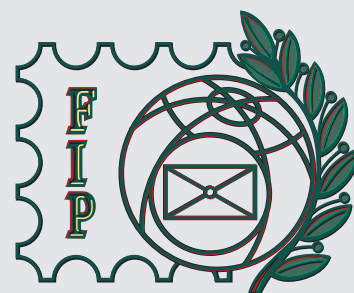


# Flash

Fédération Internationale de Philatélie



NATIONAL COMMISSONERS FOR URUGUAY 2025

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*The new FIP Board members f.l. Director Suhadolc; Vice-President Samamé; Vice-President Tan; President Chirakiti; Director Macedo; Vice-President Nathaniel and Director Khoory after the elections at the 77<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress in Shanghai, China, on 3 December 2024.*

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## Editorial

The highlights regarding the recent FIP Board of Directors Conference meetings report some novelties to be carefully read, especially regarding the updated regulations for the Commissions to hold a FIP Qualifying seminar at both FIP Patronage and FIP Recognition exhibitions. A comparison of the various FIP exhibitions is also presented in order to make clear the differences and implications.

The preparations for the 2026 activities for the FIP hundredth anniversary have started. If you would like to propose to Postal Administrations that the FIP Centenary logo appears on some of their products or if the logo is to be printed on advertisements or publications, please read carefully the related terms of usage.

For those who did not participate to the FIP 2024 Congress in Shanghai, a brief report highlights the main topics that were discussed there. The FIP Board has also decided that the 2026 FIP Congress will be held in Macao on July 1.

In this issue of FLASH you will be pleased to read a report on the FIAP 2024 Shanghai exhibition that has attracted more than 100,000 visitors. It is followed by an extensive report about the successful FIP Exhibition in Punta del Este, Uruguay, the first to be held in South America outside of Brazil. Two very well attended FIP Qualifying seminars were also held there.

The next FIP Patronage exhibition is the PHILAKOREA 2025 one, postponed from 2024, and useful details about the preparation are presented. Also Birmingham 2025, under FIP Recognition, with more than 2,000 frames is just about to welcome participants and some last details are presented.

Last November an important FIP-sponsored regional exhibition was held in Thessaloniki, Greece. The twentieth Balkanfila proved to be an interesting and very pleasant exhibition, thanks also to the proverbial Greek hospitality.

FIP Board is considering a possible experimental First Day Cover class in future FIP Patronage Exhibitions. In this respect please read carefully the article by Colin Fraser on "Collecting and Exhibiting First Day Covers".

Have a pleasant reading and looking forward to seeing many of you in Birmingham and/or in Seoul!

### The Editors

**Aldo Samamé y Samamé**  
**Peter Suhadolc**

## Editorial

Los aspectos más destacados de las recientes reuniones de la Conferencia de la Junta Directiva de la FIP presentan algunas novedades que conviene leer con atención, especialmente en lo que respecta a la actualización de las normas para que las Comisiones tienen un seminario de Calificación FIP tanto en las exposiciones de Patrocinio como de Reconocimiento FIP. También se presenta una comparación de las distintas exposiciones de la FIP para aclarar las diferencias e implicaciones.

Ya han comenzado los preparativos para las actividades de 2026 con motivo del centenario de la FIP. Si desea proponer a las Administraciones Postales que el logotipo del Centenario de la FIP aparezca en algunos de sus productos o que se imprima en anuncios o publicaciones, lea atentamente las condiciones de uso correspondientes.

Para quienes no asistieron al Congreso FIP 2024 en Shanghái, un breve informe destaca los principales temas tratados. La Junta Directiva de la FIP también ha decidido que el Congreso FIP 2026 se celebre en Macao el 1 de julio.

En este número de FLASH, les complacerá leer un informe sobre la exposición FIAP 2024 en Shanghái, que atrajo a más de 100.000 visitantes. A continuación, se incluye un extenso informe sobre la exitosa Exposición FIP en Punta del Este, Uruguay, la primera celebrada en Sudamérica fuera de Brasil. Allí también se celebrarán dos seminarios de clasificación FIP con gran asistencia.

La próxima exposición patrocinada por la FIP es PHILAKOREA 2025, pospuesta para 2024, y se presentan detalles útiles sobre los preparativos. Birmingham, también con el reconocimiento de la FIP, con más de 2.000 monturas, está a punto de dar la bienvenida a los participantes y se presentan algunos detalles finales.

El pasado noviembre se celebró en Tesalónica, Grecia, una importante exposición regional patrocinada por la FIP. La vigésima Balkanfila resultó ser una exposición interesante y muy agradable, gracias también a la proverbial hospitalidad griega.

El Consejo Directivo FIP está considerando una clase experimental de Sobres de Primer Día en las próximas exposiciones con Patrocinio FIP. Al respecto, lean el artículo de Colin Fraser titulado "Coleccionar y exponer Sobres de Primer Día".

¡Que tengas una lectura agradable y ¡Esperamos verlos a muchos en Birmingham y/o Seúl!

### Los Editores

**Aldo Samamé y Samamé**  
**Peter Suhadolc**





The 77<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress held in conjunction with CHINA 2024 the 40<sup>th</sup> Asian International Exhibition with FIP Recognition in Shanghai on 3 December 2024, went well with participation from FIP Members. The FIP Board appreciated the keen participation of Members especially from Europe and America, who came to attend the Congress even though they were not Exhibitors, Commissioners nor Jurors.

The FIP Board would also like to thank the CHINA 2024 Organising Committee, All-China Philatelic Federation, for kindly hosting the Congress. FIP appreciated their kind hospitality including hosting the delegates to the Palmares, providing the airport transfers to the official hotel, and making arrangements for the Congress venue, coffee breaks, lunch buffet and set up.

FIP welcomed Morocco as the new FIP Member, their FIP Membership application of which was unanimously approved by the Congress.

The Congress had also confirmed the provisional FIP Patronage given by the FIP Board for EFIRO 2024 and URUGUAY 2025, and approved the FIP Patronage for DUBAI 2026, MACAO 2026, PHILATAIPEI 2026, BELGRADE 2027 and SLOVFILEX 2027.

FIP awarded the FIP Medal for Exceptional Jury Service to two outstanding Jurors - FIP Honorary President Koh Seow Chuan (Singapore) and former FIP Vice-President Raymond Todd (Australia).

The first FIP Patronage Exhibition in 2025, URUGUAY 2025 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition, was held in Punta del Este from 17-22 February 2025. Our heartiest congratulations to the Organising Committee of URUGUAY 2025. Two FIP Qualifying Seminars were also conducted by the Postal Stationery and Open Philately Commissions.

The next FIP Patronage Exhibition in 2025 will be PHILAKOREA 2025 Specialised World Stamp Championship to be held from 17-21 September 2025. The PHILAKOREA 2025 Organising Committee are ready to support other important philatelic activities such as FIP Qualifying seminars and a possible FIP Jury Academy, if there are sufficient participants to make up the class.

At the recent 182<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting on 20 March 2025, the FIP Board had approved MACAO 2026 to host the 78<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress, updated the FIP Commission Guidelines for greater flexibility, and also approved the appointment of a working group on a possible First Day Cover experimental class led by the Vice-President Yigal Nathaniel.

We encourage all FIP members to participate in the upcoming signed FIP Patronage Exhibitions PHILAKOREA 2025, DUBAI 2026, MACAO 2026, PHILATAIPEI 2026 and BELGRADE 2027.

In addition to the FIP Patronage exhibitions, we also have two upcoming FIP Recognition Exhibitions - EUROPHILEX 2025 under FEPA Patronage this 7-11 May 2025, as well as BOSTON 2026 WORLD EXPO FIAF Patronage.

We looked forward to seeing all philatelists and visitors at these FIP Patronage and FIP Recognition Exhibitions which we believe they will enjoy very much.

We appreciate your comments, suggestions and feedback on how to promote our beloved hobby.

With Best Wishes,

**Prakob Chirakiti**  
on behalf of the FIP Board of Directors



El 77º Congreso de la FIP, celebrado durante la 40ª Exposición Internacional Asiática con Reconocimiento FIP, CHINA 2024, el 3 de diciembre de 2024 en Shanghái, tuvo una excelente participación de los miembros FIP. El Consejo Directivo FIP agradeció la entusiasta participación de los miembros, especialmente de Europa y América, quienes asistieron al Congreso a pesar de no ser expositores, comisarios o jurados.

El Consejo Directivo FIP también agradece al Comité Organizador de CHINA 2024, la Federación Filatélica de China, por su amable acogida al Congreso. La FIP agradece su hospitalidad, la invitación a los delegados al Palmare, los traslados al hotel y la organización del Congreso, las pausas para el café, el almuerzo buffet y el montaje.

La FIP dio la bienvenida a Marruecos como nuevo miembro FIP cuya solicitud de membresía fue aprobada por unanimidad por el Congreso.

El Congreso confirmó el Patrocinio provisional FIP otorgado por Consejo Directivo FIP para las exposiciones EFIRO 2024 y URUGUAY 2025, y aprobó el Patrocinio FIP para DUBAI 2026, MACAO 2026, PHILATAIPEI 2026, BELGRADO 2027 y SLOVFILEX 2027.

Se otorgó la Medalla FIP por Servicio Excepcional como Jurado a dos jurados destacados, el Presidente Honorario FIP, Koh Seow Chuan (Singapur) y el ex Vicepresidente FIP, Raymond Todd (Australia).

La primera Exposición con patrocinio FIP del año 2025, la Exposición Mundial Especializada URUGUAY 2025, se celebró en Punta del Este del 17 al 22 febrero. Nuestras más sinceras felicitaciones al Comité Organizador. También se llevaron a cabo los seminarios de calificación FIP para las clases de Enteros Postales y Filatelia Abierta.

La próxima Exposición con Patrocinio FIP en el 2025 será PHILAKOREA 2025, que se celebrará del 17 al 21 de septiembre. El Comité Organizador de PHILAKOREA 2025 está dispuesto a apoyar otras actividades filatélicas importantes, como los seminarios de calificación FIP y una posible Academia de Jurados FIP, si hay suficientes participantes para completar la clase.

En la reciente 182ª reunión del Consejo Directivo FIP celebrada el 20 de marzo, se aprobó que MACAO 2026 sea la sede del 78º Congreso FIP. Se actualizaron las Directrices de las Comisiones FIP para tener una mayor flexibilidad y también se aprobó designar un grupo de trabajo para una posible clase experimental de Sobres de Primer Día que será dirigida por el vicepresidente Yigal Nathaniel.

Alentamos a todos los miembros FIP a participar en las próximas Exposiciones con patrocinio FIP, PHILAKOREA 2025, DUBAI 2026, MACAO 2026, PHILATAIPEI 2026 y BELGRADE 2027.

Además de las exposiciones con Patrocinio FIP también tenemos dos exposiciones con Reconocimiento FIP, EUROPHILEX 2025 con patrocinio FEPA del 7 al 11 de mayo, y la EXPO MUNDIAL BOSTON 2026 con patrocinio FIAF.

Esperamos ver a todos los filatelistas y visitantes en estas Exposiciones que creemos que disfrutarán mucho.

Agradecemos sus comentarios, sugerencias y opiniones sobre cómo promover nuestro querido hobby.

Con los mejores deseos,

**Prakob Chirakiti**  
en nombre del Consejo Directivo FIP



## Highlights of the 177<sup>th</sup> FIP Board of Directors Conference Meeting on 5 November 2024

### EXHIBITIONS

#### CHINA 2024 (FIP Recognition)

Vice-President Tan updated that the FIAP continental jury training shall proceed, out of which two participants were jury apprentices attending as observers only and would not be awarded any certificates. He proposed that President Chirakiti be the official observer from FIP and he himself will be the FIAP observer to keep expenses low, which was approved by the Board.

