

December 2021 President's Page

In March 2022 I'm planning to attend Australia's first National Exhibition for the year, in our National Capital, Canberra.

It is in fact our first such National Exhibition in two years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has gripped Australia and the world since early 2020! It is really ironic that the virus should emanate from Wuhan, the last city in which there was a FIP World Exhibition, China 2019.

Australia usually holds two National Exhibitions each year, always in different State Capitals or major cities. These exhibitions hold anything from 400 to 800 Frames. In addition, the country has an annual One Frame Exhibition, usually in Regional City; again, upwards of 80 Frames. And of course, I shall be exhibiting new entries at Canberra. The theme for Canberra is **RESILIENCE & RECOVERY!** It aligns with the slogan used by the Queensland State Government in its venue check-in app of Unite and Recover.

In this year 2022, there will be a veritable smorgasbord of FIP Patronage and Recognition Exhibitions. Partly new endeavours and partly a carryover from the past two years of having no exhibitions.

Virtual exhibitions across the globe have allowed us to practice our Hobby, but these are no panacea for the real thing.

Whilst most of the world is slowly recovering and flying is edging back to normal, many countries are facing renewed outbreaks of the virus or new variants of it; and the dreaded compulsory hotel quarantine or home isolation remain a reality to us all. I shall endure 14 days of isolation on my return from London and again when I fly home from HUNFILEX 2022.

I was invited by the Greek Federation to be Jury member at NOTOS 2021, but the uncertainty of returning home meant the cancelation of my attendance. By all accounts it was a wonderful exhibition, and I'm saddened to have missed it. My congratulations to Costas Chazapis and his team for such a stirring endeavour.

We must not let this virus stop our road back to a normal life.

I encourage you all to attend at least two of the many Exhibitions scheduled for 2022, and of course to support with work and exhibit at your annual National Exhibition.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas, and prosperous and safe New Year.



**Bernard Beston**  
**FIP President**

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**FIP President**



## NOTOS 2021 - European Philatelic Exhibition

In November, Athens welcomed our fellow philatelists from all over Europe and beyond to attend the long-awaited NOTOS 2021 – European Philatelic Exhibition. After a prolonged period of confinement, the wide smile on everyone's face upon their arrival at the venue revealed their joy to be able to meet again. Live at last!

The four-day exhibition, 19-22 November, was organised by the Hellenic Philatelic Society (not to be confused with the Hellenic Philatelic Federation), a Society which will celebrate its centennial in 2025. NOTOS 2021 was held under the patronage of the President of the Hellenic Republic, Ms. Katerina Sakellariopoulou. It was also held under the patronage of FEPA, AIJP and AEP, as well as the recognition of the FIP.

The event took place at the Zappeion, a magnificent and historical building, built in the 1880s and host to the fencing competition of the 1896 first modern Olympic Games. The Zappeion is located next to the National Garden, only a few steps away from the all-marble Panathenaic Stadium, or a short walk from the Acropolis, the Plaka district, Syntagma Square, the Parliament and the Presidential Mansion.

Exhibitors from 44 countries filled around 1400 exhibition frames of high quality material and sent more than 100 titles in the Literature section. These exhibits along with an outstanding Court of Honour, including remarkable items shown to the public for the first time, were spread out in seven interconnecting halls for the visitors to admire.



*At the frames.*

A sixteen metre long installation in the Court of Honour with seven display windows was the highlight of the exhibition. It comprised three sections dedicated to:

- (a) The seven 1861 Large Hermes Heads printing plates, six of them intact, the seventh reassembled in 2020, in order to be ready for display at the exhibition.
- (b) Eleven of the thirteen Solferinos known to date, the most elusive Greek stamp, an 1871 40 lepta colour error.
- (c) The original die of the medallion of the Large Hermes Head, engraved by Albert Barre, along with its unique matrix.

Also in display in the Court of Honour were:

- (d) A dozen of documents brought in by the General State Archives, all related to the genesis of the Hellenic Post (1823-1828).
- (e) An exhibit by the Historical Archive of the National Bank of Greece.
- (f) The multi-awarded exhibits of Jean Voruz (Geneva 1839-62), Chris King (*Lübeck before 1868*) and Wolfgang Bauer (*Mail to and from Greece to 1875*) as well as a selection of Stavros Andreadis' exhibit (*Large Hermes Heads*).

The 30-member Jury was headed by Honorary President Bill Hedley, President George Thomareis, Vice-President Per Mortensen and Secretary Bernard Jimenez. Jean François Brun led the Expert Team. Of the two Senior Consultants, FIP President Bernie Beston couldn't make the trip he so much desired, due to the shortage of incoming flights to Australia. Four apprentices' evaluation plus one cross-accreditation were also part of the jurors' programme. Out of 285 exhibits judged, 17 Large Gold and 49 Gold medals were awarded.



NOTOS 2021 jury in front of the Zappeion colonnade.

The palmares dinner took place at the Radisson Blue Park Hotel Athens on the 22nd November. The three Grand Prizes were awarded as follows:

#### **Grand Prix de la Classe des Champions**

Winner: Dr. Morani, Vittorio (Italy), *Tuscany 1836 to GPU (up to 30 June 1875) "Letter mail in, from and to Tuscany: routes, rates and charges"*

Runner up: Komnæs, Tom (Norway), *Norwegian Skilling Covers – domestic and abroad*



**Grand Prix International**

Winner: Hackmey, Joseph (Turkey), *Tughra Stamps of the Ottoman Empire 1862-1864*

Runner up: Frenkel, Dmytro (Ukraine), *RSFSR and USSR foreign exchange control stamps 1922-1941*

Runner up: Bornmann, Johannes (Germany), *Nepal, Pre-Philately and Classic*

**Grand Prix National**

Winner: Karagianidis, Anestis (Canada), *Greece: The 1896 Olympic Issue*



Joseph Hackmey with his “Tughra stamps of the Ottoman Empire” receives NOTOS 2021 Grand Prix International from Bernard Jimenez, FIP Vice-President, in front of the two runners-up: Dmytro Frenkel and Johannes Bornman.

NOTOS 2021 was based on the prototype set out a few years back at NOTOS 2015. An exhibition designed basically for the needs of the exhibitors: low participation fees, high philatelic standards, a reasonably well updated, multi-lingual website, the introduction of 2- and 3-frame exhibits, the need of sending one instead of two literature exhibits etc.

The finances of the exhibition were balanced by donations from members and friends of the Hellenic Philatelic Society and NOTOS 2021, as well as by contributions of a number of private companies. Special mention is due to the Major Sponsor, A. Karamitsos International Auctions, and to the Key Partner, the Hellenic Post. It should also be mentioned that the work of the OC would never be materialized without the assistance of dedicated volunteers. Among other minor or major tasks, they assumed the load of mounting and dismounting the exhibits plus the work in the Bin Room, assisted the readers at the Literature section, and offered directions to the visitors at the exhibition Welcome Booth. The Hellenic Philatelic Society and NOTOS 2021 OC are grateful to all.

NOTOS 2021 website: <https://www.hps.gr/notos2021>

**Costas Chazapis**  
Head of NOTOS 2021 OC