

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mark Maestrone

## **13<sup>th</sup> International Convention of SPI August 1-4, 2019, Omaha Nebraska**

It's official! The SPI Board of Directors voted to hold our 13<sup>th</sup> SPI convention during the annual APS StampShow in Omaha, Nebraska. This will also be the second year in a row that the APS and American Topical Association have joined forces to hold a dual convention.

We typically hold our conventions on either coast as that is where the majority of our U.S. members reside, but we felt this was an opportunity not to be missed. I hope that many of our members living in the American heartland will take part in the fun!

Of course we encourage all of you with philatelic exhibits to enter. With the ATA present, you can be sure that there will be plenty of thematic judges on hand. As always, SPI will be offering awards for best multi-frame, one-frame, novice and youth exhibits. Each winner receives SPI's distinctive diploma, and the multi-frame winner gets to take home a wonderful trophy!

*JSP* will be entered in the literature competition. Authors who have submitted articles to *JSP* or other philatelic publications may enter the "Individual Articles or Short Series on Single Theme" class. The only requirement is that the release date be within the prior 24 months from the date of the show. For more information on the philatelic or literature competitions, visit the APS website:

<https://stamps.org/StampShow/Exhibitor-Information>

SPI is planning a no-host dinner at a local restaurant (most likely Friday evening). A general meeting with one or more speakers is anticipated, hopefully on Saturday morning. If you have an idea for a speaker, or would like to make a presentation, let us know! One idea is to ask interested members to prepare a short (5-10 minute) presentation of a favorite item in their collection.

StampShow 2019 will be held at the CHI Health Center, Omaha's big convention complex.

The Hilton Omaha is the official show hotel. It's located directly across the street from the convention center and accessible by an overhead pedestrian bridge. A special show hotel rate of \$138/night

(plus taxes and fees) is available. Pre-registration to the stamp show and a link to the special reservations page for the Hilton hotel are available at the APS website: <https://stamps.org/StampShow>

SPI will also need the assistance of its volunteers to help staff the SPI table at the show.

To help us better prepare for the convention, we invite all prospective attendees to complete a brief questionnaire (it shouldn't take more than 2 minutes). The link to the questionnaire is on the home page of our website ([sportstamps.org](http://sportstamps.org)). If you have questions, write me: [markspi@prodigy.net](mailto:markspi@prodigy.net)

## **25<sup>th</sup> World Olympic Collectors' Fair WARSAW 2019 May 24-26, 2019, Warsaw, Poland**

This year's Olympic Collectors' Fair is just around the corner, and the organizers have pulled out all the stops to make this a memorable event. In addition to a bourse of some 80 or more Olympic collectors and dealers, there will be a tour of a special exhibition on the history of the POW camp Olympics of 1940 and 1944, the traditional Silent Auction hosted by the organizers, and a Gala Banquet on the roof of the Olympic Centre on the banks of the Vistula River in Warsaw.

The host of Warsaw 2019 is the Polish Olympic Committee who are celebrating their centennial, in cooperation with AICO, the Museum of Sport & Tourism (members of the Olympic Museum Network), and "The Olympian" Polish Club of Olympic and Sports Philately.

If you've never been to Poland, here's your opportunity. Swing on by their website and register for a table or events as well as learn more about the Fair and Warsaw: [www.warsaw2019.org](http://www.warsaw2019.org)

## **David Feldman Auction Olympic Specialized Auction Alert!**

David Feldman Auctions are holding a special Olympic auction on 19 March with strong sections on 1896, 1906, 1912, and 1924 as well as the famous "Alba" soccer collection. See page 2 for more details or visit: [www.davidfeldman.com](http://www.davidfeldman.com)