



Cat Mews



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COSSU Member Earns Vermeil at NTSS

By Marci Jarvis

GREG BALAGIAN'S EXHIBIT, "BIG Cats and Humans" earned a Vermeil award for multi-frames at the National Topical Stamp Show, held this year in Clackamas, Oregon, June 13-15.

The nine-frame, 144-page exhibit represents Greg's 30 years of collecting and numerous exhibiting experiences. He modestly describes his exhibit as "an attempt to explore the representation of Big Cats in human culture."

Using myriad philatelic elements, Greg traces big cats from the ancient world through modern times, highlighting art, religion, literature, folklore, entertainment, animation, heraldry, and astrology.

Greg's philatelic journey began far from the U.S. "After defecting from the Soviet

See Vermeil, page 21



From Greg's Exhibit: German postal card (Braunschweig) with imprinted stamp of a heraldic lion. The illustration consists of an allegory of friendship and cooperation between Hamburg and Braunschweig depicting symbols of these cities - Lion of Braunschweig and Goddess Hammonia, c. late 1800s.

Another example of Greg's is on page 21.



Photo by Bob Jarvis. Used with permission.

Greg Balagian is describing his exhibit, "Big Cat and Humans" at the ATA show.

Vermeil, Continued from the cover

Union in 1990, I was only able to bring my Wild Cat collection to the United States with the help of my friends in the Armenian Philatelic Society; we all pretended that I was a U.S. exhibitor returning my exhibit. Unfortunately, that was the only part of my collection which I was able to get out."

While living in Armenia, Greg was the vice-president of the Armenian Philatelic Society with many topical interests including percussion and drums stamps "because I was a jazz drummer before. But my main interest is - Wild Cats." 🐾



From the collection and exhibit of Greg Balagian

Folded stampless letter mailed in 1817 from Recanati to Montalto (Italy) with municipal postal handstamp of Recanati, a lion rampant.

Mythological Winged Lion Armenian Bas-relief, III-XII c. A.D.



Armenia (1921) Scott 284

Courtesy of Greg Balagian, "Wild Cats In Art Catalogue." Used with permission.