

БЪЛГАРИЯ  
СВЕТОВЕН ФИЛАТЕЛЕН ШАМПИОНАТ-ИЗЛОЖБА  
2020  
WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP EXHIBITION  
BULGARIA

# BULLETIN



30th SEPTEMBER – 4th OCTOBER 2020  
INTER EXPO CENTER, SOFIA



Union  
of the Bulgarian  
Philatelists



Ministry of Transport,  
Information  
Technology and  
Communications



Bulgarian  
Posts Plc



Sofia  
Municipality



World Philatelic  
Federation



European  
Philatelic  
Federation



National Post  
and Telegraph  
of Turkey



# INDIVIDUAL REGULATIONS (IREX)

## Article 1

### PURPOSE OF EXHIBITION

1.1 BULGARIA 2020 is a Specialized World Stamp Championship Exhibition with the FIP patronage and the FEPA recognition, held for the following purposes:

- 140 years Anniversary of Bulgarian Posts
- 140 years Anniversary of Bulgarian stamps
- To promote friendly relations and maintain close co-operation amongst the philatelists and stamp collectors throughout the world.

## Article 2

### ORGANIZATION, DATE AND VENUE

2.1 BULGARIA 2020 is supported by the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of Republic of Bulgaria, Bulgarian Posts, Sofia Municipality, National Post and Telegraph of Turkey and organized by the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists.

2.2 The exhibition will open on 30th September 2020 and close on 4th October 2020.

2.3 The exhibition will be held at the Inter Expo Center – Sofia, 147, Tzarigradsko shose blvd. Approximately 1500 exhibition frames will be available.

## Article 3

### PATRONAGE, RECOGNITION AND APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

3.1 BULGARIA 2020 is a “World Stamp Championship” Exhibition with the official patronage of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP) granted by the 75th Congress of FIP that was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 2nd December 2018.

BULGARIA 2020 will also be held with the FEPA recognition granted by the FEPA Board.

3.2 The following regulations shall be applicable to BULGARIA 2020:

- The General Regulations of the FIP for Exhibitions (GREX),
- The General Regulations of the FIP for

the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions (GREV),

- The Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions (SREVs),
- The Individual Regulations of BULGARIA 2020 (IREX) (Article 3.10 of GREX).
- Where IREX deviates from GREX, GREV or SREV's, IREX shall apply.

## Article 4

### CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

#### 4.1 Competitive Exhibition Classes:

Exhibitors who are members of

- i) national federations /societies/associations of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP) or
- ii) member federations of FEPA who are not FIP members; are eligible for participation.

4.2 Entries in the competitive classes (for classes 2-5) must have been awarded at least a vermeil medal at the National exhibitions. The Regulations governing the conditions of participation of exhibitions are stated in the Articles 9-19 and 21 of GREX.

#### 4.3 Non-Competitive Classes:

Entries in non-competitive classes shall be by special invitation at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.

## Article 5

### EXHIBITION CLASSES

#### 5.1 Non-Competitive Classes:

- A Court of Honour
- FIP Grand Prix Club exhibits
- B Other Non-Competitive

#### 5.2 Competitive Classes:

##### **Class 1: World Stamp Championship Class**

For Traditional Philately and Postal History exhibits that have been awarded:

- a) FIP Large Gold medals at the exhibitions with patronage or auspices of FIP
- b) FIP Grand Prix (Grand Prix National, Grand Prix International, Grand Prix d'Honneur

# INDIVIDUAL REGULATIONS (IREX)



or Grand Prix d'Exposition)

Neither the 10-year time frame restriction stated in GREX Article 9.1 nor GREX Article 9.5 applies here:

(GREX Article 9.1: Participation in the FIP Championship Class is restricted to exhibits which have received 3 Large Gold medals in World Exhibitions in three separate years during a 10-year span, starting January 1st of the year after receipt of the 3rd Large Gold Medal.

GREX Article 9.5: On receiving the Grand Prix d'Honneur in the FIP Championship Class, or having completed eligibility under Article 9.3, an exhibit may only be shown out of competition by the same owner.)

