



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

Chairman: Javaid Muhammad
Secretary: Pang-Chui Shaw
FEPA: -
FIAF: Miguel Jose Casielles
FIAP: Liu Jin
Appointed: Cristian Mouat
Appointed: Carlos Malpica
FIP Coordinator: Aldo Samame

CHAIRMAN

Javaid Muhammad

I am pleased to welcome you to the June 2026 edition of our Philatelic Literature Newsletter.

On behalf of the bureau members, I extend heartfelt thanks to all delegates for their support and contributions to the promotion of philatelic literature.

In the first half of 2026, three major philatelic exhibitions were held. Dubai 2026 FIP Specialized World Stamp Exhibition with 72 printed and 3 digital literature exhibits. Also, FIP Literature qualifying seminar was held on 7 February 2026 in Dubai.

The Boston 2026 General World Stamp Exhibition held from 23 to 30 May 2026 with 151 printed literature and 41 digital entries. Four exhibits received large gold medals, and 26 exhibits were awarded gold medals. 12 printed entries did not arrive, and PDF copies were provided for judging. This raised a question whether printed publication should be permitted as PDF format.

The Macao 2026 Specialized World Stamp Exhibition was held from 26 June to 1 July 2026, with 58 printed and 12 digital literature exhibits.

At the FIP Literature Commission meeting held in Macao on 29 June 2026, elections were conducted for the 2026–2030 term and following members were elected:

- Javaid Muhammad (United Arab Emirates) – Chairman
- Prof. Pang-Chui Shaw (Hong Kong, China) – Secretary
- Miguel Casielles (Argentina) – Bureau Member (FIAF)

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the previous Bureau Members, Mr. Wolfgang Maassen (FEPA), Mr. Alan Chong (FIAP), and the appointed member, Mr. Norman Banfield, for their service to the FIP Literature Commission and for their valuable support throughout their tenure. Their contributions and commitment have been greatly appreciated, and we thank them for their outstanding service.



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

In accordance with Article 14.9 of the Commission Regulations and following consultation with the Bureau Members and FIP Coordinator, Mr. Liu Jin (China) was coopted as FIAP Bureau Member. In addition, pursuant to Article 42.4 of the FIP Statutes, Mr. Cristian Mouat (Chile) and Mr. Carlos Malpica (Spain) were appointed as additional members of the Bureau.

As reported to the delegates in the minutes of our meetings held on 20 January 2026 and 29 June 2026, about adoption of the new SREV and Guidelines by FEPA. The FIP literature commission bureau decided to review and further develop the current FIP Philatelic Literature SREV and Guidelines, the following delegates have shown interest in joining the team, and we expect a few more experts to participate:

- Javaid Muhammad (United Arab Emirates)
- Prof. Pang-Chui Shaw (Hong Kong, China)
- Pratisad Neurgaonkar (India)
- Ari Muhonen (Finland)
- Claudio Ernesto Manzati (Italy)

In addition, we will await FEPA's feedback following the practical application at ITALIA 2026 International Exhibition of Philatelic Literature, scheduled to be held in Rome, Italy, from 15 to 18 October 2026.

I am pleased to welcome our new Bureau Members and delegates and look forward to working with them in promoting philatelic literature during the 2026-2030 term.

Honorary Secretary

Pang-Chui Shaw

Our Commission publishes this newsletter twice a year, and we are pleased to present the first issue of our new term. This newsletter serves as an important platform for sharing the news, achievements, and activities of our members over the past six months. We also welcome articles, insights, and reflections related to literature philately.

We look forward to your continued support in promoting the prosperity of literature philately. Suggestions for improving the newsletter are always appreciated.

FIP Vice-President

Aldo Samamé y Samamé, FRPSL, AIEP, RAEF&HP, JT

The FIP Literature Commission Bureau was renewed during the Commission meeting held on June 30 in Macau. The meeting was attended in person by many delegates, particularly from Asia. Javaid Mohammed (UAE), Pang-Chui Shaw (Hong Kong), and Miguel Casielles (ARG) were elected as Chairman, Secretary, and Bureau member, respectively; I offer them my congratulations and hope they will be joined by other delegates to support the work the Commission must undertake in the coming months.



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

A reform of the SREV and the Guidelines is underway; I am confident this will revitalize the Philatelic Literature class at future international exhibitions. I believe we must support and contribute to this process so that these changes garner consensus among all interested parties and help with the class's development in light of the new forms of literature presentation.

Once again, my sincere congratulations to the Bureau and all members of the Commission.

REPORTS

Compiled by Pang-Chui Shaw and Javaid Muhammad

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.

AUSTRALIA

by David Collyer

Modern Philately:

A forthcoming publication on Australian Modern Philately has been entered in the Literature class at the annual Australian National exhibition Queensland Stamp & Coin Show 2026 at Brisbane in August.

'Australian Counter Printed Stamp (CPS) catalogue and handbook 1991-2016' by Michael Nash is a comprehensive work on stamps that could be issued at a Post Office counter. The work is loose leaf with over 600 pages of information including illustration of all types. The publication has a website www.cps-stampcatalogue.com.au

The author is a collector with limited philatelic background who has a comprehensive collection of Australian counter printed stamps. His material commenced with trials and moves on to single stamps and strips, and covers.

The author has communicated with significant philatelic researchers within Australia. He has also sought advice commercial and philatelic publishers.

