936 that municipalities bakers were required to apply on each bread a stamp control. These revenue stamps are edible.

(4)...Wheat stamp 1930



Sibiu local revenue stamp for bread consumption control

(6)...Beekeeping, motif on revenue



10 b Savings bank revenue

(7)...1936 Bread control stamps



for white bread

(5)... 1908 - Solacoglu brothers the founders of Mills Cartel



Jubilee stamp

(8)...Token, 1 kg bread



Consumer store CFR (Romanian Railways), brass token circa 1930, Engraver Carmoil son

(9)...Flour bags ticket



Ticket for bags of flour. Mill Trading S.A.R. Bucharest

The **PHILATELIC** (20 points) and **NON-PHILATELIC** (15 points) knowledge is reflected in the technical descriptions and can be outlined using different fonts, different colors and most importantly, presenting the most important elements (location, dating, purpose, tariffs where applicable in brief, circulation where possible, the printing house, etc., information that depending on the type of object you can see in the other classes, except non-philatelic material). Regarding the non-philatelic material, I noticed that many do not know what to write in the technical description. For coins, medals, banknotes, orders, tokens, badges, you can find information about circulations, issuer, period, material used, purpose, through collectibles auction catalogs and dedicated monographs. For pictures postcards, Liebig, mini advertising on cardboard, you can find the printing company and other brief information right on their back. For maps, you can find useful information on the internet in the dedicated auctions. The same for publications and advertisements. Use

Cinderella and tax stamps or tax documents. There are already published catalogs for many countries. Many fit the historical area but must be described correctly. Matches labels, streamers, letterheads, personalized envelopes, stamps, seals, passports, corks, etc., are many pieces that can delight the eye and connect to the story. I mentioned only a few types of them, but nowadays the information is much easier to find. Use it efficiently and prove that you deserve the maximum score. Pay attention to how long the technical description is. If there are situations where the description needs to be more extensive, it would be preferable to divide some descriptive elements and place them all in the imaginary rectangle or square but with a little separation and a different font.



CONDITION (10 points). It consists in the choice of the best possible quality of the exhibited item. Avoid damaged, dirty, incomplete objects even if they are very rare. It is possible to display a single unique item in imperfect condition, sometimes with the mention "restored", if appropriate and only if it's absolutely necessary.

You can prove the **RARITY** (20 points) through study and research and by explaining it correctly. If there are pieces from large collections, at the end of the technical description you can mention: *'Ex. the collection...'* Or *'... only three survived'*, or *'... only five copies are known in private hands'*, or *'... only three envelopes sent from this post office that year'*, or *'... 10 medals minted and only two have survived'*, or *'... the only known in evidence...'*. Do not forget the expertise certificates where appropriate.

An exhibit that continues its tradition of being exhibited, made more and more attractive, improved and remodeled, will always be appreciated and rewarded.

and now a few words on my exhibit and personal criticism of its current version.

A little motivation about the ingenuity of the material used was generated by the fact that I am a collector of tax stamps (Revenues), I have exhibited various exhibits with tax stamps on different themes and I wanted to demonstrate that the revenues class can have subclasses. The article in SREV that allows the use of any type of philatelic material encouraged me to take a risk by presenting an OPEN exhibit in which the philatelic material is totally represented by tax stamps and objects on which they were used. The subject I have selected would never have had such a wide variety of 'philatelic' pieces if I had only used stamps and other postal material. I used only pieces from the period mentioned in the title, original and without intrusions with newer objects past 1947.



Let's return to the initial topic. First, I should mention that the title I have adopted "100 years of Romanian Commerce and Stock Exchange, 1847-1947" is a risky one and for a much too long period in the opinion of some jurors. I will probably be forced to narrow the period and separate the story into two exhibits. Initially, I wanted to tell the story of three Principalities, later United in a single country, that in 100 years underwent geopolitical changes and was periodically occupied by the great powers for more than 60 years.



The theme of the exhibit is so long because it includes the moment of transition from a Medieval economy to a Capitalist one, the development from the Capitalist economy and finally the extinction of the Capitalist society through the Nationalization carried out by a Communist Regime.

My attention was focused on the Stock Exchange and the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, chronologically, and by typology (stamps for the stock exchange, stamps for the chamber of commerce and industry, stamps for the chambers of agriculture). As I developed the plan, I realized that it is extremely difficult, maybe impossible, to treat this theme simultaneously in a chronological, historical and geographical way. That's why the last plan changed into a thematic plan with the attempt to illustrate in the story the transition from a Feudal economy to a Capitalist one and then the Nationalization. The first part managed to be effectively illustrated in chapters 1, 2 and 3, but my deviation and love for tax stamp issues dedicated to commercial activities, turned chapters 4 and 5 into a chronology of their appearance and use. It is not very annoying due to the variety of the material used in the sheets, but it can be remodeled more efficiently. In the next version, I will focus more on the theme of the exhibit and not on the chronology. The material exists, the story exists, it can be redone. The other chapters balance the mistake of 4 and 5, but even in these a more efficient plan must be invented.