## ***Class 2: Traditional Philately***

- A) National Class
- B) Europe
- C) America
- D) Asia, Oceania and Africa

## ***Class 3: Postal History***

- A) National Class
- B) Europe
- C) America
- D) Asia, Oceania and Africa

## ***Class 4: Thematic Philately***

- A) Nature
- B) Culture
- C) Science

## ***Class 5: Modern Philately (1980 to date)***

The objectives are to encourage collectors of Modern Philatelic materials to exhibit at the highest level and to demonstrate to the Postal Administrations that there are an extensive body of philatelists who collect and study materials issued by them after 1980.

The Organizing Committee is making this class available for exhibits complying with the FIP special regulations for the various FIP classes.

Qualifying exhibits for the Modern Philately must contain philatelic materials issued by the

Postal authorities since 1980s. Stamp series of philatelic topics chosen for this class which were substantially issued on/after 1980 are qualified as topics for the Modern Philately. However, the exhibit may include a small percentage of material issued pre-1980 that is important and relevant to the exhibit.

Modern Philately exhibits will be judged according to the respective FIP SREVs currently in force for the above-mentioned FIP classes.

The distribution of points available recognize that Modern Philatelic material is worthy of study and in many instances is difficult to acquire, treat and present while the short passage of time since their issue has not provided an accurate indication of importance or rarity.

FIP medals will be awarded to the appropriate exhibit and they will be recorded in the FIP Awards records. Certificate of Participation will be given to exhibits attaining less than 60 points.

Exhibits will be classified under:

- A) Traditional Philately
- B) Postal History
- C) Thematic Philately
- D) Modern Philately
- E) One Frame

## ***Class 6: One Frame Exhibits***

Exhibits in this class should be based on a narrow philatelic subject corresponding to the scope of one exhibition frame. An extract from a past International award winning multiple frame exhibit (5 or 8 frames) is not allowed.

Evaluation shall be performed on the basis of awarded points (60 – 100) and the exhibitor shall receive only a certificate without a medal. The Certificate of Participation will be given to exhibits attaining less than 60 points.

Exhibits will be classified under:

- A) Traditional Philately
- B) Postal History



# INDIVIDUAL REGULATIONS (IREX)

- C) Thematic Philately
- D) Modern Philately
- E) One Frame

## **Class 7: Philatelic Literature**

- A) Philatelic books and research papers (published after 1st January 2015)
- B) Philatelic magazines and periodicals (published after 1st January 2018)
- C) Catalogues (published after 1st January 2018)

Exhibitors entering an exhibit in the Philatelic Literature Class are requested to fill in the separate "Philatelic Literature Exhibit Information Form" in addition to the "Exhibit Application Form".

### **Article 6**

#### JUDGING OF EXHIBITS AND AWARDS

6.1 Exhibits in the Competitive Classes will be judged by appointed and accredited FIP judges in accordance with the principles laid down in the GREV and SREVs.

### **Article 7**

#### FRAME SIZE AND ALLOTMENT OF FRAMES

7.1 The exhibition frames at BULGARIA 2020 shall be 97cm x 120cm. Each frame shall have a capacity for 16 A4 sheets (four sheets in four rows – 4 x 4). Larger sheet formats may be accepted but have to be in multiples of the standard size and approved in advance by the Organizing Committee.

7.2 All exhibits must be mounted on white sheets.

No exhibit mounted on dark-coloured or black sheets will be accepted.

7.3 The original copy of Expertizing certificate must be placed at the disposal of the Jury by inserting it at the back of the page.

A small letter © is to be denoted at the right bottom corner of the display sheet.

7.4 Every exhibit shall be allotted 5 or 8 exhibition frames (with the exception of Classes

6 and 7) in accordance with Articles 6.3 and 6.4 of GREX.

Five frames shall be allotted to exhibits that obtained at least a vermeil award at the national level.

Eight frames shall be allotted to exhibits that obtained at least a large vermeil award at previous FIP Patronage or FIP Recognition exhibitions.

