

Balkanfila



Newsletter

No 1, December 2023

Editorial

During the Balkanfila Working Group in Belgrade it was agreed by all Federation delegates to step up communication and this First Balkanfila Newsletter aims to establish a steady exchange our Balkan Regional News and Activities by improving communication among us. This first step will hopefully lead to a more extensive philatelic co-operation in our "neighbourhood", our Region.

Reading the work of Firat Akan stating that "*Balkan Conferences and the Balkan Entente of 1934 had an important role in the process of establishing unity between the Balkans states in terms of political, social, cultural, trade and economic affairs*", I have realized that the need for deepening and extending co-operation is not a new concept but it had been there for long with several starts and stops.

The activities - past and upcoming - of our member Federations as they are publicized in this Newsletter are manifold as our readers will notice.

Last October two well-organized and enjoyable Philatelic Exhibitions, Balkanfila XIX in Belgrade and Ankara '23 have set new, higher philatelic standards in our Region.

A number of upcoming Exhibitions both physical and/or digital will take place in the coming months whilst the World Stamp Exhibition EFIRO 2024 in April is expected to be the highlight of next year, an event with worldwide philatelic impact.

During Exhibitions, both National and International, the assessment of the exhibits at times, causes to misunderstandings and tensions. The excellent article written by a true expert about establishing a productive communication between Exhibitor and Juror comes to fill a significant gap.

Finally, there are two areas of concern to most philatelic groups which can be found in the pages of our Newsletter. The first area of concern is "how to export philately" to a wider public and the second concern is how to appeal to younger generations. What organized Philately seems to be lacking, it is to fully understand that times have changed and therefore it is a must to adjust accordingly our approach. Philately needs to "use a contemporary language" and different "tools" in order to make our passion attractive to potential philatelists as well as to non-philatelists who are nevertheless interested in history, culture and social topics.

What it also seems to be overlooked is that the Stamp is the "seed" of Philately, because the image - illustration still has great appeal and impact. That is why the latest stamp issues of Post Offices still remain important, besides the dwindling postal use of stamps.

AIDA, apart from being the title of an Opera by Giuseppe Verdi, it also stands for the four essential concepts of marketing communication : **A**ttention, **I**nterest, **D**esire, **A**ction.

It is our intention as well as our goal that this Newsletter will manage to draw at least the Attention of the reader.

Phila NEWS & REPORTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

EFIRO 2024 rolling towards its Grand Opening

Less than 5 months away from its Grand Opening EFIRO 2024 World Stamp Exhibition will be hosted in the emblematic National Library of Romania from 16 to 19 April 2024.



Having FIP Patronage and FEPA Recognition will have more than 2500 frames, 67 National Commissioners appointed and 59 Traders' Stands, EFIRO 2024 is expected to be an impressive Philatelic Exhibition with an emphasis on Philatelic Seminars, Presentation and Study Groups.

A significant, new aspect will be the acceptance on an experimental basis - for the first time in an FIP exhibition - of 2 and 3-frame exhibits.

EFIRO 2024 is expected to set new, higher standards for top-class Philatelic Exhibitions in the Balkan region.

Updates at : <https://www.efiro.ro/>



Biennial One-frame Philatelic Exhibition with International Participation

EnajstoOkno KRANJ 2024



ONE-FRAME PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 28.8. – 7.9.2024

Slovenian Philatelic Association is proud to announce the biennial One-frame exhibition with international participation **EnajstoOkno Kranj 2024**. (EnajstoOkno - Eleventh Window - Eleventh biennial Exhibition in the row). The venue of the exhibition EnajstoOkno Kranj shall be Gorenjski muzej in Kranj, Glavni trg 2. It shall be held from **Thursday, August 28 to Saturday, September 7, 2024**.

Participation is possible with exhibits in physical or digitized form. According to the FEPA Guidelines for Narrow Theme Exhibits (NTE), participation with One, Two, or Three Frames.

Participation is open to exhibitors from all countries whose National Federation is a FEPA member, i.e. also for all BALKANFILA Members.

For more information contact :

Organizing Committee	Igor Pirc	@	ipirc711@gmail.com
Commissioner General	Dr. Veselko Guštin	@	veselko.gustin@gmail.com

"APATIN 2023" - ONLINE Philatelic Exhibition



Online Philatelic Exhibition with International Participation, for all Exhibition Classes in Philately. It will be held from 15.12.2023. until 15.01.2024. will be on the website "Udrusenje Filatelista Apatin", from Apatin :

<https://udruzenjefilatelistaapatin.org.rs/> Zeljko Popovic, Apatin

TURKISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION 2024 Exhibitions

8-15 December 2023 : 75th Anniversary of İstanbul Philatelic Society.

February to 2nd week of March 2024 : Hello to those who left us – 2

Breaking "Phila-News"

13-16 November 2024 Thessaloniki hosts Balkanfila XX

The exact dates for Balkanfila XX Philatelic Exhibition were confirmed and Philatelists from the Balkan countries as well as from foreign exhibitors and exhibits related to Balkan are all invited to participate.

Soon official invitations will be sent, along with the IREX and the Entry Forms.



First ChatBot for Philately on Philately.live!

Philately.Live announces the first ChatBot for Philately. Droege Computing announces tonight the first AI powered assistant "Phil" has been trained on content derived from the 2.500 Philatelic web sites that comprise the current Philately.Live ecosystem platform. You can ask it any question but be patient - this is not like a direct connection to ChatGPT - it is using the Philatelic.Live data and it may take a minute to respond - but it will.

Three questions were asked and the outcome was amazing.

1. How can I start collecting stamps?

The answer pointed out the following 6 steps :

- 1 Learn about stamps
- 2 Decide on a theme or focus
- 3 Obtain stamps
- 4 Organize your collection
- 5 Research and learn
- 6 Join a stamp collecting community

2. I like collecting stamps on cover.

That's great to hear that you enjoy collecting stamps on cover! It's a fascinating aspect of stamp collecting that allows you to appreciate the combination of stamps and postal history. There are several resources and platforms available to help you find and acquire stamps on cover for your collection.

The full article offers more details about online marketplaces and platforms.

3. What are the resources for Mexico

There are several resources available for stamp collectors interested in Mexico. Some the options offered were :

- 1 Coleccionistas Filatélicos Unidos de México with information offered on their blog at cofumex.blogspot.com.
- 2 Mexico-Elmhurst Philatelic Society International (MEPSI): MEPSI mepsi.org is a specialized Philatelic Society focused on the collection and study of Mexican stamps.
- 3 Linn's Stamp News offering information on all Postal issuing countries on their website at linns.com.

