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# **WORLD PUZZLE** *news letter*

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**INFORMATIVE BULLETIN OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL PUZZLE FEDERATION\***  
NO.1, APRIL 1996

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# FOREWORD

The World Puzzle Championship is so awfully young and the International Puzzle Federation a structure – naturally – still so hasitating, that one cannot entirely rule out the following worrying possibility: that it may be not sufficiently obvious for everybody just how splendid and sublime this united world of crossword will become. All the more in these times of profound changes towards modernity, in which the puzzle culture has to face multiple serious challenges, but also to benefit from its large potentials, maybe even undreamt of.

It is therefore necessary to establish appropriate means to catalyse the efforts, to keep the verve ardent and to soften the bitterness of sometimes inevitable fruitlessness. To tie up even more firmly the World Championship's pioneers by the bonds of friendship and to seduce into cooperation other and other puzzle enthusiasts from all latitudes. With this „News letter” we address both the ones and the others.

To edit a bulletin of the International Puzzle Federation (\* – founded de facto at the 1995 International Puzzle Congress, now about to be officialized) was decided at the mentioned summit conference at Poiana Braşov. This assignment was assumed, in its quality as a host, by the Romanian part, and we hereby offer our services for continuing to run this project – within the scope of our responsibilities in Committee 4 – with intensivities and in forms more and more adequate to the purpose.

But the project cannot survive without an effective moral support from you, our partners and friends. Therefore: please send us news about puzzle competitions in your countries, technical articles, presentations of new puzzles and of new organizational initiatives, commentaries, photographs and representative puzzle magazines – everything you believe that it may serve our common cause. We are expecting your contributions for the next edition by June 1st.

Many thanks in advance and – in the name of the huge Romanian puzzlers community – all our best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

**CRISTEA IONIŢĂ**  
general manager  
„Ecran Magazin”

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## THE 4th WORLD PUZZLE CHAMPIONSHIP & CONGRESS

# PUZZLE-(RO)MANIA

The focal point of the international puzzling year 1995 was marked by the 4th edition of the World Puzzle Championship, which took place between October 22nd and 27th in the Romanian holiday resort of Poiana Braşov. It is to be remembered that the previous editions were hosted by New York (1992), Brno (1993) and Köln (1994).

In the following we present in summarized form a string of aspects and significances of this important event. Taking into account that this news letter is addressed also to puzzle companions from countries so far not represented at our competition, we start with the final results of the two contests,

### THE INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION:

1	Wei-Hua Huang	USA	5262 points
2	György Istvan	Hungary	5069
3	Pavel Kalhous	Czech Rep.	5047
4	Zack Butler	USA	5022
5	Ron Osher	USA	4856
6	Petr Vejchoda	Czech Rep.	4651
7	Markus Gegenheimer	Germany	4539
8	Kresz Karoly	Hungary	4444
9	Robert Babilon	Czech Rep.	4429
10	Pero Galogaza	Croatia	4421
11	Florin Georgescu	Romania	4348
12	Kamer Alyanakyan	Turkey	4317
13	Constantin Manea	Romania	4244
14	David Samuel	Canada	4149
15	Husnu Sincar	Turkey	4142
16	Kodaj Bence	Hungary	3969
17	Lőrincz Emenc	Romania	3822
18	Zdenek Vodicka	Czech Rep.	3813
19	Nick Baxter	USA	3783
20	Dragos Luca	Romania	3729
21	Nagy Laszlo	Hungary	3678
22	Metin Orsel	Turkey	3638
23	Peter Ritmeester	Netherlands	3511
24	Ikumi Mana	Japan	3471
25	Darko Galic	Croatia	3471 etc.,

### and THE TEAMS COMPETITION:

1	USA	17.463 points
2	Czech Rep.	17.305 points
3	Hungary	16.250 points etc.

# MINUTES OF THE 1995 INTERNATIONAL PUZZLE CONGRESS

OCTOBER 22-27, 1995, POIANA BRASOV, ROMANIA (◆EXTRACTS)

The main topic on the agenda of the 1995 International Puzzle Congress referred to the foundation of the International Puzzle Federation. On the basis of the unanimous readiness of the participating delegations to engage in this effort, there were laid down by consensus the following measures:

- opening the procedures for the constitution of the International Puzzle Federation, according to the international legal practices in force;
- forming in this context four preliminary IPF committees, which are:

- (1) **THE LEGAL COMMITTEE** – consisting of the representatives of Germany and the Netherlands, with the task to identify the procedural means for officializing the International Puzzle Federation and to elaborate the necessary documentation;
- (2) **THE COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDS AND RULES** – consisting of the representatives of the Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Japan, Poland, Russia, the Ukraine and the United States of America (Will Shortz), with the task to elaborate the technical base and the skeleton regulations for the future editions of the World Puzzle Championship;
- (3) **THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE** – consisting of the representatives of Turkey and the United States of America (Helene Hovanec), with the task to identify the resources needed for an adequate carrying out of the IPF activities.
- (4) **THE COMMITTEE FOR PARALLEL PUZZLE PROJECTS** – its responsible being the representative of Romania, with the task to elaborate collateral journalistic, competition (etc.) projects in the field of puzzle culture.

The constituting sessions of the committees took place following the closing plenary session of the Congress. It was decided that the next meetings of the committees (1) and (2) are to be convoked before the 1996 edition of the WPC, at Amsterdam and Brno respectively. There was also a proposal (from the Dutch delegation) for calling a common session of all four committees in the same period; Romania (Braşov) offered to host this event.

In the course of the official talks there were discussed also the following items:

## the procedure of selecting the contest puzzles (at future editions of the WPC, proposals)

- the organizing country should present in advance the puzzle genres fund prepared for the competition (in proportion of 70%, by examples), so that they can be selected by an international technical committee (proposition Poland);
  - the puzzle genres fund should be constituted with the contribution of all involved national camps (Turkey) and then selected in compliance with procedures analogic to those from the International Mathematics Olympiad (Russia);
  - the drawing up of a fund of typical puzzle genres (with translated texts/instructions, on the base and in completion of the „International Catalogue of Puzzles“) and their assimilation by all national camps (Poland).
- ## competitors with special status (decisions)
- competitors from countries with incomplete team (less than four members) are admitted in the individual competition on the official list;
  - persons not belonging to the four-members-team of a competing country („the fifth man“) are permitted to participate in the individual competition, but without being classified;
  - these persons can form spontaneously mixed (international) teams, admitted in the teams contest without being classified.
- ## further elements concerning the participation (proposals)
- restrictions regarding the members number of the national delegations out of organizatoric reasons (Germany);
  - the necessity of implicating more nations (Japan);
  - the launching of a WPC challenge trophy („Puzzle Star“, Romania) – already done;
  - rewards for the winners in form of refunding their participation costs (the Netherlands).



*Image from the 1995 International Puzzle Congress at the „Piatra Mare” hotel in Poiana Braşov (from left to right: Adam Sumera - Poland, Andreas Franz - Germany, Rob Geensen - Netherlands)*

### III.

In its capacity as president of the 1995 International Puzzle Congress, the Romanian part also touched on the following items:

- ◆ the necessity to shape and to consolidate the competitive puzzle culture as a sport, at an scale as large as possible, in both national and international context, by
  - a coherent system of local, national and international puzzle competitions, at both masses and performance level;
  - cooperation – as far as possible and appropriate – with all constructive forces in each national puzzle configuration, for the purpose of accelerating the considered evolution;
  - adequate exploitation of the considerable self-financing potential, based on the popularity of puzzle culture and on the modern means (TV, PC) of increasing this;
- ◆ the publishing of a periodic puzzle magazine with international character, as a common product of the involved publishing houses and/or as that of the International Puzzle Federation, aiming at spreading as intensive as possible the ideal of international integration, with the following main parameters:
  - jointly defined structure (fixed columns, standard puzzle genres, convenient format);
  - puzzles and articles provided by authors from the cooperating countries;
  - common (and therefore convenient) technical elaboration and printing preparation;
  - translation of the puzzle texts in the national editorial offices;
  - worldwide exploitation by national distribution.

The four „Rebus Labirint” special editions presented at the 1995 contest were intended (apart from certain specific elements) as illustrative prototypes for this project.