### **Article 8**

#### APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCE

8.1 Exhibitors shall submit one Exhibit Application Form for each exhibit applied for through the Commissioners of their respective member federations (IREX Article 4.1). The entry form must be typed only and sent electronically only.

8.2 The Organizing Committee, after consulting the matter with the FIP Consultant, shall have the authority to accept or reject the application without specifying the reason.

8.3 Exhibit Application Forms duly filled shall be submitted, together with a copy of the introductory page, in one of the FIP's official languages, through the National Commissioners to the Commissioner General by April 15, 2020. When submitting the Exhibit Application Form, the exhibitor shall attach a copy of the introductory page, in one of the FIP's official languages.

8.4 Exhibitors may enter exhibits under a pseudonym. However, their true identities must be notified to the Organizing Committee (Article 16 of GREX).

8.5 Notification of acceptance or rejection, together with the number of allotted frames, shall be sent to the exhibitor through the respective Commissioner no later than by May 30, 2020.

8.6 The National Commissioners shall collect the participation fees from the exhibitors and remit them to the Organizing



# INDIVIDUAL REGULATIONS (IREX)



Committee by June 30, 2020.

8.7 Each exhibit shall be listed in the exhibition catalogue under its given title as stated in the application form.

8.8 When the title of the exhibit differs from the original title (irrespective of minor or major changes), the previous title of the exhibit must be stated in the Exhibit Application Form. Furthermore, the exhibit identity number created by FIP must be stated. This ID number can be obtained from the secretary of the respective Federation. The FIP Secretariat circulates annually a list of Awards and ID numbers to the National Federations together with the annual membership fees due.

8.9 All information in the exhibit application forms shall be kept strictly confidential by the Organizing Committee and shall not be used for any commercial purposes.

## **Article 9**

### **PARTICIPATION FEE**

9.1 There is no fee for Non-Competitive Class entries.

9.2 The participation fee for Competitive Classes is € 50 per frame.

9.3 The participation fee for Philatelic Literature (Class 7) is € 75 per exhibit.

9.4 The participation fee for One Frame Exhibit (Class 6) is € 75.

## **Article 10**

### **HANDLING OF EXHIBITS**

10.1 In the event an exhibit is delivered late or the carrier fails, or in the event the sheet size does not comply with the provisions of Article 7.1, the exhibit will not be judged and the participation fee shall not be refunded.

10.2 Each exhibit sheet shall be placed in a transparent protective cover and numbered in the lower right hand corner.

10.3 The Organizing Committee shall

certify the receipt of the exhibits to the exhibitors through the National Commissioner.

10.4 The Organizing Committee shall distribute exhibit envelopes and exhibit inventory forms through the National Commissioner to the exhibitors.

10.5 Each and every exhibit shall be delivered in the official envelope (one envelope per frame). The exhibit inventory form shall be put in the envelope for the first frame.

10.6 The Organizing Committee requires, without exception, that all exhibits be delivered by the National Commissioners. Personal delivery of the exhibit by the exhibitor (or by a person authorized by the exhibitor) shall not be accepted.

10.7 Exhibitors in the Philatelic Literature Class (Class 7) must send two copies of each title no later than by Sept 1, 2020 in order that preliminary judging may take place. None of these copies are returnable. Periodicals may be exhibited as a complete volume only.

10.8 The address to which Philatelic Literature exhibits must be sent shall be communicated by the Organizing Committee in due time.

## **Article 11**

### **MOUNTING AND DISMOUNTING OF EXHIBITS**

11.1 The Organizing Committee shall provide the directions and conditions under which the mounting and dismounting of the exhibits shall be undertaken.

11.2 The exhibitor or the National Commissioner shall pay for all costs associated with delivery of the exhibit to the exhibition site as well as with collecting the exhibit at the close of the exhibition and its transport back to the exhibitor.

11.3 Delivery of exhibits to the Organizing Committee and their return by means of Air



# INDIVIDUAL REGULATIONS (IREX)

Cargo is not allowed.

