



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATÉLIE

Commission for Maximaphily

CHAIRMAN: NICOS RANGOS

ELEFTHEROUPOLEOS 4, F6 ACROPOLIS

CY-2001 NICOSIA - CYPRUS

TEL: +357 99 63 91 81/FAX: +357 22 510 440

Email: dn1989@cytanet.com.cy

“Les Maximaphiles Français” lead the way and strengthen the worldwide Maximaphily movement by organising a major Maximaphily event.

By Nicos Rangos

“MAXIFRANCE 2005”

CORBEIL-ESSONNES 22-25 September 2005

Placed under the patronage of the French Philatelic Federation (FFAP), the General Council of the Seine-Essonne Paris suburb, the town of Corbeil-Essonnes, the Group of Philatelic Associations of Paris-Ile de France (GAPHIL) and with the support of the French Postal Services and the local Philatelic Association ADPhile.

- ***European Maximaphily Championship***
- ***European Maximaphily Symposium***
- ***Meeting of the FIP Maximaphily Commission delegates***
- ***International Competition for the Best Maximum Card for the year 2004.***



Opening Ceremony. Left to right:

Senator and Mayor Serge Dassault, Joseph Wolff FIP Vice President, Robert Derooy President of the Federation of French Philatelic Associations, Dominique Bidault President of the philatelic Circle in Corbeil-Essonnes area and Anny Boyard President of the “Maximaphiles Français” Association.

Photo: By N. Rangos

A. The Exhibition

On 23rd–25th September 2005, “Les Maximaphiles Français” organised in collaboration with the philatelic circle of the Corbeil-Essonnes area and under the patronage of the French Philatelic Federation (FFAP) and the Group of Philatelic Associations of Paris-Ile de France (GAPHIL) the exhibition “MAXIFRANCE 2005” at the Palais de Sports, a wonderful hall which was generously made available by the Mayor of the suburb of Paris Corbeil-Essonnes.

Fifteen countries, including China and Canada, took part in the exhibition which was at national level but with international participation, with a record 100 collections of which 64 took in the competition, 21 were in the Youth Class by newcomers and 12 participated in the court of honour class.

The president of the Council of “Les Maximaphiles Français”, Anny Boyard first, conceived the idea and created the vision and with the support, enthusiasm and industry of Dominique Bidault, president of the philatelic circle in Corbeil-Essonnes area, and the keenness of a wider group of volunteers, the vision became reality. Among those present at the opening ceremony were distinguished figures such as the Senator and Mayor Serge Dassault, Joseph Wolff vice-president of FIP, Robert Deroys president of the Federation of French Philatelic Associations, Françoise Eslinger director of the national stamps and philatelic service in France, Louis Virgile cultural and commercial director of the national service of stamps and philately (SNTP), Michèle Gourrier, *general secretary of the ADPhile*, Dominique Hardy, president of the Group of the Philatelic Associations Paris-Ile de France (GAPHIL) and many other presidents and personalities of the foreign Maximaphily Associations .



The Jury was composed of the most experienced judges who actually lead the international Maximaphily movement.

Left to right: Jos Wolff, Nicos Rangos, Michel Chagniot, Frans Hermse, Jacques Thénard President, Gianfranco Poggi, Juan Antonio Casa Pajares and Daniel Barbe.

The exhibition, which remained open for three days, was visited by school pupils, philatelists and others from the area, as well as from other cities in France and the European Union, and even from Russia and China.

B. The European Maximaphily Symposium



Maximaphily Symposium in the Municipal theatre. Left to right: Nicos Rangos, Jos Wolff, Miguel A. Garcia and Michel Menchon

“Maximaphily presentation and a public debate on Thematic and Open Class interrelations with Maximum cards”, successfully introduced by professor Jean-Claude Bouquet, member of “Les Maximaphiles Français” Association.

As well as the exhibition, the organisers included in the programme the European Maximaphily Symposium, which was held in the town's municipal theatre under the chairmanship of Joseph Wolff, FIP Vice-president who has the responsibility for Maximaphily, and Nicos Rangos, chairman of the FIP Maximaphily Commission. The participants numbered more than 80 and a good number of these took part in the interesting discussion, unprecedented for its quality and depth, on the international Maximaphily scene. The first item of the agenda of the symposium was “Maximaphily presentation and a public debate on Thematic and Open Class interrelations with Maximum cards”, successfully introduced by professor Jean-Claude Bouquet, member of “Les Maximaphiles Français” Association.

The next subject introduced was “How to bring young people closer to Maximaphily - Maximaphily in relation to one-frame collections and the preferences of young people”, presented by Pascal Bandry, who is responsible for the youth section of “Les Maximaphiles Français” and Paul Raynaud, member of the same association. In the discussion which followed, Michel Menchon, vice-president of the FFAP Youth Commission, took part and also Miguel A. Garcia Fernandez, chairman of the FIP Youth Philately Commission, whose presence gave an especial dimension to the entire discussion of the subject. He congratulated the organisers for the quality of this Maximaphily seminar and stated that Maximaphily which is entirely independent FIP class is actually developing on the international level.