Counter printed stamps was an experiment in Australia from 1991 to 2016 to replace blank labels with a postage imprint with a colourful label featuring designs on Australian animals from definitive stamp designs. Whilst the stamps were a letter rate issue the Counter printed stamps could have a range of values.

Extensive research has come to fruition. This includes a wealth of information including in depth explanation of the technology used. Machine types and papers used are explained. The work is significant to an over looked area of modern Australian Philately. It is thus a major contribution to our national philatelic literature.



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

The Australian Commonwealth Specialist Catalogue-Centenary:

2026 celebrates the centenary of *The Australian Commonwealth Specialist Catalogue*. The publication has gone from a detailed catalogue of the stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia to a multi volume series using archival sources with input from major collectors. It is now regarded as both a catalogue and a handbook on Australian Commonwealth postage stamps in their various form.

The 5th Annual Crawford Festival for Philatelic literature was held at the Royal Philatelic Society London on the 16-17 June 2026. The topic was postage stamp catalogues. Presentations were one hour in duration. Hugh Jefferies spoke on *The Stanley Gibbons Catalogue, past present and future*.

The afternoon session on the first day was presented by Dr Geoffrey Kellow a review on the centenary of the specialist catalogue, *The Australian Commonwealth Specialist Catalogue 1926-2026*.

The first edition of the catalogue was published in 1926 by the Melbourne stamp dealer Orlo-Smith. The company continued publishing until 1988 with annual editions from the late 1940's.

Until this catalogue collectors of Australian Commonwealth stamps used the Stanley Gibbons Part 1 "Stamps of the British Empire" which was produced annually. The first edition was published before the first Australian commemorative stamp for the opening of Parliament House in Canberra in 1927. In its original form the catalogue listed the two then current definitive series "The Kangaroo & Map" and the "King George V side Face". The listing was later extended with the inclusion of Commemoratives, airmail stamps and postage dues. Early editions were staple bound whereas from around 1960 perfect binding was introduced because of the increase in number of pages.

After 1988 the publication was sold and the new owners produced the work in 'loose leaf' form similar to the New Zealand "Campbell Patterson" catalogue. The advantage was that new issues and changes to information could be sent separately instead of publishing the catalogue on an annual basis.

In 1993 the Publication was again sold to a Sydney based company which retained the name 'Brusden-White'. The format has changed to individual volumes on specific periods or types of issue. Pricing is done in consultation with the trade. All volumes are now in A4 format and subsequent editions will be in full colour

Australian States Federal period, 1901-1912: 2nd edition, 2023. 352 pages. This covers the period before the Commonwealth issues stamps in its own name. Listings and prices revised and new discoveries included with further archival information.



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

Kangaroos: 8th edition 2025.170 pages Covering the first definitive of Australia from 1913 to the end of the 1940's. Listing have been revised. New discoveries and corrections included

King George V: 7th edition 2026.344 pages Besides new listing imprint pairs and now listed in addition to imprint blocks of 4.

King George VI: 5th edition 2024.238 pages This edition includes prices for single usage and with other values. BCOF issues used during the occupation of Japan 1946-1953 are included.

Queen Elizabeth II 1952-1966: 5th edition 2024.286 pages This edition includes Australian Antarctic Territory and Cocos (Keeling) Islands issues. From 2024 editions cover usage is noted from single and with other values.

Decimals Volume 1 1966-1984: 3rd edition 2021.562 pages Includes items that have become known over the previous 20 years. Issues this period has been split into two.

Decimals Volume 2 1985-2001: 3rd edition 2021. 602 pages

There are three additional volumes which deal with special topics.

Postage Dues, including New South Wales and Victoria: 3rd edition 2020.160 pages. This work includes Australian Colonial issues used by two colonies that are relevant to Commonwealth issue. The first issue of the Commonwealth was an adaption of the NSW design with the initials NSW removed the panel at the bottom centre. These were used from 1902-1908. The design for Victoria from 1908 to the cessation of the practice in 1963. On Commonwealth issues 'Australia' replaced 'Victoria' as the issuing entity. These Postage dues were printed in two colours, green for the frame and red for the value. Originally the bi-colour issue was printed by typography until the late 1930's. From that time recess engraving was used until other methods of payment were introduced.

Booklets: 3rd edition 2020. 190 pages. Booklets of stamps were introduced in Australia from 1904 in the Federal Period made up from stamp sheets. They continued during the Kangaroo and King George V periods also made from stamp sheets. In the late 1920's special printing plates were made from the production of Stamp Booklets. This ended in 1974 when production of stamps ceased by the Commonwealth Stamp and Note printer. Booklets were reintroduced in the 1990's using die-cut self-adhesive stamps. The listing ends in 2001.

Postal Stationery 1911-1980: 2nd edition 2018. 484 pages Special postal cards were issued for the ascension to the throne of King George V using a one of indicium design. Until the end of the 1920's the Kangaroo and King George V stamps were imprinted. From the 1930's until the end of stamp production by the Commonwealth Stamp and Note printer the indicium was embossed.

Types of postal stationery issued included: postal cards, paid envelopes, registered envelopes, lettercards, some with illustrations on the rear, airletter/aerogrammes.



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

The Australian Commonwealth Specialist Catalogue has progressed from a comprehensive catalogue to a series of handbooks totalling 2,856 pages.

Postal Stationery of New South Wales (NSW) Handbook and Catalogue:

This is a digital work downloadable from the website of The Postal Stationery Society of Australia postalstationeryaustralia.com. The authors of this work are: Dingle Smith, Peter Kowald & Michael Blinman. This is the most comprehensive listing of this area.

