

Association Internationale des Collectionneurs Olympiques, AICO
Conseil d'Administration - The Executive Board
The International Association of Olympic Collectors, IAOC



23rd WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTORS FAIR



8-10 September 2017, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 5

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1 AICO EXECUTIVE BOARD, Term 2016-2018

1.1 The Executive Board

In accordance with the AICO Statutes, elections were held on 14 May 2016 in Gothenburg to fill three positions on the Executive Board. The composition of the board for the period 2016-2018 is as follows:

President:	Mr. Roman BABUT (Poland)
1 st Vice-President:	Mr. Mark MAESTRONE (USA)
2 nd Vice-President:	Mr. Massimiliano BRUNO (Italy)
Secretary:	Mr. Christophe AIT-BRAHAM (France)
Treasurer:	Mr. Branislav DELEJ (Slovakia)

Ms. Stéphanie Coppex, the Cultural Networks Senior Project Manager in the Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage, represents the IOC on the Executive Board and she is our liaison person to the foundation.

Madam Jocelyne Bernhard of Blonay, Switzerland supports the AICO EB with administrative matters. Mr. David Maiden of Melbourne, Australia serves as the senior advisor on organizational and other issues of merit relating to Olympic collecting. We warmly thank them for their volunteer work in support of the Olympic collecting community.

1.2 The EB activities between May 2016 and August 2017

The Executive Board, in its new complementary composition, carried out, in addition to current affairs and consultations, the following initiatives:

August 9, 2016 – Launching of the Olympic Collecting Library Catalog (OCLC);

August 9, 2016 – Launching of the FORUM for AICO clubs and their members (<http://forum.aicolympic.org/>). The FORUM was later closed down because of non-use by members;

May 28 - June 4, 2016 - World Stamp Show, NEW YORK 2016 - AICO, together with SPI, organized a booth promoting both organizations and Olympic Collecting at the world philatelic exhibition NEW YORK 2016;

June/July 2016 - Procedures, sample application documents were developed. Call for applicants for WOCF 2017-2018;

October 2016 – bids for organizing 23rd and 24th WOCF collected and evaluation from China, USA, Italy and France;

November 7-9, 2016 – AICO President paid a study visit to the World Olympic Library (OWL), part of the Olympic Study Centre (OSC) in Lausanne;

November 9, 2016 – Meeting of Dr. Roman Babut, AICO President, with Mr. Francis Gabet, Director of the Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage (OFCH), IOC, Lausanne;

November 10, 2016 – AICO President participates in the session of the IOC Commission for Culture and Olympic Heritage in Lausanne:

- presentation of AICO activities for period 2015/2016; and
- presentation of AICO activities and bids for organizing the WOCF 2017, 2018 and 2020;

November / December 2016 - Following a positive evaluation of OCLC's operation by the OFCH, a pilot project on the digitization of archive resources of AICO Member Clubs was launched. SPI and AFCOS were asked to prepare their applications for the OFCH in order to assess the feasibility of these projects and their possibilities for funding;

February 2017 – a **“PIN TRADING ETIQUETTE”** presented by the Pins Committee discussed by EB and added PDFs of both the English and French versions to the AICO website;

April 2017 - Consultation with the China Sport Philately and Collection Association (CSPCA) in the organization of 23rd WOCF in Baotou, Inner Mongolia, China;

April 8, 2017 – arrival of a request from the Lithuanian Olympic Collectors Association (LOKA) to become a member of AICO;

May 9, 2017 EB decided to start the procedure of the 2-year probationary period for the Lithuanian Olympic Collectors Association ;

April 2017 – As a result of the CSPCA's withdrawal of their bid to host the 23rd WOCF in Baotou, and after consultation with the OFCH, the EB began to actively search for new organizers of 23rd WOCF 2017. Two EB members travelled to Budapest and undertook talks with MABEOSZ (Hungarian Philatelic Federation) and MOSFIT (AICO Member) on the organization of the fair in Budapest;

April 30, 2017 - Signing of an agreement with the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) for the digitization of the journals of SPI and AFCOS;

April / May 2017 - Initial discussion and expression of the EB opinion on the needs of the Olympic Pin collectors. Based on a draft of the "NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE PINS CATALOG" presented by Branislav Delej, leader Pins Committee, the Board started discussion on development of a set of requirements (scope, structure, functionality) for a new module to the AICO website that would function as an interactive on-line “AICO OFFICIAL OLYMPIC PINS CATALOG” (working title) initially presented by Roman Babut ; a decision was made to hold an extended Pins Committee meeting with members present during the 23rd WOCF in Bratislava;

May 2017 - With the withdrawal of the MABEOSZ bid to host the 23rd WOCF, Dr. Branislav Delej, on behalf of the Slovak Olympic Committee invited the organization of the 23rd WOCF 2017 at Bratislava;

