



SIPEX!

Thank You, Team Washington D.C.!



The 30-member jury for the competitive exhibition at the Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition in 1966. The chairman, John R. Boker, Jr., is the tall gentleman in the center. George T. Turner, president of show, is at lower left.



SIPEX OFFICIAL CATALOGUE



**INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC
EXHIBITION**
WASHINGTON, D. C. MAY 21-30, 1966
PRICE 75 CENTS

Front cover of the 194-page Official Program for SIPEX.

Maximum card with the souvenir sheet issued at the show—cancelled on its first day of issue: May 23, 1966.

SIPEX, the sixth U.S. International Philatelic Exhibition, ran from May 21 thru May 30, 1966 in Washington D.C. at the Shoreham Hotel. That's just 50 years from when World Stamp Show-NY 2016 opens its doors at 10 AM on Saturday, May 28, 2016.

There are very few Herculean-type stamp collectors in our U.S. stamp hobby history. One of them was George T. Turner of Washington, D.C. In 1980, at the George Turner auction sale, I was able to purchase a hand-typed rough draft, and a second rough draft, both edited in Turner's handwriting, and the final draft of the "By-Laws of the Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition, Inc." (After World Stamp Show-NY 2016 I will make sure these documents reside permanently at the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) in Bellefonte, Pa.)

The significance of these drafts is dramatic: it was Turner, and a group of Washington D.C. area stamp collectors, who were convinced that they could take on the Herculean task to make the sixth U.S. IPEX happen with only 18 months left to plan—they could save the decennial international for the United States. They were bucking some substantial odds: all five previous shows were held in New York City, where heavy show traffic was virtually guaranteed, and each had been planned for at least three years or more. This planning and staging effort was always conducted by the Association for Stamp Exhibitions, Inc., which announced in 1964 that they were not going to be able to produce the 1966 show.

The bylaws were adopted on August 4, 1965, and the show was then scheduled to take place at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington. At the time, Turner was Chairman of the Board of Vice Presidents



The gigantic Shoreham Hotel, site of SIPEX in May of 1966, at the corner of Woodley Road and Connecticut Avenue in Washington, D.C.



The Grand Lobby of the Shoreham Hotel where hundreds of philatelists gathered.



The U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing—how it looked when visitors to SIPEX were given daily tours of the facility where, at the time, America's postage stamps were printed.

Publisher and entrepreneur Jacques Minkus's invitation to a reception on May 22, 1966, in the hotel.



George T. Turner, renowned collector and president of the 1966 SIPEX show committee.



First day maximum card for the SIPEX commemorative issued on the open day of the show, May 21, 1966.

of the American Philatelic Society and was running for APS President, a position everyone thought was perfect for his leadership skills. He resigned his candidacy, paving the way for his good friend Edward Willard to become APS President.

The U.S. Post Office Department (it was to become the USPS in 1971) cooperated fully with the SIPEX team, with a display of gems from the Postmaster Generals' collection and archives. It also provided three first day ceremonies during the show. The 5-cent SIPEX commemorative appeared on the first day of the show. Then the lowest denominated U.S. souvenir sheet in history was issued on May 23rd, listed as Scott No. 1311, as shown on the beautiful maximum, card in **Figure 1**. There were 1.2 million sheets sold in less than three hours on the first day of sale. Additional print- ing orders were placed during the show, and ultimately 15,000,000

sheets were sold. Another USPOD "first" graced SIPEX, and that was the first day ceremony for the very first U.S. international air-mail postal card. It was also the very first postal card to be printed in duotone, a lithographic process by which inks are blended for rich tones. It's now known as Scott No. UXC5.

Connections the SIPEX steering committee had with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the USPOD were significant. The BEP designed the emblem and medal for SIPEX, symbolizing the sixth in the series of U.S. internationals. The international aspect is symbolized by the globe and the philatelic by the stamp. The Statue of Freedom shows the location of the event. George Turner noted: "It is a rare privilege to have this bureau of the federal gov- ernment participate to such an extent in a philatelic event." There were special daily guided tours of the Bureau for SIPEX guests.



Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Minkus
cordially invite you to attend a
Reception and Cocktail Party
on Sunday, the twenty-second of May
nineteen hundred sixty-six
Forum Room, Shoreham Hotel
five to seven o'clock



One of the tables at the SIPEX Awards Dinner. At lower right is world famous stamp dealer and U.S. classics expert Elliott Perry. Far left: Creighton Hart with his wife, Virginia. To her left, Thomas J. Alexander. Center, turning toward the camera: SIPEX Chairman Svend Yort.

Salute to SIPEX

Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition
Washington, D. C. — 1966



At left: Front of souvenir booklet from the Association for Stamp Exhibitions listing the six great U.S. international exhibitions beginning in 1913.

INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

Fascinating Fad !
Friends
Fabulous Festivities !



MAY 21 - 30, 1966
SHOREHAM HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Below: a strip of five of the special poster stamps used to promote the show prior to its opening



The SIPEX folks were concerned about getting the utmost co-operation from all aspects of the philatelic community since a U.S. International had never been held outside of New York City. All of the participating dealers were most enthusiastic about their 10 day experience

A panel of 30 international judges was assembled to judge the 2,200 16-page frames. It was still possible that *"a portion of the exhibition may be shown in the frames and the remainder held in albums for examination by the judges"* in the bin room. This was the last time a U.S. IPEX allowed for additional material to be judged than was actually included in the frames.

John R. Boker Jr. of New York City was the Chairman of the Jury, made up of 14 Americans and 16 judges from Australia, Canada, Brazil, Chile, England, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela. They are pictured on the steps to the Ballroom of the Shoreham in Figure 2, with Boker being the very tall fellow—you couldn't miss him—in the center, and President Turner in the front lower left.

Exhibit rule No. 12 cautioned prospective exhibitors that exhibits at recent Internationals had been disqualified for an award because they contained *"undesirable stamps, miniature sheets or issues that are boycotted or not recognized by the FIP."* A pamphlet was produced listing all of these issues and distributed to all SIPEX exhibitors. In spite of this communications effort, the

SIPEX jury had the unpleasurable task of disqualifying five exhibits for this reason.

There was no best-in-show award made—what we currently call the Grand Prix de Honeur, but there were three grand awards: in the Class of Honor, the National Class and the International Class. Americans captured two of these awards, which were Steuben glass bowls bearing the engraved logo design of the show.

The grand award in the Honor Class, in which exhibits had to have won two previous international gold awards, was awarded to Sweden's Joel Olsson for a collection of 1855-58 Skilling-Banco issue and 1856-62 local issue rarities. The top American exhibit, the National Class winner, went to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kilbourne of Schenectady, New York for an exhibit of Confederate stamps and covers that told the postal history of the Confederate States of America.

The International Class award went to the collection of Robert J. Gill of Baltimore, a display of the classic issues of France that contained rare large multiples, both used and unused.

There were 80 dealer booths, each costing \$550 for the 10 days. This is a significant fact, since 10 years earlier at FIPEX the booths cost \$650. This was because SIPEX Show was in a hotel ballroom setting and, in 1956, in a huge convention center. In inflation dollars that's about \$4,500-\$5,000, the same price as some of the 10' x 10' booths at World Stamp Show-NY 2016.



The awards banquet was held on Saturday evening, May 28. Tickets were \$12.50 and the evening was deemed most successful. One of the more interesting components of the SIPEX banquet was the organizing committee's decision to have no head tables and no speeches. There was an informal seating arrangement for all of the 700 guests regardless of position or title. Jury Chairman Boker presided over the presentation of the awards. Many of the guests, especially from overseas, were impressed with the very "democratic" approach to this major awards banquet, which usually features much pomp and circumstance, as well as many, many speeches.

It should be noted that a special award went to Philadelphia's Charles A. Fricke, who is a frequent contributor to many stamp publications, including *ASD&C*. It was the Federation International de Philaetie (FIP) award which gave its patronage to SIPEX.

The award was for an extensive showing of rare proofs of the first United States postal card issue of 1873-75. Charles is considered one of the leading postal stationery experts today, having published numerous articles and catalogues. It's 50 years later but we once again say "Congratulations, Charles!" on this major award at SIPEX!

