

**Report of the 43rd Congress and General Meeting
Bellefonte, PA - 20th October 2007, American Philatelic Center
on the occasion of 'AEROPHILATELY 2007'**

Kuno Sollors (D), President of F.I.S.A. welcomed the delegates and guests present.

- He read out the greetings and good wishes received from :
John Bodnar (Aus) Secretary of the Australian Air Mail Society, Dick Malott (Can) President Canadian Air Mail Society, Jürgen Dierauer (CH) President Gesellschaft Weltall Philatelisten Club, Roland F. Kohl (CH) Honorary President FISA, Hermann W. Sieger (D) Honorary Member FISA and Beatrice Bachmann (CH).
- He excused the Board Members Tom Frommer (Aus), Hugo Goeggel (Col) and Romano Savini (I).

Board Members present :

Vice-Presidents Stephen Reinhard (USA) and Dr. Stefan Bruylants (B)
Treasurer Hans Mierl (A), Secretary General Jackie Lauwers-Bekaert (B)
Directors Gérard Collot (F) and MUDr. Bedrich Helm (CZ).

A minute of silence was held on behalf of the deceased members and friends since the last Congress :

Bob E. Lana/USA †17.10.2006 (74 years)	Alex S. Newall/GB °15.11.1913, † 8.11.2006
Rüdiger Beiter /D °14.9.1941, †15.11.2006	Peter Wilhelm/D †15.12.2006 (65 years)
Bob Spooner/USA †2006	H.Kaegi-Kulling/CH °21.10.1931, †5.4.2007
Pat Sloan/USA †5.5.2007	Bill Harrington/Can †6.5.2007
John Duggan/GB °10.7.1932, †26.10.2007	

GRANTING OF AWARDS

- The **GOLDEN F.I.S.A. MEDAL 2007** was awarded to A.Don JONES/USA and Dr. Stefan BRUYLANTS/B for their service and devotion to aerophilately and astrophilately.
- The **GOLDEN F.I.S.A. PIN** was presented to Stephen REINHARD/USA and to Dr. Peter MOELLER/D.
- A **SILVER LITERATURE MEDAL 2007** was awarded to Fiorenzi LONGHI/I for his catalogue 'Aerofilia Italiana-Storico Descrittivo 1898-1941'.
- A **BRONZE LITERATURE MEDAL 2007** was awarded to Charles KIDDLE/GB for his book 'Poster Stamps German Aviation-German Aircraft', Murray HEIFETZ/Can for his book 'O.A.T. & A.V.2 Markings – 3rd Edition, Volkmar MEHLITZ/D for his special catalogue on 'DDR-Luftpost, Luftpostbriefe/ Aerogramme/ Ganszachen.
- By election at the AAMS/American Air Mail Society, Brian ASQUITH/GB was honoured to the **2007 Aerophilatelic Hall of Fame** for his dedication and outstanding service to aerophilately.

All received applause from the audience.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Following alterations to the AGENDA were proposed :

Under pt 5 : 5B = Discharge of Directorium

Under pt 8 : 8B = New candidate Board Member

1/ The proposed Agenda and alterations were accepted by the delegates.

2/ Tellers :

MM. Reiner STIMM/D and Volkmar MEHLITZ/D volunteered as Tellers and were confirmed as such.

3/ Minutes of General Assembly 2005

The Minutes of the previous General Assembly (Hannover/D 2005) were accepted as published on FISA website and sent by mail.

4/ The Secretary General's Annual Reports of 2004, 2005 and 2006 were approved and accepted as published on FISA website and sent by mail.

5A/ Report and acceptance of internal audited Treasurer's Reports of 2005 and 2006

Auditors were Peter Beer/CH (not present) and Reiner Stimm/D.

Treasurer Hans Mierl informed the delegates on the balances of 2005 and 2006 of which copies were distributed. On behalf of both auditors, auditor present, Reiner Stimm/D agreed to the balances provided by the Treasurer. A remark was made with regard to the bank interest not mentioned under column receipts. The auditor proposed to discharge Treasurer and FISA Board.

5B/ Discharge of Treasurer and Members of Directorium

Unanimously accepted by the delegates.

6/ Admittance of new members

Most probably the former polish club 'Ikarus' will rejoin FISA. Mr. Jacek Kosmala attended as guest.

7/ Resignation of Kuno Sollors/D as President and election of new President.

Kuno Sollors expressed the wish to resign and proposed to the audience as new President, Stephen Reinhard/USA - Accepted unanimously.

On behalf of the AAMS, Kuno was honoured and received a special clock in recognition of his significant contributions to F.I.S.A. and aerophilately.

On behalf of F.I.S.A., Jackie presented Kuno an award plaque in recognition for his outstanding service as President of the Federation, researcher, promoting aerophilately and astrophilately worldwide and his friendship. He received a standing ovation and applause from the audience and Board and expressed his thanks.