All the speakers emphasised the positive and attractive role which the Maximum card continues to play for young collectors both in the Youth Class and in Thematic Philately, and in the promotion classes of one-frame and open class. Philippe Lesage, president of the French Philatelic Federation (FFAP) Youth commission, recapitulating invoked

the encouraging example of the school competition in Cyprus, and stressed the need to adopt new ideas and new approaches, emphasising the necessity for an intensive, collective and coordinated endeavour by the international and specific philatelic leadership and the monitors for training young people. The restrictions of the Maximaphily regulations are rather complicated and appear simple only with the eyes of the well informed specialists... It is thus necessary to be conscious of that in the approach with the newcomers... Philippe Lesage, convinced of the real attractive power of the cart-maximum, estimates that the great impact of Maximaphily on the general public risk to be blocked by heavy limits which are not always obvious.

C. The FIP Official Maximaphily Meeting

On the afternoon of the same day, the FIP Official Maximaphily Meeting was held as programmed. Nicos Rangos preside over the meeting of delegates in the presence of Joseph Wolff, FIP vice-president who has the responsibility for Maximaphily. After the roll call, a very well-prepared presentation started concerning the respect for the Maximaphily regulations and the validity of the Maximum cards (SREV and Guidelines), introduced by professor Jean-Claude Bouquet and Anny Boyard, president of "Les Maximaphiles Français" Association. The presentation was followed by a lively debate on some special points concerning the percentage of the postcard surface illustration (75%?), the dimensions of the postcards, the concordance between the three component elements of the Maximum card and the Maximum cards with stamps cut from official postal stationery items. On all the above points, agreements were reached which will very shortly be defined by the FIP Maximaphily Commission Bureau and presented to the next FIP congress for the ratification procedures.

Unfortunately there was not quite enough time to discuss the following points which will very soon be thoroughly attended to by the FIP Maximaphily Commission Bureau:

- Maximum-cards with personalised stamps, "tabs" or perfin.
- Creation of the FIP Maximaphily Commission website.
- Official regulations for the "World Best Maximum Card Competition"
- Maximaphily collection evaluation by non-qualified jury members in national and international exhibitions.
- How to spread Maximaphily in African and Asian countries, in the United Kingdom and other northern countries.
- Maximum-cards created by certain postal administrations without conforming to the FIP regulations.
- Degree of recognition by the official authorities of world philately.

D. - The International Competition for the Best Maximum Card for the year 2004. - Voting for the best Maximum card created during 2004.

The following 27 countries, which satisfied the provisions of the regulations, got through to the final round of the International Competition for the Best Maximum Card 2004:

Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland.

All the entries were judged, according to the international rules, for the sensitivity of the creators in the choice of theme, originality, research and the maximum degree of visual concordance between the three essential elements which compose the Philatelic Maximum card, namely the picture on the card, the picture of the stamp and of the postmark.

Prior to the closing of the meeting, the delegates present, who had the right to vote, were asked by the president to vote in accordance with the rules for the Best Maximum Card 2004.

In the final vote the following winners were declared, in order of merit: Holland, Cyprus and Malaysia.

I warmly congratulate all the delegates of the countries that took part in this international competition, which was successfully held for the second year running.

By this occasion, I remind to all Maximum card creators all over the world and especially to them who live in the countries which didn't participate to the first two competitions, some of the reasons given by the delegate of Australia Barbara Barsh for feeling pleased that she took part:

"The World Best Maximum Card Competition" I do think is a really creative idea for many reasons:

- *It renews our interest in the rules of concordance*
- *It makes us look at the stamp – finding suitable cards and finding a related postmark.*
- *It gives us the urge to create our own cards*
- *It increases the interest in creating our own*
- *It draws together maximaphilists from all over the world into a common goal*
- *It can be won by anyone*
- *You don't have to be a GOLD Medal winner to enter.*
- *Because the stamps, cards and postmarks are available to all.*

Finally I would like to congratulate all those who contributed to this important and successful event of "MAXIFRANCE 2005", which has already gone down as a special page in the history of Maximaphily.



First Prize: Holland.

"The kiss on the balcony" after the wedding of the Heir and Crown Prince of Holland William-Alexander with the Princess Maxima. Maximum card created by the Dutchman Ronald van der Leeden, inspired by the message of love and simplicity as well.



Message of tenderness of nature, with dolphins in the leading role. Maximum card created by Nicos Rangos.



Third Prize: Malaysia.

Impressive wagon with the scared oxen. Sensitivity to tradition and culture. Created by the Malaysian Choh San Ye.