

2008 Best Maximum Card World Competition

by John A. Cardona

On 24th October, 2009, during the Philatelic Exhibition “Italia 2009” which was held in Rome, the official delegates present were invited to vote, in accordance with the regulations of the World Best Maximum Card Competition approved by the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (F.I.P.), for the three best maximum cards created during the year 2008.

Fortyfive (45) countries took part in the competition which were: Aland, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China (PR) Chinese Taipei, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Moldavia, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and U.S.A.

The results were as indicated hereunder. Countries with less than three (3) points are not listed:-

Cyprus	42 Points	1 st prize
France	21 points	2 nd prize
Greece	15 points	3 rd prize
Italy	15 points	3 rd prize
Luxembourg	12 points	
Andorra	9 points	
Czech Republic	9 points	
Poland	9 points	
U.S.A.	9 points	
Brazil	6 points	
China (PR)	6 points	
Finland	6 points	
Taiwan	6 points	
Albania	3 points	
Belgium	3 points	
Romania	3 points	
Ukraine	3 points	
United Kingdom	3 points	

1st Prize: Cyprus

Statue of Aphrodite (100 B.C.) Cyprus Museum, Nicosia (Fig 1.)

The First (1st) Prize went to Nicos Rangos the outgoing Chairman of the F.I.P. Maximaphily Commission

The card represented Aphrodite the goddess of beauty and love. Poet Hesiod (8th cent. B.C.) describes that “she was born near Paphos in Cyprus when Cronus cut off Ouranos’s genitals and threw them into the sea, and from the “aphros” (sea foam) arose Aphrodite”. Hesiod’s Theogony described that the genitals “were carried over the sea for a long time, and white foam “aphros” arose from the immortal flesh; with it a girl grew” to become Aphrodite. Aphrodite floated on a scallop shell. When she rose, she was hailed as “Cyprian” and is referred to as such very often, especially in the poetic works of Sappho.

Aphrodite played a central role in the Eros and Psyche legend, and later was both Adonis’ lover and his surrogate mother. She led also Zeus transforming himself in a white beautiful bull to fall in love with the princess Europe after “Cyprian goddess Aphrodite has sent to her a sweet dream...” (Moschos poem, 2nd cent. B.C.). Aphrodite is also known as Kyris (Lady of Cyprus). Her Roman equivalent is the goddess Venus. Myrtles, roses, doves, dolphins and swans are sacred to her.

Temples in Paphos, statues and other archaeological findings proved that Aphrodite was worshipped for many centuries in the olden days of Cyprus. For the inhabitants of Cyprus she was the goddess of human feelings of love and peace while all the other gods and goddesses were representing just the opposite namely, power and war.

2nd Prize: France

The “Grus” and the “Indian” by Vincenzo Coronelli (1650 – 1718) (Fig. 2)

The 2nd prize went to Les Maximaphiles Français Association the creators of the above card.

The “Grus” and the “Indian” are constellations of the south hemisphere near to the South Pole sky. Vincenzo Coronelli was born in Venice. He was a doctor in Theology and Astronomy. He has created hundreds of maps and many terrestrial and celestial globes which are to be found in several collections. Pairs of his most famous large globes (c. 110 cm in diameter) are in the Bibliotheca Marciana in Venice, in the National Library of Austria and in the Globe Museum in Vienna, in the library of Stift Melk, as well as in Trier, Prague, London and Washington D.C. Another 1688 Terrestrial Globe is displayed at the Southwest Special Collections Library of Texas Technological University in Lubbock. Two wooden globes, measuring 348 cm in diameter and weighing approximately 2 tons, are displayed in the Bibliothèque Nationale François Mitterrand in Paris on which can be seen (as the picture in Fig. 2) the Grus bird, the Crane which is the symbol of the office of an astronomer in ancient Egypt.

3rd Prize: Greece and Italy

Greece.

Mediterranean healthy Cretan rusks salad with Dakos ingredients (Fig 3).

The maximum card was created by Nikos Mallouchos, President of the Union of the Greek Maximum Card Collectors.

