



*Fédération  
Aéronautique  
Internationale*

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# **FAI / CIVA Aerobatic Championship Trophies and Medals**

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**Issue-06**  
2022

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## 1. Introduction

This “FAI / CIVA Aerobatic Championship Trophies” document aims to provide details of all FAI aerobatic championship trophies that are regularly presented to winning pilots and teams around the world.

The work of preparing this new reference work was undertaken by Mike Heuer, CIVA President of Honour. The document will be revised from time to time as additional information and photographs comes to light.

Anyone in possession of relevant information or photographs that could be useful in the future development of this document is kindly requested to contact Mike using the contact details below.

Revisions and updates will be published from time to time with the ‘issue’ number incremented and a log of the changes recorded in the chapter 3 Appendix.

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## 2. Aerobatic Championship Trophies and Medals

### 2.1 The Aresti Cup

The Aresti Cup, donated by Colonel Jose L. Aresti of Spain to the FAI in the 1960's, is presented to the Overall World Aerobatic Champion (Unlimited Power category). The



trophy was first presented in 1964 to Tomas Castaño of Spain.

Not only the most prestigious award given in competition, the Aresti Cup is also truly a work of art --- created in silver with gold embellishments and featuring gold coins around its diameter

symbolizing member nations of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale.



The trophy is topped with a golden globe which featured Col. Aresti's favorite aircraft, the Bucker Jungmeister, but which has now been lost to time. The names of past Champions are engraved around the bottom of the trophy. The trophy's base is made of marble and features "1960", the year the 1<sup>st</sup> FAI World Aerobatic Championships was held.



Aresti was born in Bilbao, Spain in 1919, began flying in the 1930s, and was an aerobatic flight instructor in the Spanish Air Force during World War II. He provided the country's first aerobatic flight manual and founded several pilot training schools after the war when he also became active on the European airshow circuit flying the Bucker Jungmeister.

Aresti became very active in CIVA's early years as the Delegate of Spain, which would host the 1964 WAC at Bilbao. His work on an aerobatic catalogue started previous to that and it was in 1964 that the "Aresti Aerocryptographic System" was introduced and approved by CIVA. At the time, some 3,000 maneuvers were catalogued along with difficulty coefficients (called K-factors today). He was instrumental in obtaining government support for aerobatic flying in Spain, which led to very successful aerobatic teams from Spain at the WAC. Colonel Aresti passed away in 2003 at the age of 84 but his legacy remains alive as the *Aresti Aerobatic Catalogue* continues in use today as the basis of aerobatic competition.



Aresti served as CIVA President in 1968-1969 and was its President of Honour up until his death. He was awarded the FAI Silver and Gold Medals for his work on the catalogue. He brought a professional standard to the cataloguing of aerobatic figures and provided "shorthand" for diagramming aerobatic figures, thereby touching the lives of thousands of aerobatic pilots throughout the world.