A prior measure in this context has to be the staging of **bilateral** international puzzle matches at clubs (towns) level. The Romanian part reaffirms its immediate readiness to take part in such competitions or to organize them itself.



*Cristian Ioniță - general manager - "Ecran Magazin"*



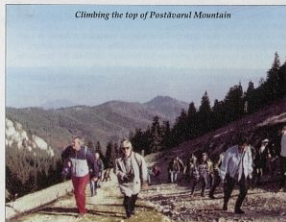
*View from the W.P.C. contest in Brasov*



*of the "Miorita" restaurant where the trophies were given*

## THE FUNNY FAMILY OF PUZZLE GLOBE TROTTERS

PASSION ● AMBITIONS ● THIRST (FOR KNOWLEDGE)  
● LABYRINTHS ● CHAMPIONS ● AND OTHER  
HAPPY PEOPLE ● BECAUSE EVERYONE'S A WINNER



*Climbing the top of Postăvarul Mountain*



*The U.S.A. Team - the first in the possession of the "Puzzle Star" trophy*



# TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

## ON THE 4th WORLD PUZZLE CHAMPIONSHIP

From the technical point of view, the 1995 edition of the World Puzzle Championship pursued mainly

- a pronounced shift of stress towards the crossword puzzle - especially in the form of the „subject puzzle“ (for general knowledge) and of the „surprise puzzle“ (based on specific individual solution keys), - imposed by the outstanding worldwide popularity of this puzzle genre, which classes its taking into consideration as vital for the credibility of the WPC;
- the inclusion in the international puzzle fund of elements due to certain national puzzle cultures, especially to the Romanian and Japanese ones;
- the launching of the original technical ideas;
- the guarantee for equal opportunities by translating the puzzle tests into the involved languages.

In the organizers' opinion, these orientations were aiming at

- enlarging the international puzzle fund by surmounting the previous predominance of logical (non-crossword) puzzles, (a process which started, in fact, at the 1994 edition in Köln)
- incorporating puzzle genres with superior potential of popularity, in spite of their apparent (but removable) incompatibility with the practice of international competing;
- identifying specific solutions for ensuring - otherwise than by emptying - the linguistic and cultural neutrality of the puzzles belonging to the mentioned categories,

being insistently emphasized the EXPERIMENTAL character of this project, as well as the imperative necessity of rapid and thorough progresses in this field - which has to take priority over any strictly competition and monumental interests of the participating national delegations.

These technical démarches have of course given rise to contradictory reactions, which have to set up the base for the coming technical dialogue. Anyway, the analysis of the points achieved by the participating teams at puzzles with pronounced thematic contents shows that competitors with particular cultural background (writing etc., we refer mainly to the Russian and Japanese colleagues) were in no way disadvantaged relating to the other competitors.

According to the resolutions of the 1995 International Puzzle Championship & Congress, the next editions of the International Puzzle Championship & Congress will take place in the Netherlands (1996) and Croatia (1997). We reproduce in the following the text of the invitation delivered recently by the organizers of the Dutch edition.

## THE WPC 1996 UTRECHT

UTRECHT ♦ „gemeente“ and capital of the Utrecht „provincie“ ♦ situated along the Amsterdam-Rijn Canal ♦ old Roman town – Trajectum ad Rhenum, then Ultrajectum ♦ Bishop's see in 696, proud medieval history ♦ „Peace of Utrecht“ 1713-4 ♦ famous university founded in 1636 ♦ museums: Central M., The Netherlands Railway M., The Netherlands Gold and Silver M., the Clock and Watchmaking M. ♦ The Royal Dutch Industries Fair (since 1916) ♦ diversified industries: construction, steel-working, printing, aluminium, clothing ♦ population 230,000 ♦ metropolitan area 516,064.



Dear friends,

During the Fourth World Puzzle Championship (WPC) at Polana Braşov, The Netherlands were honoured to be the host and organizing country for the next world championship. We hereby take great pleasure inviting you to the Fifth World Puzzle Championship.