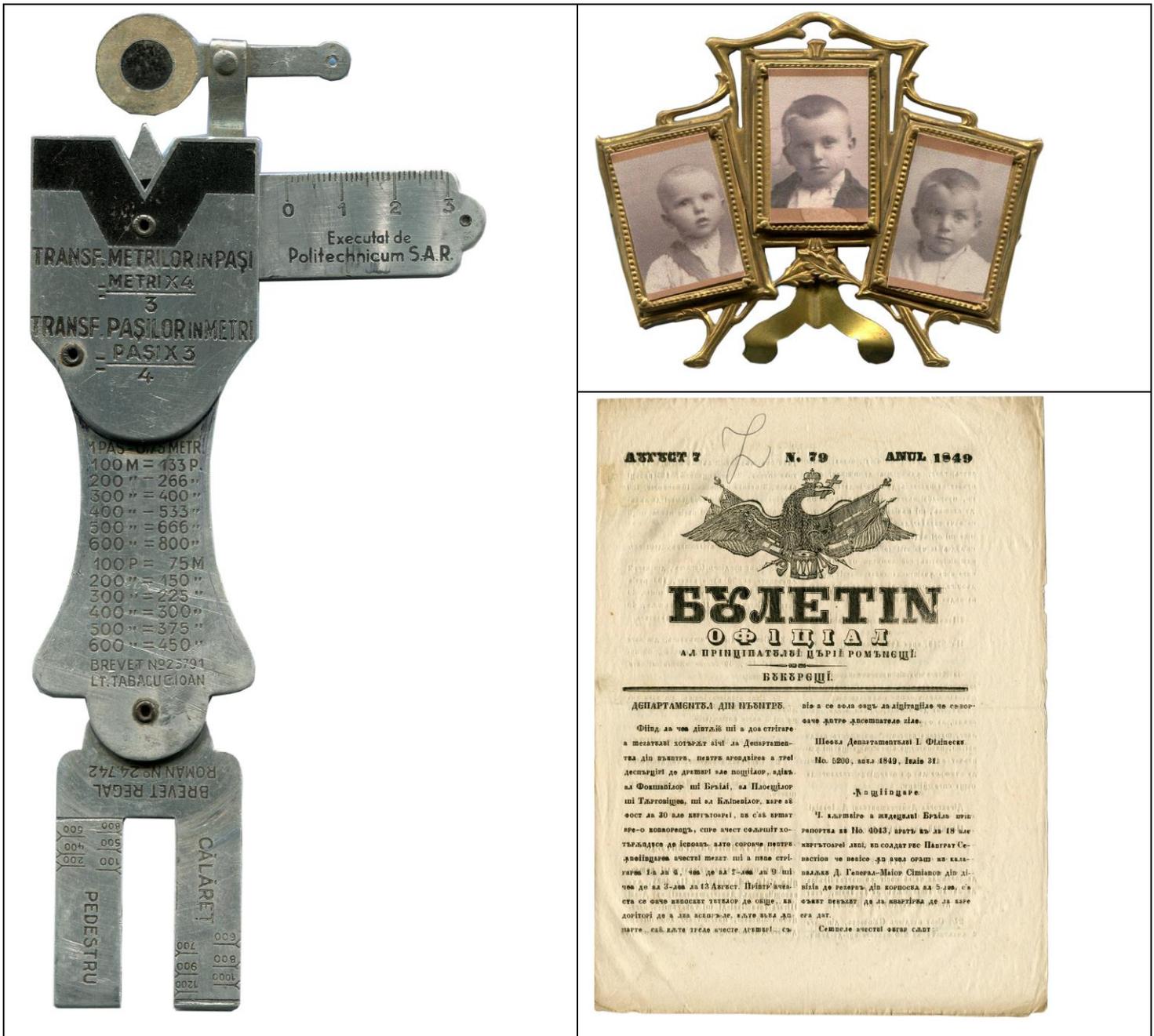


My sheets are quite loaded and do not look airy due to the large size of some pieces and the much too long texts. Everything needs to be rethought, structured more efficiently and I will probably do some cleaning by removing some of the philatelic objects/pieces or moving them. In the case where I have overlapping pieces, I will put others in place, smaller but with the same purpose, and in other cases out of three pieces I will retain only the most important two. In the first frame there are some sheets that have no philatelic material at all. I will change the story in such a way as to restore the balance by moving the pieces between sheets, even if I break the historical-chronological balance. After all, it is a thematic exhibit and not a fiscal history one. In the last frames, the philatelic material (stamps) is excessive and then I will rethink and remix everything that is there. There are sheets in which I presented various stamps with overprints from many localities that served the same purpose, but I have not described them. Some are extremely rare and must be mentioned. Others can be replaced with items supporting the story. There is a lot to do, and the entire exhibit will be redone.

Finally, my advice is to lean on the diversity of pieces offered by various revenue items and please use them. I no longer present reproductions of pages from the exhibits because they could not be used effectively without being able to be enlarged, but I am at your disposal for open and friendly discussions on the topic of the OPEN Philately exhibit.

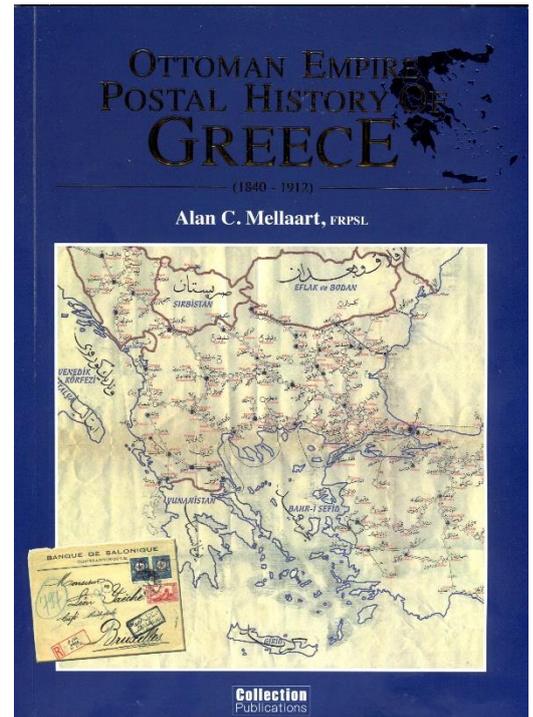
You can see this exhibit here: <http://www.revenues.ro/pagini/exhibitOPEN.php> and you can write to me by e-mail: franambrus@yahoo.com.

You can also contact the members of the OPEN Philately working group of the newly established FIP commission. Link: <https://www.f-i-p.ch/fip-organisation/commissions-sections/>



Allan C. Mellaart : “ Ottoman Empire Postal History of Greece ”

This 128-page luxury book was first published by Collection Publications in November 2024 on the occasion of Balkanfila XX in Thessaloniki presenting a number of attractive as well as rare covers from the author's collection. The author, Alan Mellaart is a long-time, reputed researcher of Ottoman Postal History as well as a multi-awarded Exhibitor.



The aim of this book, none than the author himself can state in a better way :

“this publication is designed for philatelists, historians and enthusiasts alike, offering insights into the Ottoman Empire's postal evolution within Greece from 1840 until 1912” and “...preserve and highlight the legacy of each region's postmarks and correspondence through the display on covers”.

The relative posted covers of the book are divided into the 6 Vilayet (Provinces) and 1 Principality of the Ottoman Empire in Greece. Namely the 6 Provinces were these of Aegean and Dodecanese, Edirne, Crete, Monastir, Thessaloniki and Ioannina in addition to the Principality of Samos.



Yaliler Selanik (Thessaloniki) → Liege - Belgium. 18.11.1911.

18.11.1911. PC from Selanik (Thessaloniki) to Liege-Belgium, in compliance with 06.09.1888 rate schedule, franked with 1909 issue 20p. stamp, with “YALILER (SELANIK)” bilingual cds. 20p. is for postage.