#### URUGUAY 2025

Vice-President Macedo reported that he was in Punta del Este and Montevideo from 18 - 20 October 2025 and the FIP flag was handed over to the Organising Committee. The frames were at the final stage of preparation, with many dealers attending and supporting. The international jury team was also discussed and selected based on the GREX.

#### PHILAKOREA 2025

Vice-President Tan updated that the Commissioner General sent the invitation to all FIP Members to confirm their previous nomination of jurors and appointment of National Commissioners.

#### DUBAI 2026

President Chirakiti updated that Director Khoory had kindly negotiated with the Organising Committee to re-schedule the exhibition from October 2025 to February 2026 to avoid being too close to another possible FIP Patronage exhibition in October 2025. The official letter had been circulated to the Board, which the Board members unanimously approved the provisional Patronage for DUBAI 2026. The Emirates Philatelic Association would make a presentation at the 77<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress for official approval of the Patronage.

#### MACAO 2026

Director Khoory updated that he was finalizing the IREX and a presentation by the Organising Committee shall be made during the Congress in Shanghai.

#### BELGRADE 2027

Director Suhadolc updated that the Organising Committee would shift the exhibition dates to October 2027 and make a short presentation of the exhibition during the Congress.

#### SLOVILEX 2027

The Secretary General had circulated the official letter from the Union of Slovak Philatelists to the Board to seek the Board's approval on their request to host a FIP Patronage Specialized World Stamp Exhibition in mid 2027. The Board members unanimously approved the provisional Patronage of SLOVFILEX 2027 and appointed Vice-President Nathaniel as the FIP Consultant.

### 77<sup>th</sup> FIP CONGRESS

#### WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION FROM APS

The Secretary General updated that the American Philatelic Society had withdrawn their Motion as the Federation's delegate was unable to attend the Congress.

## Highlights of the 178<sup>th</sup> FIP Board of Directors Meeting in Shanghai on 1 December 2024



*The FIP Board members during the 178<sup>th</sup> FIP board meeting on 1 December 2024 in Shanghai, China.*

### 77<sup>th</sup> FIP CONGRESS

The Board members reviewed on the final details of the Congress agenda and also discussed which tellers to appoint from each of the continents based on the list of delegates who were present in Shanghai.

### EXHIBITIONS

#### URUGUAY 2025

Vice-President Macedo discussed with the Board members on the final changes to the international jury team for the exhibition.

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## Highlights of the 179<sup>th</sup> New FIP Board of Directors Meeting in Shanghai on 3 December 2024

### NEW FIP BOARD

President Chirakiti welcomed and congratulated the re-elected Vice-Presidents Yigal Nathaniel and Aldo Samamé y Samamé as well as Directors Reinaldo Macedo and Peter Suhadolc to the Board. The responsibilities for each of the Board Members were discussed and finalised.



## Highlights of the 180<sup>th</sup> FIP Board of Directors Conference Meeting on 9 January 2025

### EXHIBITIONS

#### URUGUAY 2025

Director Macedo proposed that considering two Board members and the Secretary General would not be present in Uruguay, he suggested no Board meeting at the end of the exhibition. The approval of the two apprentice jurors, would be ratified at the next FIP Board meeting.

#### PHILAKOREA 2025

Vice-President Tan reported that the official hotel would be Ambassador Mercure which was just beside the exhibition venue and to-date 60 countries had responded to the Organising Committee.

#### BOSTON 2026 (FIP RECOGNITION)

The Board members reviewed the invitation letter that had been sent out as well as the advertisement copy received for FLASH and agreed that some information had to be clarified by the FIP Liaison officer to the Organising Committee for correction in Uruguay.

### REGULATIONS

#### GREX

The Board members approved to add the elaborate on GREX 5.3 Competitive Promotional Classes as *“Any other exhibit promoting philately and stamp collecting with content up to one third non-philatelic materials and materials from non-postal authorities to supplement the philatelic materials.”*

This shall have to be ratified at the 78<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress.



**STAMPEDIA PHILATELIC JOURNAL** is a research and/or specialized philatelic journal written in both Japanese and English with the publisher's expectation to introduce Japanese philately to overseas and overseas to Japanese readers in terms of subjects and writers.

This journal was founded in 2011, and was successfully awarded FIP Gold medals at Brasilia 2017, Israel 2018, and Praga 2018. I wish you feel this journal being useful.

This Journal is issued annually and is mailed to each FIP federations and Postal Museum with each edition from 2019 onward as far as we know where to send it. If your federation didn't receive it, I'll send it to you the latest 2023 edition with six wonderful contributions for free.

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## Highlights of the 181<sup>st</sup> New FIP Board of Directors Conference Meeting on 4 February 2025

### FIP CENTENARY

The Board of Directors approved the following terms of usage of the FIP Centenary logo:

### TERMS OF USAGE OF FIP CENTENARY LOGO

Postal Administrations OR Member Federation	Not-for Profit Philatelic Publications OR Advertisements for FIP Patronage, Recognition or Sponsorship exhibitions in 2025-2026	Philatelic Publications for Sale
The official guidelines for use must be followed	The official guidelines for use must be followed	The official guidelines for use must be followed
Final artwork of any special souvenir sheets or commemorative stamps must be sent to FIP via kelly@f-i-p.ch for FIP Board approval before print.	Final artwork of any publications or advertisement design must be sent to FIP via kelly@f-i-p.ch for FIP Board approval before print.	Final artwork of any publications must be sent to FIP via kelly@f-i-p.ch for FIP Board approval before print.
100 sets of the special souvenir sheets or commemorative stamps are requested to be mailed to FIP Singapore office or to be given by hand to the FIP Secretariat or one of the Board members – these different stamp sheets or commemorative stamps contributed by each Member shall be compiled by FIP and these multi-nation sets shall be re-distributed in 2026 to Members who had contributed.	Photo or pdf of final publication to be send to FIP for record.	Donation fee of 500 CHF per publication to be transferred to FIP for FIP Centenary Year fund, in order to gain permission for use.  Photo or pdf of final publication to be send to FIP for record.

### JURORS

#### FIP QUALIFYING SEMINARS

President Chirakiti prepared and circulated to the Board the proper procedures for the FIP Commissions to decide on the details of the FIP Qualifying Seminars for discussion. It was concluded as follows to be circulated to all the Commissions by the Secretary General:

#### FIP Qualifying Seminars

**As participation to FIP Qualifying Seminars is one of the key requirements for jury apprenticeship, the FIP Board has the responsibility to ensure the Organising Committee (OC) and Commissions had done proper planning with sufficient lead time for announcement to those who would like to attend in accordance with current regulations:**

**1 the FIP Consultant** of an Exhibition should try to make the planned timetable for both Jury and Commissioner available for approval by the Board at least **two months** prior to the exhibition so that there is sufficient time for the Secretary General to inform all Commissions to plan with their Bureau on the FIP Qualifying Seminars for that Exhibition.



Timeslots for the Seminars are usually the day after end of Jury Work, before the Palmares so that all Jurors and Commissioners, other than exhibitors, can attend. The FIP Coordinator assigned to each Commission must be available and present to listen to the content and to ensure that attendees are present throughout, especially in the case of FIP Qualifying Seminars. No Board meetings, Jurors' or Commissioners' activities should be planned at the time of FIP Qualifying Seminars, if possible.

FIP Qualifying Seminars can also be organized at FIP Recognition exhibitions. The FIP Liaison officer to the Recognition exhibition must plan in advance with the OC as per above.

As the FIP Coordinator to a Commission conducting the FIP Qualifying Seminar may not be at the Recognition Exhibition to observe the participation of attendants; the Seminar contents and Q&A, the FIP Directors of that respective Continent should, in this case, do that on behalf of the FIP Coordinator.

**2** the respective FIP Coordinator to follow up with their respective Commissions in advance if they wish to hold the FIP Qualifying Seminar for the upcoming Patronage or Recognition Exhibitions and ensure that the decision process is according to the current regulations.

**3** if a Commission wish to propose a FIP Qualifying Seminar for the upcoming Patronage or Recognition Exhibitions, then the details must be discussed by the Bureau and have to be proposed to the Board for approval and the FIP Consultant can confirm the timeslots with the OC and the Secretary General, who will announce them on the FIP website at least **one month** before the Exhibition.

**4.** General Lecture contents to educate exhibitors can be proposed by the Commission Chairman to the FIP Coordinator to the Commission and arranged with the FIP Consultant of the exhibition if timeslots are available and reported by the Coordinator to the Board.

## EXHIBITIONS

### URUGUAY 2025

As the Open Philately and Postal Stationery FIP Qualifying Seminars were proposed at quite short notice from the date of the exhibition, after some discussions, they were approved by the majority of the Board.

### BOSTON 2026

As FIP Recognition was given to "BOSTON 2026 World Expo" under FIAF Patronage, but not including the Champion of Champions, Polar Salon, German American Salon, it was agreed that the FIP Liaison Officer would highlight it to the Organising Committee in Uruguay.

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## Highlights of the 182<sup>nd</sup> New FIP Board of Directors Conference Meeting on 20 March 2025

### 78<sup>th</sup> FIP CONGRESS

The Board members approved the application by Clube Filatélico de Macau and Organising Committee of MACAO 2026 to host the 78<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress to be held in Macao, during MACAO 2026 FIP Specialised World Stamp Exhibition.

## EXHIBITIONS

### PHILAKOREA 2025

Progress of the exhibition was reported to the Board. The official hotel had been finalized.

### DUBAI 2026

President Chirakiti reported that the official hotel had been confirmed and invitations were sent out to all Members.

### PHILATAIPEI 2026

President Chirakiti reported that the IREX were being finalized and invitations will be sent out soon.

## BELGRADE 2027

Director Suhadolc updated that the Organising Committee was finalizing the official logo as well as in the midst of selecting the official hotel. He shall be meeting them personally the day after and shall keep the Board informed.

## MEMBER FEDERATIONS

The Secretary General had started to send out the invoices and FIP Awards List as at URUGUAY 2025 to the Member Federations.

## EXHIBITS

### POSSIBLE FIRST DAY COVER EXPERIMENTAL CLASS

Vice-President Nathaniel discussed with the Board regarding a possible experimental First Day Cover class in future FIP Patronage Exhibitions. It was agreed that there was a need to harmonize the different judging guidelines amongst various countries for the First Day Cover exhibits at FIP level. President Chirakiti proposed that Vice-President Nathaniel form and lead a working group for further discussion.

## FIP EXHIBITIONS

The comparison chart on the differences FIP Patronage and FIP Recognition Exhibitions were reviewed to make the details clearer and approved by the Board. For details see pages 11-13.

## FIP SPONSORSHIP

Board members unanimously approved the application by the Asociacion Filatelica Peruana to apply for 2025 FIP Sponsorship of US \$5,000 for regional exhibition AMILFIL 2025 to be held in Lima, Peru from 14 – 19 October 2025. The exhibition shall be participated by nine countries with more than 400 frames.

## COMMISSIONS GUIDELINES

President Chirakiti proposed a few more updates to the Commissions Guidelines, in consideration of the feedback from the Commissions regarding the previous proposed changes that had been sent to all the Commissions. The updates were approved by the Board members.

## FIP GPC

### FIP GPC Lunch at Punta del Este, Uruguay



Members of the FIP Grand Prix Club, along with their families, gathered on 22 February, 2025 at a charming beachfront restaurant in Punta del Este kindly arranged by Mr Everaldo Santos. This is tradition at every FIP World Stamp Exhibition, where members who are present in person would congregate for lunch in an atmosphere of camaraderie and friendship, strengthening bonds among collectors from around the world.

Present at the gathering: Yigal Nathaniel (Israel), Prakob Chirakiti (Thailand), Alfred Schmidt (Germany), Martha Peredo (Bolivia), Walter Britz (Uruguay), Pablo Alejandro Reim (Argentina), Jan Huys-Berlingin (Liechtenstein), Adriano Bergamini (Switzerland) and Everaldo Santos (Brazil).

