



Literature Commission

Chairman: Javaid Muhammad
Secretary: Pang Chui Shaw
FEPA: Wolfgang Maassen RDP
FIAF: Miguel Jose Casielles
FIAP: Alan Chong
Appointed: Cristian Mouat
Appointed: Norman Banfield
FIP Liaison: Aldo Samame

Newsletter December 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Javaid Muhammad

I am pleased to welcome you to the December 2025 edition of our Philatelic Literature Newsletter.

On behalf of the bureau members, I extend sincere thanks to all the delegates for contributions in supporting philatelic literature.

In the second half of 2025, PHILAKOREA 2025 World Stamp Exhibition was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea in the month of September with total of 88 literature exhibits.

The Bureau received a suggestion from its delegates to conduct an FIP Qualifying Seminar on Literature Philately in the upcoming FIP exhibitions.

We have secured a slot for the seminar on 7 February 2026, to be held during the Dubai 2026 World Stamp Exhibition, and have requested the FIP Board to grant FIP Qualifying status for the seminar.

In preparation, the Literature Commission Bureau will hold a Zoom meeting on 20 January 2026, with the FIP Qualifying Literature Seminar at Dubai 2026 WSE as a key agenda item.

Finally, I extend a warm welcome to all the new members of the commission. Your enthusiasm and commitment are vital to our continued growth, and I thank you all for your support.



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COUNTRY REPORTS

Compiled by P.C. Shaw and Cristian Mouat

The delegates of the FIP Literature Commission were invited to submit reports from their respective countries. We are pleased to present the following compilation of the reports as received. Additionally, reports that were previously misplaced in email and inadvertently omitted from the last newsletter have now been included in this issue.

AUSTRALIA

by DAVID COLLYER

At the end of 2025 and start of 2026 the Australian Philatelic Federation (APF) organised a virtual multi frame philatelic exhibition -Ausvipex 2025. Entries were submitted as scans.

In addition to the FIP classes there were a literature class which had 18 entries, the second largest number in the exhibition to the Traditional class with 20 entries. For an Australian National exhibition this was a large number for the literature class. The entries comprised 11 Monographs, 4 Digital, 2 Journals and 1 catalogue.

The exhibition has its own web site *Ausvipex 2025*. Entries are on-line from 9 November 2025 to 28 February 2025. The entry fee for the literature class was \$A 25. Participants received electronically a mark sheet, a certificate and a written comment. An Exhibition Medal was available for an additional cost of \$A 30. Zoom feedback sessions were available 2 were given to literature class entrants with digital entries.

The full jury consisted of 16 members. 11 were from Australia, 2 from New Zealand and 1 each from United Arab Emirates, Canada and United Kingdom. The literature team comprised 3 members from Australia all of which were representative to FIP commissions.

The award levels included: 2 Large Gold, 4 Gold, 6 Large Vermeil, 0 Vermeil and 6 Large Silver. Entries came from, India 7, Canada 2, and 1 each from Australia, Singapore, Indonesia, Mexico, Germany, Russia and United Kingdom. Results are on the Exhibition website use *Exhibitors* on the top function bar and scroll down to awards.

The following is a selection of interesting entries:

Czechoslovakia Machine advertising cancels: the first Republic Period by Steven Friedenthal is a 2 volume comprehensive work on Czech marcophily which has interest to thematic collectors.

The handbook on Stamp production by Glen Morgan outlines the techniques used to produce postage stamp. It includes biographies on British Stamp printers.

Considering auxiliary markings by Greg Redner has 20 chapters on specific types of postal markings
The Medan Post office, Dutch East Indies since 1882 by Sugianto Sudhana. Is a marcophily of the postmark types and sub-types which can be applied cross the whole of the colony.

Air-crash mail of world, Vol-1870-1930, Vol 2 1931-1936, Vol 3 1937-1949, Vol 4 1950-2016. By



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Kendall Sandford up-dates previous work of Henri Nierinch in this area.
There are a number on thematic topics which should interest collectors on that class.

Two journals were offered for assessment:

Rainbow stamp news from India which covers thematic topics.

La Catastrophe is a UK-USA production on disrupted mail.

In the digital medium there are four sites which cover thematic and Marcophily

Horses on Stamps. <https://horse-stamps.ru/en> looks in detail at the equine world. Up to date on new issues.

Paleophilatelie. *Paleophilatelie.eu* - covers paleontology -fossil animals and plants and paleoanthropology the study of human development.

Mynamar philately by Ko Te <https://Kotoephilately.blogspot.sg>. A comprehensive work on the philately of the stamps and postal history of Mynamar to the present day.

Queensland registered handstamps and Labels <https://qldregistered.blogspot.com>. The site covers Queensland Colonial placename registered handstamps in full and partial copies.

Entries submitted by scan made it easier for entry to get to a team at several different locations.

Australia used written feedback in English with documents sent to the exhibitor. Zoom feedback was offered but only taken-up by two exhibitors. In literature each team member composed written comments for six separate entries. These functions were similar in other classes.

For other classes the exhibition showed each frame. For literature the class shows links to each entry. Individual entries have text summary of up to 100 words. For monographs there is boxed sections called "Publication Summary / "Publication Details" which give bibliographic details, author and price where given.

It was pleasing to see a range of types of Philatelic Literature from a wide geographic spread of countries.

Congratulations to the literature entrants at Ausvipex 2025

AUSTRIA

by Gerald Heschl

We have two new books:

The first book is: Armin Lind. *Die amtlichen Wertbriefkuverts*. This is about the money-letters with an introduction starting in the 18th century and a focus on the official money-letters from 1874 to their end in 1916. But it also has a very interesting part on the usage of these letters in the following states of the Habsburg Empire like Cechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia etc. So this book is not only interesting for Austrian collectors.