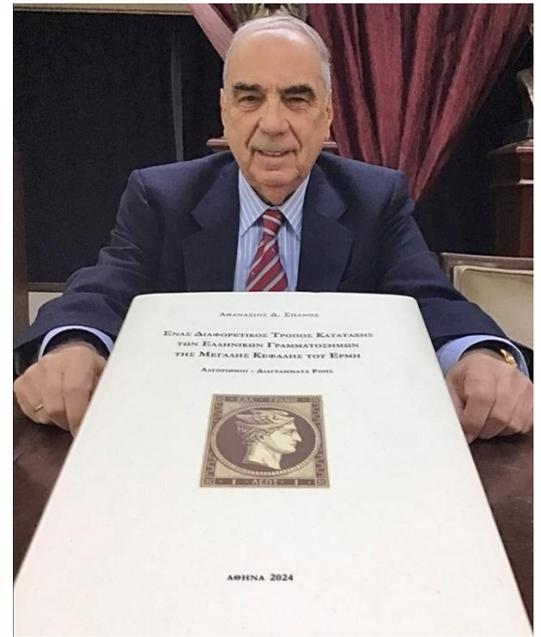
The relative illustrations from maps and engravings in this book make this philatelically valuable publication, due to its attractive layout, an enjoyable reading for the reader.

Last but not least, during Balkanfila XX, the homonymous 8-frame Exhibit of Allan Mellaart was awarded a Large Gold medal.

"A DIFFERENT WAY of CLASSIFYING the GREEK STAMPS of the LARGE HERMES HEADS"

The innovative book of Athanasios D. Spanos is the product of systematic research and study of the Large Hermes Heads for over sixty years, initially learning alongside his father Dimitrios Spanos, a knowledgeable connoisseur and distinguished philatelic dealer of the emblematic first edition of Greek stamps.

The author's choice to classify the LHH in the two Paris Prints of 1861 and 1876 of the New Face Values is unquestionable. The innovation consists in the author's "subversive" approach of classifying all remaining Athens LHH Prints according to their face value as a single series of multiple printings, which facilitates the traditional classification that has been accepted since the beginning of the 20th century, as a "means" for commercial facilitation and suitable but incorrect classification method to collectors of LHH.



The method of classifying LHH by face value, while it seems complex, with the use of the Flow Chart, an original and groundbreaking invention of the author, leads, through the special characteristics of each print, to the identification and correct classification.

The Flow Chart was invented and developed by the author in 1972 while it was presented in detail in his series of lectures on LHH in 2004 and 2017 at H.P.S (Hellenic Philatelic Society) as well as in October – November 2011, 2012 and 2018 at F.E.A (Philatelic Society of Athens).

How does the Flow Chart work for classifying the LHH ?

When examining the special characteristics of each MKE such as : their face value and stamp colour, the printing method, the type and colouring of the paper and the printing quality of the LHH, these result in the correct classification through successive and inappropriate deductions.

In the pages of the Book, the special characteristics of the different Athens prints of each value are presented thoroughly and analytically in bigger size and high resolution images in order to facilitate the reader, in addition there high resolution 3.000 images.

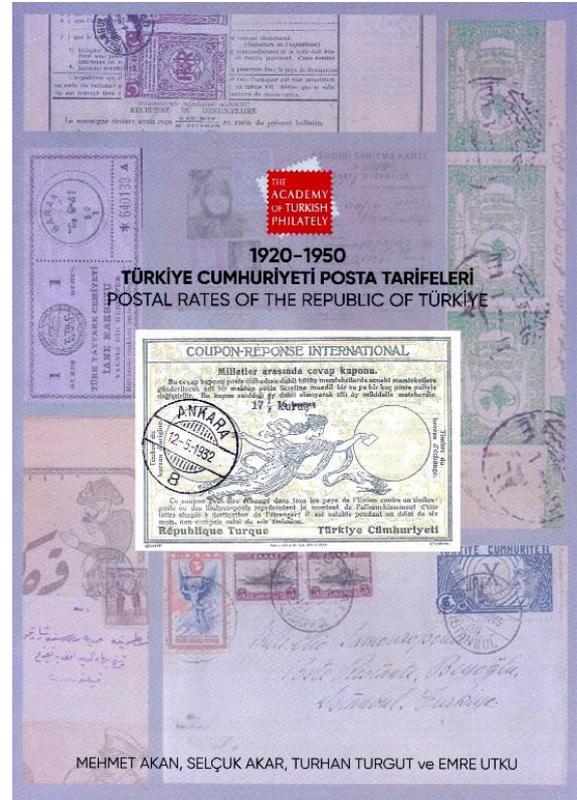
The penultimate chapter 11 of the book, objectively determines through digital technology the colours of LHH stamps of all issues according to their face value while including an extensive colour chart of enlarged, high resolution LHH images by using the additive RGB colour model .

This Book, product of long-term research and study of LHH by Athanasios D. Spanos, has become an indispensable manual as well as an authoritative the Reference Book for LHH.

Language Greek, *Size* A4, *Number of Pages* 718, *ISBN* : 978-618-87153-0-1,
How to Order : from the Author, *Contact* : mob +30 6942 569190, email : ninni@aueb.gr

1920-1950 Postal Rates of the Republic of Türkiye

The 326 pages of "1920-1950 Postal Rates of the Republic of Türkiye" cover every single aspect of postal rates of the period in question and it is divided into two chapters : Postal Rates for Surface Mail and Airmail and six sub-chapters : 1920-1923 Domestic Rates, 1923-1950 & Foreign Rates in chapter One and Airmail, Rates and Zeppelin Mail in the Chapter Two.



This detailed, finely presented "manual" of postal rates is the collective showpiece of Türkiye Postal Rates and it has been accomplished by four distinguished philatelists-members of the Turkish Philatelic Academy, Mehmet Akan, Selçuk Akar, Turhan Turgut and Emre Utku.



The “Postal Rates of the Republic of Türkiye 1920-1950” is a full-colour, and fully bilingual book not only documenting Turkey’s postal rates from 1920 to 1950, but also covering all postage services defined in UPU Congress publications, as well as airmail rates. It does include comprehensive information on special rates and services, examining many categories that never previously had been catalogued or thoroughly analyzed.

