

ASTROPHILATELY IN BELGIUM

Annual Report 2022

15-01-2023

2022 was for astrophilately like a phoenix rising from a dark valley!

After exactly two years of quarantine and isolation, we were able to resume our astrophilately meetings with BFV Cosmos from 20 March 2022.

Our astro meetings will not only discuss recent space activities, new covers and flown letters, but also what is happening at Belgian Federation regional (East Flanders and Antwerp), national and international (FIP, FEPA and FISA).

We encourage our members to participate in exhibitions and yet recently we were able to add two new participants/collections to our list.

Slowly, the regional exhibitions returned and - after no less than four years of preparation - the Antverpia 2022 national exhibition could take place in Antwerp from 10 to 12 June 2022.

There were seven entries in the astrophilately class with collectors from Germany and Italy in addition to Belgian participants.

Members of BFV Cosmos participated in subsequent exhibitions (with astrophilately) in 2022:

- Bart Van Oppens	Liberec 2022	/CZ	FEPA	Vermeil
- Stefan Bruylants	Antverpia 2022	/B	Nat.	Gold

The astrophilatelie magazine Cosmos Express is published four times a year (bilingual English-Dutch) and is much appreciated, also abroad. Unfortunately, due to high printing and postage costs, we are obliged to switch to electronic publication (.pdf) via mail and website from 2023 onwards.

Our website www.bfvcosmos.be remains worth visiting and offers, besides astrophilately, a lot of information on exhibitions at home and abroad. An update of the site will be offered in 2023.

The planned meeting of National and Provincial Commissioners of astrophilately, together with the jury members of astrophilately, was also planned again in 2022, but once again had to be postponed due to no meeting room and lack of time. Will continue in 2023.

So, 2022 became another year of reflection for astrophilately:

- Deepening knowledge and deepening the collections,
- Preparing articles for Cosmos Express, Belgaphil and other philatelic magazines,
- Further development of the astrophilately website www.bfvcosmos.be,
- Further development of close contacts with astrophilatelists abroad,
- Thinking of an umbrella European astrophilately platform via FISA website for aero- and astrophilately.

We hope to expand our contacts with national commissioners of astrophilately of different countries and participate in international FIP, FEPA and FISA meetings (locally or via Zoom).

Hereby also my thanks to Royal Philatelic Federation in Belgium for trusting my provincial commissioners and judges and its much appreciated help and cooperation.

For 2023, I hope for a breakthrough in astrophilately with the spectacular new space programs and - quite possibly - awakening interest among our youth.

My next annual report will show what it has become ...

Stefan Bruylants

National Commissioner Astrophilately in Belgium