

THE WORLD OF ONLINE PHILATELY  
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# Exponet

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VIRTUÁLNÍ MEZINÁRODNÍ FILATELISTICKÁ VÝSTAVA EXPONET  
JE POŘÁDÁNA POD ZÁŠTITOU  
MINISTRA KULTURY ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY

VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION EXPONET  
WILL BE HELD UNDER THE PATRONAGE  
OF THE MINISTER OF CULTURE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

České menu

English menu

# EXPONET

589 ONLINE EXPONÁTŮ ZE 46 ZEMÍ  
A 140 ODKAZŮ NA DALŠÍ ON LINE EXPONÁTY

589 ONLINE EXHIBITS FROM 46 COUNTRIES  
AND 140 LINKS TO OTHER ON LINE EXHIBITS

Exponet is described by its webmasters as the biggest permanent virtual international philatelic exhibition in the world. It is easy to see how this is a true statement, for at the time of writing there were 589 online exhibits from 46 countries, plus links to a further 140 exhibits maintained elsewhere on the net.

The aim is simple – to make available to anyone with a computer anywhere in the world an ever-increasing number of exhibits from all of the philatelic disciplines free of charge. The founders of Exponet, Milan Cernik and Bretislav Janik of the Czech Republic, are to be commended for their commitment to this aim, as are the exhibitors who have been willing to share their treasures with a global audience.

The home page enables you choose between Czech and English languages, or by clicking on one of the 46 country flags you will be shown a listing of every exhibit from collectors within that country. There are presently eight exhibits from six UK collectors. The English language page takes you to a listing of the latest five exhibits uploaded, plus headings for fifteen philatelic classes, such as traditional, open, youth, etc. Taking the thematic class as an example, there are 116 exhibits varying from one to ten frames, so there are approaching 8,000 album pages to view in this section alone.

Clicking on your chosen exhibit title will reveal thumbnails of the first frame of 16 pages and a click on any album page will show a full-sized version for saving or printing. The rest of the exhibit can be accessed by links at the foot of each page.

SPORT-O-NET'07 and OLYMPSPORT 2009 were the first fully virtual international philatelic exhibitions and consisted of exhibits with sports themes from all over the world, with Exponet hosting the 48 entries. With the cost of exhibition venues and exhibitor's fees rising all the time, this may be the best way forward, especially with so few exhibits being viewed at stamp shows by visitors, at least in Europe.

To complete the site there is a guest book, links, details of the organisational committee, technical details for uploading exhibits, newsletters and the chance to

donate. The site has been visited by collectors from 141 countries and averages over 200 first-time visitors every day, with the UK being the fifth highest user.

I recently benefitted from being able to examine and save to my hard drive an exhibit that I had missed seeing at an international show. I learned a lot of new information about this obscure subject that has not been recorded elsewhere. Sadly, by the time of my viewing, the exhibitor had died and the collection had been disposed of, but fortunately his exhibit lives on within Exponet. I can think of no better example as to why you should support this website, as both a visitor and potential exhibitor.

(500 words)