

# NOTOS 2021 – Exhibition Philately Back Again!

Wolfgang Maassen

After a two-year interruption due to the pandemic, the courageous Greeks organised in the Hellenic Philatelic Society, the national association of Greek philatelists, dared to present a large show of the best exhibits from more than 30 European countries in Athens from 18-21 November. Located on the southern edge of the Greek capital, not far from the Acropolis, the venue was the Zappeion, a magnificent neoclassical building in unmistakably Greek style inaugurated in 1888. It was an excellent place to present the 285 valuable exhibits - well protected from daylight. 30 jurors, including two members of the so-called Expert Team, as well as four jury trainees, had their hands full making the final decisions.

Every day there were certainly several hundred visitors, on Saturday, 20 November, considerably more, who besieged the stand of the Greek Post Office and that of the well-known

Greek auction house Karamitsos, but then they also viewed individual exhibits which were arranged in rows all around this beautiful circular building. Surely this exhibition, which truly was worth seeing, would have deserved far more visitors. But in Corona times, one is already happy if people find their way at all.

Of course, Athens also attracted us with its rich culture, the Acropolis, countless unique museums and its uncounted restaurants, where there was something for everyone according to taste and budget. Provided you were vaccinated twice or tested and wearing a mask. Because this was thoroughly checked in every shop, in every pub, even in all the hotels. Thanks to a few nice warm days, one endured all this with composure. In return, Athens excelled with its typical hospitality.



## Good results: not only for German exhibitors

19 German exhibitors were represented with one or more exhibits. Dr Wolfgang Leupold was awarded gold with "Inflation in Soviet Russia", So was Arnim Knapp with "The simplification of Postal Services with Switzerland". Wilhelm Grundmann was on the same level with his Mongolia exhibit, Dieter Egelriede with the thematic collection on ancient Greek mathematics, and literature exhibitor Wolfgang Maassen was the recipient of two gold medals. Rüdiger Fritz with "Athens 1896 - The return of the Olympic Games" received Grand Gold with 95 points and a special prize, and Johannes Bornmann even achieved the Grand Gold Medal with his Nepal collection and 96 points and was one of the three candidates for the Grand Prix International. In the end, he was narrowly outdone by Joseph Hackmey from Israel/England, in whose favour the vote of the President of the Jury was the decisive factor.

All in all, the exhibitors could be satisfied with their scores, even if, as always, there were some doubtful results. The fact that at the Palmares the exhibition management completely forgot the gold and grand gold awards for the literature exhibitors was not pleasing for those present, but one of the mishaps that was gladly forgiven in view of the good mood. "See you again in..." was written on the back of the printed Palmares. Maybe in five years? Who knows?



Left: Stavros Andreadis, right: Anestis Karagiannidis

## Impressive Edition d'or/Special Presentation of the Global Philatelic Network in Athens

At the Zappeion in Athens on 21 November 2021, in the presence of 50 and more guests from Germany and abroad, Dieter Michelson, co-owner and managing director of Heinrich-Köhler-Auktionen in Wiesbaden, presented two new books published in the well-known book series. Maria Gkasziou, a Greek employee of the house, translated the texts for the numerous Greek guests present, which Michelson read in his usual brilliant manner. Volume 60 of the book series, which now counts a total of around 80 volumes, was dedicated to the Greece colle-

ction ("Great Hermes Heads 1861-1886") by Stavros Andreadis. The connoisseur knows that such a documentation book already appeared ten years ago, at that time with 156 pages (volume 28 of the book series). The expanded new edition now has 183 pages, almost 20 per cent more. But the classic rarities and singular specialties that are presented here for the first time are worthy of attention.

The second book was "Greece - The 1896 Olympic Issue. The Anestis Karagiannidis Collection", a 161-page documentation by a Greek living in Canada, who was also there in person. Understandably, this work also fitted perfectly into the framework of NOTOS, and much applause accompanied the perfectly delivered presentation. At the end of the presentation, both authors of the collection had their hands full signing their books. Traditionally, a small champagne reception concluded this event.



Thomas Höpfner read his text in German, Maria Gkasziou translated it into Greek.

## At NOTOS in Athens, Thomas Höpfner presented IBRA 2023.

NOTOS was yesterday, IBRA is tomorrow. 2022 is a decisive year. Because that is when you have to register for the World Exhibition which will take place in May 2023 in conjunction with the Essen International Stamp Fair. The IBRA team is already back at work planning this major event, which has been postponed by two years from 2021. Thomas Höpfner, member of the IBRA team and commissioned co-organiser, took the opportunity of the Edition d'Or presentation to introduce the upcoming event in more detail. He explained the essential elements, highlighted the important deadlines and invited all the guests listening to take part in this show of philately with their exhibits. One could really feel the interest of the guests present, one or the other of whom will certainly be seen again in Essen in 2023. In this respect, the BDPH had done well to promote IBRA, though it was striking that the HELVETIA 2022 exhibition taking place in Lugano in half a year's time did not take advantage of such an opportunity. Translation: vS