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İkinci Bölüm / Chapter Two

Hava Postası / Airmail

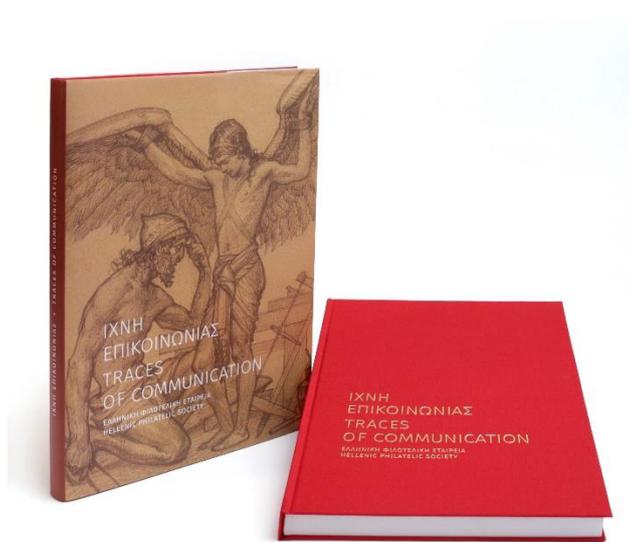
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The book is based on significant collections and on official archives, ensuring that all rate-related information is supported by references to archival sources.

Philatelic collections often face the risk of being “fragmented” over time, but this reference publication comes to preserve the subject’s legacy.

Traces of Communication

The Anniversary Book «Traces of Communication» were designed and published on the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of the Hellenic Philatelic Society with an unconventional rationale and the aim of highlighting the scope of social and cultural value of Greek philately, beyond preconceived notions on Philately.



Nearly a hundred members, friends and cultural organizations, who made available their items, responded to the call for the publication. Basic «ingredients» of the publication were on the one hand the self-financed character by the participating collectors and on the other hand the extroversion of the Anniversary Book and on the other hand its orientation to be mainly addressed to the wider readership that are not particularly familiar with philately.

The structure of the contents did not follow a linear, chronological categorization but by creating the following 14 conceptual sections : Headlines, Artists – Artifacts, Symbolisms – Transformations, Emotions, Personalities, Friends and Enemies, Revolutions – Campaigns, Resistance – Exile – Captivity, Propaganda, Communities, Landmarks, Trade – Money, Postal items and Peculiarities.

The atypical criteria for selecting the objects included were, on the one hand, the prerequisite that they would be somehow related to Greece and, on the other hand, to demonstrate the unbreakable relationship of philately with history, society, economy, arts and culture, justifying to the greatest extent possible the choice of Anniversary Book's title, «Traces of Communication».

The publication is bilingual to facilitate non-Greek-speaking readers whilst the responsibility for the texts rests exclusively with the editorial board. The page layout was based on a simple and understandable canvas, without graphic exaggerations, in order to give priority to the image and information, while the illustration of the front cover was oriented towards the nearest stamp period with the establishment of H.P.S. The emblematic work of the leading artist Dimitris Biskinis, was chosen by depicting the essay of «Icarus and Daedalus» stamp of the Mythology series of 1935. The artistic curation of the Album is owed to the visual artist Dr. Myrsini Vardopoulou.



The Album also hosts a note on the timeline of the H.P.S as well as a list of Exhibitors both in Greek and English language.

The final goal set for the «Traces of Communication» was to justify the multiple imprint of the H.P.S on philately and culture during its first hundred years, while the reader is always the final judge of the outcome.

A sample of the contents at : <https://hps.gr/index.php/en/anniversary-edition/>

Contact : secretary@hps.gr

NEW ISSUES

150 Years U.P.U

On October 9th, Turkiye has circulated a stamp (29 Lirasi) for the 150th Anniversary of U.P.U depicting the U.P.U Logo as well as message pigeons (homers).



In 1874, 22 States established the Universal Postal Union in Bern, Switzerland, (UPU) after a founding congress. Four Balkan countries : Greece, Romania, Serbia and Turkey were among U.P.U's founding members. In 1947 the U.P.U was incorporated into the various U.N Agencies and nowadays the Union counts 192 Member States worldwide.

Since then, the Universal Postal Union (U.P.U) has aimed at the continuous renewal of postal procedures, aimed both at serving the volume of mail and at providing modern postal products and services while constantly upgrading their quality.

In addition, the U.P.U since 1971 has encouraged young writers aged 9-15 to write letters on a given theme to win exciting prizes. The competition is an excellent way of making young people aware of the important role postal services play in our societies. It develops their skills in composition and their ability to express thoughts clearly. It also fosters enjoyment of letter writing and helps strengthen the bonds of international friendship.

Ethnological Treasure 2024 issued on 09/10/2024

Folk costumes, especially women's costumes, are an immense treasure that must be cared for and preserved for future generations. The folk costumes of women from the Žepče area are undoubtedly some of the most beautiful Croatian costumes in central Bosnia. The stamp shows the old headdress of a married woman that was once placed on her head on the first morning after the wedding. First, the *koturača* - a concentric ring of vine branches wrapped in colourful cloth - was placed around the *fez* on the head. Then a colourful cloth scarf, called *ćenar*, was placed on the *koturača* and tied at the back of the head. Then, braids were braided onto the *koturača* and the *ćenar* and tied at the back of the head, and a cloth was placed on top - a scarf woven from cotton in two threads" and decorated with embroidered or woven ornaments. Richer women also placed a ducat chain "under the cloth".



Fauna 2024 (01/11/2024)

The **horned lark** (*Eremophila alpestris*) is a lark species from the genus *Eremophila*. It is about 16 cm long with a striking black-yellow face, brown-grey above and white below. The **grey wagtail** (*Motacilla cinerea*) is a slender bird with a very long, black tail with white edges. This timid and lively bird is constantly on the move, and is characterized by the constant lifting of its tail. It has a bright yellow belly while its back is grey.



The **corn crake** (*Crex crex*) is a bird that is rarely to be seen since it hides in thick grass. It has bright, camouflage feathers. The upper part of its body is brown and black, the head, neck and chest are grey-blue, while the wings are chestnut. The **white-throated dipper** (*Cinclus cinclus*) is a bird from the passerine family and is unique among them because it can dive and swim underwater. It is small and stocky, has a short tail and short wings, but strong legs. It is most often dark brown or brown-white in colour.

Flora 2024 (11/11/2024)

Dinarska večernica (*Hesperis dinarica*) is an endemic of the Balkan Peninsula with its centre of distribution in the Dinarides of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This perennial herbaceous plant, with woody roots, grows from 70 to 80 cm in height. It has an upright stem covered with leaves and simple hairs. It blooms in June and July, and several flowers form a clustered inflorescence. The snow-white petals have a mild fragrance. It grows in light thinned forests and terrain cuts of foothills and the alpine area.

