

Mid Anglia Philatelic Federation Annual Competitions

Guidance and Marking Schemes for Competitions (Issue 2: Feb 25)

This guide is distilled from the F-I-P regulations and is designed to help those wishing to enter Federation competitions, to display their material in a cohesive way.

General Introduction

A completed entry should aim to take the judges and the public through a narrative, and to that end it should have an appropriate beginning, middle and ending.

There **MUST** be an introduction which includes a list of sheet contents or a plan of the exhibit, and a list of the references used. **Crucially, if a reference refers to the Exhibitor's own research then it should be brought to the attention of the judges on the reference list, and within the body of the exhibit.**

Examples of a suitable conclusion to an exhibit might be, for example, when a set of stamps was replaced or when the outbreak of a war or a disaster brought about major changes to a postal system.

*****Changes to Marking Schemes, Awards and Eligibility for the 9 Sheets Inter Society Competitions:**

The Marking Scheme: To attract new competitors to our competitions, we have changed the marking schemes by reducing the marks for rarity, and increasing the marks in the Knowledge and Research Section and for Presentation. Awards will no longer be compatible with those in the 16 Sheet Competitions; instead there is a grading scheme as outlined below.

Grades

Grade 1: 85+ Marks – Distinction Diploma. Grade 2: 70-84 Marks - Merit Certificate.

Grade 3: 55-69 Marks – Credit Certificate. Grade 4: 55 or less - Participation Certificate

Eligibility

Any competitor scoring 85 marks or more in a class in the 2025, or subsequent competitions, will not be permitted to enter that same class again. However, the competitor will still be eligible to enter the other classes.

MAPF Competitions

- 1. Traditional Philately: 16 sheets Individual: 9 sheets Inter Society**
- 2. Postal History: 16 sheets Individual: 9 sheets Inter Society**
- 3. Thematic Philately: 16 sheets Individual: 9 sheets Inter Society**
- 4. Aero Philately: 16 sheets Individual Entry**
- 5. Postal Stationery: 16 sheets Individual Entry**
- 6. Revenue Philately: 16 sheets Individual Entry**
- 7. Open Philately: 16 sheets Individual Entry**
- 8. Picture Postcards: 16 sheets Individual Entry**
- 9. Philatelic Literature: Monograph, Periodical, Digital Media: Individual Entry**

Having read the above, please proceed to the page relating to your exhibit(s).

1.Traditional Philately: 16 sheets (Individual) and 9 sheets (Inter Society)

The title page out to contain an introductory statement which explains the aim of the exhibit and a logical plan.

Appropriate material might include:

Essays, die and plate proofs, colour trials, plate flaws and other errors,

Postage stamps – used or unused – as singles or multiples, and stamps used on cover, postal forms etc.

Local stamps, private delivery services, parcel company and carrier stamps, shipping company stamps etc.

Varieties of all kinds e.g. watermark, gum, paper, perforation printing and colour;

Plate reconstructions and studied of printing plates;

Perfins, postally acceptable overprints and value surcharges, postal labels e.g. registration labels, parcel stickers etc. providing they support the story being told.

Postal stationery and P S “cut-outs” if used they may be considered as postal history;

Postally used fiscal stamps and unused fiscals valid for postal use, and Postal forgeries; **N.B. other forgeries and reprints may only be used for comparison purposes with the genu**

Comparative collections, e.g. omnibus issues, or covering the first issues of a certain region

Other collections of special events such as ‘Day of the Stamp’, Christmas mail, fairs and other philatelic events.

The **different usages** of the stamp(s) e.g. different cancellations, rates and routes; though an exhibit consisting of mostly this sort of material would be more appropriately placed under **postal history**.