FIP congratulates the URUGUAY 2025 GPI Winner Pablo Alejandro Reim and GPN Winner Walter Britz.

*Photo courtesy of the Federación Uruguaya de Filatelia.*



Corrected and approved by FIP Board March 2025

**COMPARISON OF FIP PATRONAGE EXHIBITIONS AND FIP RECOGNITION EXHIBITIONS**

<b>FIP GENERAL WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION</b>	<b>FIP SPECIALISED WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP EXHIBITION</b>	<b>FIP SPECIALISED WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION</b>	<b>FIP RECOGNITION EXHIBITION</b>
1) <b>Class 1 = FIP Championship Class</b>	1A) No FIP Championship Class  1B) includes Class 1 = <b>World Stamp Championship Class</b> . Exhibits that have received at least a FIP Large Gold Award are eligible to participate in this Class	1) No FIP Championship Class nor World Stamp Championship Class	1) No FIP Championship Class nor World Stamp Championship Class
2) Supplementary Fee The exhibits in the FIP Championship Class pay their normal frame fees to the exhibition's organisers, and a supplementary fee (Championship Class Fee) is to be paid by exhibitor to FIP at 50 CHF per frame (400CHF per exhibit) - <i>GREX Article 6.3: FIP will charge an additional frame fee for Championship Class exhibits, as decided by the 63rd Congress in Seoul, to be paid directly to FIP.</i>	2) Supplementary Fee No supplementary fee per frame is imposed on exhibits in the World Stamp Championship Class.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
3) All FIP approved classes are included	3) Several Classes only, but must include Traditional and Postal History Classes (except for World Youth Stamp Exhibition: Youth Class only)	3) Several Classes only (except for World Youth Stamp Exhibition: Youth Class only)	3) The Exhibition Management shall determine the number of classes
4) Grand Prix National (GPN), Grand Prix International (GPI) and Grand Prix d'Honneur (GPH) will be awarded	4A) <b>GPN &amp; GPI</b> will be awarded. No GPH.  4B) The winner in Class 1 is known as <b>World Stamp Champion</b> , followed by a 1st Runner-up & a 2nd runner up	4A) <b>GPN &amp; GPI</b> will be awarded if there are TR and PH classes. No GPH.  4B) <b>Grand Prix d'Exposition</b> will be awarded with either TR or PH class present, or neither of them. No GPH.	4) Types of Grand Prix awards are at the discretion of the Exhibition Management. These Grand prix are not recognized by FIP.
5) Patronage Fee 55,000 CHF	5) Patronage Fee 44,000 CHF	5) Patronage Fee 33,000 CHF	5) Recognition Fee at 10 CHF per frame, minimum 5000 CHF. 1000 frames & above = 10,000 CHF
6) Minimum 2000 frames for competitive exhibits	6) Minimum 1000 frames for competitive exhibits (Minimum 500 frames for World Youth Stamp Exhibition)	6) Minimum 1000 frames for competitive exhibits (Minimum 500 frames for World Youth Stamp Exhibition)	6) Number of frames to be decided by the Exhibition Management
7) Open to all FIP members & Non FIP members of the same Associate Member as the hosting FIP Member. The results of the latter are recognised and recorded by FIP.	7) Open to all FIP members & Non FIP members of the same Associate Member as the hosting FIP Member. The results of the latter are recognised and recorded by FIP.	7) Open to all FIP members & Non FIP members of the same Associate Member as the hosting FIP Member. The results of the latter are recognised and recorded by FIP.	7) Open to all Members of the same Associate Member as the hosting FIP Member.

FIP GENERAL WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION	FIP SPECIALISED WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP EXHIBITION	FIP SPECIALISED WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION	FIP RECOGNITION EXHIBITION
8) All awards will be recognised by FIP and be recorded in the FIP Awards List.	8) All awards will be recognised by FIP and be recorded in the FIP Awards List.	8) All awards will be recognised by FIP and be recorded in the FIP Awards List.	8) The results of the awards will not be recognised and recorded in the FIP awards list. FIP will have a separate award list for exhibits awarded Large Vermeil and above for exhibits judged under FIP rules. Exhibits awarded Large Vermeil and above will be allowed to show 8 frames in the future FIP exhibitions.
9) FIP will appoint a <b>FIP Consultant</b> to advise and assist the Exhibition Management. He/She shall be responsible directly to the FIP Board. The travel costs (eg air fare, accommodation etc) for the FIP Consultant, non judging Board members & Secretary General are reimbursed by the Exhibition Management (GREX Article 53).	9) FIP will appoint a <b>FIP Consultant</b> to advise and assist the Exhibition Management. He/She shall be responsible directly to the FIP Board. The travel costs (eg air fare, accommodation etc) for the FIP Consultant, non judging Board members & Secretary General are reimbursed by the Exhibition Management (GREX Article 53).	9) FIP will appoint a <b>FIP Consultant</b> to advise and assist the Exhibition Management. He/She shall be responsible directly to the FIP Board. The travel costs (eg air fare, accommodation etc) for the FIP Consultant, non judging Board members & Secretary General are reimbursed by the Exhibition Management (GREX Article 53).	9) A <b>Liaison Officer</b> appointed by the FIP Board will oversee and have the final authority for any and all FIP related issues and functions for a Recognition Exhibition. The Liaison Officer would be attending the Recognition Exhibition and playing a role in the jury room whereby he would monitor and be satisfied with those exhibits attaining large vermeil and above. His position in the jury room can be designated as a senior consultant or simply just FIP Liaison Officer. The Liaison Officer can also be asked to assist in some judging in designated Classes at the request of the Jury Secretary and/or Jury President.  The travel costs (eg air fare, accommodation etc) for the Liaison Officer will be reimbursed by the Exhibition Management
10) Patronage must be approved at the FIP Congress	10) Patronage must be approved at the FIP Congress	10) Patronage must be approved at the FIP Congress	10) FIP Board grants FIP Recognition exhibitions
11) Large Gold Awards are counted in any totals towards FIP Championship Class.  GREX Article 9.1: Participation in the FIP Championship Class is restricted to exhibits which have received 3 Large Gold medals in World Exhibitions in three separate years.	11) Exhibits entering the World Stamp Championship Class will NOT be awarded Large Gold Awards (hence are NOT counted in any totals towards FIP Championship Class). A Certificate of participation will be issued.	11) Large Gold Awards received are counted towards FIP Championship Class eligibility	11) Large Gold Awards received will <b>NOT</b> be counted towards FIP Championship Class eligibility
<i>GREX Article 9.2:</i> Credit however is given for only one Large Gold Medal per year.			
<i>GREX Article 9.3:</i> ... A qualified exhibit can compete in the FIP Championship Class for any five calendar years of the exhibitor's choice within a span of ten years once it becomes eligible.	They can exhibit as many times as possible hence GREX Article 9.1 - 9.5 does not apply.		

FIP GENERAL WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION	FIP SPECIALISED WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP EXHIBITION	FIP SPECIALISED WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION	FIP RECOGNITION EXHIBITION
<i>GREX Article 9.5:</i> On receiving the Grand Prix d'Honneur in the FIP Championship Class, or having completed eligibility under Article 9.3, an exhibit may only be shown out of competition by the same owner.	An exhibit that had received the Grand Prix d'Honneur can continue to enter the World Stamp Championship Class without limitations on the number of times.		
12) FIP Patronage is the only patronage for a General World Stamp Exhibition	12) FIP Patronage is the only patronage for a Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	12) FIP Patronage is the only patronage for a Specialised World Stamp Exhibition	12) Recognition may be granted to FIP members for holding continental patronage exhibitions
13) IREX (Individual Regulations) must be approved by the FIP Consultant	13) IREX (Individual Regulations) must be approved by the FIP Consultant	13) IREX (Individual Regulations) must be approved by the FIP Consultant	13) Not applicable
14) To have a formal contract with FIP	14) To have a formal contract with FIP	14) To have a formal contract with FIP	14) To have a formal Agreement with FIP
15) Jurors must be 100% FIP accredited. 100% of jury team leaders must be at least FIP accredited jurors for the respective classes (preferably accredited FIP TL for that respective class). Accredited jurors can also be assigned as "Acting TL" but this <b>does not automatically</b> accredit them.	15) Jurors must be 100% FIP accredited. 100% of jury team leaders must be at least FIP accredited jurors for the respective classes (preferably accredited FIP TL for that respective class). Accredited jurors can also be assigned as "Acting TL" but this <b>does not automatically</b> accredit them.	15) Jurors must be 100% FIP accredited. 100% of jury team leaders must be at least FIP accredited jurors for the respective classes (preferably accredited FIP TL for that respective class). Accredited jurors can also be assigned as "Acting TL" but this <b>does not automatically</b> accredit them.	15) A minimum of 60% of all jurors must be FIP accredited. 100% of jury team leaders must be FIP accredited jurors for the respective classes (preferably accredited FIP TL for that respective class). Accredited jurors can also be assigned as "Acting TL" but this <b>does not automatically</b> accredit them. Jury Service in FIP Recognition does not count as FIP Jury Service.

## Highlights of the 77<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress at Portman Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Shanghai, China 3 December 2024



*Ms Gao Hong Tao, Vice-President of the All-China Philatelic Federation, host of CHINA 2024 International Stamp Exhibition, was invited to give a speech at the opening of the Congress.*

The 77th FIP Congress was held in Shanghai on 3 December 2024 at the Shen Ballroom of the Portman Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

FIP President Chirakiti gave a warm welcome to all delegates thanked the CHINA 2024 Organising Committee's support in making the Congress possible.



The Congress approved the application of Morocco Philatelic Association of Adagir and South, as represented by President Rachid Zaki (*to the right of President Chirakiti*) to be the new Member of FIP (photo courtesy of Rachid Zaki).

There was therefore a total of 37 voting delegates present in person from the American, European and Asian FIP Members, with 18 votes in proxy.

The positions for Vice-Presidents and Directors for America and Europe for years 2024 – 2028 had only one candidate each. All candidates were elected with the majority of votes:

<b>Vice-President for America</b>	Mr Aldo Samamé y Samamé, Peru
<b>Vice-President for Europe</b>	Mr Yigal Nathaniel, Israel
<b>Director for America</b>	Mr Reinaldo Macedo, Brazil
<b>Director for Europe</b>	Prof Peter Suhadolc, Slovenia

The Congress ratified and approved all the Motions from the FIP to provide support Members as much as possible to maintain their annual FIP Membership.



The Congress also approved the proposed change of FIP Patronage fee for General World Stamp Exhibition to 55,000 CHF from 66,000 CHF.

There were also fruitful discussions on the updates to the GREX proposed under the Motions by the FIP Board. Only one of the proposed changes to GREX 8.4 was not carried.

After a nice lunch hosted for all the delegates, the following upcoming FIP World Stamp Exhibitions were also granted approval of FIP Patronage by the Congress after the presentations by their respective representatives:

PHILAKOREA 2025

DUBAI 2026

MACAO 2026

PHILATAIPEI 2026

BELGRADE 2027

SLOVFILEX 2027

FIP prepared the FIP Medals for Exceptional Jury Service to two FIP jurors who were present and they were:

MR RAYMOND TODD, AUSTRALIA

MR KOH SEOW CHUAN, SINGAPORE

Finally, the Secretary General invited President Chirakiti, Vice- President Tan and Director Khoory to come forward to present the certificate of appreciation to Ms Gao Hong Tao, ACPF Vice-President for their kind hosting of the FIP Congress.

Thereafter, President Chirakiti declared the closing of the Congress and expressed his appreciation on behalf of the FIP Board to all the delegates who had specially taken time and efforts to be present in person.