Hrvatska bresina (*Micromeria croatica*) is a protected perennial herbaceous plant that grows in crevices of calcareous and calcareous-dolomite rocks, on stony grasslands in the mountains and foothills of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It has a simple stem covered with hairs that grows from 10 to 20 cm tall, while the leaves are also covered in hairs. Bisexual flowers grow on long and thin stalks gathered in inflorescences. The flowers are double, short and hairy with 5 equal pointed teeth. The bilabiate corolla is purple or crimson in colour, with four stamens attached to the tube of the corolla. It has one pistil and is propagated by seeds and division.



Christmas 2024 and New Year (15/11/2024)

On November 15th, Croatian Post Ltd. Mostar has issued 2 commemorative postage stamps celebrating the **Annunciation of the Lord** and **New Year**.



The angel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she would conceive a son by the Holy Spirit and name him Jesus. The event of Christ's incarnation and birth from the Virgin Mary is the history of salvation in Christianity. On January 1, the beginning of the New Year is celebrated all over the world. Cheerful and noisy, with family and friends. But on the 1st of January, the feast of Mary the Mother of God is also celebrated - Mother of God, Mother of the Church and Mother of all people. In this way, the Church places us under the care and protection of Mary at the beginning of the New Year.

CROATIA

Organized Mountaineering

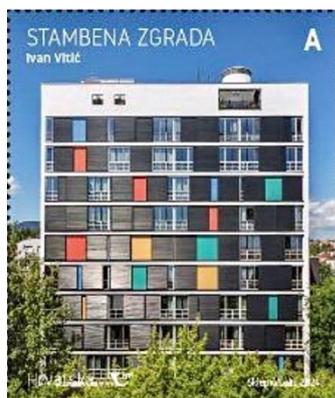


On October 15th, a stamp dedicated to “Organized Mountaineering” was issued. Organized mountaineering in Croatia began in 1874 when the Croatian Mountaineering Society (HPD) was founded in Zagreb with the aim of exploring the previously unknown mountain regions of Croatia.

With the founding of HPD on 15 October 1874 Croats were among the first nations in the world to have their own mountaineering organization. In the beginning, HPD was dominated by naturalists and other researchers, many of whom were also the founders of the Academy, the University of Zagreb and initiators of important scientific, cultural and social events. In 1898, the magazine Hrvatski planinar began its publishing, and is still being published today as one of the oldest magazines in Croatia and at the same time one of the oldest mountaineering magazines in the world.

Modern Architecture and Design

On November 22nd in the series of “**Modern Architecture and Design**” the following two stamps were issued : The most representative example is “Kallina House”, built in 1903 – 1904 according to the design by Vjekoslav Bastl (Přibram, 1872 – Zagreb, 1947). The house built for the owner of what was at that time Croatia's largest ceramics factory, Josip Kallina, is also a powerful visual message in the urban environment.



The “Colorful Skyscraper” or “Vitić’s Skyscraper”. The building -which was constructed from 1958 to 1962 according to the design of architect Ivan Vitić- best illustrates the iconic character and popularity of one of the premier achievements of late modernist architecture in Zagreb.

BALKANFILA XX Commemorative Issues

BALKANFILA XX BOOKLET with 4 SELF-ADHESIVE STAMPS



BALKANFILA XX COMMEMORATIVE CANCELLATIONS

13.11.2024
OPENING DAY



14.11.2024
PHILATELIC ACTION DAY



15.11.2024
AWARD DAY



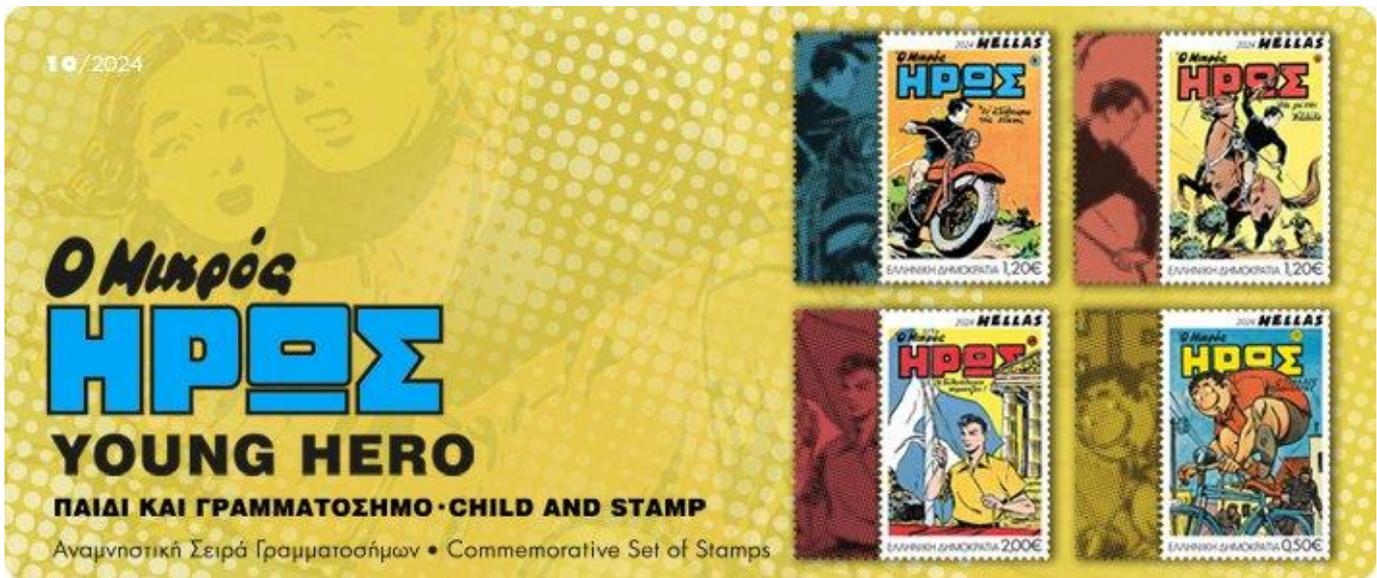
16.11.2024
BALKAN FRIENDSHIP DAY



BALKANFILA XX COMMEMORATIVE F.D.C



"Child & Stamp – Young Hero" (23/10/2024)



Rarely has a magazine left such a mark on the hearts and minds of its readers as ‘Young Hero’ (Mikros Iros), written by Stelios Anemodouras from 1953 to 1968 under the pseudonym Thanos Astritis, and illustrated by Byron Aptosoglou. Rarely has a children’s magazine of its kind reached the mythical number of almost 800 issues without a break, written every week by the same author. Rarely has a magazine of children’s stories cultivated so many values in the minds of its young readers. These are values that they absorbed and still talk of with pride, not hesitating to say that they learned them and built on them by reading Little Hero.