May 2017 - Initial talks by the President on the scope of cooperation and work related to the verification and supplementation of data contained in the OCLC and scanning the collected publications with the Museum of Sport and Tourism in Warsaw;

May 25, 2017 - Support of the Slovak Olympic Committee is confirmed for organizing the 23rd WOCF 2017 in Bratislava, September 8-10, 2017;

May 2017 - The on-line preliminary registration system for 23rd WOCF BRATISLAVA 2017 is installed on the AICO website;

June/September 2017 – Preparations are ongoing by the Organizing Committee led by Dr Branislav Delej for organizing the 23rd WOCF, BRATISLAVA 2017;

June / July 2017 - Following the withdrawal of our website developer, BOP Design, from further work due to a changing business model, AICO is reviewing potential candidates;

July 2017 - Koba Technologies, USA, was engaged to modify aspects of the AICO website's coding;

August 2017 - The Board received from PROLYMPO e.V. from Germany a request to become a member of AICO. Supplementary documentation and application information will be taken under consideration at the forthcoming meeting;

August 28th, 2017 - The AICO website is linked directly to the OLYMPIC WORLD LIBRARY (OWL) of the Olympic Study Centre IOC in Lausanne;

1.3 AICO Website Analysis, by Mark Maestroni, VP-AICO

The AICO website has now been in operation for nearly two years. During this period, over 6,000 users have logged almost 34,000 pageviews during almost 10,000 sessions.

When we examine the data in 1-year cycles (Period A: November 2015 - October 2016; and Period B: November 2016 - August 2017), there is a small drop in number of users and pages viewed from Period A to Period B. However, when Period B totals are extended by 2 months (by extrapolating the data) to equal 1 year, the differences are negligible. In simple terms, viewership over the past year has not increased despite building up the Olympic Collecting Library Catalog.

On the positive side, we are seeing an increase in the percentage of returning users over new users, a sign that we are providing content that brings users back. This is reflected in the improvement in our Bounce Rate (the percentage of viewers who land on the website, but then leave without clicking through to another page), which has decreased from 59% to 44% which is very good. Generally, a Bounce Rate of between 41% and 55% is considered acceptable.

As proof that the use of mobile platforms is increasing, the total number of sessions generated by mobile users now represents nearly 20%, up from 12.2% in Period A.

By country, 38% of users are from the USA or Poland. This is a slight increase from Period A where users from these two countries represented just over 32% of users. European countries, plus China, fill out the top 10 countries in the 2016-2017 year.

The most popular page – after the Home Page – is clearly the Collectors Library entry page, followed by the Membership page. As the Collectors Library did not really get going until August 2016, comparison between Period A and Period B is not relevant.

An important datum concerns the French pages. First of all, French visitors have risen from 8th place in Period A to third place in Period B. This is supported by the fact that the French section of pages has risen from 8th to 6th place in the list of most viewed pages. This indicates that there is increasing interest from francophone collectors in the AICO website.

Lastly, we look at the top landing pages – these are pages at which visitors arrive at the site. The Home Page is by far the dominant point of entry. During Period B, however, the Collectors Library page is used as an arrival point 10% of the time, while the 23rd WOCF page welcomed 8% of arriving viewers.

Recommendations:

1. The AICO website should be looking at ways to generate more content that changes on a regular basis. This means more frequent posting of news items and changes to content. As the Membership page is now the 4th leading visited page on the website, providing more content accessible from that page might be a good idea.
2. It is time to begin planning content for digital access via mobile platforms. Content designed for access by mobile platforms is almost mandatory if we are to attract youth. Mobile platforms also provide the means to access information “on the go”. The Olympin Club, for example, has their NOC and Media pins Authenticity Projects which are well-suited to use while collectors are at the Olympic Games. We should be thinking along similar lines to make use of mobile apps.
3. We originally conceived of the website as a bilingual source of information for both English and French-speaking collectors. We have not done enough for the latter. There is no reason not to invest some money in having all pages on the website in both English and French (I am not including the individual resource listings in the Olympic Collector Library Catalog). We should contract with an outside source for the translations.

2 AICO MEMBER MATTERS**2.1 New AICO Members and applications**

On April 8, 2017, the Board was very pleased to welcome an application from the LITHUANIAN OLYMPIC COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION for an AICO Membership. In support of their application, the LOKA Board’s submissions include:

a. Motivation to join the AICO

- promote friendship between Olympic collectors from all over the world;
- organize meetings with collectors from other countries.

b. The mission or vision of the Organization

- promote the Olympic Ideals;
- share knowledge on all types of Olympic collectibles.

c. Organization's activities during last 3 years (among others)

- Personal Exhibitions of LOKA members: “Olympic Basketball Pins”, “Olympic Books”, “Around the World with Basketball: Autographs and Pins”;
- Collective exhibitions: “90 Years of Lithuania at the Olympic games”, “Lithuania at the Olympic Games from 1992 to 2016”, “The 50th Anniversary of Tokyo Olympic Games”;
- Presentations of personal collections at LOKA meetings; exchange of knowledge about collecting, presentations about participating at international meetings.