For the full article and your philatelic questions answered by "Phil" go to

[Visit Philately.live Here](#)

PAST EVENTS

BALKANFILA XIX in BELGRADE (12-14 OCTOBER 2023) by Vladimir Milic



After the Balkanfila Exhibition in Tirana 2016 and seven years of waiting, 19th Regional BALKANFILA exhibition was held in Belgrade, Serbia. The Capital of the former Yugoslavia - Belgrade, was the host of the exhibition BALKANFILA VI in 1977, as we already reported in the previous issue of FepaNews. Thanks to the initiative of the Union of Philatelists of Serbia 2022, the Serbian Capital was given the organization of this exhibition for the second time in its history.

The location of the exhibition was in the City Center – The Central Military Club, directly opposite the Republic Square. In this luxurious environment on over 600 m² of exhibition space, we were very pleased to host over 177 exhibitors on 600 frames in non-competition (Honorary Class) and Competition Class. The Judging Team of the BALKANFILA XIX was composed of accredited FIP Judges (90%), who came from the participating countries). They judged a total of 162 exhibits. The overall statement was that the exhibits shown at BALKANFILA XIX were of very high quality.

The total of 4 Large Gold medals and 18 Gold medals were awarded and three exhibits were transferred to a different exhibit class to ensure they could achieve a higher award.

Details of the exhibiting classes are shown below :

Class	Exhibitors
A. Non-Competitive Classes	7
B1 Traditional Philately	12
B2 Postal History	28
B3 Postal Stationery	4
B4 Aerophilately	3
B5 Astrophilately	2
B6 Thematic Philately	10
B7 Maximaphily	6
B8 Revenues	4
B9 Picture Postcard	10
B10 One, Two and Three Frame Class	68
L Literature	23
TOTAL EXHIBITORS	177

Overview of Exhibits by Class



Venue : The Central Military Club, Belgrade

Two exhibits were nominated for the **Grand Prix**, both of the from the Postal History Class :

- “**The Greek Pre-adhesive Period**” by Mylonogiannis George (Greece) and
- “**Ottoman Post Offices in the former FPR of Yugoslavia**” by Hackmey Joseph (Turkey)

After an exciting voting that ended in a Tie, the Grand Prix Winner was decided by the vote of the Jury President.

The BALKANFILA XIX Grand Prix - Sculpture : “Azbuka”, sponsored by Post of Serbia and FIP, went to **Mr Joseph Hackmey** (Turkey) for his exhibit “**Ottoman Post Offices in the former FPR of Yugoslavia**”.

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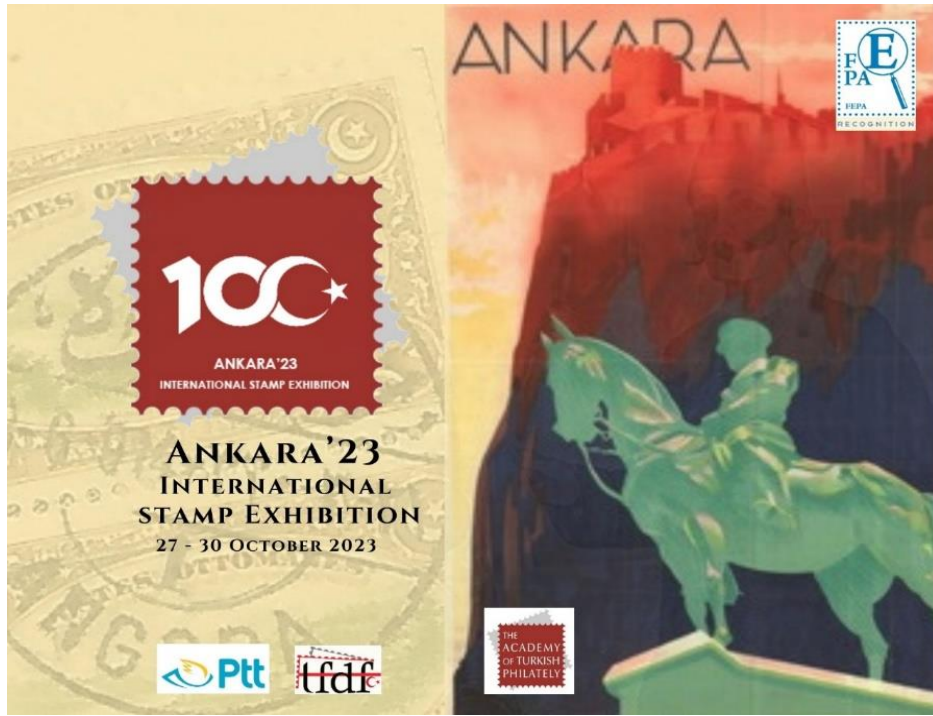


Details from Palmares and Award Ceremony, Oct. 13th, 2023.

Nikola Ljubicic (Jury President), **Kemal Giray** (Mr Hackmey’s Representative) and **Zoran Djordjevic** (Acting Director of PE Post of Serbia)

The BALKANFILA XIX Organizing Committee received positive feedback from all participants for the excellent organization and shown hospitality. on this occasion, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to this exhibition being at a high and appropriate level.

Ankara '23 (27 – 30 October 2023)



The Ankara '23 International Exhibition on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Turkey was held in Ankara, Atatürk's vision city and the new capital after the Ottoman Empire.

12 countries participated to the Exhibition which was supported by the European Philatelic Federation. Over 750 frames were exhibited at "Ulucanlar Prison Museum Cultural Center" between October 20 and 30. Nearly fifty philatelists received Gold and Large Gold Medals in the competitive exhibition. This is an extraordinary figure for an exhibition limited to the subjects of the Republic and Ottoman Empire. At Ankara'23, **Joseph Hackmey got his second Grand Prix after Belgrade for his exhibit "Tughra Stamps of Ottoman Empire 1862-1864"**.

Ion Chirescu for his "The Fluvial and Maritime Postal Routes in the Romanian Territories, 1840- 1920" was honored as the Grand Prix runner-up. Philatelists had the opportunity to analyze the world's most important collections, including the first stamps of the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Türkiye.



Among the aims of philately, relationships, and friendship between countries and cultures were achieved in Ankara'23.

The exhibition was successfully achieved by the 60 days of intense work of OC (Organization Committee) members listed below: Ziya Ağaogulları – the Honorary President of the exhibition and Jury President; Mehmet Akan – the

Exhibition Coordinator, Murat Ibrahim Çelebi – General Commissioner and Assis. Jury Secretary, Serdar Yazgan - Assistant Jury Secretary,

Murat Hazinedaroğlu, Technical Consultant, and last, Arman Arıkan served as TFDf Adviser.

