

Report on the Sarasota 2007 Philatelic Exhibition

By Ernesto Cuesta

The Sarasota 2007 Philatelic Exhibition was held from Friday through Sunday, February 2 to 4, in Sarasota, Florida. The CPSA held its annual meeting at the show on the morning of Saturday, February 3. The meeting was attended by about twenty Society members and friends and was followed by a presentation by Dr. Yamil H. Kouri on maritime mail between Cuba and the U.S. that was illustrated with numerous examples from his excellent collection of that material.

The show was well attended by Society members, several of which also took the opportunity to exhibit their collections. The following table lists their exhibits and the awards that they obtained. We note that Society members provided 76 of the total of 184 frames in the exhibition, representing 41% of the total.

Although the weather was rainy throughout the show, it didn't interfere seriously with the activities in which various groups of members participated. On Thursday, the day before the show opened, members were busily mounting their collections during the afternoon. After this job was completed, several of us went to dinner at a restaurant in St. Armand's Key and afterwards gathered in the lobby of the La Quinta hotel where some were staying and had a very productive side meeting on the Society Website and Society operations in general.

On Friday the show opened in the middle of a big rainstorm, but that did not impede the flow of philatelists into the show auditorium, which was pretty full all day long. Some members headed straight for the dealers to pick up some philatelic goodies before they fell into other hands while others concentrated their efforts in looking at the many excellent exhibits of Cuban material being displayed. In the evening Dr. James Mazepa had the courtesy of offering his beautiful house for a Society dinner and a large group of members and their spouses participated in the festivities around the pool at Dr. Mazepa's house which was a most agreeable venue.

Saturday morning was captured by the aforementioned Society annual meeting and Dr. Kouri's presentation, and the afternoon brought the posting of the exhibition medal awards and renewed interest in examining the excellent Cuban material being exhibited. This was followed in the evening by the Awards Banquet at the SaraBay Country Club that was attended by most of the Society members that exhibited their collections. The four gold and five vermeil medals that were awarded to Society members were an excellent result and left the Society in very good standing at the show. Dr. Kouri was a member of the panel of judges for the show and is to be commended for defending the Cuban exhibits at the show in the face of excellent competition from other superb exhibits that were participating. Sunday was a day for wrapping up, taking a last look at the exhibits, and saying good by to all the friends until the next time. The following is a link to photos from the show that are posted on the Internet: <http://www.philat.com/FIL/Shows/Sarasota2007/>

Frames Cuadros		Name Nombre	Title -- Titulo	Award Medalla
8	27-34	Silvia García-Frutos	<i>Cuba -- Colonial Period – 1855-1898, Postage Stamps used as Revenue Stamps Cuba – Periodo Colonial -- 1855 - 1898. Sellos de correos usados como fiscales</i>	<i>Gold Oro</i>
8	40-47	Ernesto Cuesta	<i>Cuba: The Stamps of King Alfonso XIII, 1890-1898 Cuba: los sellos del rey Alfonso XIII, 1890 - 1898</i>	<i>Vermeil Oro-Plata</i>
10	53-62	Alfred F. Kugel	<i>The Postal History of Bosnia- Herzegovina, 1842-1918 La Historia Postal de Bosnia-Herzegovina, 1842-1918</i>	<i>Gold Oro</i>
8	81-88	Luis Diaz	<i>U.S. Imperforated & Coil Stamps Sellos imperforados de los EE.UU.</i>	<i>Silver-Bronze Plata-Bronce</i>
8	97-104	Fernando Iglesias	<i>The Plating of the Half Real on Cover Planchaje del Medio Real en Cubierta</i>	<i>Vermeil Oro-Plata</i>
1	111	Frank Acevedo	<i>Puerto Rico—Early Maritime Mail via French, British & German Lines Puerto Rico—Correos Marítimos por las Líneas Francesas, Británicas y Alemanas</i>	<i>Vermeil Oro-Plata</i>
9	130-138	Octavio Cabrera	<i>Cuban Postal Stationery 1898-1958 Enteros Postales Cubanos 1898-1958</i>	<i>Vermeil Oro-Plata</i>
3	140-142	Frank Acevedo	<i>Puerto Rico: Spanish-American War Puerto Rico: Guerra Hispano-Americana</i>	<i>Gold Oro</i>
7	159-165	Fernando Iglesias	<i>The British & French Post Offices in Cuba Las Oficinas Postales Inglesas y Francesas en Cuba</i>	<i>Gold Oro</i>
6	166-171	Jack E. Thompson	<i>Cuba's Struggle for Independence (1868-1902) Cuba--Luchas por la Independencia (1868-1902)</i>	<i>Vermeil Oro-Plata</i>
8	172-179	Gerardo Alvarez	<i>Cuba – Republic 1902-1916 Cuba – Republica 1902-1916</i>	<i>Silver Plata</i>