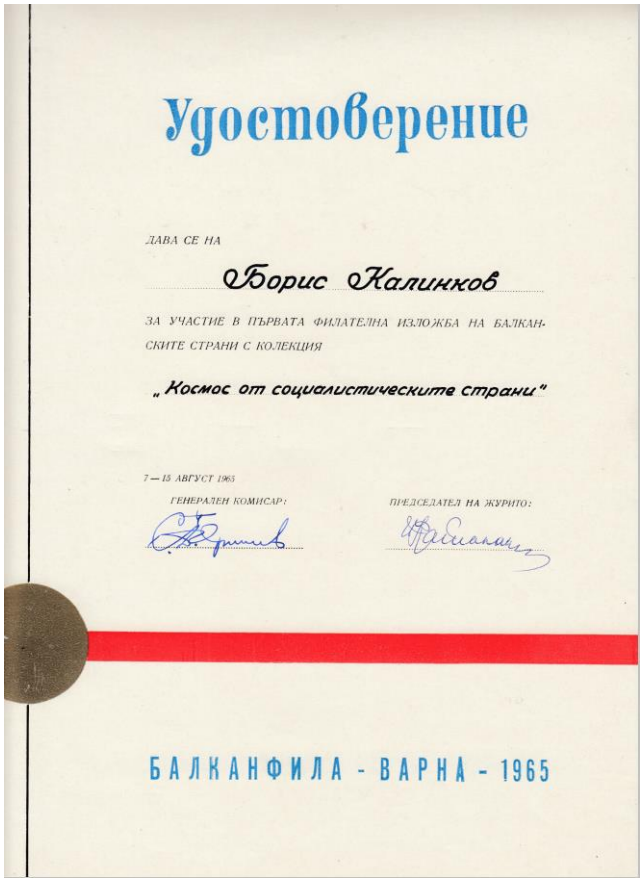
60 years from the First Balkanphila exhibition in 1965 in Varna

/and a short history of the bulgarian participation/

The Beginning:

At the initiative of the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists (СБФ = abbreviated in Cyrillic), a Balkan Philatelic Exhibition was organized in Bulgaria in 1965.
From August 7th to 15th, 1965, collectors from six Balkan countries—Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, Yugoslavia, Romania, and Turkey met in the beautiful city of Varna on the Black Sea. 374 sellected exhibits were displayed, 55 of which were in the youth class.The exhibition was so successful that, at the end, the decision was spontaneously made to organize further Balkan Philatelic Exhibitions in other Balkan countries.

Exhibition catalogue of the 1st Balkan Philatelic Exhibition in Varna, 1965, featuring the three special postmarks of the exhibition.
To mark the 1st Balkan Philatelic Exhibition, special issues came out in Bulgaria:
1 set of 4 stamps + 1 block + 2 FDCs: Mi Nos. 1550-53 and Mi Sheet 15, another set of 2 stamps + 2 FDCs, Mi Nos. 1555-56, and 3 special postmarks issued during the exhibition).



Удостоверение

ДАВА СЕ НА

Борис Калинков

ЗА УЧАСТИЕ В ПЪРВАТА ФИЛАТЕЛНА ИЗЛОЖБА НА БАЛКАНСКИТЕ СТРАНИ С КОЛЕКЦИЯ

„Космос от социалистическите страни"

7 — 15 АВГУСТ 1965

ГЕНЕРАЛЕН КОМИСАР: ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛ НА ЖУРИТО:

БАЛКАНФИЛА - ВАРНА - 1965

Verification (Diploma), given to Boris Kalinkov from Varna for the participatiion at the 1st.Balkanphila Exhibition. Mr. Kalinkov is now 78 years old and still participates with his philatelic books.