The LOKA acts under curatorship of National Olympic Committee.

May 9, 2017 EB decided to start the procedure of the 2-year probationary period for the Lithuanian Olympic Collectors Association .

The EB has also received membership application materials from International Association of Olympic Memorabilia Collectors PROLYMPO e.V., including supplementary documents and current information. The EB has welcomed with great satisfaction their membership request and will review the documents to decide if a two-year probationary membership may begin.

Over the past year, the AICO Secretary has received a dozen requests, mainly from individual collectors, to join AICO. All requests have been answered inviting individuals to form an association or join one of our existing member clubs.

2.2 AICO Membership 2017

For the moment, the EB has decided to keep AICO 2017 membership at the same level. At the meeting in Bratislava, and over the next few months, we would like to ask the members a question: to what use should the funds collected from the clubs be allocated? Income generated from these fees is a small portion of our annual operating budget. Nevertheless, the EB would like to know how to best use this income to benefit the member clubs. We eagerly await your suggestions.

All Members are asked to indicate the number of their individual members on 01/01/2017 and send it to Secretary@aicolympic.org by 15 September 2017.

3 WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTORS FAIRS 2017-2020

3.1 Selection Procedure for Candidates for WOCF

In June / July 2016, EB has developed a procedure for filing and selecting applications for World Olympic Collectors Fairs based on records previously used by OFCH.

<p style="text-align: center;">THE OLYMPIC FOUNDATION FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OLYMPIC COLLECTORS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTORS FAIR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Editions: 2017 and 2018</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CALL for Expression of Interest (EOI) <small>(valid for AICO Member Clubs, only)</small></p> <p>In projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organization of the 23rd World Olympic Collectors Fair 2017 or 2. Organization of the 24th World Olympic Collectors Fair 2018 <p>Issue date: 29th July 2016</p> <p>Closing date: 15th September 2016</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE GOTHENBURG SPORTS MUSEUM </p> <p style="text-align: center;">TECHNICAL PROPOSAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22. WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTORS FAIR Gothenburg, 13-15 May 2016</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>22nd World Olympic Collectors Fair Gothenburg May 27-29, 2016</p> </div>
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The simplified procedure is as follows:

STAGE I - Selection of Candidates

1. EB announces the competitive call for proposals ("Call for Expression of Interest") of the Candidates among AICO Member Clubs who, within a specified period, submit a Letter of Intent/Expression of Interest.
2. EB is acquainted with and evaluates the initial information about the candidate and initial organizational assumptions (in particular, information on initial support of the National Olympic Committee is expected).
3. After qualifying, EB sends to the candidate the document "Technical Proposal", which the WOCF's potential organizer describes in detail, including the organization, location, program, and budget of the event).
4. Upon review of the documentation and support information provided by the NOC, the EB will make a recommendation to the OFCH at the annual meeting of the IOC Commission for Culture and Olympic Heritage.
5. The IOC commission selects from among the candidates (if several) and makes its recommendation to the IOC President.
6. The final decision is made by the IOC President.

STAGE II - Organizational Phase

1. The selected Organizer receives formal documents in the form of an agreement with the OFCH, which contains detailed obligations to the IOC and the Organizer's rights. The contract also specifies requirements for fair participants.
2. Signing an agreement with the OFCH and fulfilling its terms is the basis for the Organizer to apply for the subsidy.

3.2 Results of the 2016 Call

In spite of the very short lead time for the 2017 and subsequent WOCFs, the EB was able to announce the call for bids for the 2017 and 2018 fairs. Additional candidates for the WOCF 2020 organization were also accepted.

During October 2016, bids for organizing the 23rd, 24th and 26th WOCFs were collected and evaluated by the EB.

With great enthusiasm, the EB accepted applications from the following AICO Clubs to organize fairs in the following years:

Year	Proposed location	Country	Organizer
2017	Cortina d'Ampezzo	Italy	Unione Italiana Collezionisti Olimpici e Sportivi
	Baotou	P.R. China	China Sport Philately and Collection Association
2018	Los Angeles	USA	OLYMPIN Collectors Club & Sports Philatelists International (dual bid)
2020	Paris	France	AFCOS

Unfortunately, our Italian friends had to withdraw their bid due to local political changes in a municipality of Cortina d'Ampezzo and lack of the expected support.

It was decided together with the OFCH to present the other three candidates at the IOC Commission meeting in Lausanne in November 2016.

