



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATÉLIE

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REPORT OF THE FIP MAXIMAPHILY COMMISSION CONFERENCE HELD IN LISBON, PORTUGAL ON OCTOBER 7, 2010

At the FIP Maximaphily Commission Conference, held in Lisbon, Portugal, on October 7, 2010, thirty (30) countries out of sixty one (61) member federations were present with their official delegates or represented by proxies. Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Cyprus, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Rep.of Korea (South), Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA and Venezuela. In addition, six (6) observers from Austria, Canada, France, Israel, Philippines and Portugal attended the conference without voting rights. All absent delegates were excused.

Opening of the conference.

Mr. Jussi Tuori, FIP Vice-president and Coordinator for the Maximaphily Commission opened the meeting - in the presence of Mr. Joseph Wolff, FIP president - by introducing the new Chairman George Constantourakis. He was very pleased by the smooth transition from the previous Chairman Nicos Rangos to the newly appointed one; done in a spirit of excellent cooperation. Mr. Tuori informed the participants of the proposal made by George Constantourakis at the 1st Joint-Meeting of the Chairmen of all the different FIP Commissions held on October 5th, concerning the limited use of Maximum-cards in Thematic Class. His proposal was favourably received.

Thereafter, the Chairman, George Constantourakis, welcomed the participating delegates and expressed his thanks for their presence.

Before continuing with the work of the Commission he asked all participants to observe one minute's silence in memory of the late André Sanders, delegate of Belgium and the late Mohammed Adel Farid, delegate of Egypt.

Approval of the Agenda Minutes and National Activities Report.

Following the approval of the Agenda and the Minutes of the Bucharest Conference dated June 26, 2008, the Chairman presented the Word National Activities Report June 2008 to June 2010, included in the Agenda of the 71st FIP Congress. He requested and received the approval of this Report , by the delegates present.

Work done worldwide during the last years, brought the following results:

- In the World National Activities Report, 49 countries participated (stable). There was an increase in the number of the Nat. Fed. Delegates to the FIP Maximaphily Commission. There was also an increase in the number of participations in the Annual World Competition for the Best Maximum Card.
- The number of Maximum Cards realised worldwide increased from 1076 in 2008 to 1605 in 2009.

- The new Maximaphily regulations were communicated through conferences, with greater ease, using the latest technology.
- At the National level, a greater number of Maximaphily Exhibitions were organized in different countries.
- At the International level, the high level of awards received, indicates the excellent progress of our Class: 2 Gold medals at “CHINA 2009” and a good number of Large Vermeil Medals at other exhibitions.
- The delegates appear to be satisfied with the work done by the FIP Maximaphily Commission, which encourages the development of this discipline and in particular encourages the creation of excellent items for participation in the Annual World Competition for the Best Maximum Card.

Presentation of the program (strategic plan) for the 2010-2011 period.

- To further improve the means of communications between the delegates of the FIP Commission for Maximaphily.
- To continue improving the Word Maximaphily Competition for the three Best Maximum Cards created during the previous year.
- To make known that the Maximaphily Class has also its classic (early) period.
- Attempt to change existing prejudices by explaining the solid foundations of our discipline.
- To persuade certain Postal Administrations to create Maximum Cards that conform with the regulations.
- To introduce and promote Maximaphily in the countries where it is not yet well known.
- To offer a Maximaphily data-processing documentation to national philatelic federations on request.
- To promote request for more maximaphily jury training.
- At the National level, request the use of existing specialised Jury in Maximaphily Class.
- To encourage National Federations to select active FIP Delegates with Maximaphilie knowledge.
- To promote 1-frame Maximaphily Exhibits, particularly among the Youth.
- To keep improving and updating the FIP Maximaphily commission website : <http://www.maximaphily.info/>

Presentation on the Maximaphily Regulations by the Chairman.

The Chairman, with the aid of a well illustrated bilingual PowerPoint presentation, explained the Maximaphily Regulations (SREV and Guidelines) e.g. the criteria applied for the correct evaluation of Maximum Cards.

He focused on the following points: A brief History of Maximaphily, then by referring to the new Maximaphily Regulations that came into effect since Malaga 2006, he explained the different concordances between the three basic elements (e.g. the stamp, the support post-card, and the cancellation) using concrete examples of what is accepted or not, in order to facilitate the selection of the best possible items for inclusion in a competitive exhibit.

He reminded that picture postcards printed privately with the aid of a computer are not allowed.
Reminder - Guidelines 3.2 : “The picture postcard - *The following items cannot be used for maximum cards: collages, cut-outs, private photographs on photo paper, color or black and white photocopies, photo-montages, drawings, documents specially devised for the stamp issue to be printed privately on photo paper thanks to a computer*”.

Presentation and Discussion on Minor Updates of the SREV and Guidelines on personalized Stamps.

In front of a profusion of different new stamp issues, personalized or not, outside of the official new issues program, the Maximaphily Commission was obliged to reflect on what position it should take faced with this rapid evolution.

Mme Anny Boyard (Secretary of the Commission) and the Chairman, with the aid of a well illustrated bilingual PowerPoint presentation, informed the assembly on what is happening in France, the USA, Great Britain and on other European countries.

It was proposed to accept those personalized stamps that complied to following criteria:

- a) Printed by a Postal Administration or a private organization with official approval by the National Postal Administration.
- b) Presenting subjects of general interest.
- c) Offered and accessible to the general public.

* Franking labels issued by private postal operators, **recognized by the postal authority**, are allowed under the same conditions as the postage stamps issued by the postal authority in charge of the universal service.

A number of participating delegates responded. On account of a diversity of opinions and after additional explanations given, it appears that an agreement could be reached after consulting with the delegates on their position and also asking them to forward to the Maximaphily Commission, similar examples created in their own countries.

On account of mail automatization, there is a tendency to have cancellations with only a number and without the place name, which is essential for Maximaphily. We are requesting that the place name cancellation be kept, so that we can continue to have the place name concordance.

Proposals for future projects and general discussion.

Vasile Doros, delegate of Romania, submitted a written proposal aiming to encourage the organization of specialized Maximaphily Exhibitions. Taking into account his experience, he emphasizes that the participation or foreign exhibitors is a very valuable instrument in the increase of sponsors and the appeal to the general public.

He is also requesting an increase of the number of Maximaphily collections being accepted by the organizing committees of Exhibitions with à FIP patronage.

Common proposal by Nicos Rangos of Cyprus and Veslav Savin of Ukraine.

The Regulations should be modified, so that Maximaphily collections dealing with subjects for which it is extremely difficult to find old maximum cards - as the related stamps had appeared only after 1940 or 1946 (e.g. paintings) - should be judged with different criteria that will allow them to reach a higher scoring.

Seong Kwon Kim of the Rep. of Korea (South), Maximaphily juror, announced to the assembly his project to create an International Maximaphily Association that will have as its mission to increase the communications and exchanges between Maximaphilists of various countries and to support the work of the FIP Maximaphily Commission.

Before continuing with the agenda, Anny Boyard and George Constantourakis offered their heartfelt thanks to Nicos Rangos who for the nine years he presided over the FIP Maximaphily Commission, did an excellent work in advancing our Class through numerous new contacts and through informative conferences. He was also given thanks for the support he offered to George since taking over the presidency. In the future, his advice and suggestions will be sought after, as we count on his long experience.

World Maximaphily Competition, for the Best Maximum Card created in 2009.

The participating delegates were invited to vote, according to the regulations of the Annual World Maximaphily Competition, for the three best Maximum Cards created during the year 2009.

The main goal of this Competition is to encourage the creators of Maximum Cards to aim for the creation of exceptional new realizations (always conforming with the rules) and reward the important deltiology and marcophily research work done, leading to high quality realizations.

This year 53 countries took part in the Competition. The results of the three best Maximum Cards for the year 2009 are the following:

- 1st prize : Portugal (Portuguese Maximaphily Ass.).
- 2nd prize : Cyprus (Nicos Rangos, Cyprus Philatelic Society).
- 3rd prize equally: Russia (Viacheslav Klochko).
Spain (ASEMA – Spanish Maximaphily Ass.).

Conclusion by Jussi Tuori, FIP Vice-President, in charge of the Maximaphily Class.

Mr. Tuori expressed his point of view favoring the use of certain modern philatelic issues (outside the official issuing program), emphasizing parallel consultations with the other Classes and in particular the Thematic Class.

Mr. Tuori suggested to re-examine our regulations, that he finds very rigid. The Chairman responded “our regulations are not carved in stone”.

Then the Chairman, George Constantourakis, thanked the participants and the personalities present for their assistance ■

Lisbon October 7, 2010
(Conference held from 8:30 to 10:30 AM)

George Constantourakis
Chairman
FIP Maximaphily Commission

Anny Boyard
Secretary