The detailed minutes of the 77<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress shall be sent to all Members together with the Congress papers for the 78<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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## 78<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress to be held on 1 July 2026 in Macau

The FIP Board had decided and approved during the 182<sup>nd</sup> FIP Board of Directors' Conference meeting to hold the 78<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress on **1 July 2026** in Macau, in conjunction with MACAO 2026 FIP Patronage Specialised World Stamp Exhibition, after reviewing the request by MACAO 2026 Organising Committee to host the Congress.

The FIP Secretary General had informed all FIP Members that should they wish to update the appointment of any delegate(s) to the FIP Commissions, they should inform the respective Commissions, copying the FIP Secretariat from now until **21 September 2025**.

Members are reminded that according to the Guidelines for the Duties and Regulations for the Philatelic Commissions of FIP:

*13.3 A F.I.P.-Member, not having nominated a regular delegate to a Commission/Section before the request for nominations for Chairman, Secretary and members of Bureau has been issued, may not appoint a delegate solely for the purpose of voting in the election.*

The First Letter for the Congress with further details and all the necessary nomination forms to the FIP Board and FIP Commissions' Bureaux, shall be sent out to Members before **30 September 2025**.

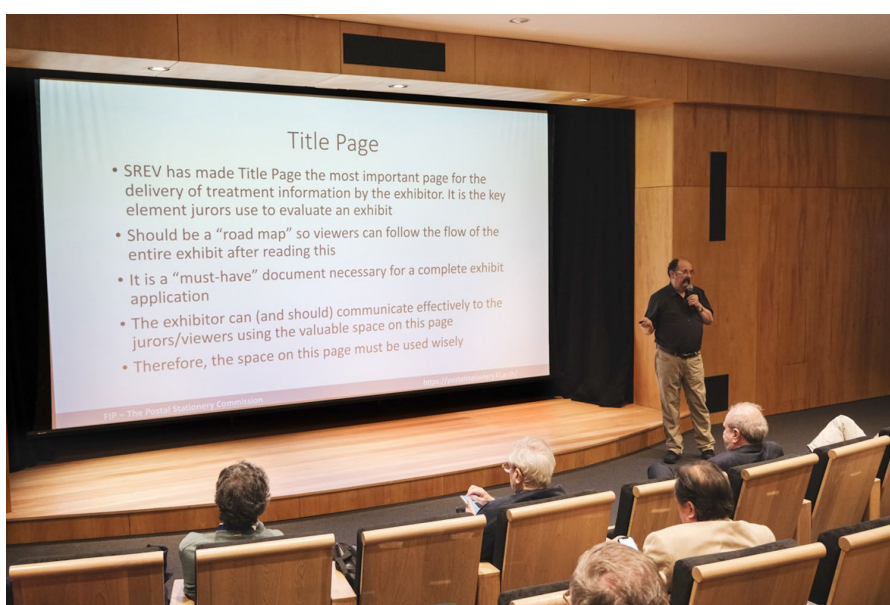
## FIP Postal Stationery Qualifying Seminar at URUGUAY 2025

The Postal Stationery Commission held a FIP Qualifying Seminar on Wednesday, 19 February 2025 from 15:15 to 16:30 at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Atchugarry (MACA) Auditorium in conjunction with Uruguay 2025 at Punta Del Este, Uruguay.

In the first part of the seminar, the Commission Chairman, Ian McMahon from Australia, presented on Judging Postal Stationery and Current Trends in the Postal Stationery Class including: General Principles, Judging Criteria and Scoring, Condition, Rarity and Importance, Knowledge and Research, Presentation, Feedback and Expectations of Postal Stationery Judges.



*Ian McMahon, Australia  
(photo courtesy of Carlos Vergara).*



*Ross Towle, USA  
(photo courtesy of Carlos Vergara).*

The second part of the seminar was presented by Bureau Member, Ross Towle from the USA and covered Postal Stationery including: Treatment – the SREVs and Guidelines, the Title Page, Purpose, Flow and Balance and Postal Stationery Treatment.

The seminar was well attended with 38 attendees in addition to the presenters.

## FIP Open Philately Qualifying Seminar at URUGUAY 2025

An official Open Philately (OP) FIP Qualifying Seminar was held on February 19th at the FIP Specialized World Stamp Exhibition in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The event attracted a record number of local and international participants, with 48 attendees eager to engage with OP!

The seminar was led by FIP Board Member Peter Suhadolc, with assistance from Jari Majander, who represented OP exhibitors. Both are members of the FIP Open Philately Working Group (OP WG), the provisional commission chaired by Birthe King. The key topics covered during the seminar included:

- A presentation on the current Guidelines for judging OP, outlining the evaluation criteria and showcasing example pages from award-winning OP exhibits.
- A comparison between the existing Guidelines and the new SREV and Guidelines proposed by the OP WG.

Since OP exhibits are expected to include both philatelic and non-philatelic items - with the majority being philatelic - the proposed SREV and Guidelines provide definitions for distinguishing philatelic items and practical guidance for assessing their predominance. Rather than counting individual items or measuring the space they occupy on the pages, it is encouraged to step back and look at the whole exhibit frame by frame. In most cases, it becomes readily apparent whether the balance favours philatelic material.



*Peter Suhadolc, Co-Chair of the Open Philately Working Group (photo courtesy of Carlos Vergara).*

Although a dedicated Q&A session was planned for the end of the seminar, many questions arose throughout the presentation, including the use of various non-philatelic items and what can or should be included in OP exhibits. For example, are printouts from the web permissible in OP exhibits? While the guidelines do not explicitly prohibit such items, exhibitors are encouraged to prioritize original collectible materials over reproductions. To emphasize this point, the example pages featured a remarkable selection of significant non-philatelic collectibles, including medals, coins, degrees, lithographic prints, and propaganda posters.

A frequently discussed topic in OP seminars is the role of picture postcards in OP exhibits. The franking side of a used postcard is classified as philatelic, while the non-franked side is considered non-philatelic. However, in most cases, it is primarily the picture side of the postcard that contributes to the exhibit's narrative. Consequently, picture postcards are typically regarded as nonphilatelic in OP exhibits, as the address side generally holds no significance to the story being told. This limitation can be avoided by displaying postcards that are franked on the picture side.

The remarkable turnout at the seminar held during URUGUAY 2025 and the lively discussions are strong evidence that OP is advancing and gaining momentum among philatelists, potential exhibitors, and FIP jurors seeking accreditation in OP. The proposed new SREV and Guidelines were well received by the participants.

**Jari Majander,**  
Open Philately Working Group Member



## FIP Medals for Exceptional Jury Service

During the 77<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress, the FIP Medals for Exceptional Jury Service to two FIP jurors who were present and they were Mr Raymond Todd, Australia and Mr Koh Seow Chuan, Singapore.

Mr Todd was FIP Board member from 2006 – 2010 and had served in FIP exhibitions as FIP juror for more than 20 exhibitions from 1991 to 2022 in Postal Stationery and Aerophilately classes. He was also the Jury President during the Pacific Explorer FIP Patronage Exhibition in 2005 and at AUSTRALIA 2013 FIP Patronage Exhibition. He received his medal from President Chirakiti congratulated by all the delegates.

FIP Honorary President Mr Koh was the FIP President from 2002 – 2006 and for having served in FIP exhibitions as FIP juror for at least 14 exhibitions from 1983 to 2015 in the Traditional, Postal History and Revenue classes. He had also acted as team leaders for each of these classes.



*Mr Raymond Todd (left in first photo, photo courtesy of Ian McMahon) and Mr Koh Seow Chuan (right in second photo) receiving their FIP medals for Exceptional Jury Service.*



FIP President Chirakiti also presented the medal to Mr Charles Verge from Canada (*left in photo*) during the Palmares dinner of URUGUAY 2025 (*photo courtesy of Carlos Vergara*).

FIP Director Suhadolc introduced that Charles had served in FIP exhibitions as FIP juror for 15 times from 1997 to 2025 in the Traditional, Postal History and Literature classes. He had also served as Team leader, Jury Secretary and Jury President in several exhibitions respectively.

Charles was also one of the lead FIP Jury Academy Trainers and Curriculum Developer, as well as a Jury Academy Trainer. He had also been involved in helping to consolidate the past Congress documents for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FIP coming up in 2026.



## FIP Recognition China 2024 Asian International Stamp Exhibition

China 2024 Asian International Stamp Exhibition was held from November 29 to December 3, 2024, at the Shanghai Exhibition Center. This event was hosted by the State Post Bureau of China and co-organized by Shanghai Municipal Transportation Commission, Shanghai Jing'an District People's Government, China Post Group Corporation Limited, and All-China Philatelic Federation.

Themed "Stamps Present Asian Culture," the exhibition aimed to expand and develop friendly relations and close cooperation among FIAP members, promote every aspect of philately in the FIAP region, commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately.



*Performance at the Opening Ceremony of China 2024 (photo courtesy of ACPF).*

In total over 323 exhibits in around 1,617 frames plus 49 literature exhibits were displayed, covering 16 competitive classes: FIAP Championship, Traditional, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Thematic, Maximaphily, Revenue, Modern Philately, Picture Postcard, Open Philately, Youth, OFE, Literature, and Experimental Class—First Day Cover, which was introduced for the first time as a competitive class in a FIAP exhibition.

Altogether, 29 FIAP members participated in the competitive exhibition, and there were 120 international and domestic sales booths. The event attracted over 100,000 visitors.

The Jury consisted of 54 members, with Dr Prakob Chirakiti as Honorary President, Mr Tay Peng Hian and Mr Surajit Gongvatana as Senior Consultants, and Mm Jiao Xiaoguang as Jury President. A total of 21 Large Gold medals and 40 Gold medals were awarded.

The exhibition featured five theme days: Opening Day, Shanghai Culture Day, Youth Day, Palmares Day, and FIAP Day. China Post Group Corporation Limited issued a set of four commemorative stamps and one souvenir sheet for this event.



*Exhibition frames. (photo courtesy of ACPF).*



*Jurors at work (photo courtesy of ACPF).*

During the exhibition, the Organizing Committee arranged a visit to the Shanghai Museum for Commissioners. A special display area showcasing the Shanghai Youth Post Office was set up at the exhibition hall. On Youth Day, a philatelic lecture for youth collectors was held, and the 4th Shanghai Letter-Writing Culture Festival was launched. The festival aimed to guide young people to showcase Shanghai's historical culture and local customs through letters and help the younger generation rediscover the charm of traditional correspondence.

**Reported by All-China Philatelic Federation**





## FIP WSE URUGUAY 2025

From February 17 to 22, 2025, Uruguay hosted a historic event: the "FIP WSE URUGUAY 2025 – 200 Years of the Declaration of Independence", which took place at the prestigious Atchugarry Museum of Contemporary Art (MACA) in Punta del Este.

This competitive exhibition was the first of its kind in Uruguay and one of the most significant philatelic events worldwide, featuring international jurors and the endorsement of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP).



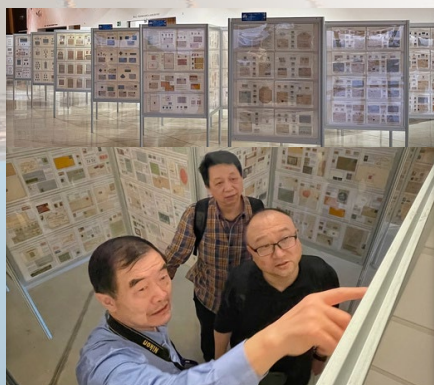
Del 17 al 22 de febrero de 2025, Uruguay fue sede de un evento histórico: la "FIP WSE URUGUAY 2025 – 200 Años de la Declaratoria de la Independencia", que tuvo lugar en el prestigioso Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Atchugarry (MACA) en Punta del Este.

