

## EXTRACTS FROM FIP RULES

Set out below are **extracts** from the Special Regulations for the evaluation of the six main classes (Traditional, Postal History, Thematic, Open Philately, Aerophilately and Revenue) as determined by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie, which apply to international and national exhibitions. Exhibitors are encouraged to read the full General and Special Regulations which can be found on <http://www.f-i-p.ch/regulations/>

*The special regulations relating to the exhibiting of picture postcards is included on the Regulations tab on the STAMPA website.*

### TRADITIONAL

Material appropriate to traditional philately includes, among other things,

1. Adopted or rejected essays, die-proofs, plate proofs, colour trials, plate flaws and other errors in stamp production.
2. Postage stamps, whether unused or used, singles or multiples, and stamps used on cover, postal forms, mixed franking with other countries, etc.
3. The different usages of the stamp, including the different cancellations, rates, routes, although an exhibit consisting entirely of this material would be more appropriate under Postal History.
4. Local stamps, private delivery services, parcel company and carrier stamps, shipping company stamps, etc.
5. Varieties of all kinds, such as those of watermark, gum, perforation, paper, printing and colour, as well as specialities of a single country.
6. Plate reconstructions and studies of printing plates.
7. Perfins, postally accepted overprints and value surcharges, all kinds of postal labels such as registration labels, parcel stickers, etc., if they are supporting the story to be told.
8. Postal stationery if they are printed with the same cliché as postage stamps and stationery cut-outs, if they are used as postage stamps.
9. Postally used fiscal stamps and unused fiscals valid for postal use.
10. Postal forgeries. Other forgeries and reprints only in comparison with the genuine stamp if used in a traditional exhibit presenting for instance one issue - see below.

Exhibits will also be considered traditional philately, if they are made up as following:-

1. Collections showing the development of postage stamps.
2. Special studies of papers used in stamp production, gums, perforations, colour variations, errors of graphic design, perfins.
3. Collections of borderline postage items such as letter-culture, letter closing, newspaper labels, etc.
4. Collections of fakes and forgeries, reprints, registration labels, etc.
5. Research collections like plate reconstructions, development of plate flaws.
6. Comparative collections, e.g. issues of several countries including "omnibus" issues or covering the first issues of a certain region.
7. Other collections with special aspects such as events – "Day of the Stamp", Christmas mail, fairs and other philatelic events.

## **THEMATIC PHILATELY**

### **APPROPRIATE PHILATELIC MATERIAL**

Appropriate postal-philatelic material is that which, for the purpose of transmitting mail or other postal communications, has been issued, intended for issue, or produced in the preparation for issue, used, or treated as valid for postage by governmental, local or private postal agencies, or by other duly commissioned or empowered authorities. Appropriate postal/philatelic material has the following characteristics:

#### **Type of material:**

1. Postal franking items (stamps, stamp booklets, postal stationery, franking meters, computer vended postage, e.g. FRAMA labels, etc.) and their modifications (e.g. overprints, surcharges, and punch-perforations, as shown by "perfins"). However modified items are not to be included if the modification distracts from the original theme (e.g. by making it no longer visible); they may be used for the theme(s) related to the modification.
2. Postal cancellations (ordinary, slogan, commemorative and other special postmarks), marks and/or cards indicating a postage privilege (e.g. authorities, military).
3. Other items used in the postal operations, such as registration labels, postal route labels and markings, supplementary labels or markings (e.g. censorship, disinfection, crash mail), mail delivery docket, reply coupons, forwarding agents markings, postal automation markings and labels, etc.; where applicable, these items should be on the relevant document.
4. Items "intended for issues, or produced in the preparation for an issue", e.g. sketches, proofs varieties and errors.
5. Revenue stamps. They are admitted as long as they are postally used or have postage validity. Revenue stamps for fiscal purposes are admitted in exceptional cases, when they are the only mean to describe an important thematic point.

#### **Inappropriate Material**

The following items are inappropriate:

1. Fantasy issues from non-existent postal territories, issues of exiled governments or organisations without postal services
2. Private additional cancellations applied by a sender or a supplier before mailing the documents
3. Picture postcards, unless they are postal stationery produced by a Postal Authority private additional prints on postal stationery (also known as "repiquages")
4. Administrative marks (not postal), when they do not give any postal privilege
5. Private decorations on envelopes and cards
6. Private vignettes (advertising labels), whatever the purpose of their use.

#### **Border-line material**

The variety of postal services and regulations in different countries and their evolution over time make it impossible to define a list encompassing all possible situations. Some items only follow to a certain extent the above definitions of appropriate or inappropriate material; therefore they should be used mainly when no other material is available to describe a specific thematic detail. When included in the exhibit, they should always be supported by a thorough philatelic justification. Items belonging to the specific philatelic culture of a theme, a country or a region can be tolerated as much as they are justified and their number is proportional to the degree of elaboration of the exhibit.

# OPEN

## 1: Competitive Exhibitions

These **Guidelines** have been drafted with regard to Open Philately, to help the jury to judge the individual exhibits and to help exhibitors to develop their exhibits.

## 2: Guidelines

Open Philately seeks to broaden the range of exhibiting and to allow philatelists to include objects from other collecting fields in support of, and in order to develop, an understanding of the philatelic material shown. It provides an opportunity to present the range of research undertaken by showing the philatelic material in its cultural, social, industrial, commercial, or other context and to show wider and deeper knowledge of the topic. By allowing an extended range of material Open Philately has the further objective of bringing new collectors to the skill and enjoyment of exhibiting and demonstrating its attractiveness as a hobby.

- 2.1 The philatelic material must be **at least 50%** of the exhibit.
- 2.2 It is not a requirement that the non-philatelic material comprises half of the exhibit, but the variety of the non-philatelic material will influence the judging of 'Treatment' as well as 'Material'.

## 3: Principles of Exhibit Composition

Open Philately exhibits show the dual aspects of philatelic and non-philatelic material, and the exhibit must develop the chosen subject in an imaginative and creative manner.

Open Philately exhibits may include:

- 3.1 All types of philatelic material included in all other exhibiting categories.
- 3.2 Non-philatelic material may include all types of items, excluding dangerous or prohibited material.

Non-philatelic items must be relevant to the chosen subject and serve to illustrate it.

- 3.3 An Open Philately exhibit must show the development of the chosen subject in an imaginative and creative manner.
- 3.4 The philatelic items must be described in the proper philatelic terms, as they would have been in a similar Traditional, Postal History, Thematic or any other exhibit.
- 3.5 The non-philatelic items must be described and be relevant and assist the development of the exhibit.
- 3.6 Exhibits may be planned chronologically, geographically or in any other way that the exhibitor feels is appropriate to employ.

## POSTAL HISTORY

Postal History exhibits are classified under three sub-classes:-

- A. **Postal History** exhibits which contain material carried by, and related to, official, local or private mails. Such exhibits generally emphasize routes, rates, markings, usages and other postal aspects, services, functions and activities related to the history of the development of Postal Services.
- B. **Marcophily** (Postmarks) exhibits showing classifications and/or studies of postal markings related to official, local or private mails on covers, adhesive stamps and other postal items.
- C. **Historical, Social and Special Studies** exhibits which examine postal history in the broader sense and the interaction of commerce and society with the postal system.

Besides these categories all Postal History exhibits are classified and judged in three time periods.

1. Up to 1875 (pre GPU)
2. From 1875 – 1945
3. After 1945

Each exhibit fits in to the period where it starts or where its main contents lies.

### Principles of Exhibit Composition

Postal History exhibits (sub-classes A & B above) consists of used covers and letters, used postal stationery, used postage stamps, and other postal documents so arranged as to illustrate a balanced plan as a whole or to develop any aspect of postal history.