100 Years World Savings Day



On October 31st, Hellenic Post released, Individual Personalized Stamps to mark the 100th Anniversary since the establishment of the “100 Years World Savings Day”.

NORTH MACEDONIA

KRSTE MISIRKOV (1874-1926)

The activities and engagements of the Balkan cosmopolitan, linguist, and publisher Krste Misirkov (1874-1926) spanned from the Balkans to St. Petersburg, thereby linking diverse European cultures. In honor of the 150th anniversary of his birth, a commemorative stamp has been issued.

On September 16, 2024, the Post Office of the Republic of North Macedonia issued a stamp to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Krste Misirkov (1874-1926). Misirkov was a Balkan cosmopolitan, polyglot, historian, ethnographer, translator, and professor active during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Philatelists from seven modern countries may find particular interest in this stamp, as Misirkov lived and worked across a vast region stretching from Thessaloniki to St. Petersburg.



Born in 1874 in the Ottoman Empire (modern-day Turkey), in the village of Allah Kilise (with Slavic name Postol) now known as Πέλλα (Pella, Central Macedonia, Greece, Misirkov grew up in a multicultural and multilingual environment. In Thessaloniki, the metropolis of the Mediterranean with a millennium of rich history and a multicultural intersection, the second largest city in the European part of the Empire, different peoples and religions lived then. In addition to his native Macedonian, he learned Turkish, Greek, Bulgarian, and likely

had some understanding of Sephardic Jewish and Albanian. His linguistic skills led him to serve as a translator for the Russian consul in Monastir (now Bitola, Republic of North Macedonia).

With the aid of a Russian scholarship, Misirkov studied philology in Odessa (now Ukraine) and later continued his education at the Faculty of Philology and History of the University of St. Petersburg, where he earned his doctorate with a thesis on the Polish language. As a member of the Macedonian Literary Fellowship, an association of students from Macedonia, he became deeply interested in the social, political and linguistic features of the population of Macedonia.

In 1903, while living in Sofia, Misirkov published his analyzes in the book “On Macedonian Affairs” before returning to Odessa. His career took him to various locations, including Chisinau (modern-day Moldova), where he was elected commissioner of the local Council (Sfatul Țării) during the turbulent events of 1917.

In his later years, Misirkov worked as a publicist and professor in different parts of the Kingdom of Bulgaria, eventually passing away in Sofia in 1926.

He is widely respected in the Republic of North Macedonia for the program outlined in “On Macedonian Affairs”.

The commemorative stamp, designed by L. Kufalo, was issued in a limited edition of 6,000 copies. Measuring 30.2 x 40.2 mm, with comb perforation 13½:13½, it was printed in sheets of nine (3x3), accompanied by a First Day Cover (FDC).

ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

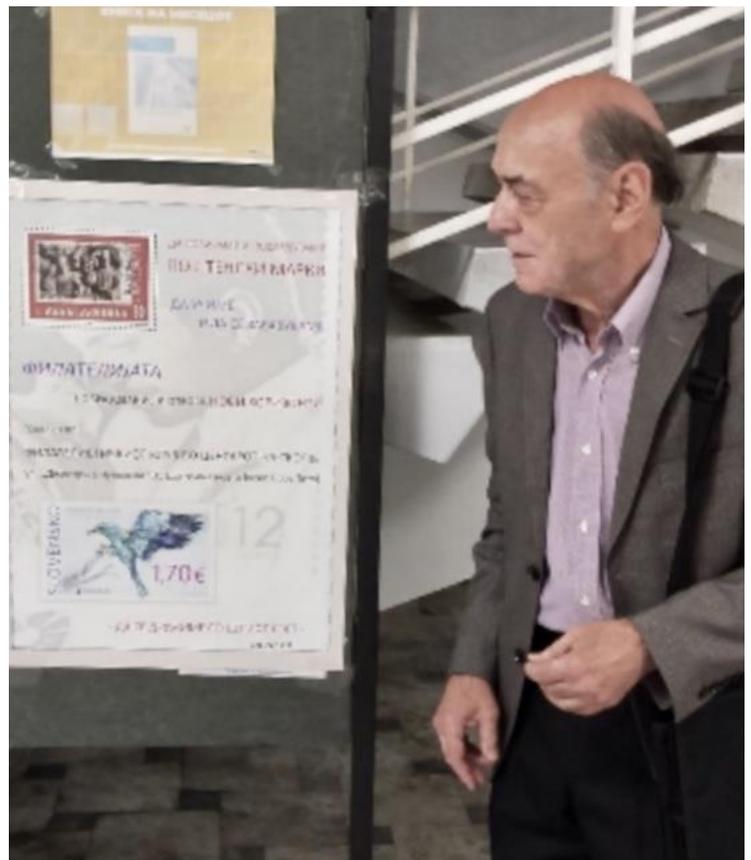
One of the world's most popular hobby, philately, is disappearing from the focus of youngsters. The Union of Philatelists of Macedonia is launching an action to link their current way of life with old fashion pastime. Union's ongoing objectives is to engage younger generations and encourage them to explore the world of philately.

In recent years, the Union has launched a program to promote philately and memorabilia collection, with the goal of increasing membership. To achieve this, a task force has been established to foster engagement with school students and youth. The objective is to meet young people where they are—in their schools, clubs and youth centers—and offer them something unique in a world where digital attractions dominate with extensive dynamics and colours. Philately, in contrast, emphasizes the development of personal focus, the

desire to explore new subjects, and the willingness to compare and learn—key elements that form the essence of stamp collecting.

As part of this initiative, the first step involved distributing posters in their daily environments featuring basic information about the Union and invitations to informal meetings with members. In locations where the project was embraced, posters were designed to attract the attention of young people, providing contact details and encouraging direct interaction. This was followed by presentations of philatelic collections, distribution of informational brochures and answering questions.

One approach has been to inspire curiosity by encouraging participants to search for forgotten stamp collections in their homes – perhaps hidden in drawers or basements by parents or grandparents. Colorful albums of stamps are shown to keep their interest. Thematic collections, appropriate to the age group, have been highlighted, with subjects such as flora, fauna, airplanes, and ships proving more appealing to younger audiences than collections focused on historical figures.



In parallel with these efforts, Union members have made appearances in the media and published articles to reach a wider audience across generations. Our invitation to support this project has been well-received, and the next step will be organizing an "Open Doors Day" at the Union of Philatelists, with appropriate media coverage. The goal is to engage both children and their parents, offering them the opportunity to view various collections and have their questions answered directly by Union members.

