

Maximaphily

By John A. Cardona

In Newsletter No. 7 issued on 12th September 2008, under the heading Maximaphily, it was hinted at that a more comprehensive report would follow at a later stage on the World Best Maximum Card Competition entered during the year 2007 at which Malta did not participate. The information that follows has been based on the Minutes of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP) Maximaphily Commission and Notes provided by the Commission's Chairman Nicos Rangos and Secretary Anny Boyard.

As members of the (FIP) the Malta Philatelic Society has been asked to publicize the Competition stated above so that collectors would become aware of the initiatives taken to ensure the development of a better future for this attractive class of philately and of the following positive results that had been achieved over the years:-

- Increase in the number of delegates of the member federations in the FIP Maximaphily commission (36 in 1998, 40 in 2000, 49 in 2002, 51 in 2004, 53 in 2006 and 58 in 2008).
- Increase in the number of activity reports prepared by the delegates of the member federations (18 in 2003, 30 in 2004, 36 in 2005, 40 in 2006 and 43 in 2007).
- Increase in the number of countries participating in the World Competition for the Best Maximum Card (18 in 2003, 27 in 2004, 31 in 2005, 35 in 2006 and 41 in 2007).
- High level awards (Gold and Large Vermeil) were won during the last two years at the various World and International Exhibitions.

This year the FIP Maximaphily Commission Conference was held in Bucharest, (Phoenicia Hotel), Romania on 26th June, 2008. At the conference twenty-nine (29) countries out of fifty-eight (58) member federations were present with their official delegates or represented by proxies namely, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China (PR), Chinese Taipei, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand,

Pakistan, Portugal, Spain, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and U.S.A.

The delegates present at the Conference mentioned above were invited to vote, according to the regulations of the World Best Maximum Card Competition for the three best maximum cards created during the year 2007. The following forty-one (41) countries took part in the competition: Albania, Aland, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China (PR), Chinese Taipei, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Monaco, Nepal, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom and U.S.A.

The results were as indicated hereunder. Countries with less than five (5) points are not listed:-

Italy	14 points	1 st prize
Romania	11 points	2 nd prize
Brazil	10 points	3 rd prize
Luxembourg	10 points	3 rd prize
Germany	9 points	
Spain	9 points	
Australia	8 points	
Canada	7 points	
Aland	6 points	
Cyprus	6 points	
Finland	6 points	
Taiwan	5 points	

1st Prize to Italy

The First (1st) Prize went to Cesare Rialdi the President of the Italian Maximaphily Association who created a Maximum Card with an excellent concordance and a lovely artful subject and message.

The card represented “**CUPID (EROS) AND PSYCHE**”. This marvelous sculpture created by the Italian Antonio Canova (1757

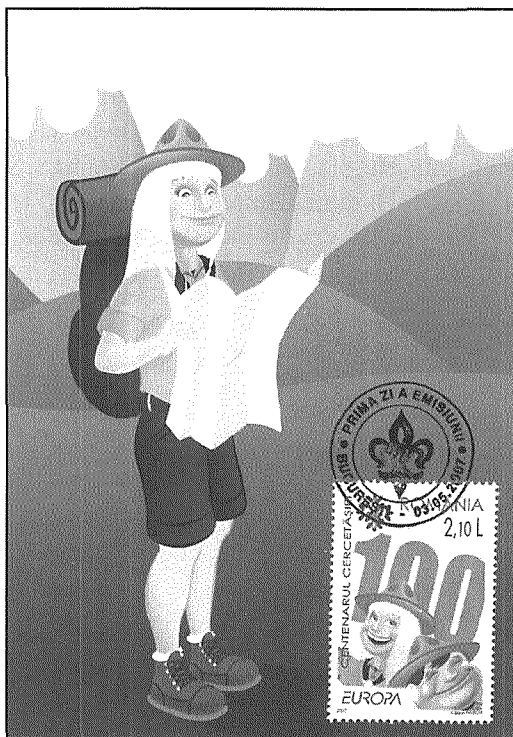


– 1822) represents the moment of Greek Mythology at which Psyche is woken from her deathly sleep by the kiss of Eros. The dynamic sculpture conveys a deep sense of love, passion and energy as Eros sweeps from the sky to awaken Psyche from her slumber. Psyche throws up her arms elegantly to receive Eros' kiss.

2nd Prize to Romania

The Second (2nd) Prize went to Romfilatelia, Romania. The beautiful Maximum Card has an excellent visual concordance and a message containing many principles and values, was created by the Romfilatelia to mark the **100 YEARS OF THE WORLD SCOUTS MOVEMENT**.

The Romania Scouts Association “Cercetaşii României” having formally had Scouts since 1912 was officially established in 1915. In 1922 it was one of the 31 founding members of the World Organisation of the Scouts Movement. Having accepted the principles and values of the movement, Romanian Scouts were active and present during World War I offering all kinds of help to the war victims. They marched in the front of the Victory Train, under the Triumphal Arch in Bucharest. In 1920, 67 Romanian Boy Scouts and their leaders participated at the first World Jamboree in London. The first Romanian Scout Jamboree took place in 1930 when “Cercetaşii României” had 45,000 members. In 1936 the second Romanian Scout Jamboree was organized at Brasov. After an interval of 45 years (1944 – 1989) “Cercetaşii României” was again established in 1991, and in 1993 gained recognition by the World Bureau of the World Organisation of the Scouts Movement.



