Current Trends and Techniques for preparing a better philatelic exhibit and win a higher medal

by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan
The most frequent question

How can I improve my exhibit and get more points?
Simple presentation of stamps in pre-printed album pages
2nd Generation

Exhibitors’ own page layouts and brief descriptions of stamps
2.5\textsuperscript{th} Generation

Inclusion of diversified philatelic material
3rd Generation

With detailed descriptive text to specific philatelic material
3.5th Generation

Significant increase and balanced use of diversified and high quality appropriate philatelic material
4th Generation

Highly specialized thematic treatment and the inclusion of diversified and extremely rare philatelic material
## Understanding the Criteria

### Treatment
- Title and Plan: 10
- Development: 10
- Philatelic Importance: 10

### Knowledge, Personal Study and Research
- 35

### Condition and Rarity
- Condition: 10
- Rarity: 20

### Presentation
- 5

### Total
- 100
Understanding the Criteria

Concept and Approach 35%
Material 65%
Understanding the Criteria

• Each exhibit is judged on its own merit
• Judged against a clearly defined set of criteria
• Not judged against other exhibits
• Subsequent Comparison to other exhibits for relativity only
• No minus marking for items not in the exhibit?
New Evaluation Criterion
Innovation

- When the thematic regulations were changed in the year 2000, a new criterion was added, called “innovation”, giving a maximum of 5 points.
- The “innovation” criterion is only in use for the thematic class and the “Special Regulations for Evaluation of Thematic Exhibits at F.I.P. exhibitions” (SREV) says about it:

3.2.3 Innovation

Innovation is shown by the

- introduction of new themes, or
- new aspects of an established or known theme, or
- new approaches for known themes, or
- new application of material
Understanding the Criteria

THERE ARE ONLY FOUR RULES

The concept shown by the exhibit
The exhibit shall show a clear concept of the subject treated, meaning that the title must describe the content of the exhibit. The concept shall be laid out in an introductory statement.

The selection of material must be based on qualification
The exhibit shall consist solely of relevant philatelic material. The philatelic material selected must be fully consistent with the subject chosen and ensure continuity and understanding of the subject and illustrate the relevant aspects of knowledge. It is also important that the selection of material should show the appreciation of the exhibitor as to what is available in the context of the exhibited subject.

The selection of material must be based on philatelic range and quality
The selection of material should include the fullest range of relevant philatelic material of the highest available quality.

The presentation of the exhibit
The presentation and the accompanying text of the exhibit should be simple, tasteful and well balanced. The presentation must also add information to that provided by the material and show the level of understanding of the subject and the relevant research by the exhibitor.
Understanding Philatelic Material

Thematic Philately

TR and its "relatives" (PS)

PH and its "relatives" (AIRMAIL)

BASED ON THE PHILATELIC MATERIAL
The selection is based on THEMATIC criteria as well as on PHILATELIC criteria.
Understanding Philatelic Material

© Giancarlo Morolli
Subject Selection

• Not too big and not too small
• Smaller in-depth is better than bigger superficial
• Preferably avoid total of all the issues of a large country
Material Selection

• Avoid duplication
• Show only items directly related to the subject
• Show only good quality material if possible
• If a very rare item is only known in poor condition, show it and explain
• Show clean covers with clear markings
• Make sure material is balanced and not weighted in favour of a particular stamp or issue.
Title and Plan

• Brief background, not a long history
• Outline the scope of the exhibit (explain what is going to be shown)
• Philatelic material or illustration (optional)
• Bibliography (for the judges)
• Ensure that it accurately describes what is going to be shown
Treatment

• Should be easy to follow and logical
• Make sure that it flows smoothly
• Must not be disjointed or erratic
• **Should do what the Introductory page described**
Treatment

- Are there well defined start and end points?
- Focus – are different aspects covered by the exhibit?
- Consistency – is there balance across sections?
- Scope – is the exhibit scope clear and logical?
- Subject Development – does it match the scope?
- Is there section or chapter balance?
- Is this logically based on the exhibit subject?
- Is there too much or not enough material to properly explain the subject?
Write Up

• Don’t state the obvious
• Make it clear which part of the write up applies to which item
• Choose easily readable font and font sizes
• Don’t write too much, just enough to explain key items
• Give relevant information only
• Page Frame and Running Title Restrict space
• Overlapping Blocks or Covers do not look attractive
Mounting

- Clear mount or black mount?

- Black backing or fine line on the page?

- Covers are not perfectly cut, so black shows any minor imperfections
A3 Size Page Format

The larger page size makes it possible to show large-sized philatelic items.

The larger page size, in general, allows to be more creative when writing up the text on each page.

The larger page size enable to show more items on each page,

The larger pages design an overall layout which looks better and more individualistic.
Balance

Probably the most critical element

• Balance of layout (pages, frames)
  • Balance over the sections
  • Balance of material
More Points

A convincing concept is an essential component for guiding the exhibitor and the onlooker.

Top exhibitors identify presentation as a component of treatment.

Top exhibitors refer to items, when they speak of importance.

Some evaluation criteria have the purpose of awarding outstanding aspects of the exhibit (innovation, research, importance).
Thank you

Questions are welcome