

## PHILATELIC EXHIBIT “WORLD OF BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS”

Vladimir Kachan, Belarus

(Editor’s Note: Vladimir Kachan has been a regular contributor to *The Philatelic Aurelian*, the journal of the Philatelic Lepidopterist Association. That organization has been absorbed into the Biology Unit.)

I began to collect philatelic materials with butterflies and moths 30 years ago. For my knowledge, I used a cross-referenced checklist, “Insects on Stamps,” England 1978, and topical catalogue of cancellations “Butterflies and Moths,” Germany 1980. Ten years later I began to create my philatelic exhibit “World of Butterflies and Moths.” I knew of only modern philatelic materials and tried to find old philatelic materials with butterflies and moths of the whole world. My own research of the world philatelic materials was successful. I assisted German philatelist Rolf Merkert with information about postal stationery and cancellations, and he published in 1989, a special world catalogue of butterflies and moths on postal stationery. Also in 2002, he reworked and republished a world catalogue of butterflies and moths cancellations and meters. In 2007, the Chinese philatelist Zou Ziyang, editor of the Chinese *Topical Butterfly* journal, published a book that was a compilation of early butterfly-related philatelic items up to 1950. I assisted in this with information and philatelic materials from my collection.

I am always looking for, select, and study old philatelic materials with butterflies and moths and then I include my own research in my exhibit. My exhibit “World of Butterflies and Moths,” was awarded the first Vermeil medal in European Philatelic Exhibition BRNO-2005, then Vermeil medals in the World Philatelic Exhibition ESPANA-2006, EFIRO-2008, CHINA-2009, and Large Vermeil medal in the World Philatelic Exhibition PORTUGAL-2010 and PHILANIPPON-2011.

In December 2011, I published a book entitled, *World of Butterflies and Moths*. This book contains 90 pages in full color, in English with photocopies of the last version of my philatelic exhibit (including the oldest and unknown butterfly and moth philatelic materials of the world).

Why do we collect butterfly and moth philatelic materials? Of all the insects, butterflies are probably the most popular, because they are active by day, and are renowned for their beautiful colors and graceful flight. Moths are often regarded as less engaging, but with their diversity of shapes, sizes, and colors, they are as fascinating as butterflies. Butterflies are the most beautiful creatures of nature, the top of its artistic mastery, undoubted masterpieces of evolution. The variety and coloring of wings relate butterflies to the most beautiful creatures on Earth. They create positive emotions, improve moods, and so heal by their beauty.



The post has been working for five thousand years, but it improved around the time of the Roman Emperor Augustus (24 B.C. to 14 A.D.). Many hundreds of years ago, letters were sealed with wax and the wax was embossed with a design by pressing a carved gemstone into it before it hardened. These stones were carved with countless images alone and in combination with other devices, including butterflies! The Roman Emperor Augustus chose as his emblem a butterfly held in the claws of a crab, accompanied by the motto "FESTINA LENTE" (make haste slowly). Perhaps someone has this oldest butterfly emblem on a letter of Emperor Augustus!

I wish for enthusiasts of butterfly thematic philately to have new discoveries and enjoyment. I am always willing to help in creation of butterflies or insects philatelic exhibit. (I have many duplicates in this theme.) Please write to me by e-mail: [vladimirkachan@mail.ru](mailto:vladimirkachan@mail.ru). My post address is: Vladimir Kachan, P.O.Box-36, BY-220089, Minsk-89, Belarus.

Waiting for your answer. Yours sincerely, Vladimir Kachan, Belarus

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