The work is in two parts. The handbook is a listing of known literature of 12 types of postal stationery issued from 1838 to 1911. The catalogue identifies postal stationery of the 12 types issued. There is also a concordance which relates the PSSA listing with other published listing: Higgins & Guage, Ascher and Robson Lowe.

The stationery types dealt with are: Embossed Letter sheets and envelopes; Envelope; Official envelopes; Postal cards; Scenic postal cards; Government Railways pictorial postal cards; Official postal cards; STO (stamped to Order) postcards; Lettercards; Wrapper; Registration envelopes; Telegraph Forms; Specimen types.

Each section shows the sizes of each type, illustrations of the indicium, illustrations of the Specimen overprints used. Each item is priced for both mint and used. The Lettercard section deals with indicium and coat of arms variations, as well as card types used. The Government railway pictorial postal card shows each illustration used.

The authors and the Society are to be congratulated on bringing the literature to its present detail

CHILE

by Cristian Mouat

Chile Filatélico, issue number 308, period November 2025 to April 2026

68 pages, full color, printed in paper of 130 gr. and hard cover of 180 gr.

Main Articles:

- The Unusual TREN marks in rectangle known from 1874 to 1907, between Coquimbo and La Serena, by Heinz Junge.
- Chile, The Benefit Series "España a Chile" from 1961, a speculative emission? by Milenko Obilinovic.
- A constant error in the transference of the Litography stamps, by Oscar Schublin.
- An issue of Proportions, a postcard fined for excessive text, by José Antonio Herraiz.
- The General Revenue stamps overprinted with law No 16.466-Art. 29, by Matías Hermosilla.





Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

- Caja Fiscal de Lima, used by the Chilean Army, by Julio César Ponce.
- The Chilean Philatelic Society 50 years ago, year 1975, by Cristian Mouat.

COSTA RICA

by Cesar Sancho

Literatura Filatélica Philatelic Literature

Publicaciones en Costa Rica Publications in Costa Rica

Primer semestre de 2026 First Half of 2026

Revista Costa Rica Filatélica. Revista semestral de la Asociación Filatélica de Costa Rica (AFCR).
Semiannual journal published by the Philatelic Association of Costa Rica (AFCR).





Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

Boletines filatélicos de la Asociación Filatélica de Costa Rica (AFCR). Boletín digital de la AFCR, publicado y distribuido mensualmente.

Philatelic Bulletins of the Philatelic Association of Costa Rica (AFCR). Monthly digital bulletin published and distributed by the Philatelic Association of Costa Rica (AFCR).





Literature Commission

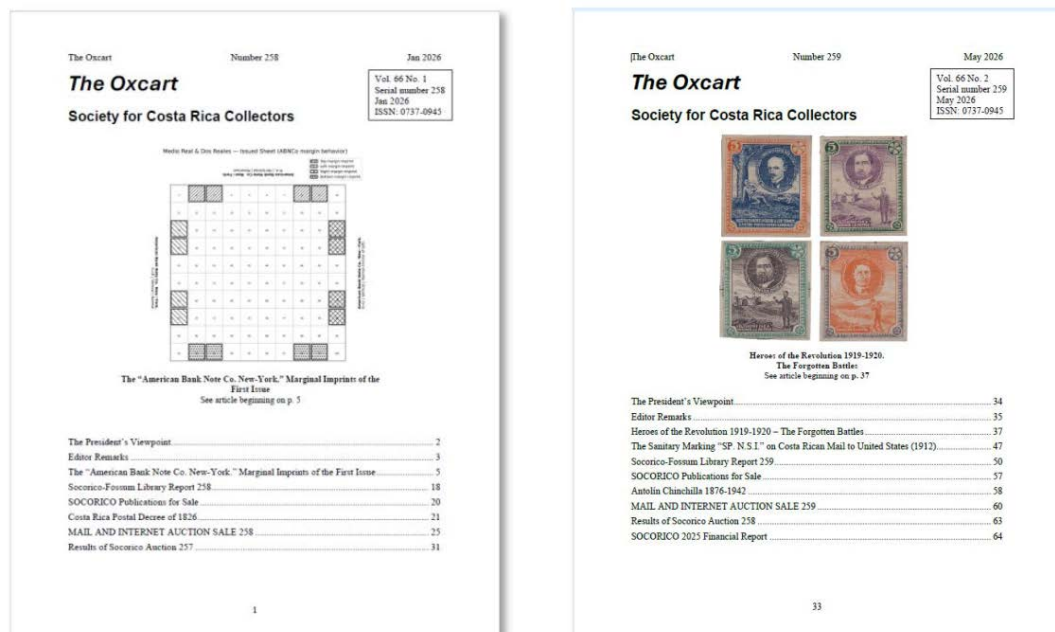
Newsletter June 2026

Repertorio Filatélico Costarricense



The Oxcart. Revista editada en Estados Unidos por la Society of Costa Rica Collectors (SOCORICO)

Journal published in the United States by the Society of Costa Rica Collectors (SOCORICO).



Si desean recibir estas publicaciones, pueden solicitarlas al correo:
Those interested in receiving these publications may request them by email at:
asociacionfilatelica DECR@gmail.com



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

Greece

by Thomas Arvanitis

New publication in Greece

Correspondence between Great Britain and Greece 1838-1861

(ISBN: 978-618-00-6629-6)

This study examines the postal communications between Great Britain and Greece from 1838 to 1861, illustrating the development of postal routes, rates, and transport systems linking the two countries during the formative years of their postal relationship.

