

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting

Venice, 4 November 2016

The Ordinary General Meeting was opened by the president, Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi, at 15:15.

Approval of the minutes of the 2015 Ordinary General Meeting

The minutes of the 2015 Ordinary General Meeting, which took place in Monaco in December 2015, were unanimously approved. These minutes were published in *Trait d'Union* 3 - 2015.

President's report

A minute's silence was observed in memory of nine deceased academy members: Umberto d'Arro, Jerzy Bartke, Joseph Bergier, Ernst Bernardini, Georges Guyaux, Yves Le Vern, Knud Mohr, Jacques Renollaud and John Sacher.

- Resignation

There have been two resignations since the last general meeting: Stefano Alessio and Jean Duson.

- Dismissal for non-payment of the membership subscription

Four members have been dismissed for non-payment of the membership subscription: Michel Coulanges, Hansmichael Krug, André Van Dooren and Pedro Vaz Pereira.

- Review

Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi presented a review of his three-year term of office, which ended this year. He reminded us that he took office in December 2013 in Monaco and named those who had worked on the board over the last three years.

The membership situation in 2013 was as follows

261 members, including 37 honorary members. Country breakdown:

Austria (3), Belgium (35), Bolivia (1), Bulgaria (1), Croatia (1), Cyprus (2), Czechia (3), Denmark (3), Egypt (2), Finland (3), France (64), Germany (16), Greece (1), Israel (1), Italy (21), Lebanon (1), Luxembourg (4), Monaco (2), Montenegro (1), Netherlands (6), Poland (11), Portugal (7), Romania (5), Russia (7), Saint Pierre and Miquelon (1), San Marino (2), Serbia (4), Slovenia (2), Spain (15), Sweden (4), Switzerland (10), Tunisia (1), Turkey (1), Ukraine (1), United Kingdom (13) and United States (6).

One of the objectives of this term of office was to rebalance the membership across Europe as well as to establish stricter rules for the admission of new members.

The membership situation in 2016 was as follows

241 members, including 34 honorary members. Country breakdown:

Austria (1), Belgium (31), Bolivia (1), Bulgaria (1), Croatia (1), Cyprus (2), Czechia (2), Denmark (2), Egypt (2), Finland (3), France (58), Germany (13), Gibraltar (1), Greece (2), Ireland (1), Israel (1), Italy (20), Japan (1), Lebanon (1), Luxembourg (3), Monaco (2), Montenegro (1), Netherlands (6), Norway (1), Poland (10), Portugal (6), Romania (4), Russia (8), Saint Pierre and Miquelon (1), Serbia (4), Slovenia (2), Spain (14), Sweden (5), Switzerland (9), Tunisia (1), Turkey (1), Ukraine (2), United Kingdom (9), and United States (8).

We have members in 31 European countries and in 8 countries outside Europe.

The notion of an honorary president was introduced during the January 2015 extraordinary general meeting and Henk Slabbinck was awarded the title during the following ordinary general meeting.

- AEP awards

The 2013 European Philatelic Literature Prize was awarded to Wolfgang Maassen and Vincent Schouberechts, with the 2015 prize going to Serge Kahn and Hal Vogel.

The 2015 European Philatelic Press Prize was awarded to *Documents philatéliques*, and the 2016 prize went to *Le Philatéliste belge*.

The 2013 European Prize for Philatelic Merit was awarded to Henk Slabbinck.

- 2015-2016 activities

The joint event with the Académie de Philatélie (France) in Paris in January 2015.

The Europhilex exhibition in London in May 2015.

The International Polar Philately Exhibition in Monaco in December 2015 as part of MonacoPhil 2015. The two Grands Prix for the competition were provided by the AEP. They consisted of polar animals made from Murano glass.

Igor Rodin presented Rossica 2016.

There was a large AEP delegation in New York for the World Stamp Show 2016.

Ties featuring the AEP logo (two colours: red or blue) as well as a medal for the AEP awards have been created recently.

The Binos Literature Award (Greece) was awarded to the AEP for its publication, *Opus*.

Jean-François Logette* has put a huge amount of effort into creating the European Parliament Prize. It will be awarded for the first time at the gala dinner on 5 November and will be presented to Carlo Giovanardi by Elisabetta Gardini MEP.

The president's report was approved unanimously.

Introduction of new members

Six new members joined the AEP after the 2015 General Meeting in Monaco.

They are: Ivar J. Sundsbø (Norway), Vladimir Boiko (Ukraine), Lars Jorgensen (Belgium), Louis Fanchini (France), Vittorio Morani (Italy) and Richard Garcia (Gibraltar).

Two new "candidate" members were in attendance and became full members: Vladimir Boiko and Vittorio Morani.