FIP Director Peter Suhadolc honored the exhibition as Jury Secretary.

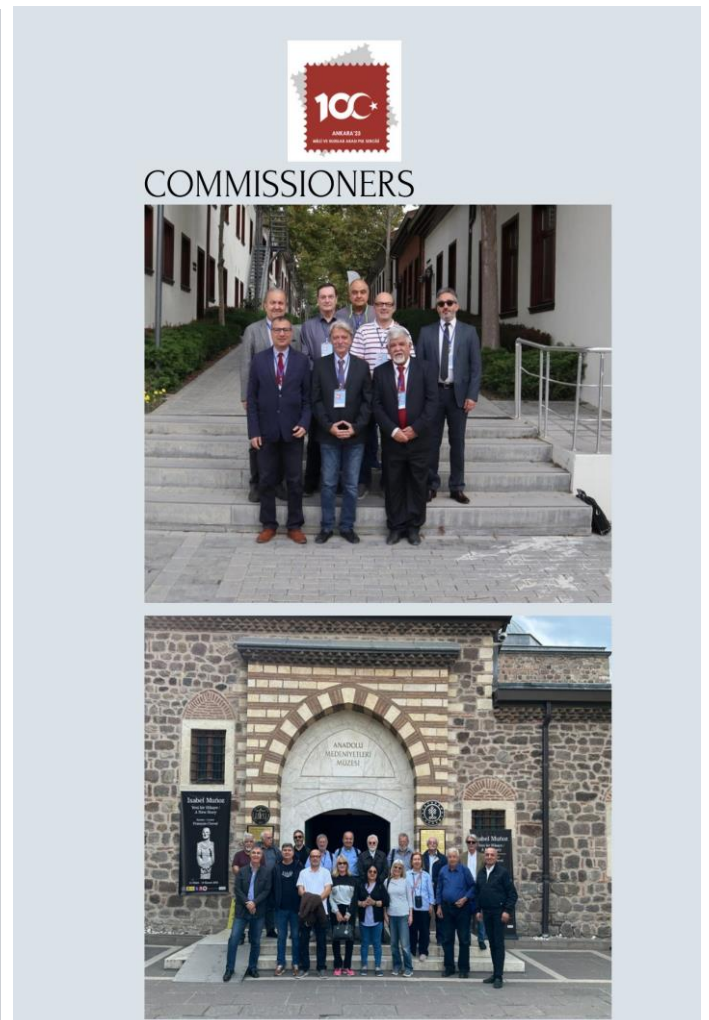
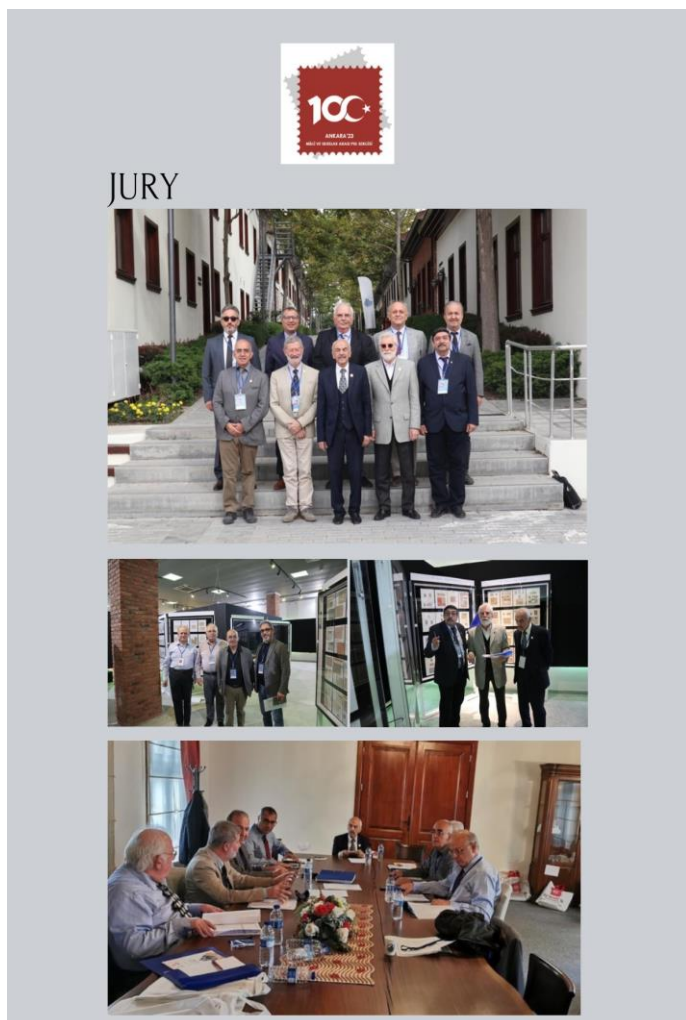
The accredited FIP jury members : Arman Arıkan, Mehmet Akan, Atadan Tunacı (Turkiye), Francisc Ambrus (Romania), Peter Suhadolc (Slovenia), George Thomareis (Greece) served in the exhibition.

Konstantinos Chazapis (Greece), Ion Chirescu (Romania), Nikolay Penev (Bulgaria), Kemal Giray (England), and Julian Demeti (Albania) participated in the exhibition as country commissioners.

Julian passed the apprentice jury exam and became Albania's first national jury.

We have experienced the negative affect of the war in this exhibition since the Jury's Honorary President, Yigal Nathaniel, could not come due to flight cancellations.

Finally, we would like to express special thanks to FEPA Director Costas Chazapis, who worked as if he were a member of the OC.



Turkiye Participation in Balkanfila '23

The XIX Balkanfila exhibition was held in Belgrade, Serbia, between 12-14 October. At the exhibition, Mehmet Akan served as the Jury, Muzaffer Arda as the Commissioner, and Mehmet Bostanoğlu as the Assistant Commissioner. More than 30 Turkish philatelists were in Belgrade. Joseph Hackmey received the Grand Prix on behalf of Turkey.

"DOBRICH FILEX 2023" - with HOPE for the BIRTH of a TRADITION

From October 20th to October 26th, the city of Dobrich hosted the philatelic exhibition "Dobrich Philex 2023". In the halls of the "Dora Gabe" Regional Library, 100 exhibition frames presented the best Bulgarian exhibits in the classes "Thematics", "Maximaphilia", "Open Class" and "One Board - Maximaphilia".

The exhibition was organized by the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists and "Bulgarian Posts" .



The Vice President of the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists,
the Director of Dobrich City Library
and the Director of the Regional Post.