The analyzed material includes covers carried via Overland mail, Mediterranean steamship routes, and Packet services, demonstrating the complexity of international postal exchanges prior to the establishment of the Universal Postal Union.

Through the comprehensive analysis of frankings, postal markings, transit handstamps, and routing instructions, this study documents the evolution of bilateral postal arrangements and provides essential philatelic evidence of nineteenth-century Anglo-Greek correspondence.



HONG KONG

by Pang-Chui Shaw

In the Hong Kong Stampex held between 13 and 15 March, there were seven submissions in the literature class. These include: (1) The Aero Postal History of Eurasian Aviation Corporation by David Lu (G). (2) 成都極限集郵文選 (第二輯) by Chengdu Maximaphily Research Association (LV). (3) The Legends of the Philatelic World by Kyaw Htet Aung (V). (4) Myanmar Postage Stamps by Thiha Lwin (LV). (5) 《林軒集郵文選》七卷本 by Lin Xuan (G). (6) 《首都郵學》第十九期 by 馮清海 (V). (7) History of Penny Postage by 阮全三, 姚正根 (LV). Five points were added to the total score to reach the national medal level.

In the Macao 2026 Specialized World Stamp Exhibition held in Macao from 26 June to 1 July, there were three submissions in the literature class. These include: (1) Hong Kong Slogan Cancels by The China Philatelic Association (LV). (2) Kan Tai-Keung's Stamp Design by Wu Wei (S). (3) Essence of Stamps of The People's Republic of China by Phantheon Philatelic Ltd (LS).

The Hong Kong Philatelic Society continues to publish the monthly newsletter distributing to



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

members and officers of the international philatelic societies. The Society also published the 30th issue of the annual journal in March.



Contents	
General	1-2 Editor Note / Hong Kong Philatelic Society Committee 2025-2026 / Patron, Honorary Life President and Honorary Members
	3 Contents
	4-11 Snapshot of Society Activities 2025
	12-14 Philatelic Diary of Hongkong Post 2025by Albert H.K. LAI 黎鴻健
	15 Awards of Journal in 2025
Research and Philatelic Interest — Hong Kong	16-29 Hong Kong and Treaty Ports Insured Letter Mailby Charles CHAN FRPSL 陳遠文
	30-31 Both Canadian AR Cards with Detained in Hong Kong Markings Now Unitedby Sam CHIU Ph.D., FRPSC, FRPSL, FIP Jury Fellow 趙寶靈
	32-57 Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong – 1945 Liberation and Revivalby Simon C.K. CHOI 蔡頌雄 and K.K. HO 何國傑
	58 Hong Kong: 1879 'Provisional' Postal Stationery Cards 18 Cents – Plate Variety Broken 'T' of 'CENTS'by Richard GUREVITCH
	59-61 Update on Queen Victoria 96 cents Olive Bistre Stamp 維多利亞九十六仙橄欖棕色郵票更新資訊by NG Kwai Lung 吳貴龍
	62-64 "To Traverse and Dominate the World" Bruce Lee 85 th Anniversary Commemoration (1940-2025) 《縱橫天下》李小龍85周年紀念 (1940-2025)by NG Kwai Lung 吳貴龍
	65-72 The General Post Offices of Hong Kongby Pamela PANG 彭錦端 and Richard A WHITTINGTON
	73-78 Printing Errors of the 1962-1973 Hong Kong Annigoni Definitivesby Prof. P.C. SHAW 邵騰柱
	79-86 Royal Air Force Censor Covers 1939-1941by Richard A WHITTINGTON
	87-98 Postage Rates to Canada for Letters Sent via The PAA Trans – Pacific Service (FAM-14) 1936-1941by Richard A WHITTINGTON
Chinese Mainland and Others	99-106 Skillful Use of Important Items in Thematic Exhibitsby Gilang ADITTAMA
	107-115 Russian Post Office in China – My Favorite Dozenby Dr. Andrew CHEUNG FRPSL, AIEP 張文德
	116-129 1926-1927 Pan-American 'Good Will' Flightby Richard GUREVITCH
	130-132 The Atlas Moth – A Gentle Giant with Remarkable Features, Widely Represented in Philatelyby Vladimir KACHAN
	133-139 Research on the 1901 "Yushan Letter Bureau" Qiaopi from the Former Collection of U.S. President Roosevelt 美國總統羅斯福舊藏 1901年 "萬山信局" 偽批總包研究by MAK, Kwok Pui 麥國培 and LIU, Shengping 劉盛平

Cover Design: Ken T. Ma & | Layout: @Mak Wai-hing | Printing: @Unger Print (Asia) Ltd. Red

JOURNAL 30 • THE HONG KONG PHILATELIC SOCIETY 3



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

ITALY

by Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi RDP



ITALIA 2026 is an international philatelic literature exhibition set to take place in **Rome** from **15 to 18 October 2026**, organised by the Italian Federation of Philatelic Societies.

