

A sunset over a city skyline with construction cranes. The sun is a large, bright yellow circle in the center of the sky, which is a deep orange. The city skyline is in silhouette, with several cranes visible. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the orange light of the sunset.

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Judging Aerophilately



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**Both the exhibiting and judging of Aerophilately are
based upon the
Regulations and Guidelines for Aerophilatelic
Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions.**

Article 2 of the Regulations

An Aerophilatelic exhibit is composed essentially of postal documents transmitted by air, bearing evidence of having been flown.

The word “postal” is to be interpreted to cover all transportation by air.

This allows inclusion of

- Vin Fiz flown cards.
- Great Barrier Island Pigeon Post.
- Entrusted Mail from the Siege of Paris.
- Various private Pioneer material.

“Transmitted by Air” ...

... must include mail that was prepared to be flown but couldn't be due to such things as weather or mechanical problems.

Article 3 defines an Aerophilatelic Exhibit as one that consists solely of “appropriate philatelic material.”

Key word is “philatelic.”

Non-philatelic materials such as maps, photos, time-tables, etc., should be used only when absolutely necessary and there is no philatelic material extant that will do the same thing.

An overuse of the above type of items should result in a deduction for “treatment.”

Article 4 introduces

the “Criteria for Evaluating Exhibits.”

Treatment (20) and Importance (10)

Philatelic and related knowledge,
Personal Study and Research (35)

Condition (10) and Rarity (20)

Presentation (5)

Treatment

An evaluation of the completeness and correctness of the material selected by the exhibitor to illustrate the chosen subject.

Simply put:

What has the exhibitor done with his material?

“Treatment” starts with the title and title page.

Title should “telegraph” what is to be seen.

The title alone should tell us the scope of the exhibit.

Titles needing improvement:

China's Airmail (5 frames)

Turkey by Air (5 frames)

Graf Zeppelin LZ 127 with Emphasis on
Icelandic Mail (8 frames)

Italian Aerophilately (5 frames)

Genuine Zeppelin Mail to/from S. America
1930-1934 (5 frames)

Variations on German Aerophilately
1888-1938 (8 frames)

Much better titles:

Argentina Air Mail and its Pioneers 1912-1950

China Airmails 1920-1949

Columbia-First Commercial Airlines (1920-1921)

Finland Air Mail 1920-1946

Zeppelin Contract Mail 1932

Zeppelin Mail to and from Greece

The Title Page

Most important is to Explain the
Concept of the Exhibit

What is the exhibitor attempting to do?

What is the scope?

What are his constraints?

How will he do it?

The Title page should NOT be a history lesson.

It should be philatelic, not historical.

**If an illustration is placed on the title page,
it should be philatelic, not a photo of the plane
or the pilot or the airport.**

It should be an integral part of the philatelic story.

Title page may include a brief outline.

Exhibitor may cite a few of the better pieces.

The exhibitor should avoid showing covers documenting events of little or no consequence for the progress of airmail.

The exhibit must tell a story.

The STORY must flow from beginning to ending.

For example, an 8-frame exhibit of the development of airmail in a country or region should not include a frame of crash mail at the end.

Did the crashes all occur at the end of the period?

There should be a mix of First Flight and other material sometimes called “commercial mail” in a developmental airmail exhibit.

Both are needed to tell the entire story.

Exceptions exist based on title, such as “First Flights of Bolivia.”

Rates are needed in developmental airmail exhibits.

Duplication of rare material should be avoided.

Stamps may be included in an aerophilatelic exhibit. However, the basic stamps must also be shown on flown covers.

Also, the theme of the exhibit must still be the development of airmail services as shown by how the covers are organized.

If the covers just show usages of the stamps then the exhibit will be transferred to Traditional.

**Vignettes and airmail labels may be shown mint,
BUT they should also be shown on flown covers.**

The labels should not dominate.

An aero exhibit may not contain picture postcards where the picture side is what is deemed important, photos of aviation pioneers, stickers, etc.

Remember the key words: PHILATELIC and FLOWN.

No one country is more important than another!

However, the aerophilately of one country may be more important than the aerophilately of another only because of its contribution to the development of worldwide airmail.

Consider:

How important is the story being told in the development of worldwide airmail?

- **Consider:**
- **A wide geographical area is generally more important than a smaller one.**
- **A pioneer period is generally more important than a modern one.**
- **A long period is generally more important than a short one.**

Philatelic and Related Knowledge, Personal Study and Research.

Key item is that each item shown should be explained and analysed in the light of the title and introductory plan.

- **Knowledge: How well has the exhibitor transferred his knowledge to the exhibit pages?**

“Knowledge” in First Flight exhibits is NOT copying information out of the airmail catalogues.

It is presenting not easily found information about rates, routes and other unusual facts.

“Personal Study” is the proper analysis of the items

Overpaid covers should be avoided. However, if they must be used the overpayment must be noted and the actual rate given.

If there are too many overpaid covers a deduction can be made.

New research findings should be pointed out on the title page or by using terms such as “discovery copy.”

Only research evident in the frames is to be judged.

Condition and Rarity: Should an exhibitor show a rare item in poor condition?

What about rare pioneers in bad condition?

What is important is the quality obtainable.

In an airmail exhibit the postmarks and other markings are most important.

They should be clear and crisp.

They are the key evidence of the routing and transit time.

Monetary value is not to be considered.

Rarity is not always equivalent to value.

Value is determined by Supply and Demand.

Rarity is determined by How Many are Known.

Presentation:

Most jurors evaluate the Presentation first.

- **Some Presentation considerations:**
- **Each page, frame and exhibit must be in balance from an aesthetic point of view.**
- **Text easy to read, but should not overwhelm the philatelic material.**
- **Photocopies should be limited in number.**
- **Color reproductions shown at 75%.**