

Workshop #1 – Elements of an Exhibit

There are several exhibit classifications (refer to the APS Manual of Philatelic Judging), and within each classification, requirements to provide specific elements. The information in this document gives a broad explanation of the elements you should consider in your exhibit, based on the exhibit classification that defines your exhibit. It is possible for an element to be included in more than one classification.

Pre-production / Post-production:

- Original Drawings – Submitted by artists and accepted for consideration by the postal authority for stamp designs
- Essay – Proposed design, submitted to, and rejected by, Postal Authorities, or adopted after changes have been made
- Photo Essay – Photograph of design with measurements and notations
- Proofs – Trial impressions from the die or printing plate before actual production
- Engraver's Proofs – Impressions taken to check the progress of his work
- Die Proofs – Impressions from the completed die, submitted for final approval
- Plate Proofs – Impressions from the completed plate
- Color Trials – Proofs in selected colors to permit a final choice of color to be made
- Color Proofs – Impressions of the approved colors taken prior to printing
- Rainbow Proofs – Trials used to test various colored inks, cancellations, and paper
- Salesman's Samples – Unofficial prints used to market potential sales, usually to show a prospective client the quality of printing offered by the salesman's company

Stamps as Issued (most are catalog listed):

- Booklet Stamps (preferably full pane if all one motif or related se-tenants)
 - Booklet covers and labels (shown with pane or booklet)
 - Plate numbers (or other marginal markings)
- Coil Stamps (should be shown in pairs)
 - Line Pairs
 - Plate Numbers (best shown in strips of three or five for U.S.)
- Sheet stamps perforate, imperforate, part-perforate, or rouletted as issued
 - Plate, Zip, Arrow, Mail Early, and Copyright blocks
 - Other marginal markings (printed, handstamped)
 - Se-tenant pairs and blocks, tabbed issues
 - Triptych (three) stamps joined of different but related designs

- Tete-beche pairs
- Bisect, Trisect, Quadrisect
- Watermarks
- Discount Postage (stamps issued at reduced price, chiefly for publicity)
- Encased Postage and other monetary usages
- Expedition Stamps
 - Scientific (e.g. Shackleton Antarctic Expedition, 1908)
 - Military (e.g. Liberian Field Force, or IEF of India)
- Express or Special Delivery
- Geometric shapes (triangles, diamonds, etc.)
- Local Issues (valid within a limited area or postal administration)
- Occupation Issues (for use in territory occupied by a foreign power)
- Revenue Issues – government, state, departmental
- Special Fees, Late Fees, Railway Letter Fees
- Miniature Sheets and Souvenir Sheets
- Newspaper Stamps
- Official Stamps
- Parcel Post Stamps
- Postage Due Stamps
- Telegraph Stamps
- War Tax Stamps
- Joint Issues
- Provisional Issues
- Plebiscite Issues
- Military Franks
- Military Telegraph Stamps
- Marine Insurance Issues
- Value Inserted Issues

Machine Generated Postage:

- Frames, Postal Buddy Cards, Meter Labels

Official Varieties (Official Government issued):

- Perforations (different measurements, methods)
- Experimental perforations and roulettes

- Perfins (e.g. O.H.M.S.)
- Precancels (different types and styles)
- Tagged or otherwise treated for use in automation equipment
- Printed information on reverse, attached label, or selvage
- Specimens, black prints and other publicity items
- Surcharges (revalued issues)
- Overprints (geographic, commemorative, definitive, occupation, etc.)
- Mirror Prints
- Gum, Watermark, or Paper Varieties
- Test Stamps (for testing of dispensing machines)
- Post Office Training Stamps
- Carrier Stamps (charge for conveying mail to or from local post offices)
- Shipping Company Stamps (prepaying mail carried on mail ships and packet boats)
- Obliterated stamps (e.g., portraits of deposed or deceased rulers and propaganda)

Unofficial Varieties:

- Perfins, business, charity, (preferably tied to cover or piece)

Unplanned Varieties (EFO):

- Errors (as a result of the production process, but not “favor” made)
 - Imperforate in one direction
 - Fully Imperforate
 - Imperforate Between
 - Perforations of the wrong gauge on one or more sides
 - Perforations inverted on souvenir sheets
 - Perforations fully doubled or tripled
 - Complete color missing
 - Tagging Missing
 - Inverted Tagging
 - Inverted Design
 - Inverted Embossing
 - Design Error
 - Inverted or multiple surcharge
 - Inverted or multiple overprint
 - Overprint or surcharge on back of stamp