Marks will be awarded as follows:	16 sheets	9 sheets
Treatment (20/20) and Importance (10/10) of the exhibit	30	30
Philatelic (15/15) and Related knowledge (10/10) Research (10/15)	35	40
Condition (10/15) and rarity (20/5)	30	20
Presentation (5/10)	5	10
Total	100	100

2. Postal History: 16 sheets (Individual) and 9 sheets (Inter Society)

Generally considered in three sub-classes:

- A. **Postal History:** features material carried by, related to official, local or private mails, usually emphasising routes, rates, markings, usages and other postal aspects, services, functions and activities related to the development of postal services.
- B. **Marcophily:** Postmarks – 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** – which examine postal history in the broader sense and the interaction of commerce and society with the postal system, for example:
 - telegram services,
 - greetings cards (incl. Valentines),
 - illustrated/ pictorial envelopes,
 - studies of the effect of the postal system on commerce, society and industry
 - historical, local and/or regional studies related to an event or historical landm
- D. **The plan or concept of all sub classes of postal history exhibits shall be clearly explained in an introductory statement.**

Marks will be awarded as follows:	16 sheets	9 sheets
Treatment (20/20) and philatelic importance (10/10)	30	30
Philatelic (15/15) and Related knowledge (10/10) Research (10/15)	35	40
Condition (10/15) and rarity (20/5)	30	20
Presentation	5	10
Total	100	100

3. Thematic Philately: 16 sheets (Individual) and 9 sheets (Inter Society)

The exhibit develops a theme **according to a plan** showing thematic and philatelic knowledge resulting in the best possible selection and arrangement of the material and the accuracy of the text.

Such an exhibit uses the **widest possible range of appropriate postal-philatelic material** connected to the chosen theme.

The way a thematic exhibit is presented reflects the structure of the work (title & plan) and the elaboration of each point of that structure (development).

Title and plan

The title, with any subtitle defines the scope of the exhibit. The order of the main 'chapters' and their subdivisions, should demonstrate the development of the plan, rather than be a list of its main aspects.

Development

This is the elaboration of the theme in depth which uses only the thematic information with material in support, that has been through the postal system.

Innovation This is shown by:

Introduction of new themes

New aspects of an established or known theme

New application of material.

Marks will be awarded as follows:

Treatment:	16 sheets	9 sheets
Title and plan (15/10)	15	10
Development (15/10)	15	10
Innovation (10/10)	10	10
Knowledge, personal study & research		
Thematic (15/20)	15	20
Philatelic (15/20)	15	20
Condition & rarity		
Condition (15/15)	15	15
Rarity (10/5)	10	5
Presentation (5/10)	5	10
Total	100	100

N.B. The connection between the philatelic material and the theme must be clearly demonstrated when it is **NOT** obvious. **Post cards** which **ARE NOT** postal stationery and illustrated covers, which **have no** philatelic connection must be avoided. **If, however, the cover is cancelled with a relevant post mark then the cover's inclusion is acceptable.**

4. Aerophilately: 16 sheets (Individual)

An aerophilatelic exhibit is composed essentially of postal items carried by air, including balloons, gliders and 'planes and having evidence of their having been flown. This represents a study of the development of air mail services with, maybe, a collection of documents pertaining to such development. Mail carried on experimental, pioneering and record breaking flights would also be an interesting area for this class. This class is now sub-divided into two sub-classes:

a) Development and operation of air mail services

Such exhibits may contain:

Postal documents dispatched by air,
Official and semi-official stamps issued especially for use on airmail, in mint or used state, but principally on cover,
All types of postal and other marks, vignettes and labels relating to aerial transport,
Items connected with a particular means of aerial transport, not conveyed through a postal service but deemed important to the development of airmail (see below),
Leaflets, messages and newspapers dropped from the air, as a way of normal postal delivery or on the occasion of postal services interrupted by unforeseen events, and
Mail recovered from aircraft accidents and incidents.

b) Air mail stamps and their use in the air mail service

Official and semi-official stamps issued especially for use on air mail, in mint or used state, but also on cover.
Any essays, proofs, varieties, etc. associated with the air mail stamps and postal stationery

The arrangement of an aerophilatelic exhibit follows from its plan and may be based:

Chronologically
Or by types of carrier used

Geographically

Aerophilatelic exhibits may contain items such as maps, photographs, timetables and the like to support a particular point or situation. **They should not overpower** the material and accompanying text on display.

The plan or concept of the exhibit **SHOULD BE** clearly laid out in an introductory statement.

Marks will be awarded as follows:

16 sheets only

Treatment & philatelic importance (20/10)	30
Philatelic and related knowledge, personal study & research	35
Condition (10) and rarity (20)	30
Presentation	5
Total	100

5. Postal Stationery 16 sheets (Individual)

An exhibit should be arranged using unused, or postally used items of postal stationery from a country or an associated group of territories to illustrate one or more of the categories set out below:

P.S. can be classified according to either:

The manner of its availability and usage:

- Post Office issues;
- Official service issues;
- Forces (military) issues;
- Stamped to Order (private issues, which have postal administration approval)

The physical form of the paper or card:

- Letter sheets including aerogrammes
- Envelopes, including registration envelopes
- Post cards
- Letter cards
- Wrappers (newspaper Bands)
- Printed forms of various kinds

Postal or associated service for which it is intended:

Postal: surface – local, inland and foreign; air – local, inland and foreign

Registration: inland, foreign

Telegraph: inland, foreign

Receipt of miscellaneous fees etc., such as certificates of posting of parcels, money orders, postal orders and other documents bearing the impression of postage stamp designs.

Marks will be awarded as follows:

Treatment (20) and importance (10)	30
Philatelic and related knowledge	20
Personal study and research	15
Condition	10
Rarity	20
Presentation	5
Total	100

6. Revenue Philately

Please open the link below to access the F-I-P Guidelines and Marking Scheme, Please read the guidelines thoroughly.

<https://www.f-i-p.ch/wp-content/uploads/SREVS-and-Guidelines-Revenues-Final.pdf>

Summary

1.2. The appropriate material can be grouped into one of (but not limited to) the following main groups:

1.2.1. Tax Stamps Stamps issued for the payment of, or for noting matters relating to, the payment of or exemption from a tax, levy or other fiscal imposition or duty are "tax stamps".

1.2.2. Fee Stamps Stamps used for the purpose of recording payment of, or exemption from, a fee for which some service is to be or has been rendered are "fee stamps".

1.2.3. Credit stamps Stamps issued to denote some monetary or fiscal credit in favour of the purchaser, his principal or assignee, are "credit stamps".

1.2.4. Other physical forms of items Any other physical form of item issued for a fiscal purpose as applied by the different revenue system of the countries in the world and historically known as "other fiscal value imprints". These include all forms of physical item including, but not limited to, revenue stamped paper, banderols, seals, embossing's and other direct imprints.

Marks will be awarded as follows:

1. Treatment (20) and Philatelic Importance (10)	30
2. Philatelic and related Knowledge, Personal Study and Research	35
3. Condition (10) and Rarity (20)	30
4. Presentation	5
	100

7. Open Philately: 16 sheets (Individual)

This class seeks to broaden the range of exhibiting to allow philatelists to include material 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** to show a wider and deeper knowledge of the subject. It should seek to be imaginative and creative.

The philatelic material MUST be at least 50% of the exhibit.

The variety of the non-philatelic material will influence the judging of 'Treatment' as well as 'Material'.

Open Philately exhibits may include:

All types of philatelic material included in other exhibiting categories, and **MUST** be original.

Non-philatelic items must be relevant to the chosen subject and serve to illustrate it. Such material, including photographs, should be original where at all possible. (reproductions should be at least 25% DIFFERENT from the original).

The philatelic items must be described in proper philatelic terms as in other categories.

The non-philatelic items must be described and be relevant to and assist the development of the exhibit.

Exhibits may be planned chronologically, geographically or any other way that is appropriate.

Marks will be awarded as follows:

Treatment and importance (30)

Title and plan	10
Philatelic treatment	5
Non-philatelic treatment	5
Philatelic importance	5
Non-philatelic importance	5

Knowledge and research (35)

Philatelic knowledge and research	20
Non-philatelic knowledge and research	15

Material (30)

Condition	10
Rarity	20

Presentation (5) 5

Total 100

8. Picture Postcards -16 sheets (Individual)

The exhibit develops a precise display of subject knowledge resulting in the best possible selection and arrangement of the material, and the accuracy of the text.

Such an exhibit uses the **widest possible range of appropriate material** connected to the chosen subject

The way the exhibit (Idea) is presented reflects the structure of the work (title & plan) and the elaboration of each point of that structure (development): Knowledge and research is demonstrated through personal research, and referenced reading. Condition can be assessed by a card's appearance. Rarity can be related to its age, referenced by information on the back of the card; e.g. the Publisher/Printer, a date written by the sender, and by any postal markings. This information might be scanned and be placed adjacent to the card.

Definition of a Picture Postcard

A Picture Postcard must have an illustration.