The 1996 WPC will be held in the city of Utrecht, located in the heart of The Netherlands, from Tuesday 15th to Sunday, October 20th, 1996. The arrival of guests and participants and the opening ceremony are scheduled for Tuesday 15th. The following day, Wednesday, we plan a meeting with all participants and captains to discuss some details of the match, in order to make sure that all games will be as much language and cultural neutral as possible. The actual competition will then take place on Thursday, Friday and part of Saturday and will be concluded by a closing ceremony on Saturday evening. During the closing ceremony we will reveal the results of this year's event.



As usual, the participating teams are to consist of four players and one non-playing team captain. For those countries unable to provide a full team, it is allowed for one or more persons to take part in the championship for the individual competition. English will be the official language in all communications, prior to and during the championship. The annual congress of team captains will be held during part of the competition. The object of this congress is to talk about common issues in word-puzzling and the future of the WPC.

The fee for participating in the 5th WPC will be US\$ 300 per person with a maximum of six persons per country (four players, one captain and one guest). Of course, although hotel accommodation is limited, more guests are welcome. However, we will have to charge US\$ 600 for each additional guest, a fee which comes a bit closer to the actual costs of residence and entertainment. Organizing the WPC is a huge task. You could help us a lot by sending us, as soon as possible, a preliminary confirmation of the number of people, including guests, you intend to delegate. We will contact you for your final confirmation and settlement later on.

Because we collected our current base of names and addresses from different sources, these names may be incorrect or incomplete. In case you are not the person who coordinates your national delegation or in case you happen to be familiar with one or more national teams not yet participating, please let us know as soon as possible. We can be reached by mail or fax, or by e-mail at [puzzelsp@knoware.nl](mailto:puzzelsp@knoware.nl). Any other of your remarks, suggestions or questions can be forwarded to any of these addresses too.

We hope to hear from you soon. In the meantime we are going to great lengths to make it a tough competition, but be assured we will not forget the fun part of it! We are all very much looking forward to meeting you at the Fifth WPC in The (surprising) Netherlands.

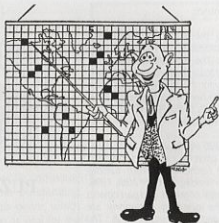
Kind regards,

**Rob Geensen**  
editor

Box 1952, 2003 BB Haarlem, The Netherlands,  
Telephone + 31 (0)23 54 63 246, Fax + 31 (0)23 54 63 927

In order to make possible a less complicated connection between the puzzle culture nuclei from different countries, we here present the main addresses of puzzle publishing houses, puzzle organizations and other related institutions, known to the organizers of the 1995 WPC. We are grateful for any completion.