Postmaster General Larry O'Brien noted at the opening ceremonies that SIPEX was starting on the same day that Charles Lindbergh landed *The Spirit of St. Louis* in Paris 39 years earlier. He reflected on the incredible progress the mail system had made during this time. Francis Cardinal Spellman, a world-renowned stamp collector for whom a philatelic museum is named in his honor, displayed Lindbergh memorabilia from his collection.

Another notable collector, Prince Rainier III of Monaco exhibited his country's postal history dating back to 1777. The Court of Honor featured material much of which was on display for the very first time. Some of the more popular items were two full panes (the left and right positions of the full printing sheet) of Scott No. 292, the \$1.00 1898 "Western Cattle in Storm," a very fine block of four of No. C3a, the Inverted Jenny, and the largest known multiple of Scott No. 1—a block of 16. (Wait to see what happens with this block at Ameripex 86!)

In spite of the attendance being lower than 10 years earlier at FIPEX, the show was a considered a success in every way. There was much talk toward the end of the show about having the 1976 International in Philadelphia, to coincide with the nation's bicentennial celebration. Stay tuned in the July-August issue of *ASD&C* to find out where the 1976 show was held. But in the meantime, let's all plan now to meet at World Stamp Show-NY 2016—check it out at www.ny2016.org! ☐

SIPEX '66 was moved from New York City to Washington, D.C. Here's how it happened...

Over the years, many folks have wondered about the story behind how SIPEX came to Washington, D.C. instead of being held at the New York Coliseum.

We start with an article by the late Belmont Faries in *The Washington Star* August 23, 1964. He wrote that, after a year of planning, it was announced that the next international philatelic exhibition would be held in New York City at the Statler-Hilton Hotel from March 4-9, 1966.

"One of the highlights...was the unveiling of the 1966 USIPEX emblem. This insignia is a modernistic representation of an exhibition hall and stage in the form of a postage stamp, with the USIPEX in the Center"

Though the drawing was of the New York Coliseum, the show venue was announced as the Statler-Hilton. They had already decided to take a smaller venue than the Coliseum, where 1956 FIPEX had been so successful.

An announcement appeared in *Linn's Stamp News* Nov. 30, 1964: "The Association for Stamp Exhibitions has announced that because of the problem of financial liabilities arising from the fact the organization is a membership corporation—as well as a lack of harmony among the directors—the Association, at its latest Board Meeting, decided to abandon planning for the USIPEX 1966 Exhibition until the above situation has been rectified."

The long running problem was a difference of opinion about what the show should look like. Discussions early on were led by John R. Boker, then President of ASE, who felt strongly that the it should be "of limited size and top prestige—obtaining top collections on an invitational basis and displaying them under deluxe circumstances."

Boker felt that the yearly ASDA New York shows catered to the "popular collector, and the International should be much more exclusive." So Boker resigned. John J. Britt, then recently-installed president of the ASE, was elected, and then he resigned—all over this difference of philosophy.

Franklin Bruns Jr. wrote in *The Washington Post* Jan. 10, 1965, "The Association for Stamp Exhibitions has regrouped after a difficult year and proposes to go ahead with plans for an international show 'at a suitable time and place and under conditions that bode for success.'"

"Harry L. Lindquist, then the most powerful figure in organized philately, notes that ASE will carry on as the sponsor of sixth international show. This announcement assures a showdown with a group of interested philatelists who associated themselves with Hebert Rosen late last year in a move to stage an international show in 1966." Rosen had successfully procured many New York stamp shows.

Lindquist used his editorial might in the pages of his *STAMPS Magazine* to condemn the Rosen efforts as a "strictly private undertaking" having no relationship to the ASE, which insisted it would run USIPEX in 1966.

It was soon after that—with about 18 months to go, and the New York folks still disagreeing on "who is in charge"—that the Organizing Committee of the annual NAPEX show in Washington, D.C., agreed to form a corporation and run the decennial U.S. IPEX in their city. As noted, George Turner of NAPEX fame, quickly took hold of this stunning leadership effort.

[A personal note from the author: Every person mentioned above was a very generous, enthusiastic supporter of our hobby throughout his lifetime. They are all to be remembered for their multiple contributions...it was just a challenging moment in our history, with a very happy ending.]