Esta exposición, de carácter competitivo, fue la primera de su tipo en Uruguay y uno de los eventos filatélicos más importantes a nivel mundial, contando con jurados internacionales y el respaldo de la Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP).

The exhibition was organized by the Federación Uruguaya de Filatelia (FUF), with the sponsorship of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) and the support of Correo Uruguayo, the Círculo Filatélico de Montevideo (CFM), and the Intendencia de Maldonado.

It was part of the celebrations for the Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence of 1825.

More than 50 countries from all continents participated, showcasing 300 top-tier collections. The event featured international judges and awards for the best collections.



La exposición fue organizada por la Federación Uruguaya de Filatelia (FUF), con el patrocinio de la Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) y el auspicio de Correo Uruguayo, el Círculo Filatélico de Montevideo (CFM) y la Intendencia de Maldonado.

Se enmarcó dentro de las celebraciones del Bicentenario de la Declaratoria de la Independencia de 1825.

Más de 50 países de todos los continentes participaron, presentando 300 colecciones de primer nivel. El evento contó con jueces internacionales y premios para las mejores colecciones.







The event was officially recognized as being of touristic interest by the Ministry of Tourism, of ministerial interest by the Ministry of Education and Culture, and of departmental interest by the Intendencia de Maldonado.

These recognitions reflect the exhibition's significance not only for the philatelic community but also for the country as a whole.

After ten months of hard teamwork, the long-awaited day of the exhibition's inauguration arrived. We were honored by the presence of the FIP President, as well as authorities from UPU, UPAEP, Correo Uruguayo, and various governmental institutions.

The philatelic sheet "Obras de Pablo Atchugarry" was presented to Pablo himself, who served as our host at MACA.



El evento fue declarado de interés turístico por el Ministerio de Turismo, de interés ministerial por el Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, y de interés departamental por la Intendencia de Maldonado.

Estos reconocimientos reflejan la importancia de la exposición no solo para la comunidad filatélica, sino también para el país en su conjunto.

Luego diez meses de arduo trabajo en equipo, llegó el ansiado día de la inauguración de la exposición. Contamos con la presencia del Presidente de la FIP, autoridades de UPU, UPAEP, El Correo Uruguayo y diversas instituciones gubernamentales.

Se hizo entrega de la hoja filatélica "Obras de Pablo Atchugarry" al mismísimo Pablo, quien fue nuestro anfitrión en el MACA.







El Programa de la Exposición incluyó:

- Dos Seminarios Clasificatorios FIP, abiertos a expositores, jurados, aspirantes a jurados y para cualquiera con el deseo de profundizar en estas disciplinas filatélicas.

1. Clase de Filatelia Abierta – Peter Suhadolc (Presidente de la Comisión de Filatelia Abierta de la FIP).

2. Enteros Postales – Ian McMahon (Presidente de la Comisión de Enteros Postales de la FIP).

- Conferencias de RAHFeHP y UPAEP a cargo de:

1. Académico Correspondiente, Sr. Reinaldo Macedo, RDP (Brasil): “Giros Postales – Brasil (1886 – 1889)”.

2. Académico Electo, Sr. Walter Britz, RDP (Uruguay): “El Sistema Postal en Uruguay durante el Virreinato del Río de la Plata: 1776 – 1814”.

3. Académico Titular, Dr. Yamil Kouri, RDP (EE. UU.): “El Correo entre los Estados Unidos y Uruguay durante la Guerra Civil Estadounidense”.

- Programa de la Cumbre Corinphila y Köhler, con la participación de Dieter Michelson (Director General), Jonas Hällström (RDP – Director General) y Tobias Huylmans (Bund Philatelistischer Prüfer).



The Exhibition Schedule included:

- Two FIP Qualifying Seminars, open to exhibitors, jurors, aspiring jurors, and anyone eager to deepen their knowledge in these philatelic disciplines.

1. Open Philately Class – Peter Suhadolc (Chairman of the FIP Open Philately Commission)

2. Postal Stationery – Ian McMahon (Chairman of the FIP Postal Stationery Commission)

- RAHFeHP and UPAEP Conferences by:

1. Corresponding Academician Mr. Reinaldo Macedo, RDP (Brazil): “Money Orders – Brazil (1886 – 1889)”.

2. Elected Academician Mr. Walter Britz, RDP (Uruguay): “The Postal System in Uruguay during the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata: 1776 – 1814”.

3. Full Academician Dr. Yamil Kouri, RDP (USA): “Mail between the United States and Uruguay during the American Civil War”.

- Corinphila and Köhler Summit Programme, featuring Dieter Michelson (Managing Director), Jonas Hällström (RDP – Managing Director), and Tobias Huylmans (Bund Philatelistischer Prüfer).



URUGUAY  
2025 <sup>17/2</sup>/<sub>22/2</sub>  
FIP WSE



En 1925, se programó el “Vuelo Conmemorativo del Centenario de la Declaración de la Independencia” entre Montevideo y Florida. Sin embargo, ambos vuelos tuvieron problemas mecánicos y la correspondencia tuvo que ser enviada por tierra.

Como parte de la Exposición Mundial “URUGUAY 2025”, se llevó a cabo el “Vuelo Conmemorativo del Bicentenario de la Declaración de la Independencia y el Centenario de los Vuelos Fallidos de 1925”.

Este vuelo conmemorativo (aeronave: Baron 58) operó entre Punta del Este y Florida, regresando luego al Aeropuerto de Punta del Este. Posteriormente, la correspondencia fue transportada en helicóptero hasta el MACA, sede de la exposición, donde funcionarios del Correo Uruguayo y otras autoridades realizaron la ceremonia de matasellado.

Este hecho marcó el primer Vuelo Postal combinado avión-helicóptero en Uruguay, y primero realizado en una exposición mundial. El piloto, Capitán Comandante Retirado de la Fuerza Aérea, Daniel Ubillos, aterrizó en el MACA a las 18:00 del 18 de febrero, donde los visitantes de la exposición recibieron el evento.

In 1925, the “Centennial Commemorative Flight of the Declaration of Independence” was scheduled between Montevideo and Florida. However, both flights encountered mechanical issues, and the correspondence had to be sent by land.

As part of the World Exhibition “URUGUAY 2025,” the “Bicentennial Commemorative Flight of the Declaration of Independence and the Centennial of the Failed Flights of 1925” took place.

This commemorative flight (aircraft: Baron 58) operated between Punta del Este and Florida, returning to Punta del Este Airport. Afterwards, the correspondence was transported by helicopter to the MACA, the exhibition’s venue, where officials from the Uruguayan Postal Service and other authorities performed the stamping ceremony.

This event marked the first combined airplane-helicopter Postal Flight in Uruguay and the first ever conducted at a world exhibition. The pilot, Retired Air Force Capt. Cmdr. Daniel Ubillos, landed at the MACA at 6:00 PM on February 18, where exhibition visitors welcomed the event.



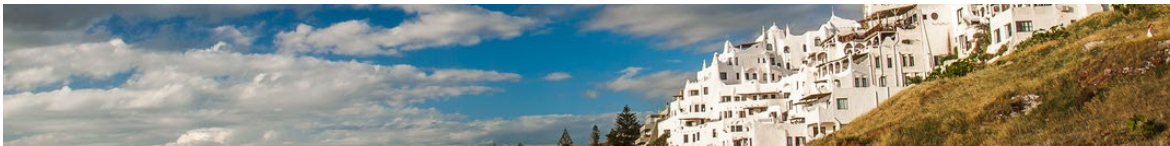




La FUF invitó a más de 150 de nuestros visitantes de todo el mundo a participar en un City Tour gratuito por la ciudad de Punta del Este.

Los recorridos se llevaron a cabo el martes 18 de febrero, miércoles 19 de febrero, jueves 20 de febrero y viernes 21 de febrero. Contamos con un guía bilingüe sin costo para quienes no hablaban español.

Algunos de los lugares visitados fueron: Puerto de Punta del Este, Rambla Brava (Isla de Lobos), Parque Temático Pueblo Gaucho, Parque El Jagüel, barrio Beverly Hills, Punta Ballena y la Ruta Panorámica hasta el Museo Casapueblo (entrada opcional).



The FUF invited more than 150 of our visitors from all over the world to join a free City Tour around the city of Punta del Este.

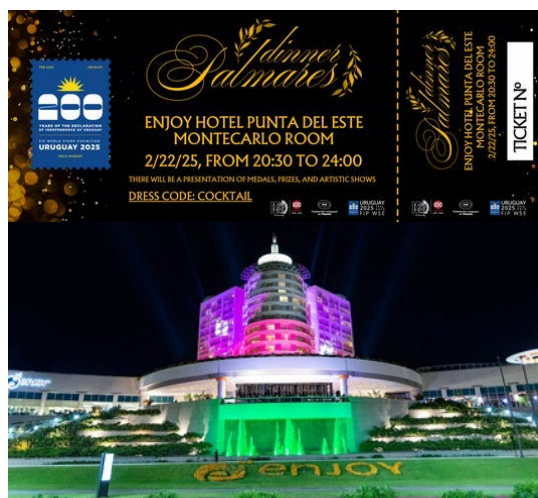
The tours took place on Tuesday, February 18, Wednesday, February 19, Thursday, February 20, and Friday, February 21. We had a bilingual guide at no cost for foreign speakers.

Some of the places visited were: Puerto de Punta del Este, Rambla Brava (Isla de Lobos), Parque Temático Pueblo Gaucho, Parque El Jagüel, Beverly Hills neighborhood, Punta Ballena and the Panoramic Route to Museo Casapueblo (optional entry).

Uruguay, on the occasion of the FIP WSE URUGUAY 2025, had the honor of being the first country in the Americas selected by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to illustrate an International Reply Coupon (IRC).

Uruguay, con motivo de la FIP WSE URUGUAY 2025, tuvo el honor de ser el primer país de América seleccionado por la Unión Postal Universal (UPU) para ilustrar un Cupón de Respuesta Internacional (IRC).





During the Palmarés dinner, we shared wonderful moments. The event took place at Enjoy Punta del Este. Amid delicious dishes and a traditional tango from our country, we celebrated the awards and recognitions of the high-level collections that participated in the FIP WSE Uruguay 2025.

On behalf of the FUF, we extend our sincerest congratulations to all exhibitors for their achievements.

We would like to give special recognition to the winner of the Grand Prix International, Pablo Reim (Argentina), and to Walter Britz, who won the Grand Prix National.

Durante la cena de Palmarés compartimos maravillosos momentos. La misma tuvo lugar en el Enjoy de Punta del Este. Entre deliciosos platos y un tango característico de nuestro país, celebramos la instancia de reconocimientos y premiaciones de las colecciones de alto nivel que participaron de la FIP WSE Uruguay 2025.

De parte de la FUF, expresamos nuestras más sinceras felicitaciones a todos los expositores por los logros obtenidos.

Hacemos un especial reconocimiento al ganador del Grand Prix Internacional: Pablo Reim (Argentina); y a Walter Britz, quien ganó el Grand Prix Nacional.





19th June - 22nd June 2025

# National Stamp Exhibition Liberec 2025



Venue: MCU KOLOSEUM Liberec



## Specialized National Stamp Exhibition

with international participation, FEPA Recognition and FIP Sponsorship.

It is an exhibition of the 1st and 2nd level, which will include competitive classes of traditional philately, postal history, stationery, thematic philately, philatelic literature, open class, youth class, postcards and single frame exhibits.

**Exhibits from the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia will be presented on 400 exhibition frames.**

Rare stamps from the collections of Postal Museum, world rarities, such as a Postal facing slip from the R.M.S. Titanic or a letter that travelled around the world in 100 days, as well as exceptional letters from Antarctica will be on display.