11.4 No complaints after the dismounting and return of the exhibit to the exhibitor or Commissioner will be entertained by the Organizing Committee.

11.5 Requests for return or dismounting of the exhibit during the exhibition period shall not be accepted.

## **Article 12**

### **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS**

12.1 The Organizing Committee shall establish simplified customs procedures through the customs consultative committee, and details of the applicable custom regulations shall be sent to the exhibitor / Commissioner in each country.

## **Article 13**

### **SECURITY MEASURES**

13.1 The Organizing Committee shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the security of the exhibits from arrival to return thereof. However, the Organizing Committee shall not be liable for any loss or damage to an Exhibit that might occur during the transportation to and from the exhibition; from receipt to return of the Exhibit; and during the exhibition.

13.2 After the exhibit is mounted by the Organizing Committee and the Commissioner, the Commissioner is required to check that all pages and philatelic items are intact. In the event of any missing items, the Commissioner must inform the Organizing Committee immediately. A confirmation form shall be signed by the Commissioner to be returned to the Organizing Committee to confirm that the exhibit mounted is in order. This procedure is to be executed prior to the Opening day of the exhibition, except where an Exhibit is received after the Opening day when such report shall be made at the soonest opportunity.

13.3 Every exhibitor has to insure his or her exhibit at own expense (GREX Article 50.2).

## **Article 14**

### **EXPERT GROUP (Article 45 of GREX)**

14.1 An Expert Group will be appointed by the Organizing Committee after consultation with the FIP Consultant.

## **Article 15**

### **RIGHTS OF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

15.1 Every exhibitor applying to exhibit at BULGARIA 2020 is deemed to have accepted the stipulations of the IREX.

15.2 The Organizing Committee shall have the right to adjudicate any matters arising that are not covered by FIP Regulations or by this IREX, and its decisions shall be final.

15.3 The Organizing Committee shall have the right to revise the IREX through consultation with the FIP Consultant. Exhibitors shall be promptly notified of any of such revisions either directly or through his Commissioner.

## **Article 16**

### **ACCEPTANCE OF THESE REGULATIONS**

16.1 By signing the Exhibit Application Form, the exhibitor shall be deemed to accept the stipulations of the IREX, GREX, GREV and SREVs.

16.2 In the event of any discrepancies in the text arising from translation, the English text shall prevail.

16.3 Any legal cases shall be governed by the legal regulations Bulgaria and settled by the relevant courts in Bulgaria.

## **Article 17**

### **CONTACT ADDRESSES**

17.1 Commissioner General: Boncho Bonev.  
E-mail: gen.commissioner@BULGARIA2020.com

17.2 FIP Consultant: Yigal Nathaniel, FIP Director. E-mail: natani7@nathaniel.co.il

17.3 Exhibition website: BULGARIA2020.com

17.4 More contacts: spaspanchev@abv.bg, philatelyunion.bg@gmail.com

# EARLY POSTMAN UNIFORMS



## The 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of postal communications in Bulgaria

The Russian postal services in Bulgaria functioned in spick and span order. Among other things, they instilled a taste for the trim appearance of postal employees in the first Bulgarian postmasters.

A postman dress code decision was issued less than a year after the direction and operation of posts in the Principality of Bulgaria passed into Bulgarian hands. Circular No.776, distributed to all postal establishments on 10 March 1880, described the required attire as follows:

“1. Tunic: single-breasted, made of dark green broadcloth, fastened in front by six large buttons (yellow in colour) featuring the Bulgarian lion, and with four buttons sewn on the back.

2. The collar of the tunic is bordered with black velvet, just as the sleeves. Two small buttons are sewn on the sleeves.

3. Braids crocheted in the shape of a cord are worn on the shoulders, twisted of yellow and black material (gold thread in the centre and bordered with black material), held on by a single button.

4. Black national fur hat with green broadcloth top, the device in front representing a Bulgarian lion with post horns beneath (yellow in colour).

