Philatelic Material in Thematic Philately Exhibits

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PHILATELIC SUMMIT

*The **Malmö 3rd International Philatelic Summit** will be conducted 25-27 April 2014. For the third time this will again be a well-attended event with delegates from around the world - more than 100 with 21 different nationalities.*

The Summit is a "destination event" for philatelists. The interest in exhibiting in all of its facets is so strong that people dedicate a whole weekend to the formal presentations with 'Questions & Answers' and informal discussions that will pepper the three days. The Summit Paper Series is planned with six releases in conjunction with the third Summit, three prior to the Summit and additionally three after the Summit. This Paper is #8 by Jari Majander and is released and available to the delegates a month prior to the Summit.

In the thematic philately context Jari is well-known. Since long time back Jari is an international exhibitor with large gold first time achieved on FIP in China 2009 - the same exhibition as my own first large gold medal on FIP. The fact that Jari and I received our first large gold medals at the one and same exhibition is symbolic with that both of us belong to the same generation of thematic philatelists. Our both exhibits have followed each other in their careers. Jari and I have both been inspired by the icon in the thematic philately world, Damian Läge, who not only has inspired us but a whole generation of thematic philatelists for more than 20 years.

Jari's thematic philately exhibit is titled "The Wheels of Chance - The Bicykling Society". Basically it's a story about bicycles developed in a very personal way. Jari's presentation to the Summit will deal with how the selection of philatelic material to thematic philately exhibits is being conducted. The wrong image of thematic philately is that there are too many rules connected with the discipline. It's time now to change this wrong perception of thematic philately. Thematic philately has only five rules defined in the regulations as:

Like the rest of us in the currently active generation of thematic philatelists, Jari Majander (left) has been educated and inspired by the great mentor for thematic philatelists - Damian Läge (right) - herewith congratulating Jari winning the Grand Prix at the European Championship for Thematic Philately 2011 in Essen.

The concept shown by the exhibit

The selection of material must be based on philatelic qualification

The selection of material must be based on thematic qualification

The selection of material must be based on philatelic range and quality

The presentation of the exhibit

"Material, Material, Material" occurs three times which proves the importance of the philatelic material in thematic philately (as in all other philatelic disciplines).

I know Jari as one of the most careful thematic philately students when it comes to researching thematic and philatelic connections and criterion for the selection of philatelic material made to his outstanding thematic philately exhibit. Based on Jari's own performance in this field of application, he is the perfect lecturer to ask for this presentation and the straight on approach he has adopted in this Paper is well supporting his presentation to be held in Malmö on the 26th April.

Thanks Jari for this distinctly written Paper carrying on the tradition of excellence in the Summit Paper Series.

Jonas Hällström

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Jari Majander (left) lives in Finland and is the national delegate from Finland to the FIP Thematic Philately Commission. He is editor of the Finnish language thematic magazine, member of Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatéliques (AIJP), secretary of the Finnish Committee for Exhibition and Jury Matters, a national exhibition commissioner for Finland and an FIP accredited judge in thematic philately. With his thematic philately exhibit "The Wheels of Chance" he won the Grand Prix International at NORDIA 2005. The above photo is from 2011 when Jari won the Grand Prix at the European Championship for Thematic Philately in Essen, Germany.

According to Article 3.2 of the General Regulations of the FIP for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions (GREV) exhibits shall consist of relevant philatelic material. What is relevant philatelic material is defined in the Special Regulations of the FIP for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits (SREV) of each competitive class. This Philatelic Summit Paper defines philatelic material appropriate for thematic philately exhibits and it is based on the SREV of the thematic philately class.

Besides defining philatelic material for thematic exhibits, this Paper illustrates a spectacular range of such material. Exhibits in the thematic philately class stand out from exhibits of other competitive classes with the inclusion of as many different types of philatelic material as possible. And not only different types of philatelic material, but also material produced by different postal services, in different time frames and by different postage stamp issuing entities in different geographical regions.

Trying to manage such a rich variety of philatelic material in a single exhibit is demanding, challenging and fascinating. To become a successful thematic philatelist requires not only deep thematic knowledge of the chosen theme, but also wide philatelic knowledge in general and of the material connected to the theme in particular. One can say that a thematic philatelist is a general philatelist: perhaps knowing little about everything - or as a traditional philatelist would say it - at least knowing some things about something.

For those readers who are not so familiar with the key concepts of thematic philately, read on. The concepts, such as the thematic qualification of philatelic material, will be briefly explained. However, the main emphasis is on the non-thematic aspects of thematic philately, that is, the appropriate philatelic material.

Jari Majander