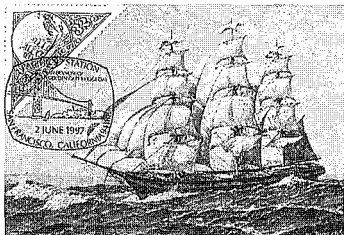


PACIFIC '97 - The Maximaphily Exhibits

The World Philatelic Exhibition PACIFIC 97 was held in San Francisco, California from May 29 to June 8, under the patronage of F.I.P.



The above relevant M.C. (a personal realization), shows the stamp of the Clipper Ship issued on March 13 '97 to promote PACIFIC 97. This stamp and the matching old Swiss postcard by Z.S.T.F. N.60, are tied by the PACIFIC 97 pictorial theme day cancellation of "San Francisco - Golden Gate Bridge Day" of 2 June 1997.

Pacific 97 was a great success. This 11 day event had an attendance of 168.000 people.

There were 133 Postal Administrations, 54 Philatelic Societies, and 218 Dealers present. There were 605 Competitive Exhibits on display from every class of philately. The "Grand Prix d'Honneur" was awarded to SURAJIT GONGVATANA of Thailand for his "Siam: The 19th Century" exhibit.

In the Class of Maximaphily there were seven exhibits, that is 1.15% of the total of 605 exhibits. In previous International Philatelic Exhibitions, Maximaphily was represented by a much higher number of exhibits. For example, there were 17 such exhibits at PRAGA '88; there were 23 PHILEXFRANCE '89 in Paris; 16 at GENOVA '92 in Italy; but only 9 at CAPEX '96 in Toronto, Canada. It seems to me, that the Class of Maximaphily, has yet to gain the respect it deserves, from the North American Philatelic circles.

In contrast to the above mentioned North American criteria, PACIFIC 97 offers us a pleasant surprise, a Maximaphily exhibit, the one by Mrs. M. Kotopouli of Athens, was awarded a Gold Medal, with 90 points, the first ever Gold Medal at an International level. This achievement by Mrs. Kotopouli, calls for a celebration, as it is not only a personal achievement, but also a landmark in the history of Maximaphily, that we all can rejoice in Congratulations go to Mrs. Kotopouli.

The 7 maximaphily exhibits are listed below in the order of their achievement.

1. SITES MONUMENTS OUTSIDE EUROPE UNTIL 1940 (8 Frames)

Gold medal, with 90 points by Margaret A. KOTOPOULI of Greece. A tour of the countries outside Europe with M.C. showing the sites and monuments of these countries with cards cancelled prior to 1940. Among the gems in this collection a M.C. of Christopher Columbus from Guatemala with a 3 VII 1935 postmark.

2. DECOUVRONS LA BELGIQUE (5 Frames)

Vermeil medal, with 84 points (the same points at CAPEX '96) by Marie-Louise HENRIET of Belgium.

She traced the history of Belgium from antiquity to the present, focusing on her country's architectural, artistic and scientific achievements. Excellent presentation with attention to detail. One of the gems in her collection was Rubens' self-portrait with a Dec.8, 1931 postmark.

3. CYPRUS - CROSSROADS OF THREE CONTINENTS

Vermeil medal, with 80 points (an increase of 9 points from CAPEX '96) by Nicos RANGOS of Cyprus.

This exhibit presented the environment, flora and fauna, history and culture of Cyprus as influenced by its position between three continents.

This exhibit had some unique old M.C.'s of British Cyprus, e.g. the Ancient Theatre of Soli.

4. LES MILITAIRES DANS LA PAIX ET DANS LA GUERRE

Large Silver medal with 77 points, by David Rodrigues Cruz, of Portugal.

This exhibit presented military figures from the Roman times (e.g. Caesar Augustus) to the present. Many cards dated from the 1930's and earlier. One of the gems in this exhibit was King Leopold II of Belgium, with a 17 IX 1908 postmark.

5. LA SCULPTURE ET LE TEMPS

Large Silver medal; with 75 points (unfortunately a decrease of 5 points from the Vermeil medal at CAPEX '96), by Alfredo PEREIRA DOS PASSOS of Brazil.

He presented the evolution of sculpture from Ancient Greek, to Roman, to Gothic, to Renaissance, to Baroque, until the 19 th century. Among the gems in this exhibit the Discobolus from Belgium with a 27 X 1920 postmark.

6. THE ART OF MOSAICS

Silver medal, with 71 points, by George CONSTANTOURAKIS of Canada.

An in depth study of the historical development of the Art of Mosaics in two major categories: Ancient Mosaics, 4 th cent. B.C. to the 5 th cent. AD, and Religious Mosaic, 4 th to 19 th century AD. The M.C.'s in this exhibit date only from the 1950's to the present, as the earliest stamp with a mosaic dates from 1948. One of the gems in this exhibit, is the Neptune (Oceanus) from Tunisia with a 20 VI 1953, Musée du Bardo, postmark.

7. COMPARED HISTORY OF THE ROMANIAN LITERATURE

Silver Bronze medal, 67 points, by Mihail SEMENOV of Romania.

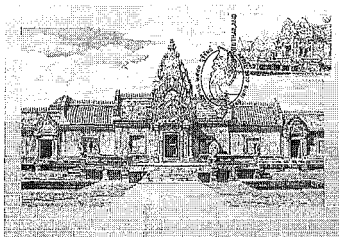
This exhibit presented Romanian literary figures and paired them with comparable European literary figures. The M.C.'s date from the 1940's onwards, with many concordant cancellations.

G. Costantourakis

28 Luglio 1997

Egregio Signor Morera,

scrivo questa mia per inviarle le mie più sentite felicitazioni per la nomina a Presidente Onorario a vita. Nomina meritata dopo tanto lavoro che lei ha adempiuto egregiamente durante questi 4 o 5 anni che ci conosciamo. Speriamo che l'A.I.M. continui ad ingrandirsi come quanto durante il suo periodo di presidenza, che sia bella, leggibile ed attraente. La leggevo tutta dalla prima pagina all'ultima, speriamo che lo sia ancora. Le invio 4 C.M. emesse dalle Poste centrali della Thailandia col nuovo timbro speciale, non di Bangkok ma del luogo dove si trova il vecchio tempio e cioè Buriram, capoluogo di provincia al NE della Thailandia.



Fiorenzo Grassi