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13TH FIP MAXIMAPHILY WORLD COMPETITION FOR THE BEST MAXIMUM CARD CREATED IN 2015

MONTREAL – PARIS, SEPT. 25, 2016

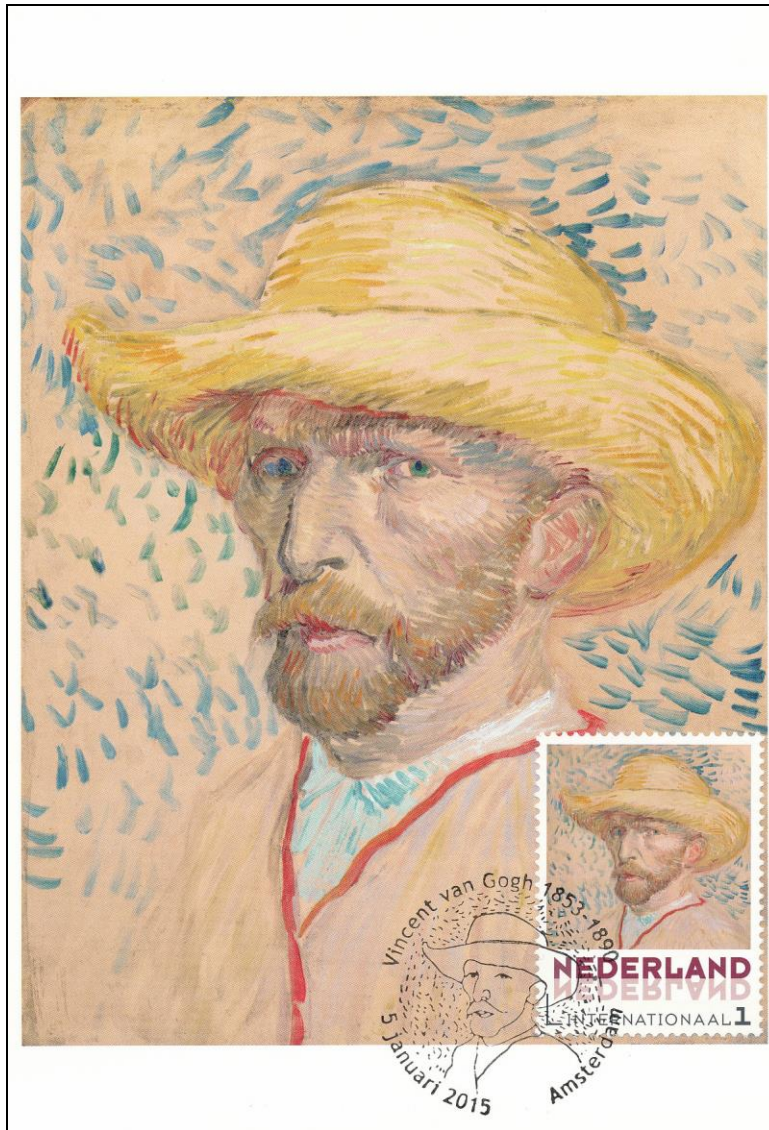
The *13th World Competition for the three Best Maximum Cards created in 2015* was posted on our Website www.maximafily.info and was open for Voting to all our official FIP Delegates. The Voting period was from August 15 to Sept. 15, 2016. The Delegates sent by email their Voting Papers with their Choices to both the Chairman and the Bureau Member Mme *Anny Boyard*. If a Country Vote was sent only to me as Chairman, I forwarded that Vote to Mme *A. Boyard* to ensure the integrity and security of the Vote. Mme Anny Boyard was in charge of verifying the Vote Results and she did a thorough verification by checking every single Vote received.

There were **48** participating countries in this *'13th World Competition for the three Best Maximum Cards created in 2015'* and **40** countries received a Vote. There were **37** Votes cast by the Delegates of the following 37 FIP Countries *Armenia; Australia; Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Brazil; Canada; Chinese Taipei; Croatia; Czech Rep.; Finland; France; Germany; Great Britain; Greece; Hong Kong; Iran; Israel; Italy; Korea Rep.; Luxembourg; Malaysia; Mexico; Netherlands; New Zealand; Pakistan; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russia; Singapore; Slovenia; Spain; Thailand; U.S.A. and Venezuela.*

The RESULTS of the three (3) Best Maximum Cards created in 2015 are the following:

1st Prize: NETHERLANDS (78 points)
TITLE: SELF-PORTRAIT WITH A STRAW HAT
by VINCENT VAN GOGH, 1887

This Maximum Card was created by *Ronald van der Leeden* of the Dutch Maximaphily Association. The stamp was issued on Jan. 5, 2015 to honor the 125th Death Anniversary of the Dutch painter *Vincent van Gogh*. The postcard was published by the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam. The First Day Amsterdam cancellation has a special mention : '*VINCENT VAN GOGH*' and a concordant illustration (triple).



