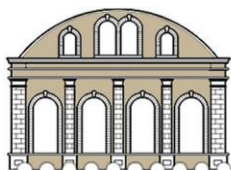


# “Lavriion 2009”

An exhibition to remember

By Costas Chazapis AIJP

The setup of a National Exhibition is not always a straightforward situation. Here in Greece, where philatelic turnover is very low, prospective organizers are quite hesitant to assume such a task, because they are well aware of the fact they will sweat out to balance the ever growing expenses. A suitable, convenient, and low cost venue to host the event in a large metropolis, like Athens, is quite a project by itself. So we thought: The co-operation of philatelic societies, even philatelists with non-philatelists, might provide the solution.



societies formed a well balanced Organizing Committee with three members each, agreed to do their best to get financial support, recruited the volunteers necessary to help during preparations as well as the actual event,

and, most importantly, shared between them the total workload and expenses meticulously. The National Philatelic Exhibition “Lavriion 2009”

([www.hps.gr/lavriion2009](http://www.hps.gr/lavriion2009)) was concluded a few weeks ago. It was an outstanding success.

Our non-philatelic part-ners, the Scientific Association of Lavriion ([www.emel.gr](http://www.emel.gr)), had suggested running the event at home (used to be called Laurium in English). The place was known as far back as the antiquity, because of its active silver mines during the Golden Age of Pericle’s Athens. The exhibition would be accommodated in a recently renovated industrial building, part of what today is the “Lavriion Technological and Cultural Park” ([www.ltp.ntua.gr](http://www.ltp.ntua.gr)) and of what once upon a time was the “Compagnie Française des Mines du Laurium”. It is twenty years now, that the National Technical University of Athens is not only restoring the old buildings of the French mining company, it is also reviving a contaminated environment.



*The façade of the metal-wash building, currently Under restoration, which inspired the exhibition logo.*

It was not a long time ago when an interesting proposal was set forth and immediately adopted, while in an informal round table discussion “on how to setup our next



exhibition” in the Hellenic Philatelic Society premises.

*Part of the complex of the “Lavriion Tecnological and Cultural Park*

Representatives of a cultural (non-philatelic) society suggested the two parties to get together in order to co-organize a philatelic event, in a decent and free of charge exhibition hall which they could provide, with a combined budget, to the benefit of both. And so we did. The two

*The exhibition hall*



The town of Lavriion is situated 67 kilometers south east of Athens city centre. It is an old and forgotten port, very close to Cape Sounion at the tip of Attica peninsula, where the ancient Temple of Poseidon is overlooking the Aegean Sea for centuries. Its people love the place they live in. They show the same respect to the 2500 years ancient temple as well as to a 100 years ship loading platform, their precious “échelle”, which they nowadays try to fund its restoration project.

The exhibition opened to the public on Wednesday 30 September at 17.00 hrs and closed on Sunday 4 October at 14.00 hrs.

The official opening, on Wednesday afternoon, was an excellent opportunity for first timers to get acquainted



### *The Opening*

with philately. The Prefect of East Attica himself was called upon to cut the ribbons, in the presence of the Mayor of Lavrion and all his council members, the National Technical University and the Hellenic Post representatives, many prominent figures of the local society, the President and Board members of the Hellenic Philatelic Federation as well as of several philatelic societies, a good number of exhibitors, and of course a lot of people.

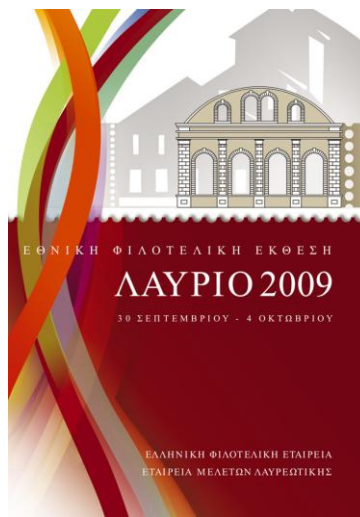


The exhibits were mounted in 265 16-page frames. In addition, there were 21 Philatelic Literature exhibits. Although the bulk came from resident collectors, we were honored to show a number of exhibits belonging to the Hellenic Philatelic Society's dear friends from France, Italy, Czech Republic, Turkey, Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, United Kingdom and China.

This was the first time the new General Regulations for National Exhibitions were implemented, the ones ratified by the Hellenic Philatelic Federation in 2008. Similarly to what most FEPA members had already adopted, the new Regulations assign medal grades at 5 points less than the corresponding medal grades in FEPA or FIP Regulations.

The palmares ceremony took place in the spacious area just outside the exhibition hall, on Saturday 3 October. No special arrangements were necessary. The background behind the podium was provided by a colorful evening sunset, tables and chairs were the ones permanently set by the adjacent bar. Our guests sat back comfortably and enjoyed their drinks, while the organizers

were honoring one by one, first the volunteers, then the sponsors, and finally the exhibitors. The list of our prominent guests that evening was enhanced by the newly appointed Ambassador of Cyprus in Athens. It was the first time that the palmares ceremony was separated from the traditional dinner, to the joy of both the honored recipients who obviously received more attention, as well as the spectators who found their hands free to clap without the obstruction of a fork or a knife.



It was also the first time that no palmares catalogue was published. The results had been uploaded on the exhibition web site a day earlier, exactly as scheduled.

### *The Catalogue.*

The visitors enjoyed 7 Open Class exhibits (3 Gold medals awarded), 24 One Frame exhibits (7 Gold) and 49 exhibits belonging to the remaining Classes (5 Large Gold and 8 Gold).



*The Grand Prize for non-residents was awarded to Akis Christou (right) for Cyprus 1880-1910. With Nick Rangos (Left) as runner-op.*



*The Grand Prize for residents winner was Anthony Virvilis with The role of health stations and lazarets in Greece.*



*The best exhibit in Open Classes were, respectively, George Sparis' The Greek-Turkish war of 1897*



*Louis Franchini's Epreuves et Essais de la "Gross Tête d'Hermès" de Grèce.*

This exhibition will be remembered for the magnificent building complex along with its surrounding areas, the mild autumn weather which allowed us to stage both the opening and the palmares ceremonies in the open, the excellent co-operation in all respects between a philatelic and a non-philatelic society, as well as the large variety of

exhibits on display. What we shall not forget is the pleasant surprise on the faces of local visitors, who, moments before they stepped in, did not have the slightest clue of what a philatelic exhibition looks like.



What exhibitors appreciated most was the specially designed commemorative plaque: An 18x12 cm plexiglas base with the exhibition logo and the recipient's name carved in, along with a piece of lead cast in one of the original specimen dies of the French mining company.

In conclusion, we might say that both the Hellenic Philatelic Society and the Scientific Association of Lavrion

had achieved their goals: a memorable philatelic exhibition, strongly bonded to the local history and culture; a successful experiment, much more attractive to the general public.

A few days after the exhibition was concluded, the Philatelic Society of Patras announced that they will celebrate their 65th anniversary by hosting at home next year's event between 6 and 14 November 2010.

***So, see you there!***