

Germania



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The Society's website: <http://www.germanphilately.org>

Several members have asked recently for information about the Society's website. The website has both visitors' and members' only message-boards for posting queries, answers, information, or simply to provide another way to share enjoyment in your hobby; you can attach a picture to your message if you wish. Society news and details of Regional Group meetings, Study Groups, publications and recent articles in Germania, are all kept up to date on the website. The password for the Members' only sections is Adler.

EXPONET: <http://www.japhila.cz/hof>

Exponet is a website which sets out to provide a virtual, international, non-competitive philatelic exhibition consisting of exhibits of outstanding quality. The website offers a new dimension to our hobby, a way in which anyone with access to the internet may be able to study and enjoy exhibits of high quality material in what may be considered a more practical and convenient way than travelling to an international exhibition to view such material in the traditional frame format. The creators of this concept, two Czech philatelists, have approached various specialist Societies seeking their help in widening the scope of the 'exhibition'.

The Society's Management Committee has considered this concept in the light of a number of questions put to the website creators which are reproduced below with their responses. The Committee has agreed to publicise Exponet in Germania, as it is felt the concept is very much in tune with the Society's main aims: namely to advance the research into the promotion of German philately and to assist collectors of German philatelic material in the greater enjoyment of the hobby.

Members are encouraged as a first step simply to look at the website to view the exhibits already on show, unsurprisingly there is currently a bias toward Czech area material. Those of you who have what you consider (or what others have judged to be) high quality exhibits may wish to go further by offering scans of your exhibits for inclusion in the website. Instructions on how to do so are given on the website.

Questions and responses about EXPONET**1) Who are the organisers of EXPONET ?**

The organisers are private individuals: Milan Cernik, collector of postal stationery, exhibitor, philatelic auctioneer and Bretislav Janik, philatelic journalist (AIJP), webmaster of philatelic daily (www.japhila.cz), former Secretary of the Organising Committee of PRAGA 1988.

2) How is the website funded ?

From the private resources of Bretislav Janik. In the future, support may be sought from philatelic sponsors (not from individual exhibitors) and possibly from small

voluntary contributions (the major expenses include rental of space, scanning + programming which are covered by our hobby and enthusiasm).

3) When was the website started ?

17 May 1999 -JAPHILA on line daily magazine; 4 July 2004 - EXPONET - virtual philatelic exhibition as an integral part of the philatelic website JAPHIIA (over 1.5 million visits).

4) Do exhibitors have to pay any charges ?

No. In the future (2007 and later) we hope for voluntary contributions on a yearly basis (perhaps a single payment for as many as five or even more exhibits)

5) Do exhibitors have to enter into a formal agreement of any kind ?

No. Agreement to exhibit by e-mail or the sending of a CD of the exhibit are sufficient

6) Can exhibitors withdraw their exhibits whenever they wish ?

Yes.

7) How long otherwise does a submitted exhibit remain on the website ?

For the lifetime of Bret Janik (age 53). In case of Bret Janik's incapacity, the website would be taken over by another editor or a member of the editorial board, under identical or equivalent conditions.

8) Can a guarantee of anonymity be given to an exhibitor if desired ?

Yes, within the framework of a gentleman's agreement and cooperation between the exhibitor and the management of EXPONET. At present, the name of the exhibitor would only be known to Messrs Janik and Cernik, and the exhibit would be labelled as 'anonymous', if wished.

9) Is an exhibitor's text protected by copyright ?

On the part of EXPONET management, yes. Otherwise not. Possible violation of copyright by other persons must be pursued by the exhibitor in accordance with applicable law.

10) How is it decided whether a submitted exhibit is of 'high quality' ?

EXPONET is at its very beginning. We are preparing numerous changes, one of which will be classification of exhibits and designating some as belonging to the Hall of Fame. Those so classified will be exhibits which have achieved high awards at national and international shows. All exhibits will be classified as 1. Hall of Fame, 2. Very fine and outstanding, and 3. Open Class for exhibits having achieved Bronze, new exhibits, youth exhibits, etc.

We will continue working with FIP Jurors and FIP national commissioners, such as Henry Hahn, USA, Jay T. Carrigan, USA, Rene Jacobsohn, CH, Lumir Brendl, CZ, Vit Vanicek, CZ, Pavel Pittermann, CZ and others. Our objective is to solicit the support of various FIP officials to select the best exhibits. Our secondary objective is to popularise philately mainly within young internet watchers and the non-philatelic public.