Examples of postal history (sub-classes A & B) subjects include:

1. Pre-adhesive postal services
2. The development of local, regional, national or international postal services
3. Postal rates
4. Routes for transportation of mails
5. Postal markings (Marcophily) - as described in Article 2B.
6. Military mail, field post, siege mail, POW, civil and military internee camp mail
7. Maritime mail and/or inland waterway mail
8. Railway mail
9. All kinds of Travelling Post Offices
10. Disaster mail
11. Disinfected mail
12. Censorship mail
13. Postage due mail
14. Automation of the mails
- 15 Forwarding agents' markings
- 16 Official mail, Free Frank mail

A Postal History exhibit (sub-classes A & B) may contain maps, prints, decrees and similar associated materials. Such items must have a direct relation to the chosen subject and to the postal services described in the exhibit. Historical, Social and Special Studies (sub-class C) exhibits would include material developed by commerce and society for use in the postal system and may include non-philatelic material where relevant to the subject of the exhibit. The non-philatelic material should be incorporated into the exhibit in a balanced and appropriate manner in such a way that it not overwhelms the philatelic material.

Examples of Historical, social and special studies include:

1. Telegram services
2. Greeting cards (including Valentines)
3. Illustrated, Pictorial commercial envelopes used in a postal system.
4. Studies of the effect of the postal system on commerce, society and industry.
5. Historical, local and/or regional studies.
6. Studies related to an event or historical landmark

All exhibits under sub-class C must be capable of being exhibited in standard exhibition frames.

The plan or concept of all sub-classes of postal history exhibits shall be clearly explained in an introductory statement.

# **AEROPHILATELY**

## **Competitive Exhibits**

An Aerophilatelic exhibit is composed essentially of postal documents transmitted by Air bearing evidence of having been flown (ref. GREV Article 2.3).

## **Principles of Exhibit Composition**

- A. Aerophilately represents a study of the development of air mail services and is a collection of documents pertaining to such development.
- B. An Aerophilatelic exhibit has therefore as basic contents:
  1. Postal documents dispatched by air.
  2. Official and semi-official stamps issued especially for use on Airmail, in mint or used state, but principally on cover.
  3. All types of postal and other marks, vignettes and labels relating to aerial transport.
  4. Items connected with a particular means of aerial transport, not conveyed through a postal service but deemed important to the development of air mail.
  5. Leaflets, messages and newspapers dropped from the air, as a way of normal postal delivery or on the occasion of postal services being interrupted by unforeseen events.
  6. Mail recovered from aircraft accidents and incidents.
- C. The arrangement of an aerophilatelic exhibit derives directly from its structure following a basic pattern:
  1. Chronological
  2. Geographical
  3. Means of transport
    - a) Pigeon
    - b) Lighter than air
    - c) Heavier than air
    - d) Rocket
- D. Aerophilatelic exhibits may include ancillary items, such as maps, photographs, timetables, etc. as long as they are considered vital to illustrate, and draw the attention to a particular point or situation. They should not overpower the material and accompanying text on display.
- E. The plan or the concept of the exhibit shall be clearly laid out in an introductory statement.

## **REVENUE**

### **General Guidelines**

Generally a Revenue exhibit should show:

- mint or used revenue stamps of a particular state or municipal or local authority, explaining the reason for the issue or use and showing its developments;
- it should show the date of usage and the date it was withdrawn from use, why and whether it was replaced;
- the method of printing, type of paper, essays, proofs and design varieties if appropriate to the subject or presentation;
- geographical or chronological development within one country, continent or covering the whole world where the exhibit lays emphasis on the subject matter of the revenue use;
- documents with printed, embossed or adhesive revenue stamps demonstrating and explaining the rules, the sums paid and/or the reason for the document as may be appropriate.

### **Overall Criteria for Evaluating Exhibits**

- All exhibits of Revenue must contain an introductory plan showing the scope of the intent of the exhibitor, which should be educational. This plan should be headed with a title which corresponds to the introductory plan. The plan should also be used to give relevant general information on the subject and to indicate areas of personal research. It should also contain a short list of important documentary sources used. The judges will use this information to evaluate the material shown in relation to the aims of the exhibitor as stated in the introduction and plan.
- If more than five frames, or if Revenues of different countries are shown, another introductory page may be desirable. The exhibit should clearly show the subject as introduced. It must be stressed that complete revenue collections do not exist from the majority of the countries and, therefore exhibits of revenue stamps will be judged more according to their relative philatelic significance than for their completeness.