5. Trousers of dark green broadcloth.

6. High boots, reaching above the knees.

7. Overcoat: double-breasted, with two rows of buttons in front, six buttons per row, and a back belt held on by two buttons, i.e. similar to a military overcoat but, unlike it, the collar is bordered with black velvet gallow rather than with red broadcloth, and the collar tabs have two large buttons.

8. In summer, a cap of the same broadcloth is worn instead of a fur hat.”

The uniform design described above borrowed heavily from the uniform of

Russian postal clerks and the military. Still, the administrators deserve credit for lavishly adorning the just liberated country’s postman uniform with its national emblem, the lion. The fur hat, resembling very much the headdress of the Bulgarian volunteers in the Liberation War, for the first time sported the yellow post horn, the emblem of Bulgarian Posts.

This uniform was mandatory for all postmen (i.e. those who escorted the mail and not those who delivered it-they were styled “letter carriers”) and “was essential for those travelling by ship and train.” The latter circumstance elicited incredible diligence





## EARLY POSTMAN UNIFORMS

from the employees of the Vidin Post Office. Just a week after the circular introducing the mandatory uniform was sent out to the establishments, post office manager St. Petrov reported: "The Vidin Post Office has the honour of notifying the Central Postal Administration that the postmen of the same office possess the required uniform."

One hundred and twenty years ago, postmen's gear had another essential element: arms. The transportation of valuables provoked the greed of robbers who boldly attacked the post carts, all the more so since, for lack of staff, they carried a single guard apart from the carter. That guard had to be well armed. A number of instructions were issued in this connection.

By a Circular No.1394 dated 2 May 1880 the Central Postal Administration prescribed to all post office chiefs in the Bulgarian Principality that the postmen who escort the mail "must necessarily wear their full uniform and be armed well with a sword and a revolver... Before the mail starts, you must first inspect the postman's weapon, whether it is cleaned, whether he has cartridges, whether the sword is sharpened or not. Only then will you dispatch the mail..."

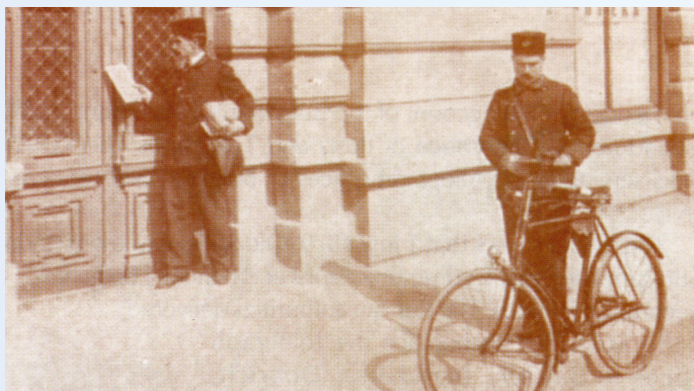
The directive of the postal administration closes with the usual catalogue of penalties for non-compliance, but also requires submission by each post office of an inventory of the arms in stock.

A reply arrived promptly - this time from the Svishtov Post Office. In a letter dated 7 May 1880, the office manager Dryanovski reports: "At the office in my charge, the postman Trichkov has been issued with, and wears, full uniform. When he escorts the mail to the Austrian Agency, he will be well armed with a sword and a revolver.

The following arms are in stock at the office in my charge:

1. One dragoon sword.
2. One Lefauchaux revolver, No.85421, in working order. The revolver is chambered for 12 mm cartridges. Only three cartridges ready for firing are available."

Bulgaria was obviously not the Wild West, once the mail could be rescued with just three cartridges. But then, reports of post robberies do not seem to be that frequent at that time: there was just one or two for the 1877-1880 period. The sharpened sword and the loaded revolver must have done their job.





# WHEN THE FIRST BULGARIAN POSTCARD WAS INTRODUCED



## The 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of postal communications in Bulgaria

Even considerable and interesting, the question concerning the introduction in use of the first Bulgarian postcards has not been discussed enough with the irresistible logic of the facts and documents.

In the period April - September 1879 the Bulgarian postal offices were provided only with stamps.

An announcement published in Bulgarian and in French in „Official Gazette”, Issue 16 from December 8th, 1879, reads:

„The Chief Postal Department has the honour to announce to the esteemed public that all post offices sell sheets for open letters for domestic and international correspondence. One sheet, the post stamp included, costs 10 centimes...”

A lot of precious information confirming the above-mentioned and allowing for specifying the precise dates when the first Bulgarian postcards were put into use in the respective postal offices are to be found in the State Archive.

Here are the contents of one of the most detailed reports:

„Ministry of Internal Affairs. Postal Office of Tirnovo. December 3rd, 1879. No 937. City of Tirnovo.

To the Chief Postal Department

The postal office of Tirnovo has the honour to inform the Chief Postal Department that the four hundred forms for open letters sent by the Bureau of Varna by report from November 27th, No 1234, were received in the said office and according to the report mentioned, the Postal Office of Tirnovo has the honour to present in the Chief Postal Department a receipt for having received the forms said.”

The reports from eleven more post offices have similar contents. The report from the Post Office in Orjahovo reads also: „.... and to

announce their sale.

The receipts attached to the reports are kept only from some of the offices, but they are enough to find out that their contents are similar.

The above lines do not need comments. Definitely, they are evidence that the postcards with charge mark of 10 centimes were received from Russia to Varna by the end of November 1879 and on November 27th with a broadcast letter some quantities of them were distributed by the district bureau of Varna to the biggest post offices in the Principality of Bulgaria. Their sale, respectively use, started immediately after their reception. The dates of the reports sent back for the quantities received or the information additionally stated in these reports allow for fixing, in a relatively precise manner, the date when each particular post office introduced the centime card.

It is a logical assumption that the Postal Bureau of Varna had the honour to offer for the first time Bulgarian open letters to the „esteemea public”. It should have happened at the day of sending the parcels to the remaining postal offices - November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1879. The latter received the cards and introduced them according to the possibilities of the transport connections of this time. In the cities closer to Varna - Shumen, Razgrad and Russe - the cards were available on November 30<sup>th</sup>, while in the more distant cities - e.g. Lom - on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

There is a regularity in the distribution of the quantities among the postal offices - 400 items of the cards were received by the sections and offices and 1000 items - by the Bureau of Ruse. Probably per 1000 items were entered into accounts in the Bureau of Varna and in the Bureau of Sofia, but this is only an assumption, because there are no



## WHEN THE FIRST BULGARIAN POSTCARD WAS INTRODUCED

documents so far.

A broadcast letter from the archive makes us assume that to Sofia were sent greater quantities than necessary for the needs of that bureau. They arrived there on December 10th and immediately the Chief Postal Department distributed them and sent them to the other post offices in the Principality.

We should assume that in the period from November 27th to about December 20th, 1879 all postal offices in the Principality of Bulgaria received some quantities of the open „centime” letters and offered them to the clients at their counters.

There is an interesting thing in the broadcast letter of the Chief Postal Department from December 10th, namely the amendment made in the quantities of the postcards intended for sending to Berkovitz, Sevlievo and Orhanie. As older and bigger offices they were at the beginning of the list and initially the quantity intended for them was 400 items. Subsequently, the number was amended to 100, probably because the total

number needed for distribution of 2500 cards was not available.

Bearing in mind one more document - a letter by which to the Chief Postal Department from the Bureau of Varna on December 13th six more parcels were sent, each of them per 10000, in total 60000 open letters - we might make some assumptions on the total quantity of open letters from the first issue. It should be no less than 70000 items (60000 items as a second dispatch to the Chief Postal Department; 1900 items to the 19 postal offices plus one hundred spare items; 5400 items according to the available reports back and receipts from the twelve post offices answering the broadcast letter of the Post Bureau of Varna; 400 items sent probably to the Post Office of Nikopol without available document for this; 1000 items to the bureau of Sofia; 1000 items to the bureau of Varna and 200 items left non-distributed).

So far an official document about the whole quantity of postcards has not been found.