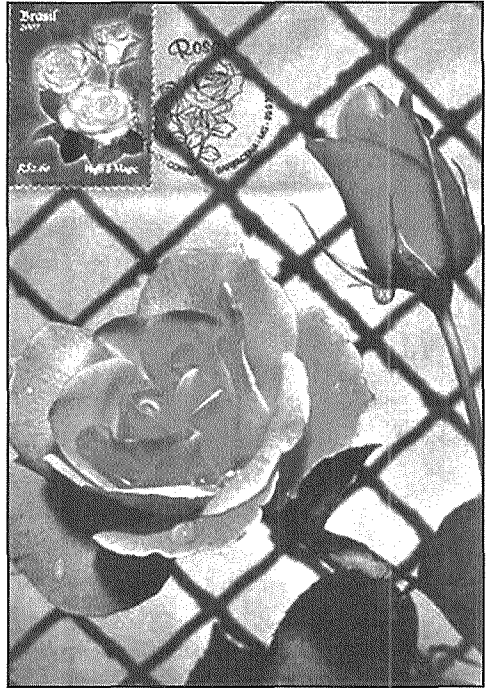
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Brazil and Luxemburg tied for 3rd Prize

Brazil

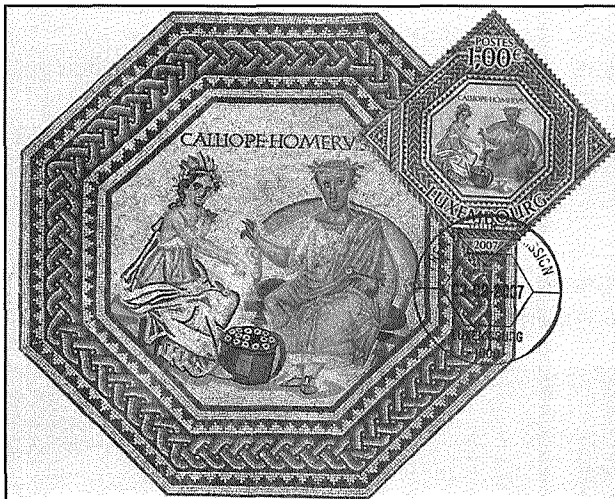
Aginaldo de Souza Gabriel from Brazil created **THE ROSE** as a Maximum Card which has an excellent visual concordance.

The rose, used first by the Persians, has always been valued for its beauty and has a long history of symbolism. The ancient Greeks and Romans identified the rose with their goddesses of love Aphrodite and Venus. It is both an ancient and a modern symbol of love and beauty. The red rose was used as a badge by the young marchers in the May 1968 street protests in Paris. Since then a red rose, often held in a hand, is considered to be a symbol of social democracy by the British and Irish Labour Parties as well as by the Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish and Brazilian social parties.



Luxemburg

The Maximaphily Association of FSPL (Luxembourg) tied for 3rd place with Brazil. **CALLIOPE AND HOMER** was the subject for the Maximum Card created by the Maximaphily Commission of Luxemburg whose president is Joseph Wolff and who is also the current president of the FIP. The Maximum Card has an excellent concordance with many fine cultural messages.



Calliope, the muse of epic poetry, is seated beside the poet Homer and a box of scrolls. The two figures form the central decoration of a wider mosaic floor of the Imperial Roman period (240 A.D.), found at Vichten and depicting all the nine muses which according to the Greek and Roman Mythology were the goddesses of music, song and dance, and the source of inspiration to

poets. Additionally they were also goddesses of knowledge who remembered all things that had come to pass. Later the *Mousai* were assigned specific artistic spheres namely, *Calliope* epic poetry; *Cleo* history; *Urania* astronomy; *Thalia* comedy; *Melpomene* tragedy; *Polyhymnia* religious hymns; *Erato* erotic poetry; *Euterpe* lyric poetry; and *Terpsichore* choral song and dance.

The above mosaic floor now forms part of a collection in the National Museum of History and Art of the City of Luxemburg.

The next FIP Maximaphily Commission conference is to be held in Lisbon in 2010. Before adjourning the conference the Chairman presented the following new strategic plan for implementation during the coming two years namely,

- To improve further the means of communication between the delegates of the FIP Commission for Maximaphily.
- To continue improving the World Maximaphily Competition of the three best Maximum Cards created during the previous year.
- To make it clear that Maximaphily Class has also its classic period.
- To change the old mentality and cease discriminating against the Maximaphily Class through the introduction of learning procedures.
- To persuade all the postal administrations, already issuing Maximum Cards, to create them correctly in accordance with the Malaga regulations.
- To introduce and promote Maximaphily in the countries where it is not yet known.
- To offer to all national philatelic federations a Maximaphily data-processing documentation.
- To improve the network with all National Philatelic Federations.
- To introduce training for a Maximaphily jury.
- To appoint in all the countries of FIP member federations an active delegate to attend to matters of the Maximaphily Commission.
- To improve further the FIP Maximaphily Commission website: www.maximaphily.info
- To organize a specialized World Maximaphily Exhibition.

The next World Best Maximum Card competition is to be held in Luoyang, Henan, China during the month of April 2009.

The Malta Philatelic Society needs new members
especially young ones