The cards show Cretan rusks on a plate. If they are small they can be left as displayed on the card but if they are large they can be broken into smaller chunks, or sliced in half before serving. Olive oil can be added over the rusks together with grated fresh tomato. It is important to pour the oil first, so that the rusks or bread do not become soggy. Top them with a swab of mizithra (type of ricotta cottage cheese – the traditional soft white cheese made in Crete). If mizithra is not available, Indian paneer cheese, or Italian ricotta, or grated feta cheese topped with a little oregano can be used instead. Salt is not required because the cheese itself may be salted. It is usually served with sliced cucumber and black or green olives.

Italy.

Casey Stoner, 2007 MotoGP World Champion (Fig 4).

The maximum card was created by Cesare Rialdi, President of the Italian Association of Maximum Cards Collectors.

Casey Stoner (born 16th October, 1985) is an Australian Motorcycle racer. Born and raised in Southport, Queensland, Stoner raced from a young age and moved to the United Kingdom to pursue a racing career. After competing internationally since 2002, he won the title of MotoGP World Champion in 2007. He currently competes in the MotoGP class for the Ducati Marlboro Team. In 2008, Stoner was named Young Australian of the Year as well as Nickelodeon's Australian Kids Choice Awards.

After nine (9) years as Chairman of the F.I.P. Maximaphily Commission Nicos Rangos has now resigned in favour of George Constantourakis whom he has recommended to the F.I.P. Board of Directors but has not yet been confirmed.

During the term of office of Nicos Rangos the popularity of Maximaphily increased considerably as the following positive results achieved over the years indicate:-

- Increase in the number of delegates of the member federations in the F.I.P. Maximaphily Commission (38 in 2000, 42 in 2001, 45 in 2002, 47 in 2003, 50 in 2004, 51 in 2005, 52 in 2006, 54 in 2007, 57 in 2008 and 61 in 2009).
- Increase in the participating countries in the worldwide Maximaphily activity report (18 in 2001, 18 in 2002, 21 in 2003, 30 in 2004, 36 in 2005, 43 in 2006, 46 in 2007 and 49 in 2008).
- The idea of establishing the Best Maximum Card World Competition turned out to be a successful philatelic innovation. In a period of seven (7) years

worldwide participations increased by well over 100% (18 in 2003, 26 in 2004, 31 in 2005, 34 in 2006, 37 in 2007, 40 in 2008 and 45 in 2009).

The next event “Cyprus 2010” incorporates Maximaphily besides Traditional and Literature. This international Exhibition which is organized jointly by the Cyprus Postal Services and the Cyprus Philatelic Society has had to be put forward to 18 – 25 November 2010 owing to unforeseen circumstances.



Fig. 1

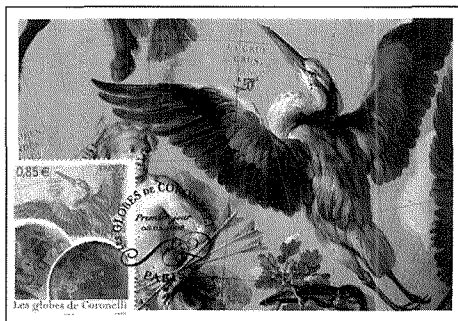


Fig. 2

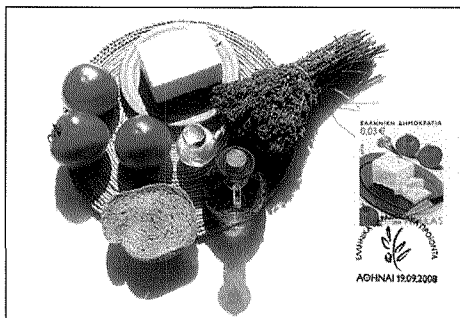


Fig. 3

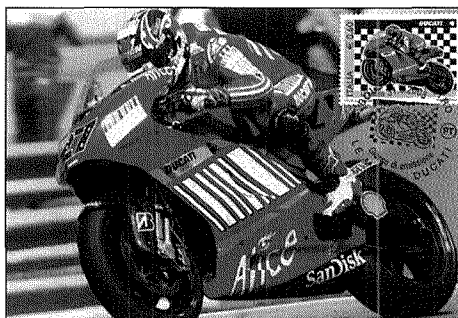


Fig. 4