



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATELIE

FIP

FONDEE EN 1926

FIP COMMISSION FOR POSTAL HISTORY

ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE FIP COMMISSION FOR POSTAL HISTORY JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2010

Website

Our webmaster, Malcolm Groom, reported the following activity on the Commission's website (www.fippostalhistory.com) for 2010:

- 3,825 separate visits to the website
- 16,157 pages viewed in these visits
- 4.22 average pages viewed per visit
- Of the 3,825 separate visits, 45% were by persons who had not visited the site in the past.
- Website activity was relatively uniform throughout 2010 with a uptick in activity before and during PORTUGAL 2010
- The majority of visitors to the website entered our URL going directly to the website (73%), 23% found the website using a search engine and only 4% were referred to our website from other websites.
- The 3,825 visits came from 100 countries and territories with the US leading the count with 1,330 visits followed by Australia with 200 visits, Greece with 134, Denmark with 131 and the United Kingdom with 127 visits.
- New visitors were very low for the US, only 10% while the United Kingdom had 82% new visitors and New Zealand had 91% new visitors of the 104 New Zealand visitors.
- Our Commission has links to 50 philatelic organizations on our website including our sponsor Corinphila AG, Zurich.

Also the website had the following additions/revisions in 2010:

- added more covers to Cover Watch,
- added translations of our regulations for: Hungarian, Dutch, Swedish, Italian and Danish
- loaded the streamline seminars for SS1 and revised SS3 and adding a Spanish translation for SS3
- updating the Exhibitions page, updating the News page and adding the Commission minutes when issued,

- new listings have been added to the References page,
- Updating the Commission delegates as listed elsewhere in this report.

The website also has five full color exhibits from class 2C – historical, social and special studies exhibits:

- ***Swedish Militaries & Volunteers in War, Campaigns or, in Active Service Abroad 16th Century – 1919*** by Richard Bodin, Sweden. Full exhibit of 128 pages plus separate three page guide and narrative to the exhibit by the Exhibitor.
- ***The Independence Wars in Northern Italy 1848-1866*** by Kurt Kimmel, Switzerland. Appropriate pages (12) from the exhibit give the viewer an example of the scope for exhibits under class 2C and of material that can be considered as appropriate in a class 2C exhibit.
- ***The Great Australian Legend – ANZAC*** by Michael Blake, David Collyer and Russell Stern. Pages (14) from three larger exhibits that give examples of the scope for exhibits under class 2C and of material that can be considered appropriate for a class 2C exhibit.
- ***The Business of the Australian Electoral Office*** by Hans Karman, Australia. The six pages from this exhibit are an imaginative example of the scope for exhibits under class 2C and of material that can be considered as appropriate for a class 2C exhibit.
- ***Medicine – Its History and Development*** by Jenny Banfield, New Zealand. Appropriate pages (9) from this exhibit are represented on the website as an example of the scope for exhibits under class 2C and of material and subject that can be considered as appropriate for a class 2C exhibit.

The Commission Meeting in Lisbon

The Commission meeting took place on October 7 in Auditorium 3 of the Congress Centre, Lisbon, Portugal. It started at 10:45 local time and was adjourned at 12:15. In total approximately 60 individuals attended, including 43 participants with voting rights. The delegates approved the minutes of our Commission meeting in Bucharest, Romania, June 26, 2008 without any objections. Kurt Kimmel reported on the activities of the commission 2008-2010.

Moti Kremener (Israel) reported on the progress of his project of on-line postal history encyclopedia “Philapedia”. [<https://philapedia.com>] which is a multilingual, web-based database of items sold on different auctions.

The meeting was followed by an exhibiting seminar (SS3) “How to Win a Gold Medal in the Postal History Class” conducted by Pat Stilwell-Walker and Dan Walker. The concept and much of the text for this streamline seminar SS3 was conceived by Bureau member Andrew Cheung.

Chris King (Great Britain) spoke to the website of the Royal Philatelic Society London (www.rpsl.org.uk), and Dan Walker (USA) informed the group about plans of further development of the website of the American Philatelic Society (www.stamps.org).

It was announced that the next Commission meeting will take place at Doha 2012 in Doha, Qatar, October 12-18, 2012.

The Bureau Meeting in Lisbon

The Bureau meeting took place on October 7, 2010 during the PORTUGAL 2010 exhibition, between 2:45 p.m. and 4:08 p.m. in Lisbon. Kurt Kimmel, Paulo Comelli, JJ Danielski, Dila Eaton, Dan Walker and Malcolm Groom were in attendance. Per-Friis Mortensen and Andrew Cheung were unable to attend the PORTUGAL 2010 exhibition. Pat Stilwell-Walker who has been involved in the preparation of our streamline seminars from the beginning was also present.