ROMANIA

Corals

A postage stamp issue themed around Fauna will be released on September 20th this year, under the generic title Corals. Corals belong to the family of marine invertebrates in the class *Anthozoa*, phylum *Cnidaria*. They live in compact colonies consisting of many polyps, joined together by calcareous channels. After the death of the polyps, another one is added to the old skeleton, forming what we know as a coral reef. The calcareous skeleton, or bead, is usually white or red and is used to make ornaments.



The four stamps of the postage stamp issue represent four species listed under the names :

Diploria labyrinthiformis (Lei 5) is found in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. **Acropora palmata** (Lei 10), named for its shape and the *moose horn coral*, is widespread from southern Florida to the northern coasts of Venezuela. **Acropora cervicornis** (Lei 12), species also known as the *staghorn coral*, is found in the Caribbean Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Great Barrier Reef of Australia. **Zoanthus sp.** (postage stamp with the face value of **Lei 13**) is the type found in many areas including the Gulf of Mexico, the eastern coasts of Brazil, the Indian Ocean, the coasts of Australia. It is also found in aquariums because it is easy to grow and is appreciated for its coloration. It is popularly called *button polyps*. Common colours are red, blue, green and purple.

Chrysanthemum

On October 2nd were issued 4 **Chrysanthemum** postage stamps with face values of **Lei 2**, **Lei 6**, **Lei 10** and **Lei 25**, a First Day Cover, a philatelic folder with special product in a limited edition and a set of 4 maxicards for the passionates of maximaphily. **Chrysanthemums** belong to the botanical genus *Chrysanthemum* in the family Asteraceae (Compositae). Their name derives from the Greek words "chrysos" meaning gold and "anthemon" meaning flower.

The postage stamps issue presents lovers of beauty with images of flowers often known as *tufănele*, *dumitrițe* or autumn daisies, which, in popular belief, symbolize beauty, longevity, and rejuvenation. It is a symbol of optimism and joy. In Japan, chrysanthemums are celebrated annually during the Festival of Happiness.



HOMOCHROMY & MIMICRY 12 NOV 2024

Romfilatelia introduced on November 12th, an interesting and original postage stamps issue with a subject that defines a fauna area: **Homochromy and Mimicry**.

Homochromy is the phenomenon by which a species camouflages itself by having a colour, either permanent or temporary, that blends with its environment and helps specimens remain undetected, which increases their chances of survival. Mimicry has a more complex definition, being a similar phenomenon by which a species imitates, in order to gain an advantage (protection, predation, etc.), the colour and sometimes the shape of natural elements.



Postage stamps feature four species in their images: The European Tree Frog (*Hyla arborea*) found in Romania from lowlands up to over 1,000 meters in the Carpathian Mountains.

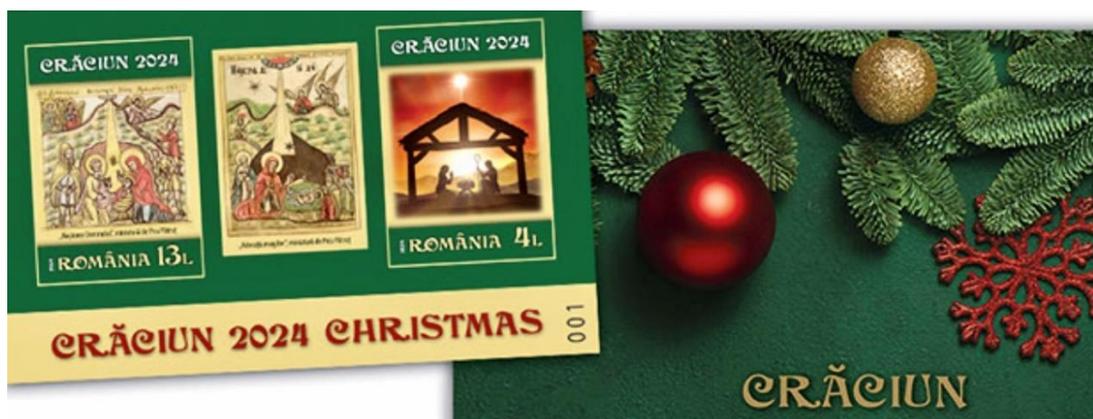
The Mimic Octopus (*Thaumoctopus mimicus*) native to the Indo-Pacific region is renowned not only for its ease in disguising itself but also for the number of species it can imitate.

The Seagrass Filefish (*Acreichthys tomentosus*) – represented on the stamp with the face value of Lei 13. It imitates the colour and even texture of underwater plants and it lives in tropical waters.

The Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) is found in the northern tundra regions and its white colour, allows it to easily and quickly camouflage in the snow.

CHRISTMAS 2024

The Great Feast of the Nativity, presented in the world of postage stamps, can be found in the **Christmas 2024** -on November 22nd- philatelic issue of **Romfilatelia** consisting of two stamps, a perforated souvenir sheet, a First Day Cover and a special philatelic folder. The postage stamps of this philatelic issue depict in images the 4 Lei stamp the Nativity of the Lord stamp and the 13 Lei stamp the biblical atmosphere of the Nativity. The postage stamp of the souvenir sheet shows the Adoration of the Magi.



SERBIA

European Values



On October 4th was issued a Miniature Sheet titled “**European Values**”. This M/S points to the common values that the Republic of Serbia shares with the countries of the European Union by paying tribute to great people or events that are symbols of these values. Paul-Henri Spaak (1899-1972) was a distinguished Belgian diplomat and statesman who promoted the ideals of multilateralism and interstate cooperation, as well as the building of strong European institutions, through his many decades of activity in the field of international politics. He presided over the first session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and many European organizations from which today's European Union was born.

European Nature Protection

Two “European Nature Protection” stamps were issued on October 30th.

The natural monument “Mrkonjski vis” represents a physically distinct and recognizable geomorphological entity and belongs to the group of the most significant rocky peaks in Serbia. The top is a tectonically predisposed mountain pyramid – a spike. It is a refuge for a large number of species, which have found their refuge in the forest communities of black hornbeam and black ash, oak and hazel. 95 species of plants were registered as well as 67 species of birds.



The natural monument “Devil’s Stone – Prosečnik” represents an exceptional natural value of geomorphological character with rocky sections, erosion beams and a large number of bones of different sizes and shapes. In addition to the diverse flora and fauna of the area, the 14th c. church of St. Virgin Mary is located above Prosečnik on the Devil’s Stone, with the remains of buildings and infrastructure that were part of the church complex.

