

EXPONET

Virtual International Philatelic Exhibition

Internet quickly became the integral part of our life and brings also the new facilities to our philatelic activities. Many collectors use it to find useful information, to get new interesting material for their collections and also to contact the other collectors in the world. In this contribution I would like to inform you about the Czech philatelic web portal "Japhila.cz", which brings another new and interesting facility. Two years ago (or so) there started the new project – virtual philatelic exhibition, so called EXPONET. As usually, it started slowly and quietly, but now it grows very fast.

The basic idea of EXPONET is to present interesting philatelic exhibits in an electronic form, and make them available to many more people than standard philatelic shows or exhibitions can ever do. The great advantage is that you can browse these exhibits with no hurry sitting comfortably at home with your favourite cup of coffee or tea and study what you want. On standard philatelic exhibitions you have hardly enough time to see everything and only seldom you have a chance to see exhibits of collectors from the far-away countries.

Currently the number of displayed exhibits grows to 100 joining another 1-2 weekly. Few Czech collectors with their exhibits were on the start, but now you can see there interesting performance of collectors from many European countries, United States, Australia and others. You can see interesting philatelic material from any quarters covering not only the Czech territory, but also quite good portion of the world, not excepting unusual territories and postal historical events. For example you can see there items from Bolivia, Levante, Bangladesh, Tibet as well as covers from air mail crashes, scout post, pneumatic post, special exhibits informing about certain forgeries etc. Many exhibits were highly appraised on competitive presentations.

EXPONET is not a regular competitive exhibition. There are no real limits for the presentation, any number of pages could be placed. Of-course reasonable and interesting material transparently ordered is expected. This allows to show successfully presented well known exhibits as well as quite new ones, and even more purposely made up studies could be displayed. I believe that this really open wide variety of quite new and maybe surprising possibilities in presentations of philatelic material. The great advantage is that all the presentations could be virtually concentrated in one place, which allows simple search for all visitors.

I am not involved in this project, but I feel that it is very clever idea and so I want to support it. Even more, I see a great opportunity for perfin collectors step by step to built up a special perfin section on the EXPONET and this way transparently present our common subject of interest. I believe that there exist many nice and valuable perfin exhibits, which many other collectors could otherwise hardly see.

Currently there are only 4 small perfin exhibits on the EXPONET mentioning rather the existence of perfins than showing all the possibilities of this interesting area :

- The oldest Perfins on Austrian Stamps
- The Perfins of Bulgaria and Greece
- Firmenlochungen der Deutschen Banken (Perfins of German Banks)
- Perfins sur Hradcany Emissions (Perfins on the first Czechoslovak stamp issue)

They are all available in the section for postal history.

I believe, that with your support this small group of perfin presentations could quickly grow up and become a valuable part of the EXPONET, there is space enough ! You can visit EXPONET on the address <http://www.japhila.cz/hof> . If you want me to assist anyhow, I am available on the mail address jav.munz@volny.cz .

Vladimir Munzberger, Czech republic