Streamline Seminar #1 - New SREV's & Guidelines for the Postal History Class – (Acrobat PDF and PowerPoint formats) and Streamline Seminar #3 – How to Win a Gold Medal in the Postal History Class – both in English and SS3 also in Spanish (Acrobat PDF and PowerPoint formats) are available on our website. The final version of the Streamlined Seminar#2 – The Judging Criteria for Postal History Exhibits - will be finished in 2011. It will be made public on our website but its official presentation for FIP judges will be restricted to authorized individuals.

In view of the positive response to the SS3 presentation at the Lisbon, Portugal Commission meeting; bureau members decided that there is no need for any further changes.

There was no discussion regarding changes to the postal history SREVs or Guidelines.

Paulo Comelli advised members of the bureau that his term with our Commission has come to an end. After the Congress he will assume new responsibilities. He thanked all the bureau members for fruitful co-operation and was thanked by the Chairman of the Commission.

Seminars:

Dr. Peter McCann reported conducting two judging seminars in Postal History:

- during LONDON 2010. May in London, UK, and
- during STAMPSHOW 2010, August 13, in Richmond, Virginia, USA,

Both seminars were FIP approved and will be considered to gain qualification for serving as a FIP apprentice or for cross-accreditation to the Postal History Class.

Dr. Andrew Cheung, replacing Malcolm Hammersley, conducted an exhibiting seminar during BANGKOK 2010, in Bangkok, Thailand on August 13.

During PORTUGAL 2010 in Lisbon, on October 7, after the PH Commission meeting Pat Stilwell-Walker and Dan Walker, conducted a very well attended seminar “How to Win a Gold Medal in Postal History” (SS3).

During the exhibition “ISTANBUL2010” on December 10, Commission Chairman Kurt Kimmel conducted a well attended FIP seminar “How to Win a Gold Medal in Postal History” (SS3). The seminar was given in English and on the spot translated into Turkish by Alan Mellaart.

It lasted three hours with lots of good questions from the 42 participants coming from Bulgaria, Greece, Germany, Great Britain, Pakistan and different parts of Turkey.

Women In Philately

One of the goals of our Chairman is to find ways to attract more women to collect and exhibit Postal History. On November 21, 2011, our Bureau member Dila Eaton distributed an interesting paper to all our Bureau members. She has been working with the US organization

“Women Expositors” (125 members, the vast majority being women) to promote “Women in Philately and Postal History”. Women who do not collect thematic subjects need support not

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only from the Postal History Commission but from FIP in general.

Database

Since April 2010 our Secretary JJ Danielski has developed a data base of FIP and FIP approved continental exhibitions of postal history exhibits covering the years 2000 to present. This database is based on the results which our Secretary received from Paulo Comelli (FIP), Andrew Cheung (FIAP), Per Friis Mortensen (FEPA) and Peter McCann (FIAF) and should be structured in a way so that our Commission can publish statistics of awards of the postal history class which show the development of postal history since 2000. As this database is not yet completed we hope that these statistics can be published in 2011.

The Bureau Finances

We remain financially independent because our main sponsor, Corinphila AG, Zurich, renewed their contribution for 2010 and this contribution does not expire until the spring of 2011. We hope the sponsorship can be continued for another year.

The Commission Statistics:

Based on the FIP-list of Federation members we have recorded the following number of delegates to our Commission:

- FEPA (Europe) – (43) 40 delegates and 3 vacant
- FIAF (Americas) (17) 14 delegates and 3 vacant
- FIAP (Asia, Africa & Australia) – (30) 20 delegates and 10 vacant

The numbers in parentheses reflect the number of FIP members located in the areas of continental federations.

We cannot trace having received the nomination of a delegate to our Commission from the following FIP member Federations:

Albania, Bahrain, Brunai, Chile, Congo, Equador, Estonia, Georgia, Guatemala, Iran, Kuwait, Macau, Mongolia, Nigeria, RPD Corée, Vietnam.

Appointments and Re-appointments of Delegates in 2010:

On March 11, Mr. Harald Poech was re-appointed the Guatemalan delegate to our Commission;

On March 25, Mr. Sany Salam was appointed a new delegate by the Egyptian federation;

On Sept 17, Dr. Veselko Guštin was appointed a new delegate by the Slovenian federation. He replaced Mr. Bojan Bračič.

On Sept 22, Mr Georges Guigues was appointed a new delegate by the French Federation. He replaced Mr Danin.