The newly elected President, Stephen Reinhard/USA, thanked the audience for their confidence and informed the delegates that F.I.S.A. connects all aero- and astrophilatelic clubs over the world, is honouring aerophilatelists and astrophilatelists worldwide, is supporting exhibitions and supports publications. He would appreciate cooperation between the clubs. A two-page FISA information sheet could be provided to affiliated clubs for publication in their bulletins or journals. Plans are in the works for a print FISA Bulletin of, perhaps, 8 pages which can be mailed to all clubs three or four times a year. The address of the FISA website should be mentioned in club bulletins. All of this costs money. The required dues is a minimum. Each club that can afford more is urged to make an additional payment. Steve expressed the wish that Kuno continue on the FISA Board.

8A/ Election of the Directorate and Auditors (for a two-year term)

Board Members not present : Romano Savini/I expressed the wish to be re-elected. Despite reminder no reply was received from Tom Frommer/Aus nor Hugo Goeggel/Col. The delegates agreed to re-elect them for another term but if no reply received before next General Assembly, they will not be re-elected in 2009.

8B/ Wolfgang Porges/CH was introduced as Board Member in view of possible successor as Secretary General since Jackie expressed the wish to resign in 2009. He was accepted as F.I.S.A. Board Member by the delegates. The actual ten board members were introduced to the audience (list enclosed).

9/ Fixing of the yearly subscription.

Treasurer Hans Mierl apologised for the mistake in converting Swiss Francs into Euro. Subscription for 2007 remains at minimum € 60 per club, gifts always welcome.

Proposal yearly subscription from 2008 onwards :

- clubs up to 50 members = € 50,
- up to 100 members = € 70,
- over 100 members = € 90,
- gifts always welcome.

The proposal was accepted by the delegates but have to take into consideration that in 2009 the minimum subscription of € 50 for small clubs should be revised. Treasurer Hans Mierl requested the delegates not to send bank cheques since expenses involved are very high, viz. € 16.

10/ Discussion of motions and appeals.

a) With reference to point 8A/Election of Board Members, a motion was introduced by Chris Hargreaves/Can, Delegate of Canadian Air Mail Society, that the FISA Board be encouraged to seek and add additional members from the southern hemisphere. This was supported by Ken Sanford, delegate for southern Africa.

b) Richard Saundry/GB, delegate British Air Mail Society (former BAeF) informed on the difficulties of communications between FISA and clubs following FISA's decision to cease the publication of a hard copy of the FISA Bulletin edited by Alex Newall. Since then it was particularly hard to requisite information about FISA by using only the internet. The current website <http://fly.to/fisa> is not one which can be easily found.

If anyone within FISA would be willing to compose news, perhaps a couple of pages, so that the clubs would be kept updated regarding FISA and aerophilatelic activities in other countries. Furthermore clubs would then also have the opportunity to republish same in their bulletins.

11/ Granting of patronage and auspices to exhibitions

The only request for FISA patronage received was from the Club Philatélique de Meyrin for "PhilAero 09", an international non-competitive exhibition with 'Days of Aerophilately' that will take place from 24th to 26th April 2009. Information about the exhibition, in German and English, was circulated by Jackie among the delegates and will be sent to anyone interested. At the same time the Club Philatélique de Meyrin invited F.I.S.A. to hold their 44th Congress and General Assembly in the 'Forum Meyrin' on Saturday 25th April 2009. Delegate Tony A. Roth/CH supported 'PhilAero 09', similar to the well known LUPO-exhibitions, by projecting on screen some publicity about Switzerland, the community and the Forum of Meyrin, and in particular about 'PhilAero 09' and asked for the votes from the delegates that the 2009 F.I.S.A. Congress be held in Meyrin.

12/ Fixing of time and place next General Assembly

SATURDAY 25th APRIL 2009 on occasion of 'Phil Aero 09' at Meyrin/CH. Unanimously accepted.

13/ Communications

Delegate **Reiner Stimm/D** presented to AAMS President, Derrick Pillage, following books as gift for the AAMS library :

1. Die Welt der Überflieger,
2. das Jahrhundert der Zeppelin,
3. Katalog und Handbuch der Nachtluftpost in Deutschland,
4. Katalog der Deutschen Luftpost-Teil 16
5. DDR-Luftpost - Faltbriefe/Aerogramme/Ganzsachen.

Board Member **Gérard Collot/F** informed on a national commemoration to celebrate the 'Centenary of the first crossing of the channel by Louis Blériot on July 25th 1909'. Several events are planned from 22nd to 26th July 2009 at Blériot Plage near Calais and will be organised by CAF/Cercle Aérophilatélique Français and GAPS, such as a non-competitive aerophilatelic exhibition with more than 300 frames consisting in Class of Honour, one-frame display, multi-frame display.

Aerophilatelists of the world will be invited but priority will be given to CAF, GAPS and BAMS (former BAeF) members. With the latter society and its President, Peter Lister, the O.C. will examine the possibility of organising something on both sides of the channel. FISA will be kept informed on the progress of this exhibition.

Kuno thanked Gérard for the information and wished him already success. No further communications having been received, the Congress and general Assembly were adjourned at 12.10 PM and Honorary President (Immediate Past President) Kuno Sollors thanked all participants.

The General Assembly was followed by a FISA lunch at Gamble Mill Restaurant, 160 Dunlop Street, Bellefonte/PA.

KS / JL-B, November 2007