

# Final Guidelines for Judging First Day Cover Exhibits Experimental Class

## 1. Competitive Exhibitions

The present guidelines compliment the general regulations (GREV) and the special regulations (A.P.F.-SREV) to help the jury in the evaluation and the exhibitors in the elaboration of First Day Cover exhibits.

## 2. Competitive Exhibits

2.1 A First Day Cover exhibit is composed exclusively of First Day Covers.

2.2 The quality of the constituent elements and the concordance between these elements give the First Day Cover the qualification of "appropriate philatelic material" (GREV, Article 3.1)

## 3. Principles of Exhibit Composition

The constituent elements should confirm to following conditions, in addition to those provided in Article 3 of SREV:

### 3.1 The postage stamp

It must be in perfect state. First Day Covers showing several stamps are tolerated, if one or more of those are concordant with the illustration of the cachet or in the case of a non cacheted cover, forms part of the set. In case a stamp has multiple secondary or partial subjects, each subject may be dealt with separately. The use of illustrated labels out of automatic vending machines is allowed. Repetitious cachets are allowed, but will not score high points except in exceptional circumstances. Non pictorial postmarks are allowed, as are postmarks having no direct or indirect relation to the theme of issue. Such exhibits may not score as highly.

Full sets of stamps are allowed, notwithstanding a lack of concordance with the cachet.

No exhibit shall be downgraded for want of cachet or lack of address or correct postal rate.

### 3.2 The cover

The cover may be produced and sold by:

- (a) the Postal Administration
- (b) a private cover dealer

(c) a collector

It need not confirm to any size.

### 3.3 The cancellation

The cancellation giving the name of the post office as well as the date, has to be readable and has to be struck so that the cancellation ties the stamp or stamps to the cover. This applies also to special postmarks. It must have the date of the stamp issue and all stamps must be postmarked.

### 3.4 Classification of the exhibits

(a) The exhibits by country or group of countries includes First Day Covers. affixed with stamps issued by one country or by a group of countries having geographical, historical or cultural bonds. The covers may be displayed in chronological order, but such exhibits will rarely score high points.

(b) the specialised exhibit and/or study will be based, according to the exhibitors choice, either on the constituent elements of the First Day Cover, or on the different concordances, (either of stamp, cachet or cancellation) or on both, or on a specific period.

(c) An exhibit including First Day Covers related to a theme. It is limited neither in space nor in time.

In these three types of exhibits, so called "variants" can be simultaneously shown, e.g. First Day Covers with the same stamp on different covers and with different cancellations and the study of variants of the cancellations.

### 3.5 The Plan

An exhibit should have a plan, which should describe the contents of the exhibit and clearly show its leading idea. It should be logical, balanced and in accordance with the chosen subject and title. It should be subdivided into chapters. A mere list of contents is not sufficient for this plan.

## 4. Criteria for evaluation exhibits

4.1 First Day Cover exhibits are judged according to article 4 of the General Regulations of the F.I.P. for the Evaluation of competitive Exhibits at F.I.P. Exhibitions (GREV) and in accordance with the Special Regulations of the APF for the Evaluation of First Day Cover exhibits at APF Exhibitions (SREV)

4.2 Treatment and importance of the exhibit

A total of 30 points is allotted, 20 for the treatment and 10 for the importance. The treatment and the development of an exhibit deals with following points:

#### 4.3 Knowledge and research

A total of 35 points is allotted, 20 for knowledge and 15 for research. The exhibitor will be judged by the way he has selected the First Day Covers of the exhibit. His presentation has to show his knowledge for the chosen theme, on philately, on cancellations and on the cachets. The philatelic knowledge will be judged according to the interest of the comments (aim and date of issue, type, impression, variety etc... ). The knowledge on cancellations covers the types of cancels, the period, the place and the justification of the use of the postmark. All attempts to improve the aspect of a postmark after it has been applied by the postal authorities will be considered as falsification.

The knowledge of cachet will be judged according to its concordance with the subject of the stamp, to its quality and to the rarity of the edition.

The research in First Day Covers should be based on the observance of the three concordances: of subject, of place and of time. But no exhibit will lose marks if the cachet is generic only.

The concordance of place requires a connection between the name of the place or the locality shown on the postmark and the subject of the stamp and the cover. Lack of concordance should be avoided. The greater the connection between the topic or design of the issued stamp and the place of postmarking will be considered of greater importance.

The cancellations by post offices of a country established abroad (for instances on occasion of philatelic exhibitions or other events) can be accepted.

The cancellation is especially interesting as it completes the unity of the stamp to the cover by its illustration or its text.

#### 4.4 Condition and rarity of the material

A total of 30 points is allotted, 20 for the rarity and 10 for the condition of the items shown. The rarity of First Day Covers depends on the relative rarity of one of the three elements in its scope and the difficulty of realising it.

#### 4.5 Presentation

Presentation can be given 5 points. The presentation of an exhibit should be well finished and give a good general impression. Therefore the exhibitor should conform to following conditions: use sheets of a light colour, display the selected material harmoniously, avoid sheets which are too empty or show too much

overlapping, and write the accompanying texts precisely, in a legible, faultless writing and without spelling or other errors.

## 5. Judging of the exhibits

Evaluation by the judges for First Day Covers exhibits should be provided in written form making observations to assist the exhibitor to improve the exhibit.

A good concordance between the title, the plan and the contents of the exhibit, a logical and judicious classification of the First Day Covers adapted to the real thread of the plan. The written explanations should be concise, and give some supplementary information about the elements and/or the concordances. The importance of the exhibit is linked to the difficulty of the development of the chosen theme, according to the material known and the limitations of the treated theme.