On April 29, 2010, the Dutch federation decided to call off their permanent delegates to various FIP commissions and replace them with the ad hoc nominations of various individuals to specific commissions meetings. Their intension was to wait for a notice of meeting along with an agenda from the Commissions to find appropriate candidates to attend a specific Commission meeting.

This idea resulted in numerous objections which were probably best expressed in the letter sent to the Dutch federation by Professor Damian Läge, Chairman of the Thematic Commission. Our Chairman also took a stand on this issue. Early-January, 2011 this matter was favorably solved by the Dutch Federation appointing a permanent delegate to the Postal History Commission. Our new Dutch Federation delegate is Max Plantinga.

Excerpts from our Delegates' Reports:

Australia – No events where Postal History had significant exposure.

Austria – Several book publications on Postal History subjects reported as well as several ventures but it is difficult to determine their character from the report.

Belgium – European and National level Exhibition ANTVERPIA 2010 organized April 9-12 with 34 Postal History exhibits; GPB and GPI went to the PH exhibits. The PH Commission of the Belgian federation organized a conference on October 24 with the PH judges to train them in new regulations. The Belgian delegate to the Commission translated new Commission Regulations to Dutch and forwarded this translation to the Commission Webmaster.

Canada – Uneventful year.

Denmark – In the spring: a weekend conference of Danish judges on the 2C sub-class with focus on differences between 2C and Open Class. In the fall: weekend conferences and seminars were offered at KPK 2010 and the Philatelic Institute for Specialized Studies.

Hong-Kong – Uneventful year.

Hungary – Hungarian delegate is an Editor of the Hungarian Postal History Review which has 9 issues per year (16-24 pages in A5 size).

Paraguay – Uneventful year.

Indonesia – Uneventful year.

Philippines – Uneventful year.

Poland – January: stamp show and seminar in Bydgoszcz to commemorate 150 years of the Poland #1. May 27-30: Conference of the Polish Academy of Philately in Ciechocinek with 12 presentations on Postal History subjects. October 20-23: philatelic exhibition accompanying International Conference on Railway Transportation in Katowice with papers on Postal History issues. November 2-6: National Literature Exhibition with 20 book publications on Postal History.

Portugal – FIP World Philatelic Exhibition Portugal 2010 Oct.1-10 with 67 PH exhibits; GPN and GPI were awarded to PH exhibits. Although presently Portuguese federation does not have a single judge with FIP accreditation and only 1 with national accreditation in Postal History, it has in its registry 21 PH exhibits including 16 which achieved qualification for exhibiting internationally. They were very happy that during FIP exhibition Pat and Dan Walker presented SS3 “How to Win a Gold Medal in Postal History”.

Romania – Reports that economical crisis caused decline of philately in that country not only in exhibiting but also in philatelic publications including serials.

Singapore – Uneventful year.

Sweden – Reported 3 days seminar conducted by Jonas Hällström, Jan Berg and Patrik Larsson.

Moderators discussed a number of PH exhibits shown at London 2010 focusing on their strengths and weaknesses. Then participants assigned points providing reasons. Interestingly, participants of this exercise were much more demanding in this exercise than judges at London 2010.

Switzerland – On behalf of the Liechtenstein Federation our Chairman organized a judging seminar with practical exercise at the frames of an exhibition of the Swiss Federation which took place on Dec 4, 2010 in Muenchenbuchsee near Berne. The FIP jurors Rolf-Dieter Jaretzky, Goetz Schneider and Robert Wightman supported our Chairman to give this judging seminar which qualifies the participants to become a National juror of the Liechtenstein Federation, the first step to become a FIP juror later.

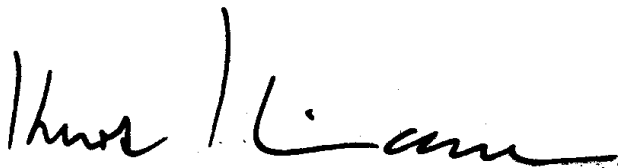
United Kingdom – FIP World Philatelic Exhibition London 2010 with 101 PH exhibits; GPN and GPI went to PH exhibits.

United States – FIP approved seminar during STAMPSHOW in Richmond, Virginia reported elsewhere.

Dear delegates, please keep in touch with your continental representatives even when you have nothing to report.

Our Commission has not received any reports from FEPA, FIAF nor FIAP during the activity period 2010. However, this is not a problem because the FIP director in charge of our Commission wrote: “The activities of FEPA, FIAF and FIAP can certainly be retained as information to the Postal History Commission, but it does not pertain to the Activity Report to the FIP Board.”

This Activity Report has been approved at the Bureau Meeting of February 15, 2011, in New Delhi.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kurt Kimmel', written in a cursive style.

Kurt Kimmel, Chairman