3.3 Recommended calendar of WOCF 2017-2020

Dr. R. Babut, AICO President, on the basis of the submitted materials, prepared the appropriate multimedia presentation of each candidate for the meeting of the IOC Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission in November 2016.



Following the hearing, the Commission recommended the proposed candidates for further proceedings. It should be noted that Baotou's candidature was conditionally accepted provided that the Chinese Olympic Committee gave its approval.

The 25th WOCF WARSAW 2019 was awarded to the Polish Olympic Committee (POC) at its previous meeting in 2015. The fair will take place during the events celebrating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the POC.

3.4 Preparations for the 23rd World Olympic Collectors Fair 2017

The Chinese Olympic Committee (COC) withdrew its support of the China Sports Philately and Collection Association in their efforts to organize 23rd WOCF in China (for the third time, after 2007 and 2010). This was due to changing priorities of the new COC management. The EB considered the possibility of organizing the fair elsewhere, keeping in mind that time was critical for the organization of the annual international Olympic collectors' event. For its part, having over a 40-year tradition of cooperation with the Hungarian Philatelic Federation, AICO asked the Olympic Foundation to propose organization of the WOCF 2017 to collectors from the Hungarian Olympic and Sport Philatelic Association MOSFIT (founding member of AICO) and Magyar Bélyeggyűjtők Országos Szövetsége MABÉOSZ (Hungarian Philatelic Federation). Following a positive response, the AICO EB was authorized to ask MOSFIT and MABEOSZ whether there would be an opportunity to hold an Olympic fair in Budapest in early September 2017, in the halls of the philatelists union. After consultation, the Hungarian groups replied that a fair was possible. Two members the EB travelled to Budapest to discuss technical matters. Unfortunately, during their visit, the Hungarian Olympic Committee, which earlier had given its support to the Fair, changed its management. The new staff was not able to provide the assistance that would have been necessary for a successful Fair. As a result, MOSFIT was obliged to reluctantly withdraw their candidature. However, AICO wishes to extend its gratitude to MOSFIT and MABEOSZ for their valiant efforts. Forró köszönöm !!!

The rescue came unexpectedly from Bratislava ...

3.5 23rd WOCF BRATISLAVA 2017, 8-10 September 2017, Slovak Republic

And in this way, the 23rd WOCF traversed the world from Baotou through Budapest to Bratislava. Dr. Branislav Delej, on behalf of AICO member association, the Slovak Society of Olympic and Sports Collectors (SSOSC), and the Slovak Olympic Committee, made this very difficult organizational task, a reality.

The Olympic collectors' event was launched as part of a program of celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Slovak Olympic Committee.

It should be noted that the Slovak Olympic collectors have a long tradition of hosting Olympic exhibitions as demonstrated by SLOVOLIMPFIL and EYDOFIL in the years 1996, 1999, 2000 and 2004.

After approval of the organization for the 23rd WOCF in Bratislava, the AICO website launched the initial registration for fair participants. Shortly thereafter, the Organizing Committee launched its own website, effectively gathering nearly 100 participants from 17 countries.

BRANISLAV! It will be time for a warm thank you!

4 THE AICO OLYMPIC COLLECTING LIBRARY CATALOG

4.1 The AICO Olympic Collecting Library Catalog (OCLC)

On August 9, 2016, we have made available to the international community of Olympic and Sports collectors "THE AICO OLYMPIC COLLECTING LIBRARY CATALOG", which electronically searches for knowledge and information resources in all areas of Olympic and sports collectibles. Real collecting is the search for and gathering collectibles that fascinate us and interest us. Usually, this is the first stage based on our genuine enthusiasm for, for example, attending the Olympic Games or a sporting event, personal pursuit of a particular sport or being bitten by the collecting bug. Collecting is also about gathering knowledge about our collection and, consequently, also systematically searching for the missing elements. On a more advanced level, we begin to share our knowledge with other collectors through printed or electronic means, or by exhibiting. Therefore, the knowledge base serves as an important tool in the hands of every true Olympic collector.

It is worth recalling here that the OCLC was created on the basis of a collection located in the scientific library of the Museum of Sport & Tourism (MS&T) in Warsaw, collected mainly before 2014. On the day of launching the catalog on the AICO website, 498 records were recorded in the database, excluding the 1963-2014 club bulletins (about 250 issues).

This was the state on August 9, 2016. Today (August 2017) in OCLC 724 library records are registered. By using the OLYMPIC COLLECTIBLES search function, we can record the number of publications for each collecting category:

MEMORABILIA:	69 records
NUMISMATICS:	33
PHILATELY:	663
PINS:	23

Keep in mind that some publications are listed in 2 or 3 categories.