## 2.2 The Eric Müller Trophy

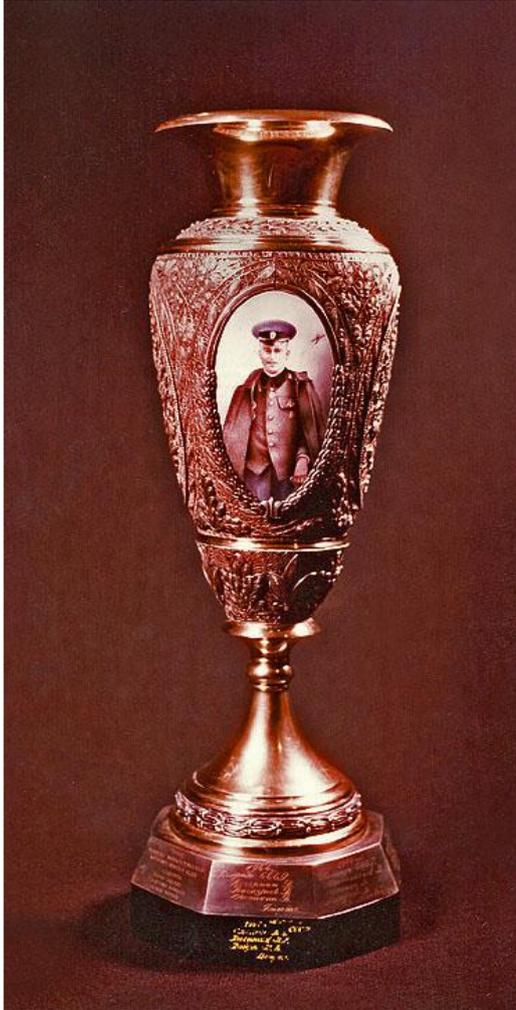


A highly skilled world competition pilot, Müller was also the Swiss Delegate to CIVA, writer, and innovator. A former European Aerobatic Champion as well as Swiss National Champion on numerous occasions, he was the co-author of the book “Flight Unlimited”, one of the finest texts on aerobatic flying of its day and published in 1983.

This trophy is presented to the Overall Winner of the Unknown Programmes at the World Aerobatic Championships (Unlimited Power category).

Eric Müller had won this flight at his last WAC in Red Deer, Canada, in 1988 flying the newly minted Extra 300. He died just prior to the 1990 WAC which was held in his home country, Switzerland. The trophy was first presented in 1994 and was donated to FAI by the Swiss Aerobatic Association.

### 2.3 The Nesterov Trophy



The Nesterov Trophy is presented to the winning Men's aerobatic team at the World Aerobatic Championships (Unlimited Power category).

The USSR donated this trophy to the FAI in 1962 and it was first presented to the winning Team at the 3<sup>rd</sup> FAI World Aerobatic Championships in Bilbao, Spain in 1964.

Pyotr Nikolayevich Nesterov was a Russian military pilot, an aircraft technical designer, and aerobatic pioneer. Born in 1887, he began formal training as a pilot in 1911. On 9 September 1913, he became the first pilot to fly a complete loop in a Nieuport IV monoplane at

an airfield near Kiev. At first punished for his feat, he was later promoted and awarded a medal. He died in August 1914 as a result of air combat near Zhovka, Ukraine.



## 2.4 The FAI Challenge Trophy



This trophy is presented to the winning women's national team at the World Aerobatic Championships (Unlimited Power category)

It was donated by the USSR in 1987.

## 2.5 The Darius and Girėnas Trophy

The Darius & Girėnas Trophy is presented to the winning Men's Team (or mixed Team if applicable) at the European Aerobatic Championships (Unlimited Power category). The trophy was donated by Lithuania in 2004.



The award is named after two famous Lithuanian flyers, Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas, emigrants to the United States, who made a significant flight in the history of world aviation.

On July 15, 1933, they flew their Bellanca CH-300 "Pacemaker" which they had named "Lituanica" across the Atlantic Ocean, covering a distance of 3,984 miles (6,411 kilometers) without landing, in 37 hours, 11 minutes. Tragically, the flight ended in a crash near Mysliborz, Poland (formerly Soldin, Germany) just 404 miles short of their goal. In terms of comparison, as far as the distance of non-stop flights was concerned, their result ranked second only to that of Russell Boardman and John Polando, and ranked fourth in terms of duration of flight at the time.

Although Darius and Girėnas did not have navigational equipment and flew under unfavorable weather conditions, the flight was one of the most precise in aviation history. "Lituanica" also carried the first trans-Atlantic air mail consignment in history. These brave pilots remain among Lithuania's greatest heroes to this day.

## 2.6 The Peter Celliers Trophy

This trophy is presented to the World Advanced Aerobatic Champion.



It is named after the late CIVA Delegate of South Africa, Peter Celliers. Celliers was instrumental in organizing the first World Advanced Aerobatic Championships in Cape Town, South Africa in 1995. An Unlimited pilot and energetic organizer, he chaired the CIVA Catalogue Sub-Committee in the 1980's and was instrumental in its updating to meet the requirements of modern competition.