Mediační partner výstavy  
[www.filatelie.cz](http://www.filatelie.cz)

More information can be found at [www.liberec2025.cz](http://www.liberec2025.cz)

## PHILAKOREA 2025 SPECIALISED WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION INTERIM REPORT

In commemoration of the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of modern postal services, the PHILAKOREA 2025 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition—which was originally scheduled for 2024—had been postponed and will now be held from 17 to 21 September 2025. It should be noted that during the FIP Congress held in Shanghai, China last year, the Korea Post, Korean Philatelic Federation and FIP finalized the contract on 3 December 2024.

The current estimated number of available display frames is approximately 2,000, which is not significantly less than the 2,270 frames (495 exhibits from 66 countries) exhibited in PHILAKOREA 2014, held 10 years ago. The exhibition venue is the COEX exhibition hall located in Magok, Seoul. Although the exhibition infrastructure is excellent and spacious enough, compared to the previous COEX venue in Gangnam which has been used regularly in the past, this location is considerably less accessible to visitors. Without vigorous promotional activities using various media channels, it is by no means easy to secure the expected number of visitors. Moreover, public awareness of stamps has drastically changed over the past decade. Therefore, it is essential that the exhibition is featured at least once on the regular public broadcast at 8 or 9 PM and that persistent efforts—such as installing banners in various strategic locations in cooperation with the Seoul city government—be made.



*PHILAKOREA 2025 exhibition venue COEX Magok, Seoul*

There is good news that Stanley Gibbons shall allow the Organizing Committee to exhibit the rarest item in the world during the PHILAKOREA 2025 which we hope can attract many visitors.

### Incentivizing Youth Participation

Since the event does not coincide with school vacation periods, it might be more difficult to expect an influx of students who are the future of philately. Therefore, we will try to send official invitations to elementary, middle, and high schools to promote the exhibition as an educational field trip.

### Exhibition Frames

One of the major challenges for Organizing Committees includes securing sufficient exhibition frames. Given usually World Stamp Exhibitions are held only once every ten years, consolidating the frames scattered in various locations into one central pool is no simple task. Even when frames are secured, the high rate of damage means that any shortfall must be compensated for by placing additional orders, which adds on to the costs of the Organizing Committees.

### Submission and Selection of Frames

By early February, a total of 67 countries had registered to participate in the exhibition. Once all submissions from each country are received by the end of February, the selection of exhibits should be completed by April and inform the philatelic federation of the respective countries. The selection of the international jury team shall be done in accordance to FIP regulations with the FIP Consultant to be approved by the FIP Board.

### Domestic Support

The Korea Postal Service Agency (POSA), as was the case 10 years ago, is the organization entrusted by Korea Post to manage the hardware aspects of the exhibition. The Korean Philatelic Federation (KPF), on the other hand, is solely responsible for tasks directly related to philately, such as collecting of exhibits. In this process, members of federation-affiliated organizations are also engaged by volunteering in activities related to the exhibition. The Federation has established five committees to handle different areas:

1. overall planning
2. handling of the exhibits and liaison with National Commissioners
3. exhibition hall management
4. Jury Team and
5. visitors' reception.

These committees not only facilitate smooth coordination between POSA and KPF.

Amongst the five areas, the committee responsible for exhibition hall management is expected to handle the most delicate and sensitive issues and, consequently, requires the largest manpower allocation. In practice, the highest number of personnel is deployed in this area. Moreover, when National Commissioners bring in exhibits from their respective countries for submission, this manpower must address a myriad of detailed requests promptly and accurately—a task that is both labour-intensive and demanding in terms of care.

The reception protocols of the visitors together with VIPs are also critical, as they significantly affect the overall image of the Organizing Committee. Staff who are proficient in foreign languages would have to be assigned for these tasks.

There must be close cooperation with customs officials to ensure smooth customs clearance for the exhibits from all over the world. The Organizing Committee shall also ensure that both the receiving of delegates and their departure arrangements are well planned and attended to.

It is important also, to ensure that the welfare of the volunteers are considered carefully and that they are taken care of in fair manner in return for their hard work and contribution.

### Challenges

In an era when postal revenue is rapidly declining, Philatelic exhibitions are now deemed as an activity that might not benefit postal authorities directly. Currently, the survival of the Korean Philatelic Federation depends solely on the sale of Woopyo magazine as supported by the government. If the Woopyo magazine supply was to be partially reduced or completely abolished through financial restructuring, the Federation would have to close its doors immediately.

New solutions will have to be found. It is encouraging to know that in other countries like Japan, although postal services had been privatized, the Japanese government had still allocated over 90% of its budget to the PHILANIPPON FIP Recognition Exhibition in 2021. The reasoning was that, since a large-scale Philatelic Exhibition was held only once every ten years, it was acceptable to support the festival as a celebration for collectors who have consistently purchased stamps, regardless of the face value of the stamps.

The traditional viewpoint of stamp exhibitions purely from a cost-benefit perspective needs to be reformed and recalculated. In order to change this perspective, it is perhaps essential for all National Federations and general collectors to participate more actively and contribute as volunteers to demonstrate that they are not merely passive recipients.

We also need the support of collectors for Philatelic exhibitions, in order to ensure that there is still future for Philately.

**Report by Jin Hur**  
**Commissioner General of PHILAKOREA 2025**  
**Vice-President of Korean Philatelic Federation**



## EuroPhilEx 2025 Updates

The United Kingdom will host the next European stamp exhibition, EuroPhilEx 2025 from Wednesday, 7 May until Sunday, 11 May 2025. However, the venue will not be in London but at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

The National Exhibition Centre is a purpose-built exhibition complex, easy to reach with Birmingham International Station (just over a hour train journey from central London) and Birmingham International Airport both close by. For those driving, it is situated close to several motorway junctions and has 16,500 car parking spaces with shuttle buses to the venue.

On the opening day, 7 May, the exhibition will be open from 11am to 6pm, and admission will cost £10, with early bird admission from 10am for £20. On all other days admission will be free, the exhibition being open from 10am to 6pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and from 10am to 4pm on Sunday, 11 May.

There will be over 60 stand holders present, including a stand for Royal Mail. In addition, there will be stands for the Royal Philatelic Society London together with the Global Philatelic Network, a youth zone organised by the Stamp Active Network, a seating area sponsored by the Great Britain Philatelic Society, and a Literature Entries Lounge sponsored by The Stuart Rossiter Trust.

There will be 2,000 frames of exhibits from more than 30 countries, with exhibits ranging from Traditional and Postal History to Astrophilately and Maximaphily. The Court of Honour will feature the world's most valuable stamp, the British Guiana 1c black on magenta of 1856, being shown by courtesy of Stanley Gibbons, together other exhibits of great rarities.



The British Guiana 1c black on magenta of 1856, being shown by courtesy of Stanley Gibbons.

Thursday, 8 May will be Society Showcase Day, with no fewer than 44 societies having tables, while several societies will also be holding meetings during the exhibition.

Further information can be obtained by visiting [www.europhillex2025.co.uk](http://www.europhillex2025.co.uk).

Updates by Richard West



## Report for BALKANFILA XX Under Partial FIP Sponsorship

We are pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the regional philatelic exhibition, Balkanfila XX held from 13 – 16 November 2024. The event provided an excellent opportunity for the philatelic community of Southeast Europe to meet in Thessaloniki, Greece, fostering the ideals of unity, friendship, understanding, and cooperation.

Balkanfila XX was organised by the Hellenic Philatelic Society of Thessaloniki, under the patronage and support of the Hellenic Philatelic Federation, partially sponsored by the FIP, and recognised by the European Philatelic Federation (FEPA).

The exhibition was held at Pavillion No. 6 of the HELLEXPO, a renowned international fairgrounds complex located within walking distance from the city centre. It offered ample space for setting up the exhibition frames, provided uniform lighting for the exhibits, allowed easy access for loading and unloading, and included additional areas for dealer tables, and presentations. The frames were supplied by the Hellenic Post (ELTA), as is customary for philatelic exhibitions in Greece.

Accommodation for National Commissioners & Jurors was arranged at the nearby ABC Hotel near the venue.



*The National Commissioners.*



*The Jurors.*

All eleven member countries of the Balkanfila Working Group participated in the exhibition, each represented by their respective National Commissioners: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey. Additionally, three countries with close philatelic ties to Southeast Europe and/or East Mediterranean— Cyprus, Italy, and Israel—also participated, similarly represented by their National Commissioners. Exhibits related to the region were also submitted by exhibitors from Algeria, Canada, China, Indonesia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, bringing the total to 22 countries. The exhibition featured approximately 700 frames, 600 of which were in competition. A strong Literature Class comprised 40 exhibits.

The international Jury was led by the four-member Presidium, which included Honorary President and Consultant Peter Suhadolc (FIP, Slovenia), President Eddie Leibu (FIP, Israel), Vice President George Thomareis (FIP, Greece), and Secretary Emmanouil Koutsounakis (Greece). The Jury also included nine Additional members, Vladimir Milic (Serbia), Boncho Bonev (FIP, Bulgaria), Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi (FIP, Italy), Mehmet Akan (FIP, Turkey), Alexis Papadopoulos (FEPA, Greece), Alexandru Bartoc (FIP, Romania), Julije Maras (FIP, Croatia), Igor Pirc (FIP, Slovenia), and Nikos Mallouchos (Greece).

**Reported by Thomas Arvanitis**  
**Balkanfila XX General Commissioner**

## Collecting and Exhibiting First Day Covers

By Colin Fraser, USA

In December 2024, FIAP hosted a very successful experimental competitive first day cover (FDC) class at the Shanghai Asian exhibition and this highlighted both the potential for and problems of the first day cover (FDC) exhibiting class.

Exhibits from Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia, Nepal and New Zealand were shown. The enthusiasm for participating in the FDC class reflects the growing interest in the collecting and study of first day covers. Whilst exhibiting FDCs at national exhibitions in the United States is well-established and developed, it is much less established in other countries and currently there is no universal and consistent set of guidelines and rules for preparing and judging FDC exhibits.

### The U.S. CIPEX Souvenir Sheet of 1947

#### Development, Production, First Days and Contemporary Use

**Goal;** To tell the story of the souvenir sheet issued for the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition (CIPEX) in New York City, May 17-25, 1947, to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of U.S. national postage stamps released in 1847; with special focus on First Day cachets.

**Context:** The 15c sheet was released on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the show. Both the exhibition and the sheet generated strong collector enthusiasm and a broad array of first day items.

**Idea and Design Concept:** The idea for a souvenir sheet to honor the first U.S. stamps grew from a late 1939 proposal approved by Pres. Roosevelt to recognize in 1940, the world's first postage stamp issued by England in 1840. FDR gave the Post Office Department (POD) guidance on the design of a sheetlet, as shown. It was decided that it would be inappropriate to picture another nation's stamp, so the sheet pictures the first U.S. stamp.

Despite the issue having been announced by the POD, development was cancelled in April of 1940 by Postmaster General (PMG) Farley as war clouds enveloped Europe and strong isolationist sentiment rose in the U.S.

After the War's end, the CIPEX organizing committee asked the POD to issue souvenir sheets at the show in honor of the first U.S. stamps. The PMG approved the idea on May 29, 1946. This sample layout for the sheet by the POD was submitted to the committee for reaction. They added the only "Centenary" to the inscription.