- Lettering errors (misspelled country, name, etc.)
- Double Print
- Wrong Value
- Colors Reversed
- Missing Overprint, Surcharge, or Precancel
- Offset (printed in reverse)
- Paper Errors (printed on wrong color paper, incomplete, or changed watermark)
- Other constant errors (listed in catalogs)
- Freaks – Minor production varieties, usually not repeated, rarely catalog listed
 - Gutter Snipes
 - Ink Smears, Flaws, and Blots
 - Set-offs (from flat plate printed sheet laid on top of another)
 - Misperfs (one or more directions, diagonal)
 - Partially Perforated
 - Color Shifts (misregistration of color)
 - Miscuts
 - Over or under inked
 - Color partially missing
 - Fold-overs, fold-unders
 - Creases (pre-perforating or pre-printing)
 - Minor shade or color difference
 - Partial stamp printed on reverse
 - Partially doubled overprint or surcharge
 - Rejection markings (indicating printers' waste to be destroyed)
- Oddities
 - Plate varieties (double transfers, layout lines, position dots)
 - Design errors and ghosts
 - Intentionally created varieties
 - Color changes
 - Altered stamps (attempts to create higher values)
 - Rotary coil end strips
 - Flat plate coil paste-ups
 - Private Perfs
 - Local Overprints
 - Cancels (that change the design)
 - Constant Plate Varieties (identified by sheet position)

- Intentionally created errors
- Intentionally produced gutter pairs
- Provisional Overprints
- Stolen Printer's Waste
- Unauthorized Bisects
- Incomplete Print Production Stamps (e.g. China Hong Kong Martyrs)

Covers:

- Folded Letters
- Stampless Covers
- Air Mail
- Balloon Post
- Camp Mail (concentration Camp, POW Camp, displaced persons, etc.)
- Catapult Mail
- Censored Mail
- Combination Franking (stamps of more than one country)
- Crash Covers
- Cross-border mail
- Field Post
- First Day or Special Event covers
- First Flights
- Free Franks
- Glider Mail
- International Organizations (U.N., Red Cross, etc.)
- Military (APO, FPO)
- Naval Ships Mail
- Official Government Mail
- Official Cachets
- Packet Letters
- Paquebot
- Parachute mail
- Pigeon Post
- Pneumatic Post
- Rocket Post
- Ship Letters

- Zeppelin Mail

Postal Stationery:

- Imprinted Envelopes and Postal Cards
- Letter Cards
- Reply Paid Cards
- Aerogrammes, Airgraphs, Air Letter Sheets
- V-mail
- Wrappers for newspapers and periodicals
- Printed-to-Order envelopes, cards; produced or authorized by postal authorities
- Folded advertising letters (e.g., France, Germany)
- Formula Cards (France)
- Echo Cards (Japan)
- Postal Telegrams (e.g., Germany, Great Britain)

Maximum Cards: A picture postcard with a stamp depicting the exact same subject affixed to the picture side of the card, and the cancellation having a direct relationship to the subject pictured on the stamp.

Labels:

- Air Mail Etiquettes
- Charity (Christmas Seals, Boy's Town Seals)
- Fiscals
- Official Seals
- Postal Fiscals
- Registration
- Special Delivery
- Telegraph

Cancellations (should be tied to piece or on cover, if possible):

- Postmarks
- Town Circles
- Fancy Cancels
- Pictorial

- Slogan
- Traveling Post Office (TPO)
- Highway Post Office (HPO)
- Mobile Post Office (MPO)
- Railway Post Office (RPO)
- Military (Field Post, FPO, APO, etc.)

Auxiliary Markings:

- Air Mail
- Registered
- Certified or Insured
- Special Delivery
- Night Delivery
- COD
- Censored
- Postage Due
- Postage Not Valid
- Transit
- Backstamps
- Receiving Marks
- Forwarding Comments
- Refused
- Undeliverable
- Unmailable (contents restrictions, etc.)
- Carrier Comments
- Directory Markings
- Weight Marking
- Return to Sender (better address, proper postage, service suspended, etc.)

Special Note, These elements must be identified when used in an exhibit:

- Bogus Stamp – A completely fictitious stamp created solely for sale to collectors, or an actual stamp with an unauthorized surcharge or overprint (these are not forgeries as the stamp never officially existed).
- Cinderella
 - Christmas Seals (when tied to cover)

- Propaganda Stamps
- Facsimile – Reproduction of a genuine stamp with no intent to deceive collectors or postal officials (e.g., illustrations)
- Fake – A genuine stamp that has been altered to make it more attractive to collectors (e.g. altered color, added or changed postmark, repaired, reperfed, regummed, etc. to make a more valuable variety)
- Forgery – Completely fraