

July 5, 2006

WASHINGTON 2006 THEMATIC EXHIBITS

by George Griffenhagen

There were a total of 55 Thematic multi-frame exhibits at **Washington 2006** requiring a total of 373 frames, eighty percent of which were eight-framers. There were 33 Youth Thematic exhibits which ranged in size from two frames to five frames. This is 116 frames with an average of three-and-a-half frames per youth exhibit.

There were also ten Open Class thematic exhibits (similar to U.S. Display Class) which FIP currently considers as "Experimental," and 16 One-frame thematic exhibits. This is a total of 555 frames of thematic exhibits which would have taken a viewer over nine hours to see them all, even if only one minute was spent at each frame.

The most popular topic for thematic exhibits at **Washington 2006** was the Automobile with five exhibits. There were four exhibits each on Bicycles and Birds. Three exhibits featured Dogs and another two were devoted to Horses. Other mammals with a single exhibit included Cats, Dairy Cows, Giraffes, Pigs, Rabbits, and Whales.

Sports was the subject of ten thematic exhibits: Archery, Chess, Gymnastics, Mountaineering, two on Soccer, two on Olympics, Rowing, and Tennis. Another ten thematic exhibits were devoted to famous people. Six exhibits involved Food and Beverages and Space, and five exhibits dealt with World War II. There were four exhibits each on Trains, Religion, and Watercraft; and three each on Engineering, Flowers, History, Medical Sciences, Meteorology, and Music.

There were two exhibits on Aviation, Children, Dinosaurs, Fish, Printing, Reptiles, Telecommunications, and United Nations. A single exhibit was devoted to Agriculture, Ceramics, Chemistry, Cinema, Diamonds, Europa, Firefighting, Flags, Heraldry, Photography, Scouting, and Windmills.

Of the 108 exhibits in all four Thematic classes, five percent received a Large Gold; 22 percent a Gold; 12 percent a Large Vermeil; 22 percent a Vermeil; three percent a Large Silver; 24 percent a Silver; six percent a Silver-Bronze; and six percent a Bronze. The six thematic exhibits receiving a Large Gold came from Denmark, France, Netherlands, the U.S.A., and two from Germany. All six of these were eight-

frame thematic exhibits.

A complete listing of all **Washington 2006** thematic exhibits will be published in the September-October 2006 issue of *Topical Time*, bimonthly magazine of the American Topical Association. The five-page register of exhibits that came from 36 countries includes the name of the exhibitor and country of residence, the exhibit class and number of frames, and the award received.

For a copy of the September-October 2006 issue of *Topical Time* or for further information on thematic collecting and exhibiting, contact the American Topical Association (below).

For information on the world's largest all-topical philatelic organization, along with information on the National Topical Stamp Show to be held in Irving, Texas, June 17-19, 2007, contact the ATA Central Office, P.O. Box 57, Arlington, Texas 76004-0057 (telephone: 1-817-274-1181; email americantopical@msn.com); or visit their website at www.americantopicalassn.org.