



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATÉLIE

Commission for Maximaphily

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THE "PHIL à MACON" PHILATELIC EXHIBITION AND THE 4TH WORLD BEST MAXIMUM CARD COMPETITION (November 16 – 18, 2007)

By Nicos Rangos

- **The organisation**



The "PHIL à MACON" philatelic Exhibition was held on November 16 – 18, 2007 and had the character of a multiregional exhibition to that a European Challenge of Maximaphily was coupled with. It was placed under the patronage of the Federation of the French Philatelic Associations, the French Posts, the grouped regional philatelic organisations of the Rhône-Alpes area, the Council of the Saône-et-Loire administrative department, as well as the city of Mâcon.

The exhibition was organised by the philatelic club of Mâcon on the occasion of its 80th anniversary.

- **The persons who contributed to a successful exhibition**



*Jean-Patrick
Courtois
Senator
and Mayor
of Mâcon*

The persons who played a leading role towards the success of the Exhibition by their active attendance and their useful presence were: the FIP President Joseph Wolff, Yves Tardy President of the Federation of the French Philatelic Associations, Anny Boyard

President of the "Les Maximaphiles Francais" Association and naturally Emmanuel Jallageas the Chairman of local Philatelic Association of the city of Mâcon and many other executives and members of the regional philatelic organisations who worked hardly on the move for a successful exhibition. It is not possible to mention here the names of all these people but we can assure them that they have taken a great part of our heart and will never remain in the anonymity.

The Exhibition was honoured with the presence of Françoise Eslinger, President of the French Postal Services dedicated to philately and Jean-François Logette person in charge of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) program for the illegal or abusive stamp issues and the international return coupons. Jean-François Logette presented a power point presentation with many and interesting elements on the subject of his speciality.

- **Maximaphily as separate part of the Exhibition**

"PHIL à MACON" Exhibition started as an interregional philatelic exhibition (No. 2 level) comprising six classes on 550 frames. However on the way plans were changed and new decisions were taken for Maximaphily class extending the exhibition to an international dimension with the attendance of 9 European countries, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Switzerland and even China.

Trying to be shorter I would not like to overpass a lot of events of great interest as Jean-Pierre Mangin, the president of the newly established World Philatelic Academy and other appreciable court of honour participations, the new publications, the regional congress of the Rhône-Alpes area philatelic organisations, the school and other visits, the extraordinary Palmares banquet and other various successful activities willing to focus a little on the exhibition part related with Maximaphily.

- **European Challenge of Maximaphily**



The Jury for Maximaphily part of the Phil à Mâcon Exhibition. Left to right: Gianfranco Poggi, Dominique Durand, Nicos Rangos, Jos Wolff, Bruno Bouveret, Anny Boyard and Emmanuel Jallageas the Chairman of local Philatelic Association of the city of Mâcon.

Two hundred out of 550 frames were covered by 25 Maximum card high class collections that took part in the European Challenge of Maximaphily. According to the special

regulations the country that would gain the highest number of points would undertake the engagement to organise two years after, the next European Challenge of Maximaphily. The results marked out Spain which was called to undertake the organisation of the next European Challenge of Maximaphily during 2009.

Furthermore, 11 Youth and one frame Maximaphily class collections for beginners were displayed on the spot, ready to encourage the FIP officials for a better future of Philately.

- **Maximaphily Conference with voices for innovations and progress**

Moreover the organisers entertained also the FIP Maximaphily Commission conference. There were discussed subjects related to the newly improved regulations approved in Malaga on 2006. Special interest presented the discussion on the subject of using personalised stamps for maximum card creation. Contrary to the president's opinion the majority of present representatives kept conservative attitude rejecting currently the idea for a progressive innovation against the actual stagnation of philately.

Certainly, as the idea was discussed for first time, it was not so easy to be accepted. We believe that one day personalised stamps will give unlimited opportunities and dimensions for the future of Philately and Maximaphily.

Another important activity was also organised during "PHIL à MACON" Exhibition:



*Right to left:
Anny Boyard,
Nicos Rangos
and Dominique
Durand trying to
take out the results
of 2006 Best
Maximum Card
World Competition*

THE 4th WORLD BEST MAXIMUM CARD COMPETITION

Thirty six (36) participating countries or territories:

Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China (P.R), China (Taiwan), Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, Finland for Aland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela.

Maximaphily delegates who were present at the FIP Maximaphily Commission conference held in Macon on November 17, 2007, were invited to choose the three Best Maximum cards of the World, created during the year 2006. All three selected subjects were

connected with today's high sensitivity about the spirit and the art, the nature and the hard professions. All the winners succeeded in complying perfectly with the FIP Maximaphily Commission regulations.

1st Prize: "Picasso with palette in his studio"

The creator of the Maximum card Juan Antonio Casas Pajares, president of the Spanish Maximaphily Association (ASEMA) highlighted the great personality of Picasso who was one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century and who, being an innovator of artistic styles and techniques, (and thus) changed the course of modern art. The Maximum card creator succeeded in showing the importance of the every day life of the artist through the excellent concordance between the stamp, the pictorial cancellation and the genuine postcard sold by the Museum of Pablo Picasso's Foundation of the Municipality of Malaga which is in Malaga's old quarter, within just a 5 minutes' walk from the famous artist's birthplace.

2nd Prize: "The Miner"

"The Maximaphiles Francais" Association have created this beautiful maximum card with the desire to make society aware that coal mining is a very dangerous activity. Open cut hazards are principally slope failure, underground mining roof collapse and gas explosions. Most of these risks can be greatly reduced in modern mines, and multiple fatality incidents are now rare in some parts of the developed world. However, in lesser developed countries and some developed countries, many miners continue to die annually, either through direct accidents in coal mines or through adverse health consequences, like chronic bronchitis, pneumoconiosis or silicosis from working under poor conditions. With this extraordinary colourful picture of this correct and concordant MC the creators are successfully sending the message that miners all over the world must be protected.

2nd Prize: "Edelweiss" (Leontopodium alpinum)

Jürgen Noll, who won the 1st prize last year with his Maximum card creation on the occasion of the centenary of the award of the Nobel Prize to Robert Koch, now wins the 2nd prize with his sensitivity to Edelweiss (*Leontopodium alpinum*), one of the best known European mountain flowers, which belongs to the Asteraceae family that includes also sunflowers and daisies. The name comes from German edel (meaning noble) and weiß (meaning white). The scientific name, *Leontopodium* means "lion's paw", being derived from the Greek words leon (lion) and podion (diminutive of pous, foot). There is an excellent concordance between the three elements, the stamp, the postcard and the cancellation with an excellent message creating awareness about the beauty of the natural environment.

• Next World Best Maximum Card Competition:

All countries FIP member federations are invited to the next World Best Maximum Card Competition for maximum cards created during 2007, which will be held in Bucharest on June 26, 2008 in Adon Room (40)-Phoenicia Hotel.

• Heartfelt thanks

On behalf of the FIP Commission for Maximaphily I would like to extend my warmhearted thanks to the Federation of the French Philatelic Associations and to the "Les Maximaphiles Français" Association for their heartfelt hospitality and their best way practice to show the way for the best of Philately in general and particularly for Maximaphily.