The trophy was donated by the South African Aero Club in 2000.

## 2.7 The Yak-52 Trophy

This trophy is presented to the World Yak-52 Aerobatic Champion.

It was donated by South Africa.



## 2.8 The Yak-52 Team Trophy

This trophy is presented to the winning Team at the World Yak-52 Aerobatic Championships.

The trophy was donated by Russia.



## 2.9 The Manfred Strössenreuther Trophy



This is presented to the European Aerobatic Champion and is named after the late German Aerobatic Champion.

Manfred Strössenreuther was an Unlimited pilot and member of the German Aerobatic Team. He was German National Champion five times and in his last World Aerobatic Championships in 1984, he captured the Silver Medal overall in his Zlin 50.

He lost his life in an aircraft accident in March 1986.

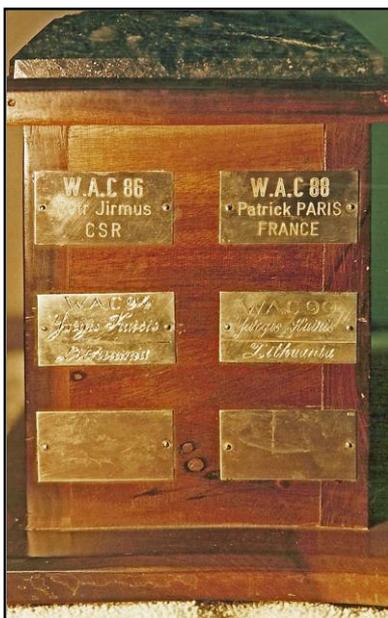
The trophy was donated in his honor by the Deutscher Aero Club.

## 2.10 The (former) Manfred Strössenreuther Trophy



This trophy, also named after the former German National Champion, was presented to the winner of the Final Freestyle at the World Aerobatic Championships (Unlimited Power category). It was donated by Germany in honour of their deceased Champion.

It was last presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> World Aerobatic Championships in Grenada, Spain but after the awards ceremony, the trophy went missing and has not been located since.



After a widespread search for funds to replace this venerable trophy, an all-new replica was created in Spain under the control of Castor Fantoba.

Also provided now is a series of trophy miniatures so that each winner receives an additional small version to keep permanently.



This new version of the trophy was first presented to Rob Holland at the 2019 WAC at Chateauroux in France, following his extraordinary 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive championship success in this category.

Past winners of this prestigious trophy have been -

1986 - Petr Jirmus, Czechoslovakia  
 1988 - Patrick Paris, France  
 1990 - Jurgis Kairis, Lithuania  
 1994 - Jurgis Kairis, Lithuania  
 1996 - Patrick Paris, France  
 1998 - Roland Dominique, France  
 2000 - Peter Besenyei, Hungary  
 2001 - Klaus Schrödt, Germany

2005 - Klaus Schrödt, Germany  
 2007 - Zachery Heffley, United States  
 2009 - Renaud Ecalte, France  
 2011 - Robert Holland, United States  
 2013 - Robert Holland, United States  
 2015 - Robert Holland, United States  
 2017 - Robert Holland, United States  
 2019 - Robert Holland, United States

## 2.11 The Royal Aero Club Trophy



The trophy is presented to the Women's World Aerobatic Champion (Unlimited Power category).

Though Women's Champions have been named since the first competitions were held, no special trophy existed prior to this trophy's creation.

The Royal Aero Club Trophy was donated by the United Kingdom in 1986.

## 2.12 The Ivan Tuček Floating Trophy



Ivan Tuček was born on 20th of November 1942 in Prague, Czechoslovakia and tragically died on 25<sup>th</sup> of August 1999 in Friesach, Austria. Ivan was one of the most successful Czechoslovakian aerobatic pilots, who dedicated whole life to flying.