The exhibition offers many interesting and innovative features:

- **Rome**, one of the most beautiful and famous cities in the world, is an ideal destination for a philatelic and family-friendly holiday.
- Exhibitors submit applications through an **online form**, avoiding the burden of downloading and re-uploading documents.
- Participants pay the €50 fee online using **PayPal, Visa** or **Mastercard**.
- Jurors will evaluate entries under the **new regulations** defined by a FEPA expert panel led by Giancarlo Morolli RDP. They clearly distinguish between research and divulgative works, allowing also the latter to achieve the best results.
- The **jury** will extend its work **online from June**, using a custom-designed system to collect evaluations.
- Each exhibitor will receive a **brief report** with jury comments.
- **ITALIA 2026** will also host other major international events, including the **FEPA Congress** and meetings of **international associations**.

We are proud to announce that the exhibition enjoys the **Patronage of FEPA**.

INDIA

by Pratisad Neurgaonkar

Dubai WSE 2026

In the Literature Class, a total of seven entries were exhibited. The Indian participants achieved good results, securing three Silver medals and three Silver-Bronze medals.

Indian Performance in Literature at BOSTON 2026 World Expo

India recorded an impressive participation in the Literature Class at the prestigious BOSTON 2026 World Expo, with 23 literature entries, the highest participation by any country after the host nation, the United States.

The Indian literature exhibits achieved the following results:

2 Vermeil Medals, 5 Large Silver Medals, 5 Silver Medals, 9 Silver Bronze Medals and 2 Bronze Medals.

Adding further distinction to India's achievements, Mr. Pratisad Neurgaonkar received the prestigious 24th Lewandowski Award, conferred by the United Postal Stationery Society (UPSS),



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

USA, for his book *Indian Post Cards 1949–2025*. This distinguished international award recognizes outstanding contributions to postal stationery literature. Notably, he became the first Indian philatelist to receive this honor. The award comprises a 280-gram pure silver medal and an honorarium of US\$1,000.

SERBIA

by Milos Vukovic

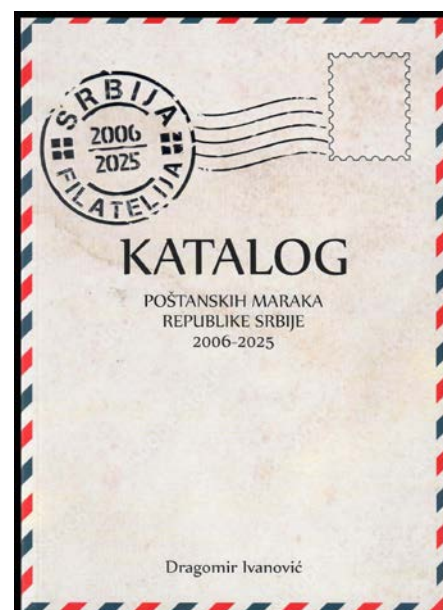


Recent years, Serbian philately has witnessed a notable increase in publishing activity. As is now tradition, the beginning of April marked the release of a new issue of *Filatelist*, Serbia's national philatelic journal.

Volume no 287 is dedicated to a major milestone in the history of Serbian philately—the 75th anniversary of the first national philatelic exhibition. The issue brings together a range of contributions that shed new light on important aspects of Serbia's philatelic heritage. Through original research and newly uncovered material, the authors provide readers with fresh insights into the development of organized philately and the rich history of philatelic exhibitions in the country.

This issue features studies of rare Serbian philatelic material, the Celje issue of the SHS State, Yugoslav airmail operations, postal rates during the inflation period, and recent discoveries in stamp design. Readers will also find articles on twenty years of personalized postage stamps in Serbia, notable museum collections, postal history research, and current developments in Serbian philately.

The end of 2025 saw the publication of the *Catalogue of Postage Stamps of the Republic of Serbia 2006–2025* by **Dragomir Ivanović**, a comprehensive full - color reference work covering two decades of Serbian philately. Combining a traditional catalogue format with several innovative features, it provides collectors with market-based valuations, detailed information on stamp varieties, engravers' marks, vignette layouts, and illustrations of official FDCs, maximum cards, and booklets.



At the beginning of June, what can only be described as a landmark publication was released: *Serbian Postal Stationery, Forms, and Postmarks 1873–1921* (Volume One: *Postal Stationery 1873–1915*). Authored by **Miodrag R. Vuković**, one of the foremost researchers in the history of



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

by Javaid Muhammad

The United Arab Emirates hosted “Dubai 2026 Specialized World Stamp Exhibition” from 4 to 8 February 2026. A total of 72 printed literature exhibits and 3 digital exhibits were entered. One exhibit received large gold medals, while 16 exhibits were awarded gold medals.



The literature display and reading area supervised by Mr. Wolfgang Massan and Mr. Claudia on behalf of the *Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatéliques* (AIJP).

FIP Literature Qualifying Seminar was held on 7 February 2026 in Dubai during “Dubai 2026”

The seminar was conducted in two sessions by distinguished speakers:

- **Dr. Akthem Al-Manaseer (USA):** *Judging a Philatelic Literature Exhibit*
- **Mr. Wolfgang Maassen (Germany):** *Philatelic Literature – The Example of Magazines: Challenges and Problems of Evaluation*



Seminar aimed to promote philatelic literature and provide valuable insights into the judging process & examples of Magazines.