Because, currently the largest collection of publications on Olympic and sports collecting is located in Warsaw's museum, which is an active member of the Olympic Museum Network, it seems reasonable to create a physical library where all available publications could be stored. Mr. Tomasz Jagodziński, Director of the Museum, expressed his willingness to cooperate with AICO, offering merit and technical assistance.

Thus, in just one year, the catalog has grown by 223 entries – a 45% increase! This was primarily due to a review of the library at the IOC Olympic Studies Center in Lausanne, which was visited by R. Babut at the invitation of the Olympic Foundation. During the visit, he was able to identify about 170 new publications on all collecting categories and produce scans from about 40% of the identified resources. Hopefully, the rest of the publications will be scanned during the next visit.

It is important to note that the OCLC is more than just a listing of resources. In many cases, links to partial or complete scans of entries are provided as PDF documents for the public to download. These are in many languages, even Chinese or Russian, either Polish or Hungarian!

In addition, M. Maestroni provided resources from SPI's archives. We have also been able to add articles on Olympic collecting from prominent authors and exhibitors printed in various publications. Special thanks are due Laurentz Jonker (The Netherlands) and Thomas Lippert (Germany) for their cooperation.

In order to further improve the functionality, usefulness, and make the directory more attractive, we anticipate:

- including scans of the cover page, table of contents and possibly selected pages (if technically possible, without destroying the original);
- improved SEARCH KEYWORD functionality;
- further searches for archival and new publications, not yet registered in the catalog.

4.2 New sub-directory "ARCHIVES OF CLUB PUBLICATIONS"

This new subdirectory will be a library of archived publications (journals and newsletters) of AICO member clubs, which will be publicly available in PDF format after being fully digitized (entire documents/bulletins). The pilot program, underwritten by AICO, which will be available in late 2017 or early 2018, will include the complete contents of the "Journal of Sports Philately" (SPI) and "Esprit" (AFCOS) from the first issue through about 2012 (the most recent 5 years of publications will remain reserved for members of each organization). In its digitized format, this will include nearly 11,000 pages of content, all of which will be searchable by users. If this pilot project proves successful and popular with the international community of Olympic collectors, we will turn to other clubs with the proposal of digitizing their archives as well.

<https://aicolympic.org/resources/collectors-library/>

5 THE WORLD OLYMPIC LIBRARY (OWL)

Report by *R. Babut*

Working with the AICO's Olympic Collecting Library Catalog it was necessary to search through holdings of The Olympic Museum Library (TOML) which had changed its name and status in 2016 and is now part of the IOC Olympic Study Centre. President R. Babut, upon invitation by the Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage, paid a short study visit to the OWL, just prior to the meeting of the IOC Commission.

About 170 publications were found in the OWL's holdings using different search keywords.

On the first day, the Library archivist, Mrs. Barbara Peclard, introduced me to the structure of the library and discussed how to prepare selected publications to study and scan. Library resources can be found either on the library shelves, or in the library warehouse, where every day I imported dozens of publications.



The IOC Olympic Study Centre in the Centenary Villa



The Olympic World Library, OWL at the OSC



The Olympic World Library OWL



Available work space for scanning publications for AICO

In all, I studied and registered over 60 publications, about 40% of holdings on Olympic collecting, and took more than 300 images.

On 10 November, a meeting with Mrs. Maria Bogner, Head of the Olympic Study Centre took place. Discussion was related to AICO's catalog and future cooperation between OSC and AICO. In the beginning Mrs. Bogner congratulated AICO *"an impressive collection of publications on the Olympic & Sport Collectibles"*. She agreed that we can link entries between OWL and the AICO library catalog, referencing OWL's *"CALL NUMBERS"*, as well mentioning that the publication is located at the OWL, Lausanne.

She also informed me that a new OWL computer platform is expected in the future which will link up with other Olympic and sports libraries around the world.

She promised that by end of 2017, the entire system should be tested and AICO's library could be linked within a pilot Project. In my view this was a very effective and promising meeting. The following day, Ms Stephanie Coppex informed me that I could continue the study at the OSC and work with remaining publications at any time at the Foundation's invitation.

On 28 Aug 2017, AICO received very important letter from Mrs Maria Bogner, in which she authorized us to create a direct link to the Olympic World Library and use an official banner as well as a hyperlink, which is a predefined search on all relevant keywords in the OWL's catalog. She also explained that currently, at this link one will find all publications (currently 237) on topics related to the Olympic collecting. Also, every time new publications are added on our topic, they will be automatically in the list. The publications are either accessible in full text (digital files) or available for loan (including international loan) at studies.centre@olympic.org.

On August 29, our "webmaster" Mark Maestrone activated the link between the AICO website and the OWL's catalog. Clicking the link will automatically access the sport and Olympic holdings of the OWL:

<https://aicolympic.org/resources/owl-olympic-world-lib>



We invite you to visit the OLYMPIC WORLD LIBRARY and the OLYMPIC STUDIES CENTRE!