# HOT LINES



- ARGENTINA - Jaime Poniachik, Avenida Corrientes 1312 - Piso 8, 1043 Buenos Aires
- CANADA - David Samuel, 3445 Ridgewood 306, Montreal, Quebec H3V 1B7
- CROATIA - Stjepan Horvat, Ul.Matrice Hrvatske 24, 4300 Bjelovar
- CZECH REPUBLIC - Vitezslav Koudelka, Kira Publishing House, P.O.B.33, 63500 Brno 35
- ESTHONIA - Ervin Runnel, AS Kuma, Prääma tee 11, EE2820 Paide
- FINLAND - Erja Gullstén, Kolmiokirja oy, Lekasie 6, 90150 Oulu
- FRANCE - Jean Jacques Bloch, 74 Bd.Raspail, 75006 Paris
- GERMANY - Andreas Franz, „Bastei“-Verlag, Pf.200180, 51431 Bergisch-Gladbach
- GREAT BRITAIN - Brian Greer, 50 Rugby Road, Belfast BT7 1PT, Northern Ireland
- GREECE - „to teot“, ΧΡΥΣΟΥΛΑ ΤΑΤΑΦΗ, οδός Ναβαρίνου 8, 106 80 Αθήνα (tel.363.8277)
- HUNGARY - Gyöcsy Géza, Erasmus Press, Dozsa György út 150, 1134 Budapest XIII
- INDIA - „Sunday“, 6 Prafulla Sarkar Street, 700001 Calcutta
- IRELAND - Mensa nah Eireann, Irish Mensa, P.O.B.3647, Dublin 1
- ITALY - „La Settimana Enigmistica“, Palazzo Vittoria, Piazza 5 Giornate 10, Milano
- JAPAN - Yumiko Doi, 2-29, 4 - Chome, Kudan-kita, Chiyoda-ku 102 Tokyo
- LUXEMBOURG - Marcel Gillen, 31 rue Albert Einstein, 4445 Belvaux
- MOLDAVIA - (v.Romania)
- NETHERLANDS - Rob Geensen, Box 1952, 2003 BB Haarlem
- NEW ZEALAND - Arts Council of N.Z., P.O.B.3806, Wellington
- NORWAY - „Allers Kryss og Tvers“, persv.20, 0581 Oslo
- POLAND - Adam Sumera, Zagraniczna 1 m.4, 93-377 Lodz
- ROMANIA - Cristea Ioniță, str.Lungă 35, 2200 Braşov, tel.& fax: 0040/68/411454
- Ovidiu Şperlea, Schubart-Str.7, 74321 Bietigheim-Bissingen, Deutschland, tel.& fax: 0049/7142/31517
- RUSSIA - Vladimir Dubrovsky, Kremenchugskaya 11, 121357 Moscow
- Leonid Sladkov, Tsvetnoy blvd.30, 103051 Moscow
- SLOVAKIA - Sona Janosikova, Kolárska 8, 81499 Bratislava
- SLOVENIA - Aleksander Sujdovic, Postni Predal 468, 61000 Ljubljana
- SOUTH AFRICA - South African Press Association, Max van der Velden, P.O.B.7766, 2000 Johannesburg
- SPAIN - Begona Garcia Bilbao, Zugarto Ediciones SA, Pablo Aranda 3, 28006 Madrid
- TURKEY - Nevzat Erkmen, P.K.7 Levent, 80622 Istanbul
- UKRAINE - Serhiy Grabarchuk, 15/100 F.Tikhyy Str., Uzhgorod 294005
- USA - Will Shortz, 55 Great Oak Lane, Pleasantville NY 10570
- Helene Hovanec, 245 E.72 Street, apt.6F. New York 10021

We wish to preface the announced columns of puzzle novelties and oddities with this titbit received from our distinguished American colleague Will Shortz, the father of the World Puzzle Championship. Being based on an idea launched within the 1995 WPC puzzle fund, this work convincingly suggests - we believe - the advantages of a puzzle „brainstorming“ at world scale. And exactly this is intended to be the role of our „News letter“ too.

## WORD LIST

ANGELIC	HALO	1
BELL	ICICLE	2
BETHLEHEM	JOY TO THE WORLD	3
BING CROSBY	MANGER	4
CANDY	SANTA CLAUS	5
EGGNOG	SKI	6
EVE	TOT	7
FIREPLACE	TOYS	8
<b>BRAIN -</b>		9
		10
<b>PEACE</b>		11
		12
CHRISTMAS-CROSS		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7			E							
8			G							
9			G							
10			N							
11			O							
12			G							

Mr.Dooley got off to a running start presenting the puzzle entertainment at his annual Christmas party. Before I'd even finished my first eggnog, he gave each guest a blank grid in which the rows and columns were numbered and lettered, along with a list of Christmas-related words:

„Just fit the 16 words in the grid as you would in a crisscross puzzle or a Scrabble board,“ Dooley explained, while distributing pencils. „Since the grid is blank, discovering the outline of the words is up to you. But they all read normally from left to right and from top to bottom. One word, EGGNOG, is placed to start you off.“

„When you're done“, Dooley continued a moment later, „the letters in the nine squares listed below the grid can be rearranged to complete this sentence:  
**The Dooleys hope your Christmas joys are ... .“**

„Pretty simple“, I thought to myself, scribbling a word horizontally in row 10. „Only one thing can fit here.“ But after some further work I was stuck. So, in fact, were my neighbours.

„Heads up!“ was Dooley's only comment. And - Mr.Dooley's holiday wish is our wish to you too!

**BONUS MESSAGE (scrambled): 1J, 2H, 3C, 4D, 5F, 7A, 9E, 10H, 12B.**



## **WORLD PUZZLE** *newsletter*

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