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

UNITED KINGDOM

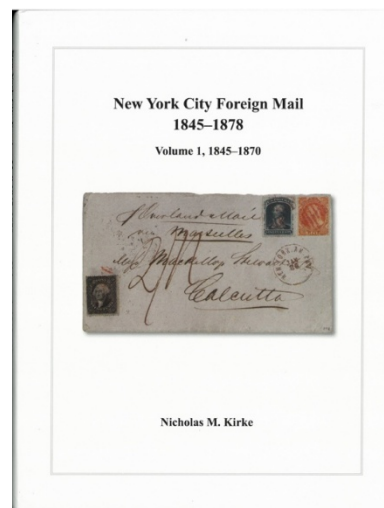
by Captain D. James Podger FRPSL

This year's Crawford Festival, the annual philatelic literature event organised by The Royal Philatelic Society London focused on 'Catalogues', that is stamp catalogues from the early days to looking to the future.

The high calibre speakers: David Beech FRPSL presenting 'Origins, Importance and Context'; Vincent Schouberechts FRPSL with 'Early Belgium Philatelic Literature'; Eduardo Escalada-Goicoechea FRPSL with his presentation on 'Early Postage Stamp Catalogues – The Incunabula Period'; Hugh Jefferies FRPSL on 'The Stanley Gibbons Catalogue, past, Present and Future'; Geoff Kellow RDP FRPSL with 'The Australian Commonwealth Specialist's Catalogue 1926 – 2026'; Jay Bigalke FRPSL talked about 'The Future of Philatelic Catalogues, Print, Digital and What Comes Next'; Kjell Johansen FRPSL presented 'Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Norway, Norgeskatologen'; John Barefoot with 'Revenue Catalogues'. There was also a panel discussion answering questions from the floor. It was great to have speakers coming from Australia and the USA, as well as those from Europe and the UK talking passionately about their collections, editorship and insights from the past and how things might look in the future. Over eighty participants enjoyed the two-day event.

The last item on day two was the announcement of the winner of this year's Crawford Medal. This is awarded for 'the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately published in book form in the relevant period'. The Crawford Medal Committee had placed their votes for the six shortlisted candidates in sealed envelopes and once these were opened it was very close between the top two, with 'New York City Foreign Mail 1845 – 1878' by Nicholas M. Kirke FRPSL the winner of this year's Crawford Medal.

Three of the shortlisted books had received large gold medals at Boston 2026, including the winner.



Next year's Crawford Festival, to be held at the premises of the Royal Philatelic Society London on 22nd and 23rd June 2027, will be on 'Philatelic Literature in an Academic Context'. If you would like to contribute, please contact Nicola Davies, Head of Collections, at daviesn@rpsl.org.uk

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 2025 or 2026. The book does not have to be published by



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

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 London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW or emailed to her at daviesn@rpsl.org.uk to arrive by 31 January 2027 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.

New publications from the Royal Philatelic Society London:

Letter Mail from Portugal to USA Study on Postal Agreements, Rates and Routes 1853-75



Luis Rocha



Luis Rocha is a Portuguese philatelist specialising in the philately and postal history of Portugal during the second half of the 19th century. A member of the Royal Philatelic Society London, the European Academy of Philately, the Clube Filatélico de Portugal, and the Portuguese Philatelic Society, he has published numerous articles in national and international journals and continues to research various themes in philately and postal history.

This scholarly work analyses the complex postal regulations and procedures for mail sent from continental Portugal, Madeira, and the Azores to the United States of America between the introduction of Portugal's first adhesive stamps on 1 July 1853 until its entry into the General Postal Union on 1 July 1875. It details how mail transit relied on intermediary countries, primarily the UK, via various Anglo-American postal conventions. The study provides a thorough examination of the different conventions and arrangements to interpret the complex accounting systems, diverse postage rates, and markings based on this transatlantic mail.

The work's engagement lies in its narrative and deep focus. While literature exists on Portuguese, British, and US postal history, this study concentrates specifically on the outbound mail from Portugal and its arrival in the USA during this 22-year, per-USA period. By including alternative routes (e.g. via France, Belgium, Prussia), it provides a highly focused analysis of the dominant role of the British postal system as the transit link. This allows for a unique interpretation of postal markings by systematically breaking down the complex accounting systems and diverse postage rates under the various Anglo-American and Portuguese-British conventions.



Reconstructing the Borja Freire Issues of Portugal 1853-63

Quantities, Production and Archival Discoveries



Luis Rocha



Letter Mail from Portugal to USA, By Luis Rocha. Retail price £10.50, Members price £9.50. This is a 52 page soft bound publication, full colour in A4 format.

Reconstructing the Borja Freire Issues of Portugal 1853-63, by Luis Rocha. Retail price £10.50, Members price £9.50 This is a 60 page soft bound publication in full colour A4 format.

Both of the above books are available for ordering through the RPSL website (www.rpsl.org.uk).

The Stuart Rossiter Trust will hold a lecture on the 15th September 2026 at 5.00pm at the premises of the Royal Philatelic Society London. This year's Stuart Rossiter Trust Memorial Lecture will be presented by Rob May FRPSL on 'Postal History in the Digital Landscape'. Amongst other topics he will discuss 'preparing and marketing a digital publication' and 'should on-line publications be freely available?'

See the SRT website for further information www.rossitertrust.com Free admission is only by ticket on application to James Podger FRPSL at pee-j-aggie-boo@ntlworld.com



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

by John M. Hotchner

Boston 2026 Literature Competition: Nearly 200 entries were judged by a Jury Team consisting of Koichi Sato (Japan - Team Leader), Christopher Harman (UK), Javaid Muhammad (UAE), and Akthem al Manaseer, (USA). The results can be found by Googling "Boston 2026 Literature Competition results". Noted here is the fact that there were five Large Golds awarded, and 25 Gold medals.