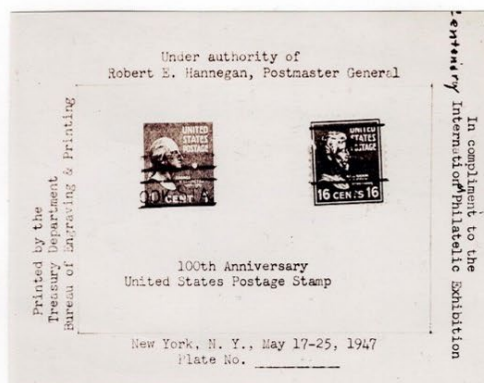
The official photos of essays in this exhibit were made for POD and Bureau of Engraving & Printing (BEP) staff as part of the design approval process. (ex-Johl and Glass)

**Exhibit organization:** uses the traditional method for First Day cover exhibits.

- Chapter 1: Design development
- Chapter 2: Production and distribution
- Chapter 3: The sheet at the CIPEX show
- Chapter 4: Portraits on the s/s in the cachet
- Chapter 5: Elements of 3c commemorative design in the cachet

- Chapter 6: Cachets related to New York City
- Chapter 7: Cachets with related pictorials
- Chapter 8: Unrelated pictorial designs
- Chapter 9: Text-only cachets
- Chapter 10: Contemporary uses of the s/s for domestic and international mail

*Especially significant items are identified by blue text*



*Scan No.1 of a FDC exhibit courtesy of John Hotchner RDP, USA.*

### **The importance of a first day usage**

As early as May 1840 and the introduction of the Penny Black, the significance of a first official day of usage was recognized. Robert Cole, a London solicitor with an interest in postal history prepared a first day cover for himself on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1840. His collection of postal history including his 6<sup>th</sup> May 1840 cover was sold for the first time by Christie's in London during the 1980's. Although earlier known usages for the Penny Black on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May, are known the importance of 6<sup>th</sup> May usages is undiminished.

Many early stamp issues do not have an officially designated first day. In such cases, the earliest documented use (EDU) takes the place for a first day cover. In one sense, a first day cover is a category of earliest documented use. Earliest documented use can be subject to changes based on further research and new discoveries. In some cases, FDCs might be fortuitous commercial covers and in other cases the FDC might be specially generated either by a dealer or collector.

Obviously, FDC's can relate to individual stamps, sets or series of stamps or to postal stationery.

### **The key features of an FDC**

The two key component parts to an FDC are the cachet (if present) and the postmark.

There are differences in understanding as to the definition of the two key features of an FDC. Many collectors do not understand what the cachet is, and how it is different to the postmark. Many early FDCs had no special inscriptions printed or written on the envelope. The cachet represents the wording or illustrations added to the envelope prior to mailing or added later. Cachets could comprise simple lettering or more complex illustrations. Such cachets might be applied by different processes including hand stamping, lithography, photogravure, thermal printing, intaglio or manuscript. The cachets might be generic (applicable to multiple stamps or stamp issues) or specific to the stamps affixed to the cover. In the United States, cachets were introduced by Fullerton in 1909 and in Great Britain the first illustrated FDC is from 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1911. In the United States there are a very large number of cachet makers who have been active since the first cachets in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. For most every other country the range of cachets available is much more limited. In some cases, the cachets may be officially prepared by the post office, or they may be private cachets prepared by a dealer or collector. For some American cachet makers artwork and production material is available but for others and for most countries apart from the United States such artwork is not available in private hands. An aspect of FDC collecting which has assumed greater importance in recent years is the advent of add-ons. Add-ons comprise cachets added at a much later time than the mailing of the envelope and it being serviced as an FDC. Many of these add-ons are either laser printed or by hand painted. Whilst such covers are collectable, a collector needs to be aware of their non-contemporary nature and that in some cases they are produced in quantity.

The second key component for an FDC is the postmark. Early FDCs did not have a special cancellation, and the postmark will be a simple generic town cancellation. In the United States first day of issue cancels were only introduced in 1937. In other countries, they were only introduced at a much later date. Today, most FDCs have an associated special postmark often including the wording first day of issue. In FDC collecting, it is important that the postmark should be clearly impressed and have a legible date.

### **Collecting FDCs**

As with all categories of philately, in simply collecting FDCs an individual has the freedom to collecting in whatever manner and with whatever scope they wish. They might choose to collect only unaddressed FDCs, or they may include addressed versions in their collection. Those which are addressed might have a printed, typewritten or handwritten address. One might also collect FDCs related to other events such as stamp shows, historical events or locations but souvenir covers without a direct first day connection would not normally be included in a collection of FDCs.

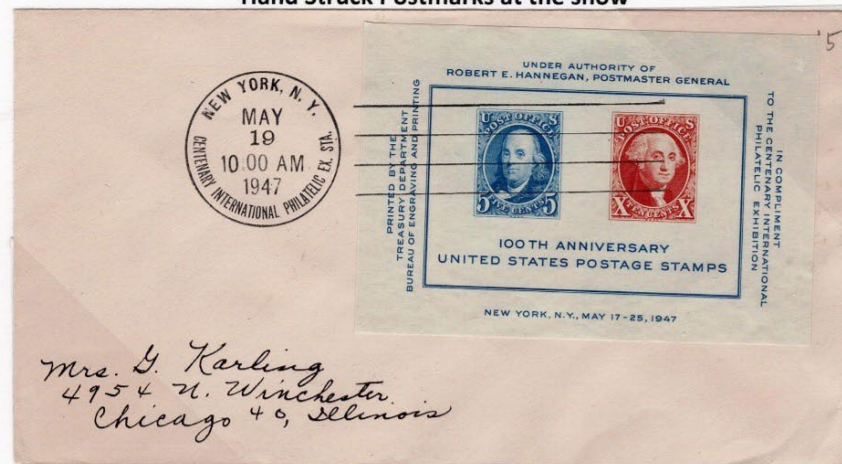
### **Exhibiting FDCs**

As an exhibitor of FDCs you must read and study the rules and guidelines for the specific exhibition at which you propose to exhibit. You must conform to those rules and regulations for success in exhibiting. Currently, there is no consistent and universal set of rules and guidelines for exhibiting FDCs. Currently, there are three different national guidelines and rules in addition to the IREX for the Shanghai exhibition. As yet, the FIP does not have any agreed set of regulations.

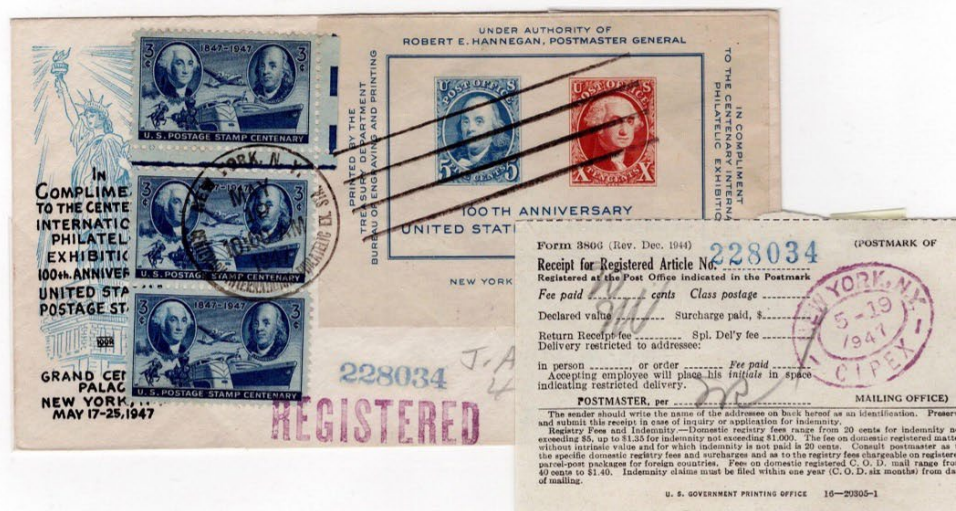


### 3.3 First Day Postmarks at the Show

#### Hand Struck Postmarks at the show



#### Hand cancel used at the CIPEX station post office



Registry postmark – Used on the back of registered letters and receipt form  
(produced by local firm under contract to the New York Post Office)

Scan No.2 of a FDC exhibit courtesy of John Hotchner RDP, USA.

### Conflicting Guidelines, Rules and IREX

There are significant differences between the principles of exhibiting FDCs given in the APS *Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting*, (7th Edition), the guidelines of the Australian Philatelic Federation and the All-China Philatelic Federation and the IREX adopted for Shanghai 2024.

Summarizing the major areas of disparity between the four sets of principles:

#### 1. The United States:

The United States (US) has a well-established and developed FDC exhibiting category, but it is not transferable in its present form to the FIP, FEPA, FIAF and FIAP exhibiting system. Within all the Guidelines, Rules and IREX, the common thread is the emphasis upon a complete and logical story detailing the story of the stamp from conception to contemporary use. This applies both to single and multiple frame exhibits.



Under the US guidelines, the treatment of the FDC exhibit should mirror that of a traditional exhibit developing the story from the design process and production of the stamp(s), including production errors and varieties, through the initial post office announcement and related supporting documentation, the cancellation and cachet studies associated with the first day of issue and, finally, contemporary commercial uses. Postal stationery could also be treated in a similar manner. Given the very large number of cachet makers in the US, the cachet section would normally be extensive. The use of add-ons, maximum cards and other issues are not explicitly addressed.

Following the US guidelines, most FDC exhibits formed in the US correspond with the traditional exhibit approach but there is a fundamental problem with this traditional exhibit approach. Essentially such exhibits, though they may be more than 50% FDCs, ARE NOT FDC exhibits, but are simply an extension of the conventional traditional class exhibits. Within the US at national level there are no designated classes, and such exhibits do not pose a problem, at the international level with clearly designated classes, such exhibits should be transferred to and judged within the traditional class.

Alternative approaches under the US guidelines comprise a study of a single cachet maker and would study the chronological evolution of their career. The use of FDCs to tell a postal history story is also possible, but the key question is that of completeness in the postal history story. There is also some scope for the use of FDCs to tell a thematic story but the purpose of such an exhibit needs to be clearly defined on the title page and in the synopsis.

Looking at the judging criteria, under the US guidelines in terms of knowledge, a detailed knowledge and discussion of the cachet makers is expected.

A rhetorical question under the US guidelines relates to how importance is defined. What is the relative significance of production materials relating to the stamps, the first day envelopes themselves and the commercial uses shown.

Most details of presentation remain the same for FDC exhibits as in other categories, but overlapping is an accepted approach provided key cachets, postmarks or stamp aspects are not covered up. Such overlapping is not considered appropriate under some of the other guidelines.

Under the US guidelines, FDC exhibits in most cases simply mirror traditional, postal history or topical exhibits in their treatment, but given the traditional nature of most US FDC exhibits, the US guidelines are of limited use in preparing guidelines to be used by the FIP. That said, unless FIP wishes to exclude what is a vibrant and increasingly popular field of exhibiting in the US, this issue needs to be addressed.

As an aside, the recent book by Andrew McFarlane lays out the practices of FDC exhibiting from the US perspective. This book extending to 514 pages sets out best principles only from the US perspective and it does not fully account or provide for alternative approaches to treatment nor does it account for the fact that the availability of material for exhibiting FDCs of US commemorative (or special) stamps is unique to the US and is not compatible with what is available for other countries. The size of the book potentially makes FDC exhibiting intimidating and may also reduce innovation in exhibiting.

Note: The book represents the author's opinions as to good practice. Others in the field do not necessarily agree with all the author's advice.

## 2. Australian Philatelic Federation:

The Australian regulations are broadly similar to those of the US. However, they are not explicit about whether material in the design or production and development of the stamp(s) or postal stationery should be included. Under section 3.1.6 they discuss supporting material, but it is unclear if this is in relation to the cachet on the cover or to the adhesive or indicia. The guidelines group together thematic and topical exhibits although these are fundamentally different. The guidelines also allow for the inclusion of (first day) maximum cards, but only under these two headings. The classification of the exhibits (section 3.1.7) is very broad including special event covers (vi) whilst the all-embracing "[a]ny combination of the above (viii) is unhelpful.

For thematic or topical exhibits there is a stated requirement for a separate plan of the exhibit. This is confusing in that for any exhibit there should be a clearly defined plan. This requirement appears to be simply mirrored from thematic class exhibition guidelines. It is not stated whether a plan is expected for exhibits adopting a traditional treatment.

