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EXHIBITING FOR COMPETITION

The Germany Philatelic Society encourages and supports its members to exhibit parts of their collection(s) and offers a variety of awards (refer to “Awards” on GPS Website).

The purpose of this information is to give members/non-members an overview of the subject of ‘Exhibiting’, which offers heretofore collectors and/or accumulators of philatelic material, to reach a higher stage of maturity with their hobby.

I. Why Exhibit?

Three fundamental reasons for exhibiting are to:

- A. Organize, arrange & learn about your philatelic material, which you may have accumulated for years;**
- B. Share your material, knowledge and research with others in the philatelic community;**
- C. Experience the challenge and competition of showing your material with that of others.**

II. Why view Exhibits?

Viewing exhibits at exhibitions and shows offers the viewer a number of important benefits:

- A. An opportunity similar to visiting a postal museum and viewing educational exhibits;**
- B. The opportunity of seeing what others collect, how they collect, and potential ideas for new areas to collect.**
- C. Learning opportunities on exhibiting approaches, material mounting methods and presentation ideas;**
- D. An opportunity to observe and learn methods of 'storyline' development for an exhibit, subject layout techniques and discipline, presentation and treatment of the exhibit material, and title page principles.**

III. Preparation for Exhibiting

A. American Philatelic Society Guidelines

Since all exhibits shown at APS-sanctioned philatelic shows are judged by APS-certified jurors, it behooves the exhibitor to become familiar with the four basic criteria used for exhibit evaluation:

- 1. Title Page, Treatment of Subject, Importance
30% of award points**
- 2. Philatelic Knowledge, Study & Research
35% of award points**
- 3. Rarity & Condition**

30% of award points

4. Presentation

5% of award points

Details and explanation of each of these judging criteria are explained in the Seventh Edition of the American Philatelic Society (APS) *Manual of Philatelic Judging*, available gratis from the APS Website www.stamps.org under “Exhibition Forms and Information”.

B. Determination of the Exhibit Class

Once you have determined your exhibit subject, you should determine under which ‘class’ your exhibit falls. Judging is by ‘Class’ which you select, i.e. ‘General Class’. ‘Single Frame’, ‘Youth’.

While ‘General Class’ exhibits are judged using a uniform evaluation form, and there is considerable flexibility in how a person may exhibit, a number of exhibit types have their own guidelines. Refer to the APS Manual of Philatelic Judging, 7th Edition, for examples and explanations as well as other information, should there be questions.

<https://stamps.org/Portals/0/Judging%20Info/Judging-Manual.pdf>

C. Outline Development

Having determined a 'subject' and 'Class', i.e. type of exhibit, and before arranging any of material for the exhibit, you, as the exhibitor, need to formulate a structure for an exhibit and develop an 'outline' covering the main 'storyline' tenets, such as the following theoretical or fictitious example:

Evolution of German Post Offices in East Bongoland

- I. Title Page & Exhibit Overview***
- II. Provisional Stamp Usages***
- III. Pre-1900 German Presence in East Bongoland***
- IV. Post-1900 German Presence in East Bongoland***
- V. Other Mail Activity 1902-1919***
- VI. End of German Presence in East Bongoland***

That outline will be your guide to organize your material and construct your exhibit as well as the information which you should have indicated on your 'Title Page'.

The Title Page must include (1) Subject), (2) Scope (often in outline format) and (3) Purpose of the exhibit. Do not tell the exhibit “story” on the Title Page, as the exhibit is to do that. Brief relevant information that will make the exhibit easily understood by a viewer should also be included.

IV. Organizing Your Material & Creation of an Exhibit

In preparing the material for your exhibit, it is suggested that you use a loose-leaf binder or stock-book to commence arranging your material as it might eventually be mounting on each page of the exhibit. This offers you the possibility of creating your text for each page before commencing to mount the page, i.e. following your intended ‘storyline’ of the exhibit.

IMPORTANT:

ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND THAT AN ‘EXHIBIT’ IS NOT A MONOGRAPH FOR PUBLICATION, NOR SHOWING A ‘COLLECTION’ OF MATERIAL, BUT, RATHER, IT IS A PRESENTATION OF PHILATELIC MATERIAL WHICH SHOULD ILLUSTRATE A ‘STORY’, i.e. HAVE A ‘STORYLINE’.

V. Preparation of a Synopsis

Once you have prepared your exhibit; it is important that you prepare a 'synopsis' of the exhibit. A synopsis is only given to the judges, in advance of the show, and it provides the exhibitor with the opportunity to communicate to the judges what you really want them to know about your exhibit to evaluate it.

A 'synopsis' is like a "sales prospectus" which gives the jury your comments on your exhibit by using the four primary judging parameters as indicated on the 'APS Uniform Evaluation Sheet'...

- Treatment & Subject along with Philatelic Importance;**
- Philatelic Subject Knowledge & Personal Study & Research;**
- Rarity & Condition Factors;**
- Presentation;**
- Other Comments.**
- It is suggested that the exhibitor also include a bibliography or indication of reference materials**

he/she used. Such may include published articles by the exhibitor regarding the exhibit topic shown.

A completed 'Unified Exhibit Evaluation Form' (<http://stamps.org/Portal/O/Adultform.pdf>) will be returned to the exhibitor after the philatelic show with the jury's award comments.

Remember '*YOU*' are the expert on your exhibit subject. Thus, it behooves you to inform or "educate" the jury on information only you might be familiar with, such as length of time collecting the material, difficulty in acquisition, missing items not attainable, important rare items included, presentation style or approach, original research and one or more key references.

Remember also that a jury has very limited time to prepare to review possibly 30 or more exhibits at a show. Thus, your synopsis enables them to prepare for exhibit evaluation of 'your' exhibit.

A synopsis is also an excellent exhibit summary which potentially could be used for later submission to dealers, auction houses or potential buyers for them to

get an overview of the exhibit, i.e. a sort of “sales prospectus”, which you one day might offer for sale.

Jerry H. Miller

APS Chief Philatelic Judge