The most characteristic of this philatelic event was the extremely saturated accompanying program, which turned it into a kind of philatelic show. Particular attention was drawn to the daily validations of new editions during the first three days of the exhibition, accompanied by special programs - for example, the stamp "125 years since the birth of the writer Dimitar Talev" was put into use after the theater group at the "Dimitar Talev" Secondary School in the city presented to those present a dramatized part from his works. The series "People's Awakeners" was presented to the audience by specialists - teachers in higher education institutions, who are engaged in the study of the activities of the personalities in question from Bulgarian history. Students recited poems and offered congratulations to the Bulgarian philatelists.



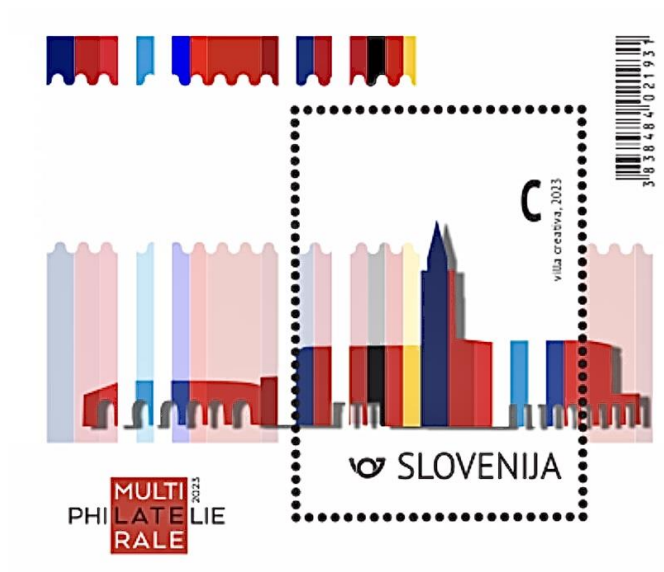
Although it did not have a competitive character, "Dobrich Filex" turned into a review not only of previously known exhibits, but also of a number of new ones from these classes. Of course, there is still much to be desired in their construction, but the fact is that aspiration and desire exist.



And children, many children, who visited the exhibition in those six days. If there was one thing that made the strongest impression, it was the numerous organized groups from the schools of the city and the region that were constantly in front of the frames. There were special philatelic gifts for everyone, provided by the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists and the magazine "Philatelin Review". The hope is that some of these children will carry over the years the memories of this philatelic exhibition and, as adults, will become serious collectors and stamp lovers.

"Dobrich Philex 2023" is already history, but the philatelists from Dobrich, the representatives of the Postal Administration, all of us who in one way or another were involved in the construction of the exhibition, are already looking to next year and to the future "Dobrich Philex 2024". Which will continue the good start set in the October days in the city - the center of the beautiful area of Dobruja.

MULTIRATERALE 2023 : a top-class Regional Exhibition



Slovenian Philatelic Association - F.Z.S organized the beginning of September in Koper, Slovenian Littoral, the 2023 Regional Exhibition MULTILATERALE 2023 - Triennial Regional Exhibition of 7 Federations - from Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland and Slovenia. There were 340 frames of high level Exhibits in all classes, (more on www.fzs.si/Multilaterale2023)

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Alpe Adria a 7-country Exhibition in Tarvisio elects a New President

At the annual Alpe Adria Philately exhibition of seven countries : Austria, Croatia, Italy, Hungary, Bavaria (Germany), Ticino (Switzerland), and Slovenia, in September 2023 in Tarvisio, Italy, Bojan Bračić from Slovenia was elected President of the WG Alpe Adria Philately for the period of the next three years (more on www.alpeadria.eu).

**Triplice Confine
Dreiländereck
Tromeja**

**Monte Forno
Italia
Austria
Slovenia**

UNIONE DELLE ASSOCIAZIONI
E DEI CIRCOLI FILATELICI E NUMISMATICI
DEL FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

ALPS ADRIATIC PHILATELY
ALPE ADRIA FILATELIE
ALPICK ADRIA FILATELIE
ALPE ADRIA FILATELIE

XXVI. ALPE ADRIA TARVISIO 2023

*Mostra Filatelica Internazionale
International Philatelic Exhibition
Internationale Briefmarkenausstellung*

TARVISIO 21 - 24 SETTEMBRE 2023

Timfilex 2023 (21-24 September)



National Stamp Exhibition TimFilex 2023 (21-24 September) took place at the West University of Timișoara celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the First Romanian Philatelic Exhibition as well as the First Congress of Romanian Philatelists, organized in Timișoara in September 1923. It is worth mentioning that Timișoara has been selected as a European Capital of Culture for 2023.

TimFilex 2023 was organized by the Timișoara Philatelic Association under the Patronage of the Romanian Philatelic Federation and with the Recognition FEPA.



The exhibition presented approximately 400 frames from Romania and abroad and hosted Seminars related to the “Romanian Philately : yesterday and today” whilst a Collectors Fair also took place at the premises.

On the occasion of Timfilex 2023, Romfilatelia issued two postage stamps. The first stamp depicted a detail of the West University building, associated with the Exhibition Logo whilst the second stamp featured the 1923 Exhibition Poster.

Türkiye National & Local exhibitions

The 60th anniversary of the Turkish Philately Federation (TFDF) was celebrated by 10 exhibitions in Turkey in 2022. Apart from that, a specific exhibition in Ankara Stamp Museum which was organized in the format of national exhibition and attracted huge interest both from philatelist and state officials in Ankara, for the occasion of TFDF and Ankara Philately Society. Murat İbrahim Celebi, President of the Ankara Philately Society, served as the coordinator and host of the Exhibition.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNIVERSARIES OF THE TURKISH PHILATELY FEDERATION AND THE ANKARA PHILATELY SOCIETY



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3-11 NOVEMBER 2022
12-19 DECEMBER 2022, PTT STAMP MUSEUM
ANKARA



Turkish Philatelic Federation : New Board 2023-2025

The congress of the Turkish Philatelic Federation was held on November 24, 2023. As a result of the election, the board members for the 2023-25 :

Ziya Aġaoġulları was re-elected as President.

Board of Directors: Arman Arıkan, Murat Haznedaroġlu, Edip Aġaoġulları, Mehmet Akan, Cengiz Ülkerdoġan, Atadan Tunacı, Serdar Yazagan, Muzaffer Arda, Yamaç Ercan, Nihat Çimrin, Murat Çelebi and Can Deġery, received all the votes. This is a first for the Turkish Federation.



Turhan Turgut, RDP, Turkey

At the meeting of the Board of Election of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists on 16th February 2023, it was unanimously agreed that Turhan Turgut be invited to be the new signatory to the Roll. The signing ceremony took place at 5 pm on Friday 26 May 2022 at Schlosshotel Hugenpoet, Essen in Germany during the IBRA 2023 International Philatelic Exhibition.