**The Olympic Studies Centre
Villa du Centenaire
Quai d'Ouchy 1, 1006 Lausanne, Switzerland**

<https://www.olympic.org/olympic-studies-centre>

6 RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OLYMPIC FOUNDATION FOR CULTURE AND OLYMPIC HERITAGE

The AICO President, prior to the meeting of the IOC Commission, met with Mr. Francis Gabet, Director of the Olympic Foundation on 9th November 2016. The meeting lasted about one hour. Unfortunately, Ms. Stephanie Coppex, the IOC's observer on the AICO EB, couldn't be present due to detailed preparations for the Commission's meeting.

The meeting began with congratulations expressed by Mr. Gabet to AICO for the tremendous work and excellent results, in particular for "restoring to life" the World Olympic Collectors Fair, an active website, and the creation of the Olympic Collectors Library Catalog which is the foundation of the future real library. He mentioned also that AICO *"carries high the Olympic flame"* and that the Foundation certainly will support our initiatives.

Mr. Gabet assured me of the continuing importance of the Olympic Fairs to the Foundation, and that his big fear was that the Fair might slowly lose its relevance. During the discussion the need for early approval of candidates was pointed out, allowing organizers more time to prepare, as well as to better attract important partners/sponsors. Mr. Gabet mentioned that the list of candidates for the organization of the WOCF 2017-2020 looks impressive and once again thanked AICO for its work to mobilize applications. He stressed that both the opinion of AICO and the Commission for Culture and Olympic Heritage are important voices whose advice influences the decision of the IOC President in awarding the WOCF and bestowing the patronage of the IOC.

During the talk, the issue of organizing OLYMPHILEX exhibitions was an important subject, about which AICO members ask. Unfortunately, here I have to convey the pessimistic information that in the present organizational situation, we cannot expect major Olympic exhibitions until 2020. The Director encourages clubs to organize exhibitions in cooperation with national organizations. At the same time, he reported that a project is currently underway with the working title "THE OLYMPIC HOUSE" which would offer cultural programs -- including exhibitions -- during the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. At this time, it is not possible to answer the question as to whether or not the program might include a collector's show.

The talk was in general about the issues of collecting among young people and touched also on the subject of counterfeits appearing on the collector's market. I also noted that this an area in which the collecting community expects AICO to take the lead. R. Babut confirmed that AICO plans to launch a Fakes & Forgery Observatory, but care has to be taken for legal reasons.

At the end of the meeting the AICO President proposed to honor the memory of MAURIZIO TECARDI by the Commission, which was enthusiastically adopted by Mr. Gabet.

The EB wishes to emphasize that all matters in relation to the Foundation are solved jointly with the goodwill of Ms. Stephanie Coppex.

7 THE IOC COMMISSION OF CULTURE AND OLYMPIC HERITAGE – annual meeting, 11th November 2016

By Dr. Roman Babut, AICO President, Member of the Commission

The meeting took place during the IOC Commissions Week. On November 11th meetings were held for 3 Commissions, which were preceded by a gala dinner at the invitation of the IOC President, Dr. Thomas Bach.



The Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission meeting started at 9:00 a.m. under the chairmanship of Dr. Bach, who presented the most vital aspects of the Olympic year 2016. His speech began enthusiastically on RIO 2016, about how successful the Olympic Games were, beating many of the existing records, primarily viewership on television and social media. The following rough numbers included: 350 thousand hours of television broadcasting, 5.000.000.000 openings on social media such as Facebook - the president called them "*explosive numbers*".

President Bach also referred to the procedures for the selection of the organizers of the Games. He mentioned that too many candidates produce a negative effect, which he called "*production of losers.*" Referring to youth issues, he said that "*you cannot ask young to come to us, we must go where they are.*" He also drew attention to the activity between the Games, which are the culmination of the Olympic cycle. At the end of the meeting the Commission posed for a joint photograph with President Thomas Bach.

There were several fascinating presentations however let me concentrate on AICO's issues. I prepared two presentations (with small corrections of spelling) which you may read.



The Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission meeting, Lausanne, 11 November 2017

Photo: R.Babut



Dr. Thomas Bach, IOC President with members of the Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission present at the meeting, Lausanne, 11 November 2017, Source: IOC

I have the pleasure to inform you that at the announcement of my presentation, Mr C.K. Wu Chairman of the Commission, said a few nice words about AICO and congratulated it for preparing such an impressive list of candidates for organizing the WOCF.