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The second book is: Rüdiger Söcknick: Österreich 1878-1938 Privat- und Gelegenheitsganzsachen. It is about the Austrian private postal stationary.

Both books fill a gap in postal historian literature. They are both: monographs and catalogues so they are very useful for collectors. Rüdiger Söcknick's book received a Gold Medal at the National Stamp Show in Gmunden in August 2025. In this exhibition there was a broader literature class with three Austrian books (plus 3 from Germany and 5 from Italy). The Austrian Net Catalogue (ANK) received a Large Silver medal and the book: Registration cancellations Austria 1850 to 1890 from Wolfgang Schubert (edited 2024) received a Gold Medal.

CHILE

by Cristian Mouat

About news in the Literature field in the Chilean Federation we have the following:

Article: "The unusual mark TREN in rectangle between 1874 and 1907 between the cities of Coquimbo and Serena, by Heinz Junge. This article was published in number 29 of the magazine ACADEMUS of the Royal Hispanic Academy of Philately and Postal History.

CHINA

by Liu, Jin

In 2025, Chinese philatelic literature achieved significant accomplishments in various aspects. At the 2025 Uruguay World Stamp Exhibition, China achieved a breakthrough with 4 philatelic documents, 2 Large Vermeil, 1 Vermeil, and 1 Large Silver. Both philatelic journals and philatelic websites were awarded the large vermeil. At the 2025 Korea World Stamp Exhibition, philatelist Mr. Ding Jinlong's document "China's 1897 Red Revenue Postage Stamps" won the Large Gold Medal for the second time, following its victory at the 2024 Shanghai Asian Stamp Exhibition.

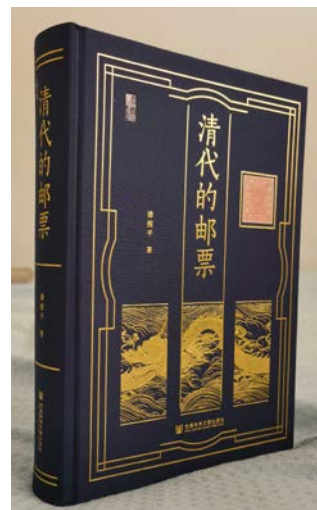
From October 28 to 29, 2025, a specialized philatelic exhibition was held in Gaoyou City, Jiangsu Province China, featuring postal history and philatelic literature under the FIP exhibition categories. A total of 16 literatures were exhibited, with one awarded the Gold Medal and three receiving the Vermeil Medal. The academic journals of philatelic organizations were particularly commended among the exhibits.





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In 2025, Chinese philatelists published a variety of philatelic literature. In November, historian Pan Zhenping's "Stamps of the Qing Dynasty" was released. Drawing on extensive historical documentation, the book provides a detailed analysis of the Qing Dynasty's postal system and the background of issued stamps, such as their creation, arrangement, publication and social impact, making it an essential reference for studying Qing Dynasty stamps.



Czech Republic

by Vladimir Munzberger

- 1) Long term activities on the Philatelic Literature in connection and support of The Czech Union of Philatelists (SCF):
 - The magazine Filatelie (48+4 pages) has been published every month (it has been published since 1950).
 - Specialised societies covered by The Czech Union of Philatelists regularly publish bulletins (in paper or electronic form) related to their activities and update their own websites.
 - The EXPONET web portal is also operated under the auspices of the SCF. This currently displays 1153 different philatelic exhibits and presentations from all over the world plus more than 200 older versions of those exhibits. This currently represents almost 100.000 exhibit pages. New exhibits were added in 2025.

- 2) Special studies and catalogues produced by members of The Czech Union of Philatelists issued in 2025:

Printed publications:

Beneš F. and team, Specialized catalogue of postage stamps of the Czech Republic 1993-2025. Its 318 pages contain a complete overview of all stamps issued and other stamp-related products. For stamps, known types, plate and printing faults are listed. It also contains an overview of postal rates for the period in question. Written in Czech language.

Beneš F., Catalogue of Austrian postage stamps used as predecessors on the Czech territory 1850-1918, 32 pages, published as a special supplement to Filatelie magazine. This publication includes also actual prices focused to the territory.

Liebermann H., Post-war postmarks used in the Czech lands after the liberation in 1945; 592 pages, published in three languages (Czech, German, and English) in the prestigious series of



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monographs on Czechoslovak and Czech stamps and postal history. In a comprehensive introduction, it explains the situation in the postal services in the Czech lands in the post-war period, the typology of postmarks, and provides a complete overview of them, including their modifications over time. The author is a chief of German Arge Tschechoslowakei and the book was issued in cooperation with Czech collectors.

Kejř J., **Postal history of Cheb region**, 345 pages, written in Czech language. The book deals with the postal history of Cheb region (western Bohemia) from the opening of the first post office to the present days. It displays many postal history documents with postmarks, TPO cancels, meter stamps, perfins etc.

The Society of Philatelic Studies of the SCF: **Philately Rarities and Stories**, 88 pages, written in Czech language.

This representative publication reproduces non-competitive exhibits of rare philatelic materials prepared by members of the society for the LIBEREC 2025 international exhibition. The richly illustrated publication describes the rare philatelic artefacts presented there, including the stories associated with them.

Malovik V., Catalogue of printing plate markings of postage due stamps 1919 – 1928, book #1, 294 pages.

Specialised study of the Czechoslovak postage due stamp issues containing many pictures.

Pelikan J., Kveton R., Pour B., Filipek Z., Austria 1851 – newspaper stamps, 176 pages. Contains a detailed study of classic newspaper stamps, including the most expensive and rarest ones.