SLOVENIA

This year's November issue, due on **22 November**, featured four festive definitive stamps as well as another four issues. The **Human Senses** series we began last year, continued this time with a stamp dedicated to the Sight. **Slovene Proverbs and Sayings** series – this year's stamp illustrated the proverb *V sili hudič muhe žre!* (\approx Beggars can't be choosers). The fourth stamp of **Pioneers and Milestones of Slovene Aviation** series was issued in sheets of 16 continue. The November postage stamp issue has also included the first stamp in a new series called **Children's Toys**. This first stamp, featured a Children's kitchen.

All good things for humankind, plants and animals

The New Year was originally celebrated on 6 January. From the middle of the 4th century the celebration of Christmas and New Year was combined, with joint festivities on 25 December. It was only at the end of the 17th century that the beginning of the year was designated as 1 January.

The New Year customs and practices of our ancestors were linked to acts of magic, which supposedly served to promote health and good fortune, fertility and everything good for people and their natural environment, covering the plant and animal kingdoms. All of this became enshrined relatively slowly in the iconography of idyllic representations of popular animals (foxes and bears with cubs), which would exchange New Year gifts around a decorated spruce (picea) tree.



BUT

The New Authorities introduced one more tree cult

Starting in 1945, the authorities began introducing the New Year's fir tree alongside the Christmas tree, which was traditionally a spruce originating from protestant northern Europe. This was not just a decorated fir with lights, decorations and gifts, but was originally also the title of the holiday, presented as the New Year Fir and written with capital first letters. The purpose of instigating the New Year Fir was to establish a new holiday that would gradually replace in the public arena the banned celebrations of St Nicholas and Christmas.

The magic of Christmas night (...and its depictions)

Slovene art features a range of idyllic, frequently romantic depictions of snowy evening landscapes as well as the Three Kings. Warmth emanates from the hearths of homesteads, and lighted churches bring worshippers to Christmas midnight Mass.



Today that image has changed without the snowy landscape, the fundamental backdrop to the Christmas spirit around the world, including in Slovenia. With the passing years, Christmas is turning increasingly “summery”, and the snowy idylls have in recent years become mainly confined to historical memories.

Human Senses : Sight

The fascinating series of stamps entitled Human Senses is being continued with a presentation of sight. An original, picturesque presentation of the sense of sight that can be understood by people not versed in medicine will stimulate the viewer to think about and seek a closer awareness of this sense in the human body. The organ of sight is composed anatomically of the eyeball (the “window to the soul”), the optic nerve and ancillary eye organs.



When he needs to, even the Devil eats flies



“When he needs to, even the Devil eats flies” provides an illustration and message about a proverb with a distinctly educational character. In periods of meagre availability of food and of extreme hunger, high-quality foodstuffs were replaced by anything that could be eaten. The educational message in this Slovenian proverb (*V sili še hudič muhe žre*, or) took the negative figures of the Devil and a fly. The Devil as an embodiment of evil and hunger, and a fly as evil and disease.

Pioneers of Slovene Aviation : Ivo Boscarol, Pioneer of electric aviation

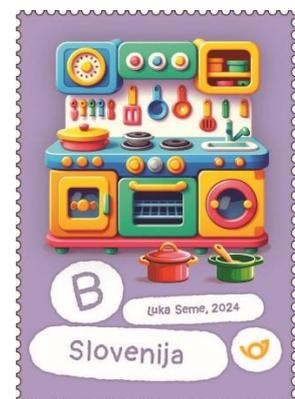
Flight is one of the most important phenomena of life on our planet and is around 150 million years old (the Archaeopteryx genus of bird-like dinosaurs). Flying has existed throughout every period of history, with or without human involvement. Nevertheless, flying for humans became a desired but unattainable pursuit for centuries. In around the year 1500, the great artist, scientist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci sketched a series of human-powered flying machines, although he came to realize that this method would not be successful. In the 18th century with the principle of lighter-than-air flight - or balloons (the Montgolfier brothers, 1783). At the same time which resulted, in the late 19th century, in the first successful flights with gliders (Otto Lilienthal, 1896) and eventually in powered flight (the Wright brothers, 1903). In the period that followed, innovative aviation became one of the fastest developing spheres of transport and engineering.



Ivo Boscarol (born 1956 in Postojna) is by international standards a top producer of ultralight and experimental aircraft. His visionary approach integrated into the classic basis the most advanced technology, and his production units around the world have continuously been laboratories for the new concept and philosophy of flying. In the world of aviation he is known as a pioneer of electric aviation, for which he also received the title Living Legend of Aviation.

Children's Toys

What can you cook in a children's kitchen ? Toys that have a distinctly educational dimension include children's kitchens. In the privileged strata of society, such kitchens, including a stove, cookware and other accessories had been a feature for several centuries. And just as kitchens themselves and the ways food was prepared and used changed, so did the kitchens used as toys.



The image on the stamp shows a modern kitchen suited to today's children. Some museums in Slovenia keep older examples of children's kitchens, and these are typical toys for children from urban, market town and castle settings.

Yehudi Menuhin Trophy 2024

Music-themed stamps compete for an annual award, the "Yehudi Menuhin Trophy", established by the Motivgruppe Musik from Germany, a thematic philatelic study group with members all over the world. The violinist and conductor Yehudi Menuhin had been member of this group for 30 years.

In memory of this famous musician, this award was created to reward every year the designer of the most popular music stamp as voted by philatelists as well as the general public.

The 2024 Trophy –for music stamps issued in 2023– goes to Italy, to the team from the graphic design department of the "Fondazione Arena di Verona", who were creators of the most voted stamp. The stamp marks the Centenary of the Opera Festival, featuring an image based on the style of the posters of the first festivals. Second place goes to the stamp of a Miniature Sheet, from Greece that marked the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Maria Callas, designed work by the painter and designer Myrsini Vardopoulou. And third place goes to the stamp from Ukraine, a work by designer Oleh Shupliak.

1st Place



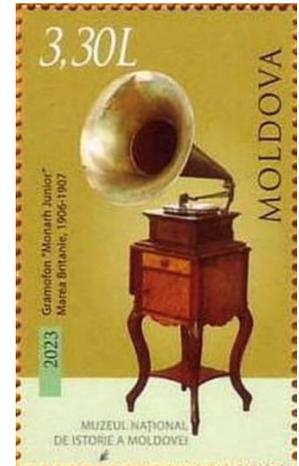
2nd Place



3rd Place



More than 750 collectors from 42 countries voted for this trophy with 66 candidate-stamps, **12 of them from Balkan countries**, issued in 2023 by 56 postal administrations.





Since its founding in 1874, Universal Postal Union – UPU, has been regulating and facilitating written communication through the postal system offering an invaluable service to humanity.



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