

Washington 2006: A Success by All Standards

Collectors, dealers, postal administrations, exhibitors, seminar presenters and the non-collecting public alike agree that Washington 2006, the world philatelic exhibition held May 27-June 3 at the Washington, DC Convention Center was a success in all aspects.

The Washington 2006 Executive Committee has submitted official reports to the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP), American Philatelic Society and U.S. Postal Service summarizing the eight-day event. Presented here are topics and data discussed in them.

The total number of people counted entering the exhibit floor was 226,817. This includes re-entries during the day by those attending meetings on the floor above, or leaving for whatever reason and then returning. Daily entrance counts by the show's security staff are as follows. Opening day attendance is based on the actual reservation, dealer and volunteer badges distributed that day. Other days are estimated based on the first day ratio of attendance to total entrances.

Attendance

	Security Staff Count	Estimate
Saturday, May 27	39,463	14,500
Sunday, May 28	37,704	14,000
Monday, May 29	29,681	11,000
Tuesday, May 30	28,203	10,500
Wednesday, May 31	12,833	5,500
Thursday, June 1	26,606	10,000
Friday, June 2	21,316	8,000
Saturday, June 3	31,011	11,500
Total	226,817	85,000

The numbers detailing the exhibits are equally impressive:

- 76 commissioners representing 60 countries provided applications sufficient to fill almost twice the number of frames allotted for the competition
- 43 jurors and 6 apprentice jurors were joined by an expert committee of 2 and a senior consultant
- 640 philatelic exhibits and 233 literature exhibits were accepted
- 3,823 competitive frames were presented, including 14 last minute standby exhibits, representing 61,168 album pages
- 178 frames in the Court of Honor and Invited Exhibits as well as 18 display cases were also presented
- 77 special prizes were donated by collectors, societies and federations
- 15 additional non-competitive exhibits were shown including 52 frames of first day covers
- Societies were allotted 88 frames to publicize their fields of interest

- The competitive exhibits broken out by class represented:
 - Championship Class- 24
 - Traditional Philately- 158
 - Postal History- 168
 - Aerophilately- 28
 - Astrophilately- 4
 - Revenues- 29
 - Postal Stationery- 33
 - Thematic- 50
 - Maximaphily- 5

- Youth- 60
- Open Class- 14
- One Frame- 74
- Literature- 233

About 40% of the frames used were the vertical pole type donated to Washington 2006 by the Royal Philatelic Society Canada. Afterwards these were donated to the FIAF, the philatelic organization of the Americas. The others were US A-type frames provided by the American Philatelic Society, the Virginia Federation of Stamp Clubs and Springfield Stamp Club, together with those purchased by Washington 2006.

About 700 attended the Palmares in the Washington Convention Center Ballroom where large gold and grand prix awards were presented. The major award winners were all from the US:

- Grand Prix d'Honneur: Edward J.J. Grabowski, "Guadeloupe Postal History"
- Grand Prix National: William H. Gross, "United States Classics, 1847-1869 and Their 1875 Re-Issues"
- Grand Prix International: Omar Rodriguez, "Colonial Mail and First Hidalgos to 1867"

A total of 863 medals were presented to philatelic and literature entries, broken out as follows:

- 14 d'Honneur
- 74 Large Gold
- 197 Gold
- 178 Large Vermeil
- 162 Vermeil
- 56 Large Silver
- 104 Silver
- 59 Silver Bronze
- 19 Bronze

Exhibitors in the one frame and open class experimental classes received bronze medals containing a slug representing the award level received. Exhibitors in the regular competitive classes received solid silver medals containing a slug representing the award level received.

Activity was brisk in the 223 dealer and postal administration stands. A total of 136 postal administrations either provided their own staffs to sell stamps or were represented by agents. Sixty-two booths were provided for societies. The U.S. Postal Service reported that its revenues exceeded one million dollars. Many dealers were quoted as saying that their sales expectations for the entire exhibition were exceeded in just the first weekend of the show.

Auctions were conducted daily Monday through Friday with a total realization, including buyer's commissions, exceeding \$10 million dollars.

The Kids Stamp Zone covered 21,600 square feet. The US Postal Service, the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, the American Philatelic Society and Washington 2006 collaborated on the area that an estimated 6,000 kids visited. Computers, contests, interactive displays, films, story telling, games and visits by the favorite characters kept the excitement high. The USPS handed out 2,242 gift bags to the kids. Some youngsters were so impressed that they came back a second time and brought their parents.

Initial funding was provided through selling memberships. In all, Washington 2006 raised \$410,000 from 660 individuals and philatelic entities who provided this support. Washington 2006 operated on a \$3.7 million dollar budget and finished the exhibition

with a surplus. The exact amount of that surplus will be known in the upcoming weeks once the final bills are received and paid and all revenues due received.

The Washington 2006 Committee thanks the hundreds of volunteers who gave of their time and talents before, during and after the show. Without them this show would not have been possible.

The Washington 2006 web site will remain online through January, 2007 at <http://www.washington-2006.org>. Do take a look at the News Articles/Articles About Us section where viewers will find many new items added in the past few weeks.

For those who attended the exhibition, or wished you had, relive the extravaganza by viewing well over 1,000 photos and video clips now online at <http://w2006.myphotoalbum.com>. We welcome all such digital images taken by show-goers to become part of our Washington 2006 Image Archive, some of which will be posted on the web site. Send an email to info@washington-2006.org for details, or send disk(s) directly to: W2006 Image Archive, 28 Amberwood Place, Rochester, NY 14626-4166 USA.

For additional information, write to Washington 2006, PO Box 2006, Ashburn, VA 20146-2006. Questions may also be emailed to info@washington-2006.org.

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