First Day Cover Exhibiting and Judging Workshop held at Macau 2026. Following the successful workshop held during the FIP exhibition in Dubai, a second well attended workshop was held on June 30 during the FIP exhibition held in Macao. Again led by Yigal Nathaniel, the FIP board member chairing the working group which drafted the FIP guidelines, the workshop included four sections comprising an introduction to the history of, and the key aspects of collecting and exhibiting FDCs. Colin Fraser of the USA introduced the workshop and provided an overview of FDC collecting and the ways FDCs are collected and exhibited worldwide; emphasizing that this area of collecting is growing at a rapid pace.

Ying Huang - an active collector of FDCs in China, discussed his experiences as a collector and exhibitor of FDCs in China and at Boston 2026. Wang Zhigang, who is an experienced Chinese judge then discussed the ideas and procedures for judging thematic or topical FDC exhibits. As in Dubai, the workshop concluded with a discussion of the informational sources for FDC collecting and exhibiting; emphasizing philatelic literature that has been published in recent years to aid collectors and exhibitors; specifically:

- * First Day Cover Philatelic Exhibiting: A Master Class, by Andrew McFarlane
- * International Bibliography of First Day Cover Literature by David Zubatsky
- * The Path to Gold: 175 Proven Stamp Exhibiting Tips by Steve Zwilling

Recordings of the presentations from Macao will be available through the FIP Website, <https://www.f-i-p.ch/>

The next FDC Workshop will be presented on August 9 at the Balpex 2026 stamp show (Baltimore, Maryland) which is hosting the annual convention of the American First Day Cover Society. Colin Fraser will lead the discussion, and John Hotchner (who was the Team Leader for the FDC judging team at Boston 2026) will discuss judging FDC exhibits at the FIP level.

The next FIP FDC-experimental class competition will be held as part of the Praga 2028 International exhibition, <https://praga2028.cz/>

New Leadership of the International Committee of the American Philatelic Society Dr. James Mazepa has retired as Chair of the APS International Committee after many years of distinguished service. Ed Kroft, who holds the same position for the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, has been named as his replacement by APS President Mark Banchik.

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Elections: AAPE, which produces an excellent quarterly journal covering developments in the field of exhibiting, provides support for new and inexperienced exhibitors, and advocates changes in how shows are run and judged, is holding



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

elections this year. Nominated to replace outgoing president Ken Nilsestuen is Jan Hofmeyr. Jean Wang is the Vice Presidential nominee, with Vesma Grinfelds as Secretary, Jeff Bennett as Treasurer, and Bobby Liao, Norma Neilson, and Mark Schwartz running for vacant Director positions. AAPE will be celebrating its 40th birthday at the Chicagopex 2026 show later this year.

Chicagopex 2026 is accepting literature entries. Chicagopex is one of the premier philatelic shows in the U.S., and the only one besides the APS Great American Stamp Show to host a full range national literature competition. It will be held this year on November 20-22 in Itasca, Illinois (a Chicago suburb; not far from O'Hare International Airport). It will host its 60th annual literature exhibit and competition. Literature entered in the show will be reviewed by a panel of accredited APS literature judges (Cheryl Ganz, Jury Chair, Tom Lera, and Ken Trettin). They will prepare written feedback on each entry. For further information and entry forms contact Chicagopex Literature Exhibit Chair Ken Trettin at chicagopexliterature@gmail.com, or access entry forms on the Chicagopex 2026 website.

APS Writer's Unit #30 appoints new Editor: *The Philatelic Communicator*, quarterly newsletter of the Writers Unit, has welcomed Wayne Youngblood as its editor effective with the First Quarter, 2026 edition. In his first issue, Youngblood introduced himself: "As a long time philatelic editor/author/journalist, I've become increasingly concerned about the state of philatelic journalism (actually journalism in general, but that's another story.) It appears that few new editors are appearing on the scene as older editors shuffle off to the great newsroom in the sky, and many of those who are entering this shrinking pool don't have a strong grasp of what editing entails. This is where *The Philatelic Communicator* comes in; it should be able to serve as a resource tool to sharpen our skills as editors and authors....." More information about the Writers Unit and a membership application can be found on its website <http://www.wu30.org>.

REGULATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF PHILATELIC LITERATURE IN ITALY

I am very grateful for this opportunity to present the regulations applied at Italia 2026, the International Exhibition of Philatelic Literature. However, I feel it is necessary to describe the path of the regulations, as I was involved in their development for a very long time.

My first experience as a FIP juror dates back to Belgica 1972. When I became Chairman of the FIP Thematic Commission in 1977, I faced two main challenges: achieving convergence of opinions on the newly approved regulations for our class, and managing the series of FIP specialized exhibitions that were being organized exploiting the success of Themabelga 1975. No other class had the privilege of organizing four world exhibitions within eight years, two in Europe and two in South America. As an FIP juror in the Literature Class, I also had the responsibility to evaluate literature exhibits at these shows.