Hellenic Philatelic Federation : 10 New Exhibits uploaded after Balkanfila XIX & Ankara '23



International Philatelic Exhibition
BALKANFILA XIX

12-14 October 2023,
Belgrade - SERBIA



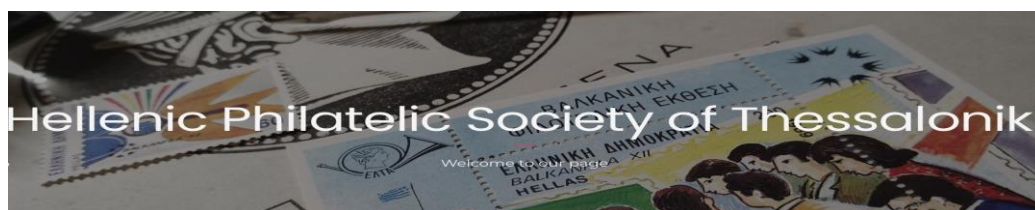
Since November 2021 the Hellenic Philatelic Federation - H.P.F has been upgrading its website (<https://www.efo.gr/en/>) by creating a Gallery of awarded Exhibits to cater for all the interested visitors.

Just before BALKANFILA XIX in Belgrade and the International Stamp Exhibition Ankara '23, the total number of exhibits shown on the Gallery had reached 56 ones.

Following these two aforementioned exhibitions 10 more significant exhibits were added to the Exhibit Gallery now hosting totally 66 awarded exhibits.

All the exhibits - mostly in English and few in French - can be reached at : (<https://www.efo.gr/en/exhibits/>).

The Greek Ministry of Culture acknowledges Philately as a Cultural Activity



The Greek Ministry of Culture - MoC has included the Hellenic Philatelic Society and the Hellenic Philatelic Society of Thessaloniki (August 2023) in the National Registry of Cultural Organizations. The acknowledgement by the MoC that Philately is closely associated with Culture had been a long-term pursue by the entire Greek Philately.

<https://efeth.gr/en> & <https://hps.gr/index.php/en/classic>

F.E.A receives the F.E.P.A 2022 Certificate of Appreciation



*The FEPA
Certificate of Appreciation
2022*

The Philatelic Society of Athens - F.E.A, with 4 more European Philatelic Societies from Austria, France, Italy and the U.K, received the F.E.P.A 2022 Certificate of Appreciation for its contribution to organized Philately. F.E.A recently celebrated its 85 years of Philatelic activities including the publication of a quarterly magazine (To Grammatosimo - The Stamp), philatelic lectures and exhibit presentations as well as organizing National Exhibitions.

KEY FEATURE

“Exhibitor – Juror Communication”

by F.I.P Jury Fellow Boncho BONEV

A Postal History Exhibit



The following Text - written by F.I.P Postal History Jury Fellow, Boncho Bonev – is supposed to be read as an “guiding proposal” to all Jurors in National and Regional Exhibitions.

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I was honored to judge in P.H class in NOTOS exhibition in November 2021 in Athens, Greece. Later, a collector with whom I have spoken during the Jury's feedback, or as some jurors prefer "Jury Critique" contacted me through the Secretary of the Jury in NOTOS. He was asking for instructions how to rebuild his exhibit in order to get a better evaluation as follows :

“Dear Mr. X,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you for the beautiful covers in your collection.

You have done great work collecting such exquisite letters.

To properly bring out the value and beauty of the covers you have collected, they should have been correctly presented in your exhibit in the 'Postal History' class.

In this class the exhibitors present and make research on the following topics :

- Rates
- Routes
- Cancellations
- Procedures

In this class (Postal History) the interest is not in the stamps and the stamps are not the goal of the presentation, treatment and research. In the descriptions of the covers in an exhibit in Postal History class, the exhibitor has to write about the rate, the road of travel, the cancellation and/or cachet(s) and the post procedures (ordinary, registered, insured or other mail) of the cover, not about stamps. Unfortunately, writing about stamps in the description of the exhibit in Postal History class is wrong.

If you check the scoring sheet of your presentation in Greece, you can see that not all hope is lost, quite the opposite. You have 100% of the points (10/10) for Importance, 100% (5/5) for Presentation, more than 90% of the points (33/35) for Knowledge, Personal Study and Research, 80% of the points (24/30) for Condition and Rarity and ONLY 55% (11/20) for Treatment.

So, the message of the Judging Team to you is clear : “Change the Treatment!”

If you increase the Treatment to 80% your score will be 88 points, one step below the Gold Medal, which you will most probably earn when you enlarge your exhibit to 8 frames.

What is the **Treatment** – simply, this is “telling the story”.

The first part of it is the title.

Your title “The First X Stamps on Cover Issued between Jan 1st 1849 and March 1875” is typical for Traditional Philately Class.

I would take the liberty to propose a title more suitable for Postal History Class :

“X – Postal History in the Period Jan 1st 1849 – March 1875 (First X Stamps on Cover)”.

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The next step is the plan of the exhibit, which is entirely in your discretion. You can compose your plan according the Rates, the Routes, the Procedures or Chronologically.

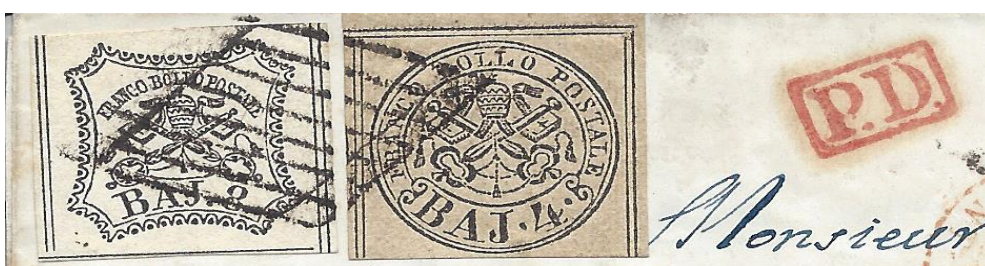
The following step is to present your exhibit according to your plan. Please bear in mind – in the descriptions you have to write about Rates, Roads, Cancellations and Postal Procedures, not about stamps.

Dear X, I truly hope that I have been helpful with these notes. Be sure that our judging team has given our best to be just and honest during judging.

Wholeheartedly, I wish you success with collecting and exhibiting and with all your activities.

In case you need help about building your exhibit, please do not hesitate to contact me : Boncho Bonev, F.I.P. PH Jury Fellow”

In September 2023 I received an e-mail from the collector. He informed me that he has changed the Treatment of his exhibit following my instructions. He participated to an exhibition in Germany and was awarded 88 points.

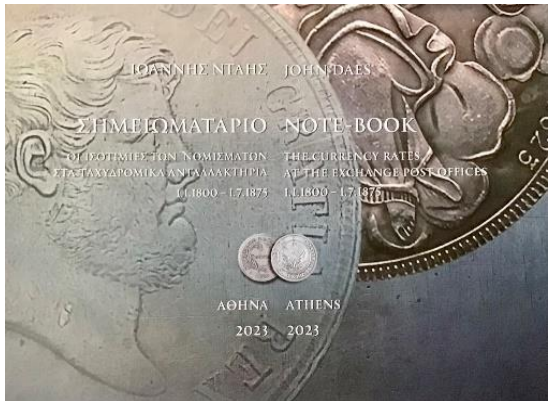


PHILA PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

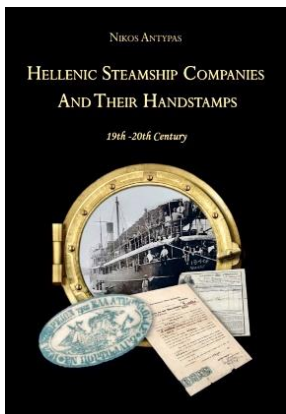
RECENT PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Three New important Philatelic Publications

The latest book of John Daes, a multi-awarded philatelic scholar, titled **“Note-Book The Currency Rates at the Exchange Post Offices 1.1.1800 - 1.7.1875”** has come to shed more light in the unclear topic of the 19th c. Currency Rates as related to Postal Rates.



The author of **“Hellenic Steamship Companies and their Handstamps 19th & 20th Century”** Nikos Antypas has been researching the subject of Greek Maritime Handstamps for more than three decades through private and State archives. The outcome of this arduous, long-term research is a valuable reference manual for subject.



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Stavros Andreadis, an Israel 2018 World Stamp Champion for his outstanding “Kassandra” Large Hermes Heads - L.H.H exhibit, has created an extraordinary “Anthology” modestly named **“Large Hermes Heads : PRINTINGS and SHADES”**. The presentation of all the L.H.H printings and shades in this manual is not indispensable only for L.H.H enthusiast but also for everyone appreciating the charm classical stamps.

“Philately and Greek Literature” by the Philatelic Society of Patras

A Philatelic Exhibition and a Lecture on the subject was organized and hosted by the Philatelic Society of Patras. Invited Speaker was the President of the Hellenic Philatelic Federation, Nikos Mallouchos who spoke about “Greek Poems as depicted in Stamps and Maxima Cards”, a presentation much appreciated by the audience, mainly of non-philatelists literature enthusiasts.



A significant article on the Postal History of the Balkans in Balkanfila XIX Catalogue

“**Balkan Postal Union Rates of Turkey**”, is an article written by Firat Akan and it presents special (reduced) Balkan Postal Rates in the period from 1931 to 1940.

The article can be found at BALKANFILA XIX Catalogue, page 67
[balkanfila-xix-katalog.pdf](#) (philaserbia.org)

The starting sentence of the article states that the *“Balkan Conferences and the Balkan Entente of 1934 had an important role in the process of establishing unity between the Balkans states in terms of political, social, cultural, trade and economic affairs. One of the decisive aspects of Balkan conferences and the formation of the Balkan Union were the inter-state postal arrangements between Turkey, Greece, Romania, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia”*.

Five Notable Philatelic Presentations at Balkanfila XIX



In cooperation with Serbian Postal Operator – “Posta Srbije” and PTT Museum, the following 5 Specialized Presentations were organized as part of the BALKANFILA exhibition :

“Serbs and French in North Africa 1916-1918” by Prof. Milan Radovanović, PhD

“Collection of Postage Stamps of the Adligat Society” by Viktor Lazić

“100 Years of existence and work of the PTT Museum”

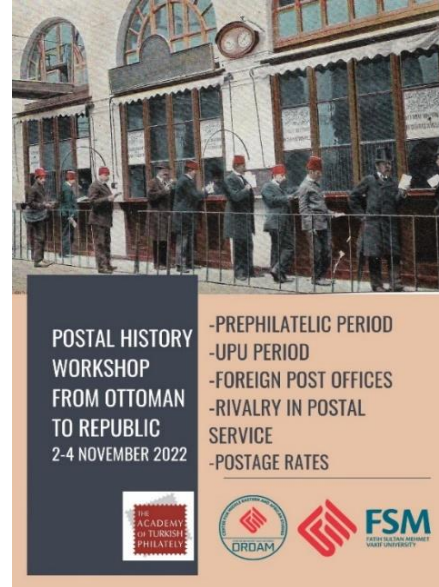
“Propaganda War against Serbia in the Great War” by Prof. Milan Radovanović, PhD

“Collection of Postage Stamps of the Museum of Aviation”

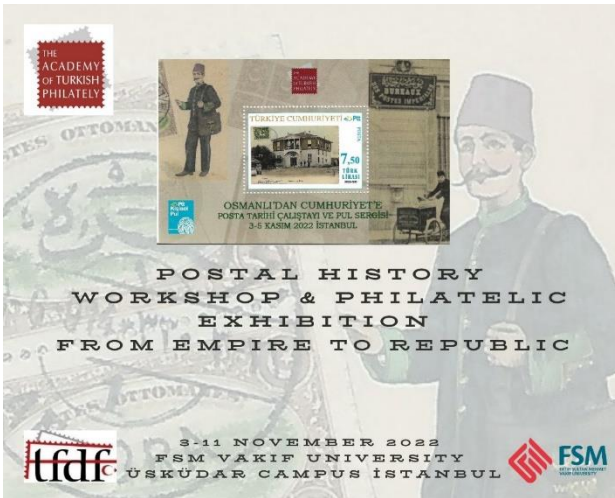
Turkiye Seminar and Workshops

4 November 2022 Stamp Exhibition from the Ottoman Empire to the Republic

Along with the workshop, an exhibition was organized within the Fatih Sultan Mehmet University (FSM) held by Turkish Philatelic Academy Members that enhanced the postal history of Türkiye.



Philatelic Workshop by FSM University



In the workshop hosted by FSM University and organized together with PTT and the Turkish Philatelic Academy, important presentations were made covering the history of the postal services, which were institutionalized as of 1840, until the Republican period.

About this event an article was published in Fepanews issue 42.

<https://fepanews.com/fepa-news/fepa-news-no-42-january-2023/#page/64>

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22 March 2023 History and Collection Talks :

Communication and Ottoman Sahara Post in the World War



The first of the “History and Postal Collection Talks” series, Ottoman Field Post, was realized by Mr. Turhan Turgut's presentation with accompanied by valuable collection pieces, that shed light on the history of the period at FSM University Hagia Sophia Campus.

26 October 2023 History of Mail from the Empire to the Young Republic

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The Seminar organized by the group in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic together with Turkish PTT and the Turkish Philatelic Academy, was held in Ankara PTT Stamp Museum.

In addition to the presentations of mainly philatelists about the period accompanied by historical materials, Mehmet Erken from Istanbul University accompanied with his enlightening presentation on the paper and printing of stamps. The seminar ended with the presentation of our Museum Director explaining the history of the Museum.



Serbia's National Magazine "PHILATELIST" has two editions this year and both are available in pdf version on the website of the Serbian Federation :

PHILATELIST 281 (April 2023)

<https://philaserbia.org/portfolio/casopis-filatelista-br-281/>

FRENCH MILITARY POST AND CIVIL MAIL IN THE BALKANS AT THE END OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR [3] - Jérôme Bourguignat

STUDY OF THE SERBIAN POST FROM THE SECOND OCCUPATION OF ALBANIA IN 1915 - Prof. dr. Milan Radovanović

THE 150 YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST POSTAL CARD - Tivadar Gaudenyi and Ivan Tangl

OPENING OF POST OFFICES AND POSTAL RATES IN SERBIA 1840 – 1866 (II) - Dragoljub Jovanovic

PRISONER CARD FROM 1944 - Aleksandar Krstic

THE «NO» TRIANGULAR CENSOR MARK FROM SALONIKA IN WW1 - Peter Gassmann



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PHILATELIST 282 (October 2023)

<https://philaserbia.org/portfolio/casopis-filatelista-br-282/>

PRINCIPALITY OF SERBIA - MULTIPLE FRANKING OF MILANČIĆ ON A LETTER FROM 1873. - Dragoljub Jovanović

REPRINTED POW CORRESPONDENCE CARD 1915 - dr Tivadar Gaudenyi

1938 SEAPLANE FLIGHT WITH YUGOSLAV POSTAGE - Aleksandar Krstic

SENTA HANDSTAMPS OCTOBER 20, 1944 - 1945 - Ales Marinsek

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE POSTCARDS OF THE F.N.R. YUGOSLAVIA - Damir Novakovic

YUGOSLAV AIRMAIL ENVELOPES WITH THE MOUNT TRIGLAV DESIGN - Peter Suhadolc, FRPSL AEP



Post Offices of the Ottoman Empire

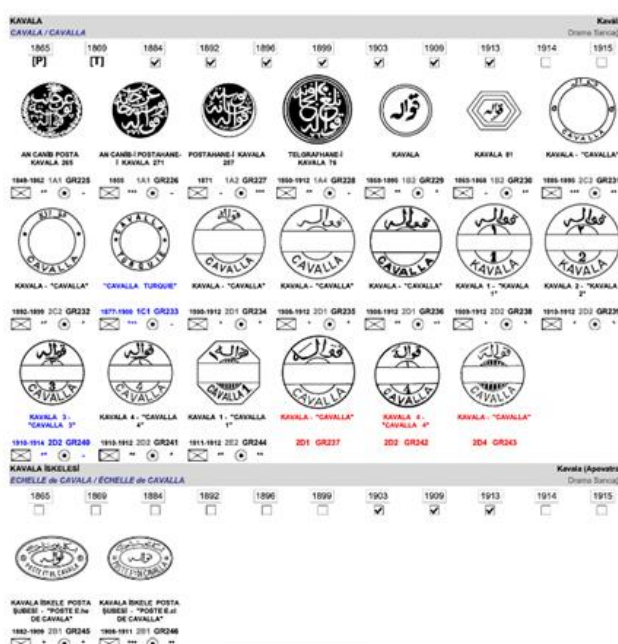
The 4 volumes book show all the post offices and their postmarks according to their today's respective countries by Bülent Papuçcuoğlu.

There are 9082 postmark's drawings belonging to 2171 post offices of a total of 3547 in this work formed of 4 separate books.

The first book contains all detailed information about these 3547 post offices alongside postal maps of different periods showing post offices and postal routes.

The other 3 volumes are related to today's Türkiye, today's European countries and finally today's Asian and African countries.

This book on the Ottoman-Turkish postmarks is the most extended one compared to the books already published on the same subject and it aims to provide the wider information about these postmarks to the esteemed postal history collectors interested in Turkish philately.



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POSTAL CANCELLATIONS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE DIVIDED BY COUNTRIES

THIS NEW WORK, COMPOSED OF FOUR BOOKS, IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE STUDY MADE UP TO DATE FOR THE POSTAL CANCELLATIONS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE



BOOK 1: Tables, Postal Maps, Pictures of the Post Offices, Indexes

BOOK 2: TÜRKİYE



BOOK 3: EUROPE
ALBANIA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, MONTENEGRO, KOSOVO, NORTH MACEDONIA, ROMANIA, SERBIA & GREECE



BOOK 4: ASIA and AFRICA
GEORGIA, ARMENIA, CYPRUS, SYRIA, IRAQ, LEBANON, PALESTINE, ISRAEL, JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR, YEMEN, EGYPT, SUDAN & LIBYA

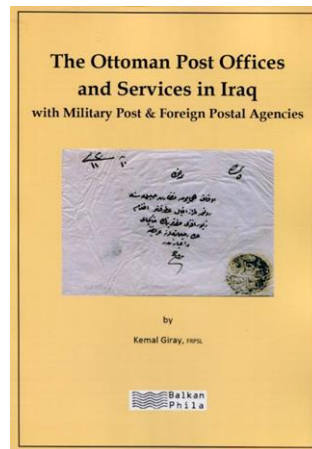
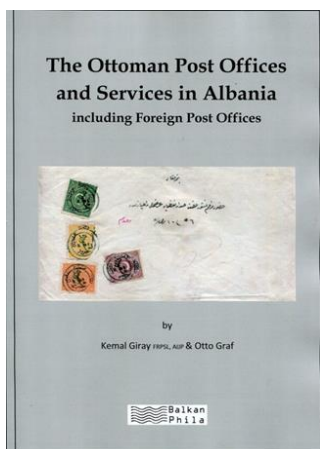
- Limited edition with serial number (Only 150 printed)
- Full colour 1,149 pages in Turkish and English
- Indexes at the end of each book
- 500x700mm full colour folio maps in Latin characters of years 1856, 1869, 1889 and 1902 in wallets
- 9,082 identified postal cancellations of the 2,205 post offices out of 3,547 including 1,017 previously unrecorded and newly discovered on documents postal cancellations
- All cancellations explained in their Turkish and French spellings, period of use, types, rarities on documents and on pieces and each given a unique corresponding number

Order address:
balkaphila1@gmail.com

The Ottoman Post Offices and Services in Albania including Foreign Post Offices

by Kemal Giray & Otto Graf, limited to 200 numbered edition, A4 size, 158 pages, full colour, softbound, inc. rarity scale in Euros, published 2023.

<https://www.balkanphila.com/shop/1873-turkey-dulos-2pi-opt-triple-copy/>



The Ottoman Post Offices and Services in Iraq with Military Post & Foreign Postal Agencies

by Kemal Giray, FRPSL, published by Balkanphila Ltd. 2023, A4 size, softcover, 209 pages, illustrated in colour, Limited edition of 150 numbered copies.

<https://www.balkanphila.com/shop/iraq-ottoman-post-offices-and-services-by-giray/>

"On the Wings of Stamps out of Istanbul & into the World"

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A first from TFD Secretary General Arman Arkan on the subject that sheds light on our philatelic history : The Kamer Stamp house, founded in 1942, tells about the Arkan family and the history of Turkish philately. "On the Wings of Stamps out of Istanbul & into the World". The book was published in two separate editions, in Turkish and English.

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TURKIYE UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS



Early in 2024 a milestone book will be published about the Postal Rates of the Turkish Republic 1920 - 1950. A team consisted of Turhan Turgut RDP, Mehmet Akan, Selçuk Akar and Emre Utku had been preparing it for the last 4 years. This 340 page volume written in Turkish and English contains every single postal rate explained with the help of clearly designed tables and hundreds of photographs during that period. It was originally due in June 2023 however the authors were lucky to come across hitherto unknown applications during the WWII and covers to include it henceforth January 2024!

Authors : Mehmet Akan, Turhan Turgut RDP, Selçuk Akar and Emre Utku.

BiH New COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS November 2023

Commemorative postage stamps on Painting

Commemorative postage stamps on Painting with 3 motives put on sale 23, November 2023. This issue presents the painters Nadezda Petrovic, Miodrag Popovic and Milan Konjovic.

NADEZDA PETROVIC (11.10.1873 - 03.04.1915) is most important Serbian painter. She was also a philanthropist, a journalist, a photojournalist, a nurse and a heroine of the First World War, who died of typhus as a nurse.

MIODRAG MICA POPOVIC (12.06.1923 - 22.12.1996) painter, art critic, writer, film director and scenographer.

MILAN KONJOVIĆ (28.06.1898 - 28.01.1993) prominent Serbian painter whose works can be divided into six periods of Art Style. He studied in many countries abroad and lived in Paris from 1924 to 1932.



*Title of issue : **Paintings** with 3 stamps in this issue and face value for each one : 1.10 KM, Convertible Mark, in sheet of 10 x 3.*

Commemorative postage stamps 25 Years of Covertibile Mark

Date of issue 23 November 2023. This year, the Covertibile Mark, reaches 25 years of existence as the official currency of Bosnia and Hercegovina and legal tender in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

The first banknotes of the Covertibile Marks were put into circulation on June 22, 1998. Covertibile Mark (KM) banknotes in denominations of 50F, 1KM, 5KM, and 10KM were first put into circulation. Not longer after, banknotes of larger denominations were added, on July 27, 1998, when banknotes in denominations of 20KM, 50KM and 100KM were put in ciculation. The 200KM banknotes was issued on May 15th, 2002 and finally completed the current denomination structure of Covertibile Mark banknotes.



Title of issue

25 Years of Covertibile Mark
with 3 stamps in this issue and face value for each one : 1.10 KM, Convertible Mark, in sheet of 10 x 3.

Romfilatelia Latest Stamp issues

Two impressive stamp sets were circulated from Romfilatelia in November.

On November 10th were put into circulation 4 stamps on the Collections of **Peleş National Museum** whilst two stamps for the **National Library of Romania** were issued on November 17th.



All the current stamp issues of Romfilatelia can be seen at : <https://www.romfilatelia.ro/en/latestissues/>

“Posta Srbije” : All New Issues from Serbian Postal Operator are available here:

Commemorative issues : <https://efilatelija.posta.rs/en/prigodna-izdanja-2023/>

Children's online safety



Лаванда – *Lavandula vera*



Definitive issues: <https://efilatelija.posta.rs/en/redovna-izdanja-2023/>

A Miniature Sheet issued for “La Divina” *Maria Callas*

The 2022-23 UNESCO List of Anniversaries for 67 celebrated persons included Maria Callas one of the most renowned and influential Opera Singers of the 20th century.



The Hellenic Post issued on October 12, 2023 a Miniature Sheet for 100th Anniversary of the birth of Maria Callas designed by Dr. Myrsini Vardopoulou which ideally portrays the mellow melancholy of “La Divina”.

All the 2023 issues of the Hellenic Post are reached at :

<https://philotelismos.gr/en/category/philatelic-products-philately/stamps-series/2023>

Miscellaneous and Upcoming Events

Hellenic Philatelic Society joins the Athens HOBBY Festival

A meeting point for all hobby aficionados is the Athens HOBBY Festival that is hosted at a central location and attracts large crowds of people interested in any sort of creative and entertaining hobby. During the recent Festival from October 12 - 14, the Hellenic Philatelic Society took part with a desk and promoted the cultural, entertaining and therapeutic value of Philately. Visitors were "attracted" by the spirited designs of the banners and received information and material.



Our young volunteers In front of the Banner
with the slogan :

"Some teeth cannot be replaced"

The H.P.S has set as one of its top priorities to promote an extrovert outlook to wider publics by presenting Philately as a creative activity that connects with every aspect of Society.



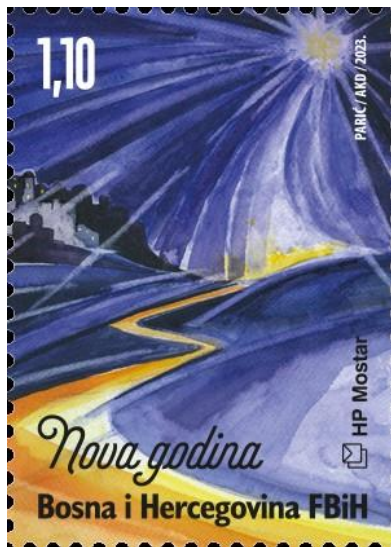
"The King of Collections"



"Joint together is better"

Warm Philatelic Wishes

for a Healthy, Happy
and Creative New Year
to you and your beloved ones !



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For **Suggestions, Comments and Inquiries**, kindly contact the **National Delegates**

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