Echoing President Bach's remarks in my presentation, I mentioned that the WOCF effectively bridged the period between Olympic Games with its activities, and that our recent selection of the WOCF candidates "*produced no losers.*" Mr. Gabet stressed that AICO utilized concrete procedures for assessing candidates who already had experience. For my part, I asked Mr. Gabet to verify whether the official acceptance of Los Angeles 2018 and Paris in 2020 would in any way conflict with the upcoming election for the host city of the 2024 Games. It was agreed that at the present stage in the selection procedure no conflict existed that would preclude awarding of the WOCF to either city. Chairman Wu asked the Commission to recommend the candidates for the 2017 (Baotou), 2018 (Los Angeles) and 2020 (Paris) WOCFs. The vote took place by acclamation. The positive outcome of the vote means that the Olympic Foundation has a "*green light*" to further process all three applications.

According to the information received from Mr. Cao Kan (CSPCA), the Chinese Olympic Committee would send an official letter of support for the WOCF in Baotou, at which point the CSPCA would complete the full Technical Proposal. The Commission was convinced that the Chinese would follow up on completing their submission of all documents, but the final decision to award the fair to Baotou would rest on receipt of written support of the Chinese Olympic Committee at the earliest opportunity.

The positive decision by the Commission about the WOCFs for the next 3 years means that it is time for AICO to look beyond 2020. Who will follow in 2021? And as President Bach is fond of saying, we should not "produce losers," which was our concern when we discussed the situation when there was more than one candidate in a given year. The solution here is to negotiate with the candidates and select only one for each year.

Before Chairman Wu gave me a second opportunity to speak, Director Gabet informed the audience about the death of MAURIZIO TECARDI and his importance to Olympic philately. He asked for a minute of silence to honor MAURIZIO. All members of the Commission stood in his remembrance.

In my second presentation, I concentrated my remarks on our flagship project, the Olympic Collecting Library Catalog. I informed the Commission about the importance of our commitment to work with the Museum of Sport and Tourism in Warsaw as well as about our agreement with Mme. Bogner to include the future AICO Olympic Collecting Library in a worldwide network under the umbrella of the OWL.

All the presentations were received very favorably, and with concluding applause. Unfortunately, there was no time for additional questions and individual interviews.

8 AICO PROGRAMME AT THE 23rd WOCF BRATISLAVA 2017

The schedule of AICO Executive Board meetings and Committee meetings during the fair is available for downloading by [clicking here](#). AICO would like to extend an invitation to all member associations to attend the AICO Open Meeting on Friday afternoon. This is your opportunity to express your opinions and ideas directly to the EB, as well as learn of plans for the upcoming year.

We also look forward to welcoming all members of the Committees at their respective meetings on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Unfortunately, we note some delay with more or less formal commencement of AICO Committee work. But at the same time, we know that correspondence and exchanges of opinions between individual members are carried out. The objective reason for this delay is the need to prepare appropriate tools that will be available to the committee.

As the first tool, we launched a library catalog, through which Committees can verify the registers in the catalog and proceed to enrich them.

The second tool the EB has launched – THE FORUM -- was recognized as a valuable tool for communication between and with individual collectors. It is the FORUM through which the Committees can both engage and collaborate with collectors.

The period since the launch of the Catalog has been and continues to be, a period of learning about the functioning of the AICO database built using WordPress. Today, we have a better understanding of the platform's capabilities and continue to refine the interface to make it as user friendly as possible.

Also, more and more member associations are sending us information about their activities, which allows us to relay information by e-mail. Sharing information between clubs is vitally important; we hope to receive club news reports more frequently!

8.1 AICO Committees Programme, Bratislava, September 8-11, 2017

The first meetings of the Committees will take place in Bratislava. EB gave priority to OLYMPIC PINS and organized the PIN Committee meeting in full composition. We want every

Committee member to meet in full composition at future fairs, but we are dependent on limited financing. In the meantime, the basic tool of communication and work will remain the internet.

Two Committees have already presented topics for discussion, which are discussed in more detail below. First, the AICO Meeting Schedule is as follows:

AICO MEETING SCHEDULE

Venue: GATE ONE HOTEL, Seminar Room, 8th floor (top floor)

FRIDAY, 8th September 2017

SESSION I. : AICO OPEN MEETING

15:45-17:00

Participants: EXECUTIVE BOARD, AICO CLUBS representatives & members of all AICO COMMITTEES presented at the Fair:

- information from the EB
- presentations for each collecting category (5-10 minutes, each) by the Committee Leaders for Philately/Library/Numismatics/Pins/ Memorabilia
- discussion & conclusions

SATURDAY, 9th September 2017

10:00-11:30

SESSION II. : AICO COMMITTEES

working meetings of the Philately/Numismatics/Library & Memorabilia Committees

SUNDAY, 10th September 2017

9:00-10:00

SESSION III. : AICO COMMITTEES

conclusions by the Philately/Numismatics/Library & Memorabilia Committees

17:00-19:00

SESSION IV. : AICO PINS COMMITTEE

working meeting with participation of the AICO President and 1st Vice-President

MONDAY, 11th September 2017

9:00-12:00

SESSION V. : AICO PINS COMMITTEE

working meeting and conclusions by the Pins Committee with participation of the AICO President and 1st Vice-President