The Ivan Tuček Floating Trophy was introduced at 10<sup>th</sup> FAI European Advanced Aerobatic Championship 2017 in Chotěboř, Czech Republic. The trophy has been donated to FAI/CIVA by Mr. Daniel Tuček (son of Ivan Tuček), Aeroclub of Czech Republic and Aeroclub of Chotěboř. The Ivan Tuček Floating Trophy is awarded to the overall individual champion at the European Advanced Aerobatic Championship. Every winner receives a small version of the Trophy to keep. The floating trophy is then awarded at the next event with the new champion's name and year of the championship engraved.

Ivan was interested in flying since an early age, he flew first time in 1957 as a passenger and right after he started the glider pilot training. His flying origins started in Hradec Kralove. Ivan's shiny

aerobatic career started in 1967 at the Czechoslovak national championship where he was a member of winning team. He was national champion for three times in years 1973, 1975 and 1977. As a first Czechoslovak pilot he participated at the 5th World Aerobatics Championship in Magdeburg in 1968, where he was at 13th place.

When Ivan finished his active career in aerobatics he stayed devoted to flying and aerobatics. He stands behind the training of many new pilots, coaching aerobatic teams and pilots of which the best one was Peter Jirmus the following World aerobatic champion.

Ivan tragically died on 25th of August 1999 in Friesach, Austria during training flight due to technical failure of the aircraft.

### 2.13 The CIVA Championship Organiser of the Year Trophy

Donated by the British Aerobatic Association in 2015, this trophy is awarded annually on the basis of voting by all competitors and officials at each CIVA championship to the event organiser that receives the best overall score.



Eligible people - by this we mean all pilots and Team members who have paid to enter the championship, plus the Judges, the Assistants and the Jury - receive personal logins to a dedicated page on the CIVA News website for each CIVA World or European Championship, where they are asked to vote on the quality of the event in the following nine categories chosen to represent the qualities that CIVA wishes organisers to excel in at each championship event:

- Pre and post event communication, and website
- Entry fees and overall “value for money”
- Accommodation and transport
- Quality and availability of on-site food
- Contest briefing and information facilities
- Flight line administration and airfield management
- Team tents and on-site comfort
- Staff helpfulness and problem solving
- Excellence of the opening and closing ceremonies

The trophy bears a medal originally awarded to Claude Grahame-White, Britain’s first qualified pilot and holder of Royal Aero Club certificate #6 in April 1910.

It was first awarded to the WGAC/WAGAC 2015 Organisers at the CIVA Plenary Conference that year with an overall score of 72.91%

### 2.14 The Roland Kúng glider champion trophies

In 2016 Roland Kúng, the vital supporter of the Swift aerobatic glider development, commissioned two new trophies to be presented to the champions at the conclusion of the World Glider Advanced and Unlimited championships in each year. In addition a series of miniature replicas were also created so that these champions could keep in perpetuity a small copy of the trophy from the relevant year.

The full-size versions:



Typical miniature replicas:



## 2.15 FAI Medals



Medals awarded at every championship are of two types – here are shown the traditional FAI medals that have been awarded for many years.

See FAI Sporting Code, Section 6 for distribution. Visit the FAI/CIVA web for a copy of “FAI & CIVA medals (your event).pdf”

### 2.16 CIVA medals

At the 2018 CIVA plenary conference the president proposed an additional set of medals to a new design that would specifically illustrate aerobatics, and with approval from delegates a design study was instituted with British designer David Thomson from which a series of five possible solutions emerged for review:



From these designs the #5 sketch at the right was selected by popular vote at the next plenary, and these medals are now awarded at each championship as specified by FAI Sporting Code, Section 6.



### 3. Appendix

#### 3.1 Record of document changes and revisions

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Revision Log</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>CIVA Trophies Issue-01</b>	<b>First issue</b>	<b>April 2014</b>
Issue-02: text changes	Nesterov, Yak-52 Trophy pages	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2014
Issue-03: trophy added	CIVA Organiser of the Year Trophy page	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
Issue-04: trophy added	The Ivan Tuček Floating Trophy	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2017
Issue-05: detail added	The Manfred Strössenreuther Trophy	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
Issue-06: items added	The Roland Kűng glider trophies, and CIVA medals	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2022