Four new members retained their "candidate" status: Ivar J. Sundsbø, Lars Jorgensen, Louis Fanchini and Richard Garcia.

One former member retained his "candidate" status: Jean-Claude Vasseur.

Treasurer's financial report

Michel Letailleur presented us with the operating account for the 2015 financial year which ended with a surplus of €18,525.73 and confirmed that the AEP was doing well.

There were no questions about the accounts.

Auditor's report

The auditor's report from Jacques Wils was also presented to the members at the meeting. It ended as follows: *"The 2015 surplus and the level of cash reserves demonstrate that our Academy is in good financial health. Together with the high-quality management and appropriate choices made over the last few years by the Presidents and Board, this result is also the fruit of all of our members' contributions."*

The accounts were approved and the treasurer granted discharge unanimously, minus one abstention.

Report from the editor of *Opus*

The president thanked Guy Coutant for the work he had done for *Opus* and gave him the floor. He told us a bit about what to expect in *Opus XVII*, which will be ready in the spring in time to be presented in Tampere during the FINLANDIA 2017 stamp exhibition. The theme will therefore focus on Scandinavian countries.

The absolute deadline for submitting articles is 31 January 2017.

Luis Frazao took to the floor to inform us that the launch of the latest *Opus XVI* in New York was not a success. It is hoped that we will have more success in Finland in 2017.

The president stated that things would be easier in Finland and that our publication would be presented during the preview event.

Report from the editor of *Trait d'Union*

The president thanked Jean Voruz for his excellent work on the AEP bulletin, which will continue to be published as often as possible, in French and English. Jean Voruz confirmed that the second bulletin of the year would be ready in a few weeks' time and reiterated his request for submissions from members.

Alessandro Agostosi is continuing to manage *La pièce européenne du trimestre* and hopes to receive proposals from members.

Election of the President

Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi stood for re-election. No other candidates stood. Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi was elected unanimously.

Election of the Board of Directors

The proposed board of directors was elected unanimously. It is composed of the outgoing members plus Rainer von Scharpen who is replacing Henk Slabbinck. As honorary president, Henk had been invited to each board meeting.

2017 activities

- **Azores** Luis Frazao informed us that the planned 3- to 4-day trip to the Azores (18 to 21 February 2017) when "the flowers are at their best" is no longer confirmed due to a lack of attendees. The price was quoted based on there being 35 attendees but there are currently only 20 people registered. The deadline for registering has been extended to 2 December 2016.

- **Calais** The Amicale Philatélique de Calais (Calais Philately Club) is organising an event on 22 and 23 April 2017 to celebrate its 90th anniversary. The AEP, Académie de Philatélie (Paris) and Académie de Philatélie de Belgique will be attending. There will be a polar philately exhibition and a special stamp will be issued commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of polar explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot.

The proposed main theme for speakers (15 to 30 minutes) is:

European maritime and air postal exchanges for the first lines between Europe and North America.

Provisional programme:

31/12/2016: Deadline for submitting speaker and exhibitor proposals.

21/04/2017: Setting up collections

22/04/2017

10 am: Opening of the exhibition and temporary "first day of issue" office

11 am: First day ceremony

2 pm: Start of talks in the main auditorium

8 pm: Dinner at "Au Côte d'Argent" with a panoramic sea view looking out over the Calais sea wall.

23/04/2017

10 am: Opening of the exhibition and temporary "first day of issue" office

10:30 am: Start of talks in the main auditorium

5 pm: Taking down collections.

- **FINLANDIA 2017** Peter Suhadolc has arranged for the AEP to attend the Tampere event in May 2017.

- **GABRA VI** Jean Voruz announced that the GABRA VI exhibition would be taking place in Burgdorf, near Bern, from 29 September to 1 October 2017.

The Swiss GABRA exhibition takes place approximately every six years. It focuses on postal stationery, as well as postal history in general.

As it has done in the past, the Consilium Philateliae Helveticae is calling for foreign academies to provide speakers for the conference sessions. The AEP has been invited and will attend.

2017 General Meeting

The General Meeting will take place in Monaco during MonacoPhil 2017 (30 November to 2 December 2017).

Other business

Andrey Strygin had prepared a postcard for members attending the meeting.

Each year, the Russian society awards two prizes. This year, Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi and Vladimir Boiko were the recipients.

The members attending the 5 November symposium will be given a gift from Paolo Vaccari as well as Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi & Piero Macrelli's publication on Italy and Eastern Africa.

Rainer von Scharpen told us about the AIJP (International Association of Philatelic Journalists) and its important role in standardising philatelic literature requirements.

There was no other business.

The Ordinary General Meeting was closed by president Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi at 4:50 pm.

Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi

President

S. Kahn

Secretary-General

*Jean-François Logette was awarded the European Philatelic Merit medal (MPE) during the gala dinner on 5 November.