The FIP management elected at the 1980 Congress in Essen launched a new approach to the



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

evaluation of exhibits, based on a general framework to be adapted to the specific characteristics of each philatelic class. Thanks to the deep work already carried out in the field, the thematic regulations were chosen as a reference. In the period leading up to the 1985 FIP Congress, I was therefore deeply involved in the development of the FIP documents which, with appropriate updates, still govern our exhibitions today. In the meantime, the Italian Federation took the initiative to organize the very first FIP exhibition of philatelic literature in Milan in 1982. Four years later, at Ameripex 1986, we witnessed the introduction of publications based on digital technologies, which were rapidly becoming accessible at the individual level thanks to personal computing. At the same time, graphic and communication capabilities were evolving at an extraordinary pace. Most of the special regulations and related guidelines were revised based on feedback from the first years of application, and those for philatelic literature were supplemented with additional provisions; however, digital publications were ignored. The jury at Praga 2008 was a milestone in my experience of judging philatelic literature. The richness of participation was matched by a display that honoured the work of authors and publishers, and the composition of the jury allowed a frank exchange on the challenges posed by exhibitors presenting applications of new technologies, from websites to e-books.

The aftermath, however, was quite different. At the FIP level, it resulted only in the addition of a few lines addressing the evaluation of CDs in the Guidelines approved at the 2012 Congress in Indonesia. The areas of websites and web-based exhibits remained insufficiently defined. In 2012, Mainz hosted IPHLA, where FEPA allowed, on an experimental basis, the use of criteria recently developed by the German Federation (BDPh) as a step towards the future. In addition to covering digital publications, these regulations addressed a significant shortcoming of the existing FIP regulations, which were strongly focused on evaluating philatelic research. As a consequence, a large number of publications developed with different objectives could not achieve the highest awards at FIP level despite the fact they served other important purposes: promoting philately, guiding collectors and exhibitors, analyzing local or regional aspects of philately and postal history, and presenting the history and organization of our field.

This experimental validation at IPHLA proved very positive. A further contribution came from the Spanish Federation (FESOFI), which published detailed regulations and guidelines for evaluating electronic literature. IPHLA 2012 clearly incentivized the development of new international regulations and guidelines. In the absence of other initiatives, the FEPA Board decided to undertake this task, which was finalized at the FEPA Congress in Tampere and implemented experimentally at Finlandia 2017. One year later, Italia 2018 in Verona provided a definitive and successful test of the new criteria. This exhibition was based on careful preparation of the jury work, a two-day prejudging session in Milan with about half of the jurors attending, and a large, highly qualified jury working together at the show.

Unfortunately, it proved impossible to share these experiences with the FIP Philatelic Literature Commission, which later reviewed its criteria at the 2022 Congress in Jakarta without addressing the major points highlighted since IPHLA. For this reason, the FEPA Board entrusted Ari Muhonen and me with drafting new regulations and guidelines. These were reviewed with Wolfgang Maaßen



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

during Hafnia 2024 and submitted to a panel of experts for further evaluation. The FIP Literature Commission and the FIP Board were duly informed that our objective was to accelerate the revision of the FIP regulations. Meetings during Europhilex 2025 helped further improve the text and keep the FIP Board up to date. In November 2025, I presented the final text to the FEPA Board, who brought it to the attention of the FIP Board. In particular, we revised the current "Supplementary Rules" to be provisions of the GREX, as they cover organizational aspects unrelated to the evaluation of the exhibits.

Our effort has been aimed at

- Rethinking the concepts rather than modifying the existing text;
 - Eliminate some biases, like the attitude to judge everything as if it were a monograph;
 - Ensure strict consistency among all the documents concerned, eliminating holes, duplications, and misused terms
- Define a text generic enough to avoid the need for constant updates as the publishing world changes and apt for evaluating different types of literature and formats
- Find a suitable way to define criteria for digital entries since its definition is technology-specific and the technology is moving so fast that we cannot keep up with it ourselves.

Philatelic literature exhibits will be evaluated according to the following criteria.

- The Treatment of Contents criterion pertains to the literary aspects of the work. It requires an evaluation of how the publication's subject (or subjects) are presented in terms of narrative
- The Communication criterion considers the literary style, clarity, and skill in conveying the reader's understanding of the entire story surrounding the subject discussed.
- The Significance criterion reflects the relevance of a publication to its target readers and in the general context of philately.
- The Knowledge, Research and Information criterion considers a publication's content, its usefulness in helping the reader to approach or more deeply understand its subject.
- The Usability features criterion examines the tools provided to make the readers' experience enjoyable and straightforward, focusing on how well the information captures their attention and enables quick, easy access to the details they seek.
- The Presentation criterion concerns "the evaluation of the overall aesthetic appearance of the exhibit" (GREV art. 4.9), i.e. how appealing it is to the reader.

CRITERION POINTS

Treatment of Contents 20

Communication 10

Significance 10

Knowledge, Research and Information 35

Usability Features 20

Presentation 5

TOTAL 100



Literature Commission

Newsletter June 2026

The Jury of Italia 2026 will make extensive use of PDFs during the prejudging period (three months), and all jurors will be asked to assess each entry, first at home and later in Rome.

All exhibitors will receive an evaluation form, including some remarks on how to improve the work.

I hope exhibitors will take advantage of this dedicated show, where publications are at the centre of the stage, and I welcome as many entries as possible at Italia 2026.

Chairing this jury, as in Italia 2018, will be a renewed commitment to ensuring that the exhibition's experimental role benefits the entire philatelic literature community.

GIANCARLO MOROLLI RDP FRPSL DTP
Chairman of the Jury, Italia 2026



Daily Newsletter during
Dubai 2026



Literature Room
Boston 2026



Daily Newsletter during
Macao 2026



Literature Exhibits
Boston 2026



Literature Exhibits
Macao 2026