Furthermore:

Used Picture Postcards (circulated through the postal service or in any other manner treated postally) must show that they have been through a postal service.

Unused (non-postally treated) Picture Postcards must have printed text or printed address lines, for example a postage area, which shows that the card is meant to be posted without an envelope.

Only original contemporary Picture Postcards are allowed. Reprints produced at a later time should only be shown exceptionally (*and described as such*)

Picture Postcard may be produced by different kinds of material (hand drawn or painted, embroidered, etc.).

The exhibit must be able to be displayed in exhibition frames of the standard international format.

Principles for the Development of the Exhibit:

Idea, Plan and Treatment.

A Picture Postcard exhibit is treated according to a geographical (topographical) topic, a thematic topic, or according to a special aspect (an artist, the printing, the material), completely according to the exhibitor's own choice.

The title and plan must be presented on the introductory page. The plan must show the intention and the structure of the exhibit.

The title as well as the main and sub sections of the exhibit must show the structure and logical development through the exhibit and demonstrate personal creativity, knowledge, and research.

The title must mirror the content of the exhibit in the best possible way.

The treatment of the exhibit must be according to the title and plan. Each Picture Postcard must have a connection with the chosen topic. The variety (diversity) of the material is of particular importance.

Knowledge and Research

Research is a pre-requisite for knowledge of the topic and the Picture Postcards, and this is demonstrated in a brief text in connection with each Picture Postcard.

Condition and Rarity

Items selected should show the best possible quality available for the chosen subject.

Rarity is directly related to the difficulty in finding such postcards, the difficulty of acquisition.

Presentation

The recommended exhibit sheet sizes are: 1) 21cm x 29,7cm (A4 size) or 23cm x 29cm - 4 sheets in one row 2) 42cm x 29,7cm (A3 size) or 46cm x 29cm - 2 sheets in one row 3) 31cm x 29cm - 3 sheets in one row.

Evaluation (F.I.P)

The exhibits will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Idea, plan (10) and treatment (20)	30
Knowledge and research	35
Condition (10) and rarity (20)	30
Presentation	5

TOTAL 100

Link to F.I.P Special Regulations for the evaluation of Picture Postcard Exhibits.

<https://www.f-i-p.ch/wp-content/uploads/FIP-PP-Special-Regulations-2018.pdf>

9. Philatelic Literature:

A Philatelic literature exhibit can be any publication (monograph, periodical or digital media), that is related to: **the investigative research in the field of philately and/or the documentation, the education and the promotion of philately.**

Philatelic Literature can be divided into three categories:

Monographs

Periodicals

Digital media

Detailed information about these categories is given in the F-I-P Guidelines.

Please copy and paste the link below to access the F-I-P Guidelines and Marking Scheme, please read the guidelines thoroughly.

<https://www.f-i-p.ch/wp-content/uploads/Literature-SREVs-and-Guidelines-8-August-2022-1.pdf>

Literature Marking Scheme is the FIP Scheme

For Literature exhibits, the following relative terms are presented to lead the Judge to a balanced evaluation:

Treatment of contents (Introduction, Body [Chapters, Sections], Conclusions}.	40
Originality, significance and depth of research. References .	40
Technical matters	15
Presentation	5
	Total 100

Footnote

A few notes from an exhibitor

The title is very important. Learn from my mistake on trans-Atlantic airmails **to** the Americas; one of my covers went on to Shanghai! On another occasion an exhibit covering the known period of a Penny Post's usage went beyond the date of the last cover shown.

It is sometimes best to finally draft the introductory page(s) when the rest of the exhibit is complete.

Copies of, for example, the reverse side of a cover should be at least 25% different from the original.

If you have large items to display by all means use A3 but make sure there is NO gap down the centre of the pages; it is better to use all A3, unless you can balance the overall appearance of your exhibit. Consider using cream paper/card as it can be easier on the eye.

If you have fine handwriting, then you should not be penalised for not using a computer.

In a THEMATIC entry, try to use a wide range of philatelic material; not just stamps. For example: mini-sheets, covers, stamp booklets, post marks and cachets etc.

An OPEN CLASS entry's non-philatelic material should be as varied as possible, but thin enough to fit in a competition frame.

Enjoy learning more about the material that you have and then expand it.