The First Balkanphila in Varna was a meeting of all the GREAT collectors from the Balkan countries.Here are some of the names that made history:

from Bulgaria:
- Petko Karaivanoff;
- Theodor Popov;
- Andrey Penchev;
- Dimiter Minchev;
- Bratan Ralchev;

from Turkey:
- Orhan Brandt;
- Ceyhan Sadik;
- Emin Alzan;

from Romania:
- Ilie Dimitrescu;
- Nikolae Bursescu;

from Greece:
- R. Drossos;
- George Futijadis;

from Yougoslavia:
- Boyan Pechar;
- D-r Novakovich;

Listing of all Balkanphila exhibitions after 1991:

2. Balkanphila: Istanbul, Turkey, 1966.
3. Balkanphila: Bukarest, Romania,1971.
4. Balkanphila: Izmir, Turkey, 23.10.-05.11.1973.
5. Balkanphila, Sofia, Bulgaria, 27.09.- 05.10.1975.
6. Balkanphila, Beograd, Yugoslavia, 24.10. – 30.10.1977.
7. Balkanphila, Athen, Greece, 24.11. – 31.11.1979
8. Balkanphila, Istanbul, Turkey, 08. – 16.08.1981.
9. Balkanphila, Bukarest, Romania, 17. – 22.12. 1983.
10. Balkanphila, Wratza, Bulgaria, 29.11. – 06.12.1985.
11. Balkanphila, Beograd, Yugoslavia, 1987.
12. Balkanphila, Athen, Greece 1989.
13. Balkanphila, Braschov, Romania, 1991.

Numbered black print: Mi No. Bl.60 S, with special postmark to commemorate the 5th Balkan Philatelic Exhibition in Sofiain 1975.

The special issue from Bulgaria for the 10th Balkan Philately in 1985, MiBl.161.

The revival of the Balkanphila exhibition in 2006

Due to the social and economic problems in the Balkan countries, the tradition was interrupted in 1991.
After a 15-year pause, a meeting of the Balkan countries was organized in Sofia on December 8th and 9th, 2006, at the invitation of the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists.
The following representatives took part:
Spass Pantschev- Bulgaria;
Mahmut Emirmahmutoglu - Turkey;
Klime Popovski- Macedona;
George Radicevic- Serbia;
Igor Pirc –Slovenia;
Tomo Katuric – Montenegro;
Leonard Paskanu – Romania
Michalis Tsironis- Greece;

The President of the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists Spass Panchev is reading the memorandum of the Balkan meeting in Sofia.

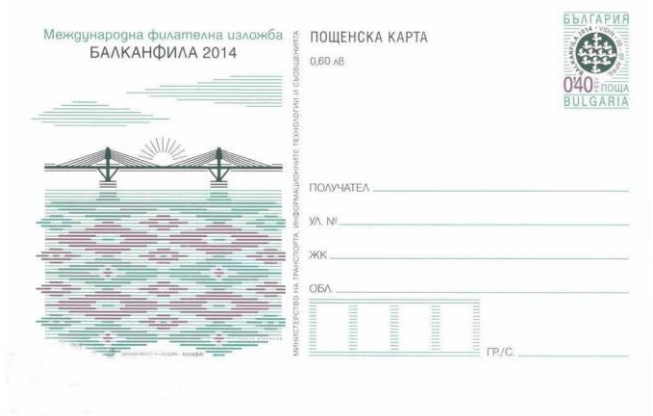
Important notes from the memorandum of the meeting, held on December 8, 2006, in Sofia.

- The Balkanphila exhibitions are organized every two years.
- The next Balkanphila exhibition will take place in Istanbul from October 28 to November 3, 2007.
- Not only collectors from the Balkan countries can participate, but also collectors whose exhibits relate to the Balkan countries;
- The FIP rules for international exhibitions will apply;

Listing of the Balkanphila exhibitons after 2006:

14. Balkanphila, Istanbul, Turkey, 28.10. -01.11.2007.
15. Balkanphila, Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 28.10. – 31.10.2010.
16. Balkanphila, Maribor, Slovenia,24.05. – 27.05.2012.
17. Balkanphila, Vidin, 24.04.- 27.02.2014.
18. Balkanphila, Tirana, Albania, 05.09.- 09.09. 2016.
19. Balkanphila, Belgrade, Serbia, 12.10.-14.10. 2023
20. Balkanphila, Thessaloniki, 13.11.- 16.11.2024;

Special s/s for the 15th. Balkanphila in Plovdiv, 2010.



Special ps card for the 17th. Balkanphila in Vidin, Bulgaria in 2014.

Nikolay Penev, Varna, November 2025