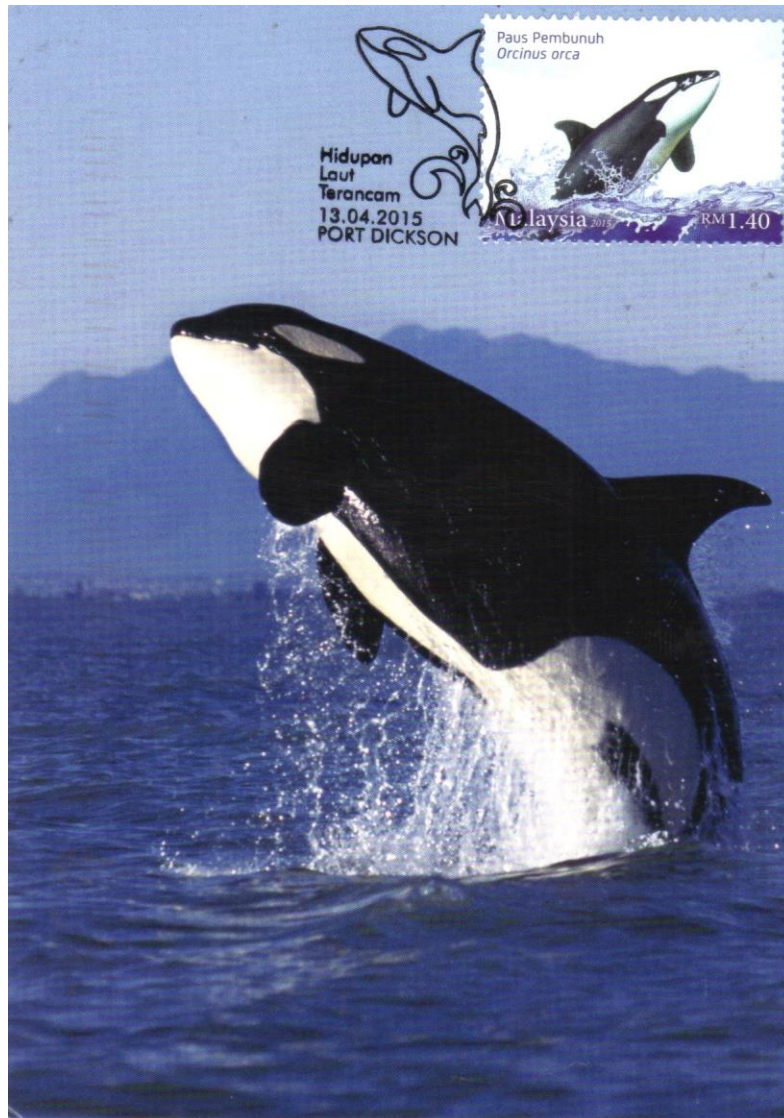
Vincent Van Gogh (b. 1853, Groot Zundert, d. 1890, Auvers-sur-Oise) did this *Self-Portrait with Straw Hat* in the summer of 1887 in Paris. The painting (Oil on cardboard, 41 x 33 cm), is currently at the *Rijksmuseum Vincent van Gogh* in Amsterdam. This self-portrait departs from the approach of earlier work. Now it is colour analogy that engages the painter's main interest, and the picture contains a cheerful, summery abundance of yellows in the shirt, face, hat and even the background. Carefully deployed violet strokes add a subtle contrastive note. It is only in the ginger of the beard that van Gogh still retains the principle of local colour. It is also notable for its loose, sketchy style.

Van Gogh made at least 27 self-portraits during this period. He was eager to practise painting portraits, but was mostly unable to afford models. Instead, he bought himself a good mirror and used himself as his subject. It was a good technical exercise and cheap. The material on which he painted this and some other self-portraits was also cheap, as he worked not on canvas but on board. He later wrote to his brother Theo: 'because if I can manage to paint the coloration of my own head, which is not without presenting some difficulty, I'll surely be able to paint the heads of the other fellows and women as well'.

2nd Prize: MALAYSIA (48 points)

TITLE: **KILLER WHALE - ORCA** (*Orcinus orca*)

This Maximum Card was created by *Ye Choh San*. The stamp was issued on April 13, 2015 for the protection of Malaysia's Endangered Sea Species. The postcard support is a *GEO, bk edition im Vertrieb von modern times*, Germany (Photo by *Brandon Cole/Wildlife*). The First Day, Port Dickson cancellation has a special mention and a concordant illustration (triple).



The Killer Whale or Orca with its striking black and white patterning and high, triangular dorsal fin is in many ways a unique, iconic species. Despite the name, this species of 'whale' is more closely related to dolphins and porpoises and is considered as a member of the *Delphinidae* family. Full grown males may grow to 9.5m and females to 7m. Killer Whales are distributed worldwide, but have higher populations in temperate or cold polar waters. In tropical Southeast Asia, sightings of transient groups are seen in waters around the South China Sea.

Malaysia's *Layang Layang* is an atoll of only 14km² area, situated in the South China Sea, about 300 km off the Borneo coast. It is surrounded by the most beautiful and colourful reefs. Nutrient-rich currents continually wash over the reefs here bringing in marine life. Orcas or Killer Whales are among the occasional visitors to the island waters (other such visitors are whale-sharks and melon-headed whales).

3rd Prize: MEXICO (39 points)

TITLE: PYRAMID OF THE FEATHERED SERPENTS XOCHICALCO, MEXICO

This Maximum Card was created by *Guadalupe Morales Grifaldo*. The stamp was issued on October 1st, 2015 as part of a Souvenir Sheet of 5 stamps, to publicize the Archeological site of Xochicalco. The postcard support is a Commercial Mexican Edition. The First Day, Tlalnepantla cancellation has a special mention: 'Arqueologia -Xochicalco-Mexico' and a concordant illustration (Feathered Serpent as in front of Pyramid) (triple).



Xochicalco, (located 76 km southwest from Mexico City) is a fortified hilltop city believed to have been inhabited from 650 to 900 and then suddenly abandoned. Xochicalco was linked to many cultures, including the **Maya** and the early Aztecs. Xochicalco means “House of the Flowers” and the city thrived on trade. It was strategically located along key trade routes and as such soon became a true cultural melting pot: it is not easy to describe Xochicalco as belonging to any one particular culture, as artifacts and architecture from different cultures have been found there. The city was well-fortified and would have been difficult to attack. Highlights of the city include the acropolis, the ball court, the Temple of the Feathered Serpent, the Observatory (and an excellent museum). The large open plaza with three temples is accessed by a short flight of stairs.

Dominating the space is the large platform *Temple of Xochicalco* known as the *Pyramid of the Feathered Serpent* which was constructed sometime prior to 900 CE. It measures 19.6 m x 21 m, is aligned on an east-west access, and consists of sloping walls which create a square, roofless courtyard. There is a stepped entrance on the west side which has balustrades with carved serpents. The outer walls carry impressive deeply cut raised reliefs, divided into rectangular scenes - larger scenes at the lower level and smaller rectangles above. All of these reliefs were originally brightly painted in red, green, yellow, blue, black and white, traces of which

still remain. In the lower sections there are no less than eight Feathered Serpents. Early depictions of this creature appear in all forms of Mesoamerican art and are identified with the god *Kukulkán* or *Quetzalcoatl*. Between the curves of the Feathered Serpents sit men, each wearing an animal headdress. Each of the smaller scenes depicts glyphs and a seated warrior. Above all of these is another, smaller frieze with pairs of seated men in **Maya** dress separated by calendar signs which may represent a succession of Xochicalco rulers. The figures may also represent either priests or gods and each holding a sort of fan - probably an indication of their rank - and is wearing a headdress. In 1999, Xochicalco was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list.

FINAL VOTE FROM 37 COUNTRIES - 2015 WORLD BEST MC COMPETITION

1st.- NETHERLANDS 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, 2nd, 2nd, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd (78 points)

2nd.- MALAYSIA 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd (48 points)

3rd.- MEXICO 1st, 1st, 2nd, 2nd, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd (39 points)

4th.- ANDORRA 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st (36 points)

4th.- ARMENIA 1st, 1st, 1st, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd (36 points)

4th.- NEW CALEDONIA 1st, 2nd, 2nd, 2nd, 2nd, 3rd, (36 points)

5th.- RUSSIA 1st, 2nd, 2nd, 3rd, 3rd (27 points)

6th.- BULGARIA 1st, 2nd, 2nd (21 points)

6th.- MONTENEGRO 2nd, 2nd, 2nd, 3rd (21 points)

6th.- SINGAPORE 1st, 1st, 3rd (21 points)

7th.- CHINA 2nd, 2nd, 2nd (18 points)

7th.- POLAND 1st, 2nd, 3rd, (18 points)

<u>8th.- AUSTRALIA</u>	<u>1st, 2nd, (15 points)</u>
<u>8th.- CANADA</u>	<u>1st, 3rd, 3rd, (15 points)</u>
<u>8th.- ESTONIA</u>	<u>2nd, 2nd, 3rd (15 points)</u>
<u>8th.- FRANCE</u>	<u>1st, 2nd, (15 points)</u>
<u>8th.- KOREA (South)</u>	<u>2nd, 2nd, 3rd (15 points)</u>
<u>8th.- ROMANIA</u>	<u>1st, 2nd, (15 points)</u>
<u>8th.- U.S.A.</u>	<u>1st, 2nd (15 points)</u>

<u>9th.- CZECH Rep.</u>	<u>1st, 3rd (12 points)</u>
<u>9th.- GREAT BRITAIN</u>	<u>1st, 3rd (12 points)</u>
<u>9th.- ITALY</u>	<u>1st, 3rd, (12 points)</u>
<u>9th.- PORTUGAL</u>	<u>1st, 3rd, (12 points)</u>
<u>9th.- VATICAN</u>	<u>2nd,2nd (12 points)</u>

<u>10th.- CHINESE TAIPEI</u>	<u>2nd,3rd (9 points)</u>
<u>10th.- DENMARK</u>	<u>1st (9 points)</u>
<u>10th.- GERMANY</u>	<u>1st (9 points)</u>
<u>10th.- GREECE</u>	<u>2nd, 3rd, (9 points)</u>
<u>10th.- ISRAEL</u>	<u>1st (9 points)</u>
<u>10th.- SLOVENIA</u>	<u>2nd, 3rd (9 points)</u>

<u>11th.- FINLAND</u>	<u>2nd, (6 points)</u>
<u>11th.- GIBRALTAR</u>	<u>2nd, (6 points)</u>
<u>11th.- LIECHTENSTEIN</u>	<u>2nd, (6 points)</u>
<u>11th.- LUXEMBOURG</u>	<u>2nd, (6 points)</u>
<u>11th.- NORWAY</u>	<u>2nd, (6 points)</u>
<u>11th.- ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON</u>	<u>3rd, 3rd (6 points)</u>

<u>12h.- ALAND</u>	<u>3rd, (3 points)</u>
<u>12th.- AUSTRIA</u>	<u>3rd, (3 points)</u>
<u>12th.- SPAIN</u>	<u>3rd, (3 points)</u>
<u>12th.- UKRAINE</u>	<u>3rd, (3 points)</u>

LIST of the 48 PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

1.- ALAND	13.- ESTONIA	25.- MALAYSIA	35.- SERBI36.37
2.- ANDORRA	14.- FINLAND	26.- MEXICO	38.- SINGAPORE
3.- ARMENIA	15.- FRANCE	27.- MONACO	39.- SLOVAKIA
4.- AUSTRALIA	16.- GERMANY	28.- MONTENEGRO	40.- SLOVENIA
5.- AUSTRIA	17.- GIBRALTAR	29.- NETHERLANDS	41.- SPAIN
6.- BRAZIL	18.- GREAT BRITAIN	30.- NEW ZEALAND	42.- ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON
7.- BULGARIA	19.- GREECE	31.- NORWAY	43.- SWITZERLAND
8.- CANADA	20.- ISRAEL	32.- POLAND	44.- UKRAINE
9.- CHINESE TAIPEI	21.- ITALY	33.- PORTUGAL	45.- USA
10.- CROATIA	22.- KOREA Rep. (South)	34.- ROMANIA	46.- VATICAN
11.- CZECH Rep.	23.- LIECHTENSTEIN	35.- RUSSIA	47.- VENEZUELA
12.- DENMARK	24.- LUXEMBOURG	36.- SAN MARINO	48.- CHINA

LIST of the 37 VOTING COUNTRIES

1.- ARMENIA	11.- FINLAND	20.- KOREA Rep.(South)	29.- PORTUGAL
2.- AUSTRALIA	12.- FRANCE	21.- LUXEMBOURG	30.- ROMANIA
3.- AUSTRIA	13.- GERMANY	22.- MALAYSIA	31.- RUSSIA
4.- BELGIUM	14.- GREAT BRITAIN	23.- MEXICO	32.- SINGAPORE
5.- BRAZIL	15.- GREECE	24.- NETHERLANDS	33.- SLOVENIA
6.- BULGARIA	16.- HONG KONG	25.- NEW ZEALAND	34.- SPAIN
7.- CANADA	17.- IRAN	26.-PAKISTAN	35.- THAILAND
8.- CHINESE TAIPEI	18.- ISRAEL	27.- PHILIPPINES	36.- USA
9.- CROATIA	19.- ITALY	28.- POLAND	37.- VENEZUELA
10.- CZECH Rep.			

In closing, we would like to thank all the Delegates that sent in their country's Vote for our 13th World Competition for the three Best Maximum Cards created in 2015'. Your contribution proves that Maximaphily is a dynamic Philatelic Class.

Best regards

George Constantourakis
Chairman
FIP Maximaphily Commission

Anny Boyard
Bureau Member