FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATELIE

FONDEE EN 1926

FIP COMMISSION FOR POSTAL HISTORY

ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE FIP COMMISSION FOR POSTAL HISTORY JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

Website

FIP Postal History Commission website, which is on the FIP website, has been maintained by the commission Chairman and secretary throughout the year with regular updates as required.

The PH Bureau and Commission Matters and Meetings

Unfortunately, in April 2025, Malcolm Groom had to resign as chairman of the postal history commission due to health reasons. The PH Bureau thanks Malcolm very much for his dedicated service to the PH Bureau over many years. According to the FIP rules, when the chairman of a commission retires in the middle of an election period, the secretary must act as acting chairman until the next election. Therefore, Henrik Mouritsen took over the role as acting chairman until the next elections in Macao 2026.

- An official PH Bureau meeting was held 2 Aug 2025 14:00 CET online. The following gentlemen were present: Henrik Mouritsen (Member and Acting Chairman), Chen Yu-an (Member), Dan Walker (Member), Ed Kroft (Member and elected to become Acting Secretary), Gerald Heschl (Member), Abdulla Khoory (FIP Board), Prakob Chirakiti (FIP Board).

  The attendees acknowledged and thanked Malcolm Groom for the huge work he has done for the PH Bureau over many years and confirmed Henrik Mouritsen as acting chairman until the Macao Congress on July 1st 2026.

  Ed Kroft was elected as acting secretary of the PH Bureau until the Macao Congress.

  It was decided not to find any new members for the PH Bureau before the Macao Congress.

  It was decided that Henrik Mouritsen would hold a formal Qualifying Postal History Judging Seminar at Philkorea 2025 with the following agenda:

  i) The judging criteria

  ii) A detailed look at the “Importance” and “Rarity” criteria in postal history exhibits

  iii) Giving feedback to exhibitors

  It was decided to continue our intense work on revisions of the SREVs and to expand this work to small sensible adjustments of the Guidelines to make sure they are formally aligned. Henrik Mouritsen and Ed Kroft were named as the main responsible persons for this work, and it was agreed that they discuss the drafts with members of the FIP Board at Philakorea 2025.

  It was decided to expand the number of instructive videos on the PH regulations and on tips and tricks for postal history exhibitors. Responsibilities to translate the new PH regulations and guidelines into several of the main languages were delegated to various people.

- At the meeting with FIP Board members at Philakorea 2025, PH Bureau members and FIP Board representatives agreed on a final proposed version of the revised SREVs and Guidelines for Postal History, which was subsequently pre-approved by the FIP Board. The PH Bureau is grateful to the FIP Board for its support and efficiency in reviewing the drafts. These pre-approved texts were distributed to all PH Commission delegates, member federations, and all FIP Board members for approval at an official Postal History Commission Conference, scheduled for 10th of December 2025.
- An official Postal History Commission Conference was held online on 10th of December 2025 at 15:00 CET. Ed Kroft did the roll call of the delegates of FIP Members who were present in person, as alternate delegates, or by proxy. The result of the roll call was that 45 delegates were duly present (see Appendix 1). Given that there were 69 delegates listed on the PH Commission website (https://postalhistory.f-i-p.ch), the required quorum existed for purposes of carrying out the business of the Meeting set out in the Agenda in the Notice. A 50 percent quorum was required to meet the requirements of Article 11 of the FIP Guidelines for changes to the PH SREV. The vote resulted in 41 in favour, 4 against. The SREV and Guidelines were approved by the PH Commission delegates and will be voted on at the Macao Congress. The process of contacting delegates and federations to make sure they attended the conference also had the fortunate side-effect that the PH Commission delegate list is now substantially more up to date than before.

Seminars:

20 Sept 2025 15:00-16:30 in the jury room at Philakorea 2025.

Henrik Mouritsen presented an official FIP postal history qualifying seminar with the following content:

- The judging criteria with an emphasis on importance and rarity
- Giving feedback to exhibitors, including role plays involving Ed Kroft and Henrik Mouritsen

Almost 100 people participated in the seminar (72 signed the official participation form plus many observers). Thanks to everyone for the overwhelming interest in the PH Commission seminar.

The slides related to this seminar can be downloaded from the PH Commission website (https://postalhistory.f-i-p.ch).

The PH Bureau intends to hold further seminars in Macao in 2026 and at the Slovakian and/or Serbian FIP exhibitions in 2027. There will be a strong focus on improving judges' abilities to give constructive feedback in a positive mindset to exhibitors.

Furthermore, in 2026, the PH Commission will initiate a Facebook page where people can post and discuss interesting PH items and developments.

The Bureau Finances

The FIP has taken over the hosting of the website. Therefore, the PH Commission website costs have been reduced to zero. The PH Bureau members paid all costs related to the bureau's work in 2025 out of their own pockets.

The Commission Statistics:

At the end of 2025, the PH Bureau website show 70 delegates to the PH Commission. Please check that your federation's representative is correctly listed, and please let Henrik, Ed and Kelly know

about any changes to the representation (including email addresses). All PH Commission communication will take place via email.

Annual Reports from the PH Commission Delegates

Every year, the PH Bureau asks the PH Commission delegates to send in reports on the postal history activities in their countries. In the past, these reports were published individually in the PH Bureau reports to the FIP. This year, the reports will be submitted to the FIP and will be put on the FIP PH Commision website. Thank you for the reports received. The good news is that postal history is very alive and one of the most thriving classes of philately.

Many countries conduct seminars for postal history judges and collectors on the national level. The PH Bureau expressly supports and encourages such educational efforts, because they improve the skills of the both the judges and exhibitors over time. This, in turn, yields better results and those involved gain more personal enjoyment from the hobby.

It is also clear that digital media become increasingly important to postal history, and many associations organize seminars and even exhibitions exclusively online. Numerous conversations and reports suggest that this is a step in the right direction. At the same time, many emphasise the need for keeping live in-person events (such as exhibitions, seminars, presentations, and other events) because the social aspect of philately is an essential for keeping a thriving hobby community going and developing.

Finally, the PH Bureau would like to thank all the delegates of the national federations, the FIP Board, and Kelly Ong for their support in 2025. All feedback collected will help inspire the PH Bureau's work on the future of postal history exhibiting and judging. On behalf of the PH Commission, thank you to every-one who put effort and time into promoting postal history collecting, exhibiting and judging.

Conclusions

The major effort of the PH Commission during the current PH Bureau mandate period has been focussed on revising and improving the clarity of the SREVs and Guidelines. This has been achieved as the new PH Guidelines and SREVs were pre-approved by the FIP Board and were approved with an overwhelming majority by the PH Commission delegates. The PH Bureau hope that the federation representatives will confirm the revised PH SREVs and Guidelines by voting in favour of them at the Macao Congress.

Another important focus of the PH Bureau's work has been to develop and hold useful seminars at international exhibitions and to make them available online either on the FIP website and/or on YouTube, e.g. https://www.youtube.com/@henrikmouritsensphilatelic4217 and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bkv48D0JdzU. In future seminars, the PH Commission will always include a focus on how to give the best possible feedback to exhibitors. Hopefully, these efforts will be useful to the community of postal history exhibitors, collectors and judges. We wish you all a great Congress and an enjoyable time collecting and exhibiting postal history in the future.

Henrik Mouritsen
Acting Chairman, FIP Postal History Commission
henrik.mouritsen@uol.de

Ed Kroft
Acting Secretary, FIP Postal History Commission
Ed.kroft1955@outlook.com