

## The "Astrophil 2013" space philately exhibition



*Cosmonauts Sigmund Jähn and Vladimir Kovalenok. Cosmonauts Sigmund Jähn sees a flown cover from his flight in Igor Rodin's exhibit. Cover with one of the special postmarks of Astrophil, depicting Cosmonauts Valentina Tereschkova and Sigmund Jähn.*

The „Astrophil 2013“ German-Russian joint space philately exhibition was held in the Russian House for Science and Culture at Berlin since April 12 till April 14, 2013.

The event was devoted to the 50th Anniversary of the first spaceflight of a woman cosmonaut and the 35th Anniversary of the first flight of a German national into space.

The exhibition was organized by: Chairman of the FIP Section for Astrophilately Igor Rodin (Moscow, Russia); the Federal Working Group on Space Philately (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft „Weltraum Philatelie“ e. V.) in the Federation of German Philatelists (BDPh); the Russian House for Science and Culture at Berlin; the Association of Russia/UdSSR Stamp Collectors Berlin (Verein der Briefmarkenfreunde Rußland/UdSSR Berlin); the Federation of Berlin Stamp Clubs (Verband Berliner Philatelisten-Vereine).



*Opening ceremony. The founder of the FIP Section for Astrophilately, Mrs. Beatrice Bachmann from Switzerland (in the center) took part in the opening ceremony and was welcomed by Igor Rodin.*

First the idea to organize a German-Russian joint space philately exhibition was discussed by Igor Rodin and Florian Noller, President of the German Space Philately Society, at the Seminar on Astrophilately in Bremen in June 2012. After that this initiative was supported by Mr. Michael Adler (the former president of FEPA and Director of FIP), Mr. Franz-Karl Lindner (Vice-president of the BDPh) and Mr. Peter Süß (Vice-president of the Federation of Berlin Stamp Clubs) during informal meetings with Igor Rodin on the occasion of IPhLA 2012.

The great support in solving a number of organization questions was provided by German philatelists: Frank Walter (President of Verband Berliner Philatelisten-Vereine), Jürgen Peter Esders (German delegate to the FIP Section for Astrophilately), Florian Noller, Erhard Engelmann, Bernhard Tiedt, Ulrich Unger.

As a result of the negotiations between Igor Rodin, the Russian Federal Agency for the Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation as well as Berlin's Russian House, the latter provided free of charge the exhibition halls to place more 100 exhibition frames; a large conference-hall for meetings, seminar and lectures; a press-conference center and some other facilities and equipment.

During the preparation, the exhibition enlarged from bilateral into international, because the exhibitors from Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, **Italy**, Monaco, Romania, Russia and Switzerland took part in

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the event with 48 exhibits about the conquest of space in the following classes: the Honorary Class, Astrophilately, Thematic, Open Class and one frame exhibits.

Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Kovalenok and German cosmonaut Sigmund Jähn, the 2 of the 4 participants of the first German space mission, were the honorary guests of the exhibition.

Before the opening ceremony, the press-conference with the cosmonauts and the organizers took place in the Russian House. The press-conference was conducted by Sergey Zhuravlev, deputy director of the Russian House. The opening ceremony took place on April 12, the Cosmonautic Day. The organizers and Honorary guests welcomed the exhibition. At the end of the ceremony the exhibitors and guests with a great interest watched a video film by Sergey Rodin about space mail.

The 40-page colour exhibition catalogue (500 copies) edited by Jürgen Peter Esders was issued by the German Space Philately Society. The Greetings to the exhibition published in the Catalogue were sent by all the organizers mentioned above as well as by Russian Federal Space Agency and the Federation of Cosmonautics of Russia.



*Astro Section's delegates Alec Bartos (Romania) and Umberto Cavallaro (Italy). Right the German Post.*

It was a non-competitive exhibition. On April 13, German Postal Service attended the show with a mobile post office.

The German Post issued a special cover and the pictorial postmarker (special official post mark) devoted to the exhibition. An individual postage stamp (1000 copies) issued by German Post and devoted to the first woman-cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova was sold out till 12 o'clock of April 13.

Some other philatelic material were also issued for this event by Infopost (special service of German Post) and by Biberpost.



*Round table talk about the future of manned space exploration: from left; Torsten Gemsa, Vladimir Kovalenok, Ulrich Unger, Sigmund Jähn. On the right photo, lecture on Astrophilately: Igor Rodin and Jürgen Peter Esders*

On April 13, cosmonauts Kovalenok and Jähn conducted the presentation-lecture about their joint "Interkosmos" space flight on Salyut 6, followed by round table talk about the future of manned space exploration. After that a lot of people stood in a long queue for an autograph session of the cosmonaut.

On April 14, Igor Rodin gave a lecture on Astrophilately titled "From the History of Soviet/Russian Space Mail". The translation of the lecture from English into German was made by Jürgen Esders (fig.8).

Walter Hopperwieser (Austria) presented his working material for his catalogue on Space Mail.

An informal meeting and discussion of the FIP Section for Astrophilately was conducted by Igor Rodin. The Section's delegates from Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Romania, Spain, Russia and Switzerland took part in the meeting. The former Leader of the Section (during 16 years) Mrs. Beatrice Bachmann announced about her decision to retire after her 28 years being the Section's delegate from Switzerland. The delegates thanked Mrs. Bachmann for her outstanding achievements in Astrophilately and her great work for founding the Section and promoting Astrophilately.

*Igor Rodin, Chairman of the FIP Section for Astrophilately*