8.2 AICO PINS COMMITTEE meeting, Bratislava 2017

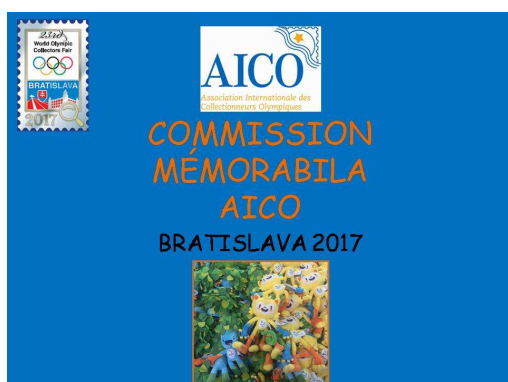
Pin Committee Purpose (from the proposed „Game Plan“), thesis by Branislav Delej, the Committee Leader

- Facilitate communication and idea exchange between collector clubs worldwide, at least among the clubs primarily focused on pins.
- Collectively provide a “single voice” to promote the value of Olympic pin collecting to the IOC, and its potential to support its cultural and historic objectives.
- Explore other non-pin areas of Olympic collecting, and look to exchange ideas that, when adapted to pins, might promise to energize our hobby, especially among younger potential collectors.
- Serve as an example for the other AICO Committees through our actions and results.

A Commission’s Strategy/Tactics and Action Plan will be discussed during the meeting.

8.3 MEMORABILIA AICO COMMITTEE meeting, Bratislava 2017

Presentation prepared by Christophe Ait-Braham, the Committee Leader



Composition de la Commission **au 11/09/2015 Lake Placid**

Mr. AIT-BRAHAM Christophe / AICO
Secretary

Mrs. Catherine SALAÜN (AFCOS/ France)
Mr. Mario CAPUANO (UICOS/ Italy)
Mr. Jurgen WAGNER (IMOS/ Germany)
Mr. Klaus FINK (IMOS/ Germany)
Mr. Gunnar ROLLAND (OSLO PIN CLUB/
Norway)

Présentation de la Commission

La Commission se compose de collectionneurs volontaires, présentés par leur association nationale respective et qui maîtrisent respectivement des domaines particuliers de la Mémorabilia.

Chacun des membres a au moins deux points communs :

- La passion de l'Olympisme : ils collectionnent depuis de nombreuses années.
- L'envie de partager leur passion : à titre privé ou pour leur association nationale, ils ont écrit des articles, des ouvrages, animé des sites web.

Fonctionnement de la Commission

Le lancement de la Commission est récent : fin 2015, après la validation de l'EB de l'AICO à Lake Placid.

La mise en relations, par mails, entre tous les membres a été un peu longue et pas toujours active.

Après les présentations et une première réflexion commune, qui fut riche et intéressante sur la nomenclature, la Commission travaillera plus sur des projets.

Olympic Memorabilia Check-List

En 2016, la Commission a travaillé sur la définition d'une nomenclature autour de la Memorabilia ; ce qui n'est pas un exercice facile. D'une certaine façon cela revient à répondre à une question plus large : C'est quoi la Memorabilia ?

Cette nomenclature sera une base pour le catalogue numérique de la bibliothèque en ligne sur le site web de l'AICO.

Projets 2017 / 2018



En vue de nos réunions à l'occasion de la Foire Mondiale des Collectionneurs Olympiques de Bratislava 2017, il a été préalablement demandé à nos membres les axes de travail qui les intéressaient le plus.

Un e-catalogue des médailles de vainqueurs (Catherine SALAÜN)

Présentation de chaque olympiade à travers la Memorabilia (Mario CAPUANO)

Un guide de présentation de la Memorabilia pour les futurs collectionneurs (Christophe AIT-BRAHAM)

Invitation

Si certains d'entre vous sont intéressés par ces projets, n'hésitez pas à venir nous rejoindre.

Merci de votre attention et bonne Foire Olympique des Collectionneurs Bratislava 2017 à tous !

Christophe AIT-BRAHAM
secretary@aicolympic.org



9 AICO 2017 ACTIVITY PLAN & BUDGET

The Board has begun preparation of the 2017 Activity Plan & Budget. However, before finalizing the development plan and budget, we await the discussions and conclusions from the various meetings in Bratislava.

All AICO Member Associations and Committee Team Leaders are requested to submit their proposals for AICO activities in 2017/2018 and the financial evaluation for their implementation.



<https://aicolympic.org/>