

The ESPAÑA 06 International Philatelic Exhibition of Malaga, Spain.

By Ernesto Cuesta

The ESPAÑA 06 International Philatelic Exhibition, held in Malaga, Spain, from Saturday, October 7, to Friday, October 13, was a great success. Initial trepidation by potential exhibitors and dealers about the facilities for the exhibition, which were advertised as being several tents scattered throughout the city, turned out to be unfounded. The exhibition did indeed take place in tents strategically located in close proximity throughout the downtown and port area of the city, but the tents were sturdy, well protected against the elements and closely guarded by security personnel 24 hours a day for the duration of the exhibition. Most of the traditional philately and all of the literature exhibits were in a huge two-story tent inside the port area, which made it convenient for the exhibitors and the visiting public interested in looking at the great collections and literature that were on display.

One block away across from this main tent in the port area, on a street reserved for pedestrian traffic only (Marqués de Larios), a line of small tents was set up along the center of the street for the dealers that attended the exhibition from all over the world. This line of dealer tents extended almost to the end of the street and ended in a little plaza (Plaza de la Constitución) where there were two large tents, one housing the Court of Honor collections and the other one occupied by the Spanish Postal Service for the sale of postal goods. Another line of tents extended along one side of a beautiful avenue, the “Alameda Principal”, lined up on each side by huge old trees. These tents contained exhibits presented by the Spanish Postal Administration on printing and engraving processes, old prints and engravings, and old books with extraordinary three-dimensional foldout inserts. Still another tent next to the official hotel for the exhibition, the NH Malaga, contained the one-frame exhibits and topical collections in the competition. The idea of setting all of these tents along city streets was to bring the exhibition and stamp collecting to the attention of the passing public and it was well planned and implemented and very successful.

The exhibition was well attended by the public and by CPSA members, especially from Spain, Europe, and even Cuba. The Cuban group killed two birds with one stone—they participated in two exhibitions in one trip, because the week before the ESPAÑA 06 Exhibition, they participated in the Seventh Spanish-Cuban Bi-National Philatelic Exhibition that was held in Santa Fé, Granada, from September 30 to October 5 (<http://www.fesofi.es/VIIHispaCuba>). The table at the end of this report lists all entries in the ESPAÑA 06 Exhibition with significant Cuban philatelic content. Several Society members participated with their collections and literature entries in the exhibition. Those belonging to CPSA members are highlighted in bold and italics. The medals obtained by each exhibit are indicated in the table.

Two very distinguished members of the Society were apprentice jurors at the ESPAÑA 06 Exhibition and were officially accredited as FIP jurors after thorough examination of their performance at the show. The two new FIP jurors in our Society are Professor Juan Carlos Fresquet Portela of Cuba and Doctor Geoffrey Lewis of Australia. Both are highly regarded philatelists and with this accreditation bring additional prestige to the Society and we thank them for their excellent work and congratulate them. They will now be able to expertly judge and defend our Cuban exhibits at international exhibitions and ensure that our philately gets the recognition it well deserves.

Society members had the opportunity to meet amongst themselves on several occasions while sampling the great dishes and wines that Malaga had to offer. These festivities culminated with two significant events on the evening of Thursday, October 12. First was a meeting of the Spanish Academy of Philately at which CPSA member Dr. Yamil H. Kouri, Jr., was formally inducted as a numbered member (Académico de Número) into the Academy after presenting his acceptance dissertation titled "Subsidized Steamship Mail Between Cuba and the Atlantic Coast of the United States" (La

correspondencia por vapores subvencionados entre Cuba y la costa Atlántica de los Estados Unidos). Membership in the Academy is restricted to a very select group of eminent philatelists and Dr.Kouri has certainly demonstrated that he amply qualified. That ceremony was shortly thereafter followed by a very fine Palmarés dinner that took place in a hotel in the neighboring city of Torremolinos, a famous resort on the Costa del Sol. ESPAÑA 06 thus ended, leaving us with fond memories of a very fine exhibition held very successfully in a very unorthodox venue of tents with many new friendships made and old ones renewed and reinvigorated.