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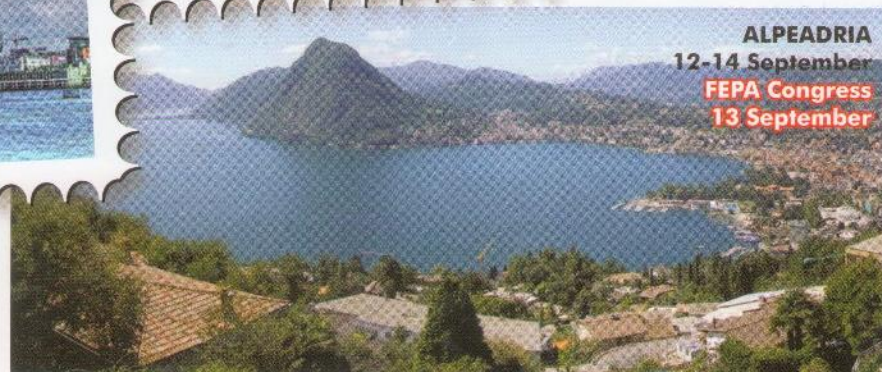


News

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Frontpage. The photos:

Philatelic Summit and BALTEX 2014 in Malmö: Port

Odessaphilex 2014: Odessa Wharf

Salon Planete Timbres de Paris: Eiffel Tower

Alpe Adria and FEPA Congress: View of the Lugano lake

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INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED STAMP DESIGNER VISITS YOUNG CROATIAN PHILATELISTS

During October internationally acclaimed artist and stamp designer Mr. Zlatko Jakuš visited the primary school in Belec, a small locality in the environs of Zagreb. On this occasion he spoke about the process of stamp design to young collectors and to other pupils who have not yet taken up the hobby. His address was entitled 'The Artistic Journey of Zlatko Jakuš'.



His visit was a part of the project 'Learning through Postage Stamps' which

also featured a two week stamp display mounted by the Belec Primary School with the cooperation of the 'Philatelic Club Zabok' from Zabok and held within the framework of the 'Week of the Child'.

At the beginning of his talk our intriguing guest offered some biographical and artistic insights. He was born in Zagreb in 1945 and matriculated at the Zagreb School of Applied Arts in 1964. He went to Sweden to visit his mother who herself was on a short visit and managed to stay there for forty years. Initially he worked in an atelier which specialised in decorative bookbinding including the gold embossing.

After some time he took the opportunity to study graphic arts at the University of Stockholm and thereafter studied graphic arts, specialising in the engraving technique, at the Swedish High School of Fine Arts. Following his education he became a member of four man team of engravers entrusted with the design of banknotes. Here started his 'artistic journey'. He designed 200 Swedish postage stamps. In designing the stamps he came to know the country and its royal court. His style became readily recognisable and awards followed.



The miniature with the motive of lighted match won a prize in New York in 1980.

The Swedish stamp commemorating older

people was voted the most attractive stamp in the world and won the 'Golden Stamp' prize.



During the struggle for the Croatian independence he was entrusted with the task of designing the first Croatian Di-

nar denominated banknotes and the first Croatian stamp as two attributes of the new state sovereignty. In Croatian philately he will be remembered as the author of the 'King Tomislav' stamp, the only Croatian stamp printed by the line engraved method to date.

Mr. Jakuš distributed several stamps with his design of the hedgehog drinking milk to the most active pupil collectors. After his talk we could examine metal engraving tools and other engraver's equipment and a few sketches.



The teachers and pupils from Belec school took part in a lively questions and answers session. The pupils from the school journal team also interviewed Mr. Jakuš for the school newspaper from which we quote a part:

3 Minutes of the 2012 Congress in F



How long does it take to turn an idea into the final design of a postage stamp?



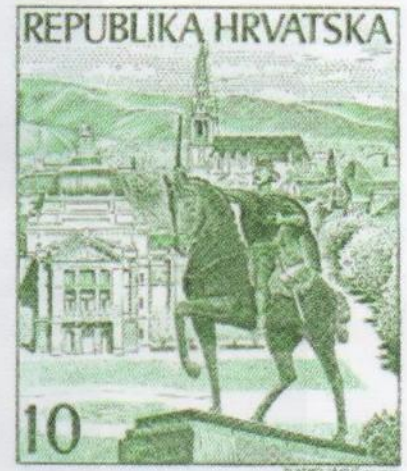
Roughly three to four weeks. If it is a portrait it might take up to eight weeks. There is no room for corrections; one error and the whole process

has to start afresh. Therefore the final week is critical. Before detailed engraving of the copper or steel plate,

linear solutions of the design have to be drawn as engraver's guide.

How was the 'King Tomislav' stamp designed?

This stamp was designed during one of my visits to Sweden. It was issued on 05.05.1992 and the released quantity amounted to 438000 stamps. It is the only monochrome line engraved Croatian stamp. It was printed in Sweden and sent to Croatia as a present alongside there produced banknotes. At the time there was a proposal for printing some other Croatian stamps in Sweden. The stamp was produced in coil format and was intended for the distribution by stamp dispensing machines which Croatian Post did not operate at the time. For the ease of accounting by postal employees each tenth stamp in the coil was numbered.



**Prof. Verica Havočić
Ivan Drašković**

Vice-President of the Croatian Philatelic Federation