Stodola M., Collection of specialized studies by members of the philatelic club Liberec, 2025

GERMANY

by Wolfgang Maassen

The second half of 2025 was also a turbulent year in terms of philatelic literature. There were numerous new book releases, although the author's impression is that there has been a slight decline in more comprehensive monographs, while the number of MICHEL catalogues and the Edition d'Or and Special series is increasing year on year. To give interested readers a closer insight into what has been happening, I have listed some particularly noteworthy short reports in chronological order below.

JULY 2025

The carousel turns for philatelic magazines

The *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung* (DBZ No. 13 of 30 June 2025) announced that the managing



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director of Philapress Verlag in Göttingen, Ernst Isermann, has stepped down and will be succeeded by Axel Poelen, previously head of marketing at the Göttinger Tageblatt. Isermann had been managing director at Philapress (part of the North German media group Madsack) since 2013. In addition to several special publications, he succeeded in establishing a partnership with the BDPH, whose magazine „philatelie“ has been published by Philapress since February 2017. His tenure was marked by numerous personnel changes, relocation and, ultimately, the discontinuation of „Briefmarken Spiegel,“ which was absorbed into DBZ.

The president of the Association of Austrian Philatelists' Clubs, Helmut Kogler, editor-in-chief of „Briefmarke“, announced in the July/August issue of the magazine that Veronika Pfanzelt, who had been working as a layout designer for the association's magazine for seven years, had left and that Torsten Berndt, designated managing director of Schwaneberger Verlag in Germering (Hans W. Hohenester is still listed as managing director in the imprint), would temporarily take over this responsibility, as well as editorial supervision.

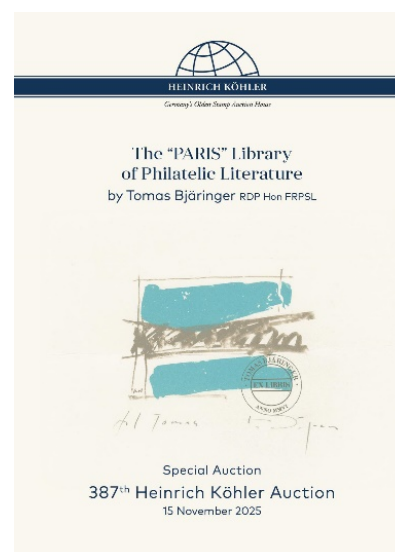
In view of all these changes, it is not only Swiss philatelists who can rejoice with Christina Rölli, editor-in-chief of SBZ (*Schweizer Briefmarken-Zeitung*), as the high-quality magazine was awarded a gold medal at BERNABA in Bern in May! Congratulations!



AUGUST 2025

An auction catalogue with top-class literature

It was reported in the philatelic press at home and abroad and in the digital media: on 15 November 2025, one of the world's finest private philatelic libraries would be auctioned in Wiesbaden at the 387th Heinrich Köhler auction. The catalogue for this special auction, at which the so-called PARIS Library of the Swedish Tomas Bjäringer was to go under the hammer, had been available since the end of August. On 312 (!) pages, Wolfgang Maassen provided detailed descriptions in English of the nearly 1,300 lots, as well as presenting around 2,500 monographs and extensive collections of magazines, auction and exhibition catalogues – often accompanied by perfectly composed photographs. The hardcover catalogue is itself a work of art, but also a virtually unique piece of philatelic literature that is well worth acquiring and keeping. The nominal charge for Germany/Europe is 25 Euro, and 50 Euro for overseas,





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which is primarily due to shipping costs – especially overseas. In return, however, everyone could receive a bibliography of a special kind, namely the rarities of philatelic literature from its beginnings in 1862 to the present day. Since the FIP regulations for philatelic literature have for years allowed special, handbook-style auction catalogues for the literature class at world exhibitions, the reporter is certain that this work will be seen there again.

OCTOBER 2025

Hermann Deninger Literature Prize 2025



This prize is awarded every three years by the Foundation for the Promotion of Philately and Postal History. The statutes for the prize state: *The literature prize is awarded for a single work or the life's work of an author in the field of philately or postal history. It should be of scientific merit and make a significant contribution to the field of philately or postal history.*

This year, the award was due to be presented again, and the nomination was for a work that is virtually unparalleled in its genre. It is a voluminous three-volume work, the first volume of which was published in 2017, and the second and third in 2021.

Here is a brief bibliographical summary:

(Volume 1) Thurn und Taxis Frankaturen 1852–1867 – Briefpost, format: A4, 488 pages, more than 500 colour illustrations, hardcover.

(Volume 2) Postal Associations / Hanseatic Cities / Hohenzollern. Format: A4, 24 + 412 pages, 500 colour illustrations, hardcover

(Volume 3) Thurn und Taxis Frankaturen 1852–1867 – Letter mail, foreign postal associations. Format: A4, 24 + 504 pages, 850 colour illustrations, hardcover

The lead author is Jürgen Naab. All volumes were produced and published by the Christoph Gärtner auction house. Rainer von Scharpen wrote in a review at the time: „The first volume alone caused a sensation and not only won the Golden Posthorn and the DASV Literature Prize in 2019, but was also awarded Grand Gold at the World Expos in Bangkok in 2018 and Wuhan in 2019.

Author Jürgen Naab and his dedicated colleagues are to be congratulated on this epoch-making, truly magnificent trilogy. They have honoured and showcased the Thurn und Taxis collection, with its diversity and countless special features, in an unprecedented manner, making it a classic among the old German states.“



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Rainer von Scharpen awarded the Kalckhoff Medal 2025



Photo: The photo by Udo Angerstein shows, from left to right, laudator Reinhard K  chler, the honouree – Rainer von Scharpen – and BDP   President Alfred Schmidt.