The criteria for the evaluation of exhibits also seems to simply mirror that of the other categories of exhibiting.

The bottom line is that the Australian regulations go into inordinate detail and many of the details are unclear or poorly defined. For example, the quote “[t]he philatelic knowledge will be judged according to the interest of the comments.” Equally, some of the guidelines are very helpful including the statement that rarity should be based on difficulty of acquisition.

#### 4.2 Images as Free-Form Art

##### Both Images in the Cachet Modeled on the Stamp Portraits



Dorothy Knapp hand-painted cachet – 10-12 produced



Knapp design draft in pencil -- Unique

Scan No.3 of a FDC exhibit courtesy of John Hotchner RDP, USA.

### 3. All-China Philatelic Federation (ACPF):

Under the Guidelines for Judging First Day Cover Philatelic Exhibits by ACPF (Trial Implementation), it is explicitly stated that materials shown can be items “without actual mailing” - hand-backs. Further the guidelines state clearly that FDC exhibits must be composed solely of FDC philatelic materials. This gives a significantly narrower scope / treatment than under the US or Australian regulations. Under article 2.2 the discussion centers around a “thematic” treatment - neither topical nor traditional. Artwork and production materials are only allowed for the cachets or postmarks but not for the stamp(s). Under article 3.5, it seems that postal stationery, meter marks and maximum cards are not appropriate for a FDC exhibit.

Under article 4, there appears to be a contradiction in the title for the Article between Criteria for Evaluation and Methods of Organizing Exhibits. Further, it is unclear what exactly is meant by 4.3 Study and research as a method of organizing an exhibit.

Further confusion arises with article 6.3 wherein it states “[e]xhibits should focus on the study of postmarks”. Such a limitation is not appropriate for US focused FDC exhibits where there is a single official city for FDC’s of a given issue and all postmarks will be the same.

Under article 6.3 section d “[f]or stamps without a clear date of issue, the earliest use can be exhibited”. Under this interpretation, the New Zealand exhibit should have remained in the FDC class in which it was entered.

The ACPF guidelines directly contradict the other guidelines cited herein on a number of issues.

### 4. China 2024 Stamp Exhibition IREX:

The IREX adopted for China 2024 are briefer and probably clearer than those used in the US or Australia. Most of the details are similar to those used elsewhere but they are more restrictive in certain details.

Specifically, the IREX state that FDC exhibits must be composed solely of FDC philatelic materials. Although archival materials related to production of the cachet on the covers may be included, the exhibit should not include production material related to the creation of the stamp(s).

In some cases, the wording is unclear - for example article 3.4, but these issues of language can be easily addressed.

Moving forward, it is essential that the FIP IREX for FDC exhibits should be as consistent as possible with the various national guidelines and any major discrepancies should be avoided.

### **The Structure or Treatment for a FDC Exhibit**

The exhibits shown in Shanghai were very helpful in illustrating the different approaches to treatment that can be applied to an FDC exhibit. The four basic approaches, with examples from the Shanghai exhibition are:

1. A topical approach - The Great Wall, Asian Games, Infectious Diseases, Olympic Games.
2. A study of different stamp issues from one country over a specified time period - various exhibits of People’s Republic FDCs, Austria, Australia and the exhibits of Post - Independence India.
3. A detailed study of a single stamp or stamp set - “The First Day Covers of the Chinese Resistance Stamp issued by the US in 1942” (Scott number 906), “1937 Straits Settlements Commemorative Issue of the Coronation of King George VI:”
4. FDCs as postal history - the New Zealand exhibit which sought to show earliest uses where no “specific first day” is recorded and the exhibit “China’s first set of Stamps for Special Use by Compulsory Servicemen stamps First Day Cover”.

No exhibits following the US style of exhibiting as an extension of the conventional traditional class were shown nor were there any exhibits comprising of a study of a specific cachet maker.

Although FDC exhibits should include a major focus on the cachets, disappointingly this was not the case with most of the exhibits shown in Shanghai. This suggests a problem with the guidelines and IREX or the interpretation of these by the exhibitors and the judges.



### Judging Issues in Shanghai

There seemed to be a divergence of opinion in the interpretation and implementation of the IREX in Shanghai. This is something that moving forward the FIP needs to avoid.

Individual judges may not be intimately familiar with the range and scope of material which might be available for an FDC exhibit for specific countries, time periods or topics and they may therefore have problems in applying the normal judging criteria.

Two exhibits in Shanghai appeared to be problematic for the jury. In the case of the New Zealand exhibit, it seems that the judges found difficulty in assessing this as a FDC exhibit given that it was transferred to postal history. The exhibit “China’s first set of Stamps for Special Use by Compulsory Servicemen stamps First Day Cover” did not have a FDC treatment and although judged as an FDC exhibit, it would perhaps have been better judged as postal history.

### Judging Criteria and Proposed Point Scores for FDC Exhibits

#### Treatment for FDC Exhibits

- The appropriate treatment for an FDC exhibit will vary based on the available material for specific countries, periods or topics
- United States style of FDC exhibiting follows the established traditional judging class
- Topical and thematic based treatments should be judged as such
- Organize cachets in a logical and interesting manner
- Appropriateness of the material included
- Exhibits need a well-designed title page with a purpose statement and plan / table of contents addressing such aspects as non-contemporaneous add-ons, commercial uses which are not FDCs, production material for the stamps and para-philatelic material
- Effective use of headings

#### Knowledge, Personal Study and Research for FDC Exhibits

- Selection and description of material shown
- Research sources listed
- Identify new discoveries
- Correctly identify production process of cachets
- Analysis of the postmarks where relevant
- Correctly identifying non-contemporaneous add-ons
- Show unusual uses – airmails, foreign destinations
- Show unusual postal markings - auxiliary markings, unofficial cancels

#### Condition for FDC Exhibits

- Covers shown should be in the best possible condition
- In many cases the condition will be very good
- Covers which transited the postal service may show minor wear
- Cancels should be clearly impressed with legible dates
- Stamps should be tied to the cover
- Stamps should not have obvious faults or defects
- Covers should not be toned or stained wherever possible

#### Rarity for FDC Exhibits

- Assess rarity from a multidimensional perspective embracing the stamps, the cachets and postal markings
- Does not equate to the value of the stamps on the cover
- Consideration to difficulty of acquisition
- Should always be specifically quantified, citing census sources
- Avoid terms including scarce, rare, unusual
- In a study of a single stamp or set of stamps with many different available cachets, you cannot assume that all covers are equally readily available

#### Presentation for FDC Exhibits

- Many recommended aspects, some are personal preference
- Most derive from other exhibiting classes
- Concise write up
- Highlighting key items
- Quality mounting materials
- Choice of page color and ink color
- Overlapping of covers or not
- Avoid repetitive appearance, balance within and between frames

#### How do you define Importance for an FDC Exhibit?

- Difficult to assess and very subjective
- Difficulty of acquisition is hard to define
- All-China guidelines define it as the philatelic value of the exhibit
- Under the US guidelines, importance is generally related to the thoroughness of treatment
- Given its duplicative nature, Importance should be eliminated from the judging criteria
- Reallocate the points equally between treatment and rarity

#### Proposed Judging Criteria and Point Scores for FDC Exhibits

- |                                          |            |
|------------------------------------------|------------|
| • Treatment                              | 30 Points  |
| • Knowledge, Personal Study and Research | 35 Points  |
| • Condition                              | 5 Points   |
| • Rarity                                 | 25 Points  |
| • Presentation                           | 5 Points   |
| • Total                                  | 100 Points |

No specific points would be allocated to the plan for thematic or topical exhibits as in Australia.

#### The FIP Moving Forward with FDC Exhibits

Although placing FDC exhibits within a broader promotional class might have initial appeal, this would be the wrong approach. Given the broad appeal of FDC collecting it should be created as a stand-alone class with its own identity.

A committee should be appointed to draft a clear and concise set of guidelines and IREX for the FDC class. These should incorporate the best ideas from the different national regulations but allow for the differences in the available material for different countries, time periods and topics.

An on-line virtual training program should be offered to FIP qualified judges for the FDC class.

At the first opportunity, the FIP should promote an experimental FDC class at a future international exhibition.

To assist with the introduction of the FDC class, the FIP web site should be updated to include information about the proposals. Sample exhibits should also be shown.

Given that FDC exhibits would be well suited to virtual presentations, the FIP should consider hosting their first virtual exhibition comprising only FDC exhibits.

One of the key questions is how to differentiate the FDC class from postal history and from the traditional class. The obvious answer is that FDC exhibits must focus on the cachets associated with the FDCs. The need to focus on the cachets should be explained carefully in the draft IREX. Naturally, there are many other details which need to be clearly explained in the IREX.

The FDC class would make the FIP more inclusive and would provide a competitive arena for the growing number of collectors with an interest in collecting FDCs,

*Disclaimer: The above article reflects the opinion of the author and does not represent the position of the FIP Board.*

**FIP Board Members**

Prakob Chirakiti, President  
9/22 Moo 3, Chaengwattana 1,  
Vibhavadi Rangsit Rd, Lak Si  
10210 Bangkok, Thailand  
+668 1442 9955  
Email: prakob@f-i-p.ch

Yigal Nathaniel, Vice-President  
38, Borochoy Street, Givatayin, 5322311  
Israel  
+972 53 7773660  
Email: yigal@f-i-p.ch

Tan Eng Chuan, Richard, Vice-President  
629 Aljunied Road #08-19/20/21  
Cititech Industrial Building Singapore 389838  
+65 96707796  
Email: richard@f-i-p.ch

Aldo Samamé y Samamé, Vice-President  
Los Cisnes 143, San Isidro  
Lima 15047 – Peru  
+51 998782638  
Email: irvincicuta@yahoo.com / samame@f-i-p.ch

Peter Suhadolc, Director  
Poštno ležeče  
6210 Sežana – Slovenija  
+39 3495187351  
Email: suhadolc@f-i-p.ch

Abdulla Khoory, Director  
Post Box 4664, Dubai  
+971 4 3146106  
Email: akhoory@f-i-p.ch

Reinaldo E. Macedo, Director  
Rua Jose de Oliveira, 144-casa 4C  
Villagio Di Cortona CEP 13271-653  
Valinhos / SP Brazil  
+55 11 982069733  
Email: reinaldomacedo@f-i-p.ch

**Responsibilities**

Commission & Seminar: Picture Postcards  
Regulations  
Overall Jury Matters

FEPA  
Commission & Seminar: Youth Philately  
Maximaphily  
Jury Matters (Europe); Regulations;  
Member support; FIP GPC; UPU

FIAP, Treasurer  
Commission & Seminar: Traditional  
Astrophilately  
Jury Matters (Asia); Continental Jury Academy;  
Member support; Public Relations; FIP GPC; UPU

FIAF  
Commission & Seminar: Aerophilately  
Philatelic Literature  
Jury Matters (Americas); Jury Academy;  
Continental Jury Academy; Legal Matters,  
Public Relations, Member Support, Dealers  
Co-editor for FLASH; Website; YouTube ; UPU

Apprentices (FEPA)  
Commission & Seminar: Thematic  
Open Philately  
Jury Academy; Continental Jury Academy;  
Member Support; Dealers  
Co-editor for FLASH, Website, YouTube

Apprentices (FIAP)  
Commission & Seminar: Revenue,  
Postal History  
Member support; Dealers

Apprentices (FIAF)  
Commission & Seminar: Fight against Forgeries  
Postal Stationery  
Legal Matters;  
Commissioners; Member support

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**ADMINISTRATION**

Kelly Ong, FIP Secretary General  
Singapore Correspondence Address:  
Privy Box No. 920682 Singapore 929292  
Email: kelly@f-i-p.ch





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