At the 118th German Philatelists' Day on 5 October 2025 in Hamburg, Rainer von Scharpen, BDP   Federal Director for Research and Literature and a well-known specialist author, was awarded this year's Kalckhoff Medal. The Kalckhoff Medal is an [award](#) presented by [the Federation of German Philatelists](#) at the German Philatelist' Day for special services to German-language [philatelic literature](#). This prize was established in 1950 in honour of [Franz Kalckhoff](#) on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday, and in 1951 he himself was the first recipient.

This year's winner is in good company, as the more than 13 names of well-known literary figures since 2000 alone include Ingo von Garnier (2000), Hans Meyer (2002), Karl Zangerle (2004), Peter Fischer (2008), Andreas Hahn (2012) and even one woman, Sabine Schwanke (2019). This year marks the 38th time the prize has been awarded since 1950.

Reinhard K  chler gave the laudatory speech on behalf of the BDP  , saying of the award winner: "He is a former teacher, and my impression is that he loves to write for a living, but he also loves to read for a living. So it's no wonder that several hundred, perhaps even thousands, of his book reviews have appeared in the philatelic press over the past decades. ... He has also exhibited his work, written his own books, for example on perforations, and articles, of course. He is also a travelling lecturer who loves to pass on his knowledge. ..."

NOVEMBER 2025

AIJP with new board

On Friday afternoon, 14 November 2025, this year's AIJP Congress of the International Association of Philatelic Authors and Journalists took place. The AIJP was co-organis  r of the „Literature Summit“ in Wiesbaden, so that among the approximately 80 participants, around 30 members of the association also took part in the congress.





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In addition to the usual agenda items, the participants expressed their special thanks to the outgoing board members Director Dr Mark Bottu from Belgium, Director Hans-Jürgen Dobiatt from Germany and Association President Wolfgang Maassen, who, after 20 years of successful leadership and shaping of the association, has now handed over the reins to a successor (for which the board awarded him honorary membership of the AIJP after the new elections).

Ari Muhonen from Finland, a philatelist with extensive experience in both association management and literature, was unanimously elected to succeed Maassen as president. Vincent Schoubrechts from Belgium, the previous vice-president, was confirmed in this position, as were Secretary General Rainer von Scharpen and Treasurer Hans Schwarz. Literature expert and author Abhishek Bhuwalka from India was unanimously elected as second vice-president, and Paul Wijnants from Belgium, who has long made an excellent name for himself as a postal historian, was elected as the new director.



From left to right: Abhishek Bhuwalka, Hans Schwarz, Ari Muhonen, Vincent Schoubrechts, Rainer von Scharpen, Paul Wijnants. Photo: Claudia Maassen

The question of the future publication of the association's magazine, "The Philatelic Journalist," took somewhat longer than the elections. Ultimately, with one abstention, it was agreed that members could choose whether they wanted to receive the readable magazine in digital form only (future annual subscription: 40 euros) or also in print (annual subscription: 60 euros) and report their choice to the treasurer, Hans Schwarz. The members also unanimously approved the proposal to hold next year's annual congress in Rome in October, in the week before the International Stamp Fair in Ulm, as another international special exhibition for philatelic literature will be taking place there at the same time.

"Literature Summit" in Wiesbaden a resounding success

From 13 to 15 November 2025, around 80 literature enthusiasts gathered for a symposium at the Heinrich Köhler auction house in Wiesbaden to listen to two days of presentations by 20 speakers on numerous aspects of philatelic literature, its history, but also its collectability, care and preservation. The AIJP also held





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its annual congress at the same venue on 14 November. The participants came from 20 different countries, including three from the USA, two from India, and one each from Costa Rica and Australia. Germany was the largest group with 33 guests, followed by Great Britain with 10 attendees, who had an easy time of it as the lectures and presentations were given in English.

In the best possible mood for the auction of the unique Tomas Bjäringer Library, the auction took place on Saturday, 15 November, attended by around 30 bidders in the auction room, and certainly by an even greater number who were connected online or by telephone. They had to be patient, because due to the numerous bidding wars and the not always fast internet, it took around 12 hours for many items from the „PARIS Library“ to find new owners. The basis for the auction was a 300-page hardcover catalogue in which the 1,277 lots were offered (including not only individual items, but also large lots, e.g. magazines or auction catalogues with up to 15 large boxes of goods). The starting price of €170,320 was already matched by bids totalling €295,977 on that day, which can be described as a dream result and clearly proved that rare and well-preserved philatelic literature has enthusiasts all over the world. Further analyses will provide more precise evidence of this in the future. In addition, it is likely that the final result will be even higher, as lots with starting prices totalling £35,670 remained unsold and could be purchased in the after-sale. Ultimately, everything will be sold, as the auction house was able to confirm in December.

DECEMBER 2025

After 1348 issues, it's sadly coming to an end! – The end of the “Deutsche Briefmarken-Revue“



The “Deutsche Briefmarken-Revue“ (DBR), formerly “sammlerdienst“, was discontinued by its last publisher and creator, Jan Billion from Ratingen, with the December 2025 issue for economic reasons. Above all, the dramatic decline in subscription orders over the last 1–2 years had forced the publisher and knowledgeable author to take this step. He himself explained the history of this well-known trade journal:

“It all began in 1950, when the Karl-Heinz Ihl publishing house in Neustadt near Coburg published the first issue of the trade journal 'Der Sammler-Dienst – Offertenblatt der deutschen Philatelie' (The Collector's Service – German Philately Offer Paper). Initially published monthly in a format slightly larger than A4, it switched to the smaller A5 format and a fortnightly publication schedule in

1954. Regular columns such as 'Rund um die Philatelie' (All About Philately) by Joachim H. Krebs and 'Österreich-Rundschau' (Austria Review) by Dr Rüdiger Wurth, as well as interesting specialist articles, quickly attracted a large readership. For decades, 'sd – sammlerdienst' was the German philatelic journal with the second-highest circulation. After almost 30 years, not only did the



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content need to be 'relaunched', as we would say today, but also the magazine's appearance. Following a change of publisher, 'sd – sammlerdienst' reappeared on 19 May 1983 in a larger format and with a new focus: 'More diverse, colourful and up-to-date', as the announcement at the time put it. The biweekly publication was maintained until the end of 1985, before 'sd' became a monthly magazine again.

When PSBN-Verlag took over the trade journal in autumn 1989, not only did the name change to *Deutsche Briefmarken-Revue* (German Stamp Review), although the addition “sd – sammlerdienst” (collectors' service) was retained for some time, but the new publishers also revised the content concept. In addition to the latest news from German and foreign collecting areas, a large service section with events and postmark announcements, and reports on market developments, there were monthly articles on individual issues of the most popular German collecting areas – for many years even as a detachable centre section. When the archives containing documents from the Reich Post Ministry and the Federal Post Ministry slowly became accessible in the 1990s, a huge pool of resources opened up for DBR authors to conduct detailed background research on individual issues, especially those of the German Reich and the popular collecting area of the Federal Republic, from which readers could also benefit. Our magazine has always had a unique selling point in this area. In addition, there were multi-part series, for example on the areas of Old Germany and the German colonies, but also on the Saar region. Other innovations, such as the competition 'Vote for the most beautiful stamp in Europe', which is being held for the last time in this issue, have also continued to this day.

Jan Billion, Editor-in-Chief“

Torsten Berndt dismissed as managing director of Schwaneberger Verlag!

Insiders have known about it since the International Stamp Fair in Ulm at the end of October, and in November it became “official“. The current “still managing director“ and owner Hans Hohenester apparently dismissed Torsten Berndt “with immediate effect ... and asked him to leave the business premises immediately“ in the 45th or 46th calendar week, according to Berndt. Berndt, who has made a name for himself as an excellent author and journalist, had been working as a philately project manager at Thomas Schantl's company, Primus GmbH in Konstanz, since 1 April 2021, until he signed a contract with Hans W. Hohenester on 18/19 September 2024, stipulating that he would succeed him as managing director on 15 January 2025. He therefore moved to Germering near Munich. Hohenester has been looking for a buyer for the long-established company for some time, which, according to his previous statements, has twelve employees in the editorial department alone. This cannot be gleaned from the imprint of MICHEL-Rundschau. Only editor-in-chief Ramona Steidel and Hans W. Hohenester are still listed as managing directors there.

Schwaneberger Verlag subsequently published its own press release on this matter dated 27 November 2025



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Schwaneberger Verlag announces that a few days ago it parted ways with Mr Torsten Berndt, who was on the management board together with Mr Hans W. Hohenester. Mr Berndt joined the management board at the beginning of the year. The reasons for the separation were, in particular, differing views on the future direction of the publishing house. If any readers of this article are interested in further information about the publishing house, e.g. how many editors actually work at Schwaneberger Verlag for all MICHEL products, they are welcome to contact the managing partner of the publishing house directly by email or letter.

The publishing house would like to thank Mr Berndt for his commitment to the company and wishes him all the best for the future.

Summary for the second half of 2025

It has been an eventful half-year. Once again – after the demise of “Briefmarken-Spiegel“ last year – another well-known and historic trade journal is closing its doors. Two remain. “Philatelie“, the monthly association and philatelic journal of the German Philatelists' Association, which, with a circulation of just under 20,000, remains the highest-circulation philatelic magazine in the Federal Republic. And the “Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung“, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The author commemorated its history in two extensive series of articles in APHV magazine (No. 4/2025, pp. 11–26 and No. 5/2025, pp. 25–36). It will be interesting to see how the literature situation in the Federal Republic of Germany will develop in the future.

Greece

by Dimitrios Papitsis

Hellenic Philatelic Society (HPS)

Magazine: **Philotelia**, in Greek and English.

Vol. 102 (2025), issue 752 (May-June 2025)

Vol. 102 (2025), issue 753 (July-August 2025)

Vol. 102 (2025), issue 754 (September-October 2025)

Philatelic Society of Lesvos:

Magazine: **Philatelic Lesvos**, in Greek.

Issue 296 (January-March 2025).

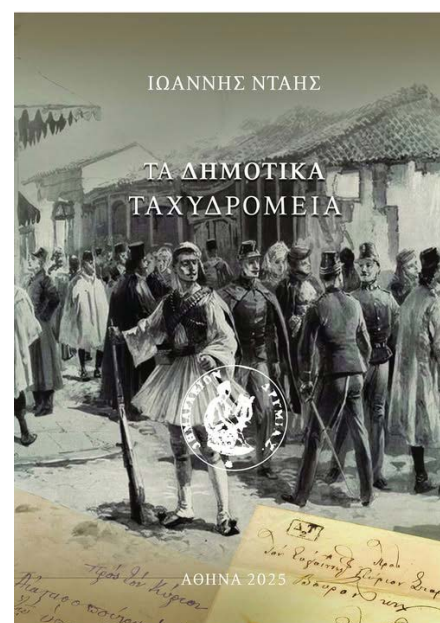
Issue 297 (April-June 2025).

Philatelic Society of Patras:

Magazine: **Lighthouse of the Philatelist**, in Greek. Issue no 23.

Philatelic Union of Pieria:

Magazine: **Philatelic Olympus**, in Greek. 5th year, Issue No 6.





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New book:

John Daes, "The municipal post offices", Athens 2025 (in Greek). Self-published.

HONG KONG

by P.C. Shaw

The Hong Kong Philatelic Society continues to publish the monthly newsletter distributing to members and officers of the international philatelic societies. Hong Kong philatelists has been active in the literature class exhibitions in the second half of 2025. The activities are summarised in the following:

- (1) Thailand 2025 Asian International Stamp Exhibition (August 8-12): Yue Tung Fong obtained a LV award on "Fujian Postal Service Historical Data (1897-1911)".
- (2) Philakorea 2025 World Stamp Exhibition (September 17-21): P.C. Shaw (ed.) obtained a LV award on "Hong Kong Philatelic Society Journal Issue 28 (2024)". Jian Zhang obtained a LV award on "Important Articles on the Philately of China's Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)".
- (3) The First Part of the 2025 Greater Bay Area Stamp Exhibition (November 19-23): Stephen Chan obtained a LV award plus Felicitation on "Besieged Haven: Postal History of Macau during WWI".
- (4) 19th New Zealand Philatelic Literature Exhibition (December 6): P.C. Shaw (ed.) obtained a G award on "Hong Kong Philatelic Society Journal Issue 29 (2025)".

The China Philatelic Association has two new publications, as references and guidebooks for members. Enquires can be made to The China Philatelic Association, GPO Box 1452, Hong Kong. Email: e-mail@cpa-hk.net





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(1) **Hong Kong Slogan Cancels.** 《香港宣傳郵戳》 The Book written in Chinese is published in B4 size in 3 volumes of 1050 pages introducing all the machine slogan cancels applied by Hong Kong Post Office from 1951 to 2025. A total of 136 different types of slogan cancels are introduced chronologically with detail information of use, illustrations, related pictures and news clippings.

(2) **CPA Bulletin Bound 2023.** 《中郵會訊》2023 年合訂本 The Book in A4 size is a complete collection of the monthly bulletin published by the China Philatelic Association in 2023, adding the illustrations of all the Stamped First Day Covers, Commemorative Covers and Postcards published by the Association, and the information of major activities and the realization results of stamp auctions of the Association during the year.



NORWAY

by Kjell Åge Johansen

For the year 2025, the literature activity in Norway have followed the “normal” pattern. 14 societies publish a journal on paper, 2 to 4 issues per year. 3 societies publish journals only on the net. The journal of the Norwegian federation (Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift) was published with 6 editions, all with 100 pages.

The following books were published in Norway in 2025:

Søren Nordklint: Hell has many Names, Norwegian War and Field Post Society, Oslo 1925

Wilfred Wasenden: Posthistorisk analyse av et utvalg brev sendt mellom Great Britain og Norge før 1878, En kortfattet introduksjon, Published by the author, Nesøya 2025

Jarl A. Aspaker: Filatelistisk Årbok 2025, Published by the author, Hagavik 2025

Jarl A. Aspaker: TA-stempelboka, Torningsstempler med Tverrbjelker og Arabiske månedstall 1936-1943, Published by the author, Hagavik 2025

Ole Brønne: Norske førstedagsbrev med vignetter, 1855-2024 in 3 volumes, Published by the author, Oslo 2025

Norgeskatalogen 2026 (72. Edition), Oslo Filatelistklubb, Oslo 2025



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Johan Segelsten: Post- og kommunikasjonshistorie for Sør-Hedmark, Published by the author, Kongsvinger 2025

Oslo Filatelistklubb's web page (www.oslofilatelistklubb.no) has a section for the library (biblioteket) where there are listed more than 18 000 items. A combination of monographs, auction catalogues, exhibition catalogues, stamp catalogues and price lists etc. There is also a list of articles to be found in Norwegian exhibition catalogues.

NEW ZEALAND

by Ross Marshall

19th NZ National Philatelic Literature Exhibition 2025 - Report from the Jury Chair

This was another successful exhibition from the viewpoint of the competitive exhibits, with 52 entries. Two aspects were particularly pleasing - the entrants who had entered for the first time, and the quality of the exhibits overall. The fact that several Large Gold and Gold medals were awarded is testament to this. Entrants need to remember that this was a national-level exhibition, so the points needed to attain any medal level are 5 points below that at international level.

The members of the Jury have worked hard to arrive at what is considered the fairest result for each exhibitor. At these exhibitions, rather than only meet several days before the actual exhibition to judge the entries, in NZ we take over a month to send boxes of material to the judges, who are scattered around the country, so each entry can be carefully considered. After this, the judges have a get-together weekend to finalise marks and comments, which enables us to provide written comments, which we hope entrants will find helpful and interesting.

This year, we again considered electronic entries, including websites, and have further developed a judging sheet which contains a number of points for consideration when judging these entries. We hope entrants will find this helpful.

Several minor amendments were made to the marks schedule this year. Although we use the FIP marks breakdown, some technical aspects are not usually relevant to periodicals and journals – bibliography, acknowledgements, index, etc so they were deleted. As well, the 'global importance to philately, again an FIP criterion, was amended to 'philatelic significance' which better covered the wide range of material we judged this year.

The Jury was made up myself, Dr Ross Marshall, and Tony Thackery, all experienced philatelic exhibitors and/or authors or editors, and Murray Clark as Secretary.

All entries were on display at the Literature Exhibition in Christchurch, NZ, on 6th December 2025. The material then becomes part of the Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society library, which is



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available for anyone to view.

Awards

Best in Show

Morgan, Glenn H. "The Handbook of Stamp Production"

Special Prizes

Toe Kyaw Kyar. "Postage Rates of Burma (Myanmar) 1937-2024"

Bloxham, Dr Richard . "The New Zealand Stamp Collector"

Morgan, Glenn H. "The Handbook of Stamp Production"

Kogan, Michael. "www.Paleophilatelie.eu"

Best in Class

Duh, Jen-Chow. "Non-Denominated Flying Geese Stamp and it's Surcharges"

Wreglesworth, Paul (Editor). "The Kiwi"

Filanci, F. & Tagliente, D. "Classics of Italy"

Morgan, Glenn H. "The Handbook of Stamp Production"

Kogan, Michael. "www.Paleophilatelie.eu"

Felicitations for Research

Duh, Jen-Chow. "Non-Denominated Flying Geese Stamp and it's Surcharges"

Fiset, Louis. "M.S. Gripsholm and the US-Japan Diplomatic Exchanges in World War 2"

Thackery, T. C. "NZ First Day & Early Use & Stamps 1855-1967"

Toe Kyaw Kyar. "Postage Rates of Burma (Myanmar) 1937-2024"

Filanci, F. & Tagliente, D. "Classics of Italy"

Kuzych, Ingert. "Western Ukraine, 1918-1919, A Specialized Philatelic Catalog"

Morgan, Glenn H. "The Handbook of Stamp Production"

Zangouropoulos, N. and Carew, A. "Eastbourne: A Postcard Village"

On behalf of the Jury team and the Christchurch Philatelic Society, I thank every exhibitor for making their publication available for us, and for future library users.

Jeff Long

Jury Chair

November 2025

ROMANIA

by Grecu Dan-Simion

A. New Book & Monograph



Literature Commission

- ❖ **Grecu Dan-Simion** – *Civilian Postal Censorship in Romanian History, 1914-1928*, Deva, July 2025, 561 pages A4 in English, ISBN 978-973-0-42296-2. Contact: damirro@yahoo.com

B. Periodicals July-December 2025

- ❖ **Philatelica.ro**, revistă de filatelie, cartofilie și numismatică / *Magazine of Philately, Cartophily and Numismatics* (Botoșani/Chișinău), No. 24(80) / July – September 2025, 25(81) / October – December 2025.
- ❖ **Brasovian Philatelic Studies / Studii Filatelice Brașovene** (Brașov), No. 3(76) / 2025 and 4(77) / 2025.
- ❖ **Magazin de Filatelie, Cartofilie și Numismatică / Magazine of Philately, Cartophily and Numismatics** (Constanța), No. 143(13) / May – August 2025.
- ❖ **Curierul Filatelic / The Philatelic Courier** (Sibiu), No. 218 / July – September 2025, No. 219 / October – December 2025.
- ❖ **Stella Maris** Cartophily Society Bulletin (Constanța), No. 2(6) / June – August 2025.

C. Exhibition with Literature Section July-December 2025

- ❖ The National Philatelic Exhibition "**TimFilex 2025**", **Timișoara** (14-16 November 2025), with 9 literature entries, from which 4 were awarded Gold medals.

D. Literature Awards at International Exhibitions July-December 2025

- ❖ **PHILAKOREA 2025**, World Stamp Exhibition (COEX Magok, **Republic of Korea**), 17-21 September 2025.
 - o One **Large Gold** medal (**Săvoiu** Emanoil – *Romanian Postal Stationary 1870-1959*, 2 volumes)
 - o One **Gold** medal (**Grecu** Dan Simion – *Repression and Population Movements in Romania, 1921-1964*, 2 volumes)
 - o One **Large Silver** medal (**George Barcaru** – *A Lost Tourist in Constanța...*)



Literature Commission

SERBIA

by Miloš Vukovic

October is traditionally reserved for the second annual issue of the national magazine "FILATELISTA". The promotion of the 286th issue was held in mid-November at the PTT Museum in Belgrade, a venue that best preserves the most important traces of Serbia's postal history.

The main topic of this issue is the great national philatelic exhibition "SerbiaFila XVI", scheduled for October 2026, which will mark two significant anniversaries: 75 years since the first national philatelic exhibition and 160 years since the issuance of the first regular postage stamp in Serbia.

The promotion took place during the impressive museum exhibition Serbian Aviation (1910–1919) and Airmail of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1923–1941), jointly organized by the Post of Serbia, the PTT Museum, and the Philatelists' Association of Serbia, in cooperation with the exhibition's author, Aleksandar Boričić - an internationally recognized sports official, long-time official in sports organizations and a passionate fan of philately.



CONTENT

- Srbijafila XVI – A Festival of Philately in the Heart of Belgrade
- On World Post Day, two PostEurop awards for the Post of Serbia
- Straight Date Stamps of Serbian Pre-Philately by Vladan Jovanovic
- The First Municipal Post Offices of the Kingdom of Serbia 1883–1903 by Zeljko Matic
- Father and Son in the Great War by Milan Radovanovic
- Parcel Dispatch Forms of DF and FNR Yugoslavia 1945–1948 by Damir Novakovic
- INTRODUCTORY SHEET – Tips for Preparing a Good Introductory Sheet for an Exhibit
- Overview of Commemorative Postage Stamp Issues for the Period January–June 2025
- Design Drafts for Postage Stamps by Đorđe Andrejević Kun (Gordana Rafael)
- 170 Years Since the Introduction of Telegraph Communication in Serbia – From Morse to the World by Nina Atlagic



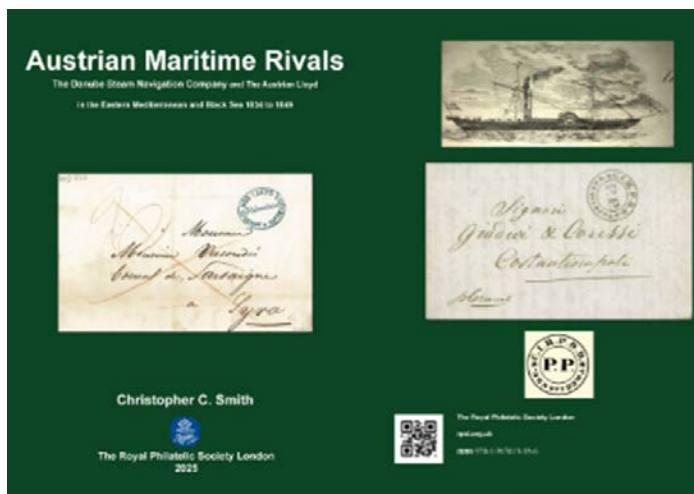
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United Kingdom

by James Podger

There was one literature entry in the ABPS National competition in September. This was 'The Rocket Mail of India – Volume 1' by Markand Dave which was awarded a gold medal.

On the 24 September the Stuart Rossiter Trust held a one-day seminar, 'What is Postal History', held at the premises of the Royal Philatelic Society London. There were six presentations from distinguished philatelists and postal historians to a packed room. An introduction from Andy Gould, the Trust's corresponding trustee, laid the foundation for the day explaining about Stuart Rossiter and what he stood for. James Grimwood Taylor RDP FRPSL asked 'Was the most important event in postal history the invention of the postage stamp?'. Douglas Muir RDP FRPSL, a trustee, presented 'Must postal history have a stop?'. Theo Bauers FRPSL discussed 'The treatment of mail on the continent'. Nigel Gooch FRPSL asked 'Is postal history only rates, routes and postmarks?'. Birthe King RDP FRPSL presented 'An open goal'. Finally Wolfgang Massen RDP FRPSL presented 'The next steps'. It was a very successful event and those attending all enjoyed the day.

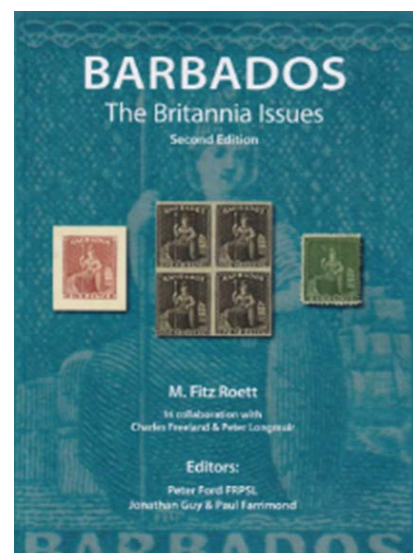


The Royal Philatelic Society London published 'Austrian Maritime Rivals: The Danube Steam Navigation Company and The Austrian Lloyd in the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea 1834 to 1849' by Christopher C. Smith. This is a hardbound publication of 367 pages, with a dust wrapper. It is available from the Society's website (www.rpsl.org.uk) at £65 for non-members and £58 for members.

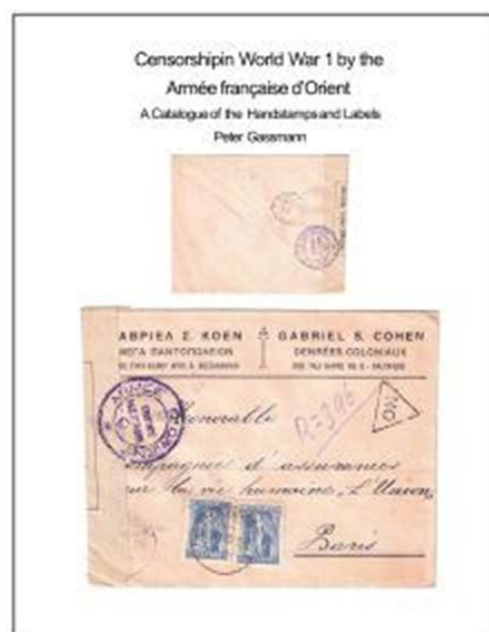


Literature Commission

The West Indies Philatelic Study Group has published 'Barbados: The Britannia Issues (2nd Edition). Originally by Fitz Roett in collaboration with Charles Freeland and Peter Longmuir, this second edition is edited by the late Peter Ford FRPSL with Johnathan Guy and Paul Farrimond. This publication can be ordered from the Group's website (www.wipsg.org.uk) at £15 for non-members and £13 for members plus shipping. Alternatively from the Group's publications dealer David Druett (www.pennymead.com). Not bad for a 185 page soft-bound book in full colour!



The Stuart Rossiter Trust has recently published 'Censorship in World War 1 by the Armee francaise d'Orient' by Peter Gassmann. This is a catalogue of the Handstamps and Labels and is available to order from the Trust's website (www.rossitertrust.com) at £10 plus shipping.



On the 16th and 17th June the Royal Philatelic Society London will hold the Fifth Annual Crawford Festival, which will focus on 'Priced Stamp Catalogues'. Put the date in your diary as a number of high quality speakers have agreed to present papers.

Finally, nominations are invited for the 2026 Crawford Medal for Philatelic Literature. The Royal Philatelic Society London awards the Crawford Medal annually for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately in book form, whether physical or electronic. Named to honour the memory of the Society's former President, Lord Crawford, it was first presented in 1920.

Nominations are invited for any book on a philatelic subject that has been published and was available for sale in 2024 or 2025. The book does not have to be published by the Royal Philatelic Society London or be written by a member of the RPSL and nominations are accepted from any individual, society or body.

Nominations should be sent to Nicola Davies, Head of Collections, at The Royal Philatelic Society



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London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW or emailed to her at daviesn@rpsl.org.uk to arrive by 31 January 2026 at the latest. A non-returnable copy of the nominated book must be supplied to the RPSL library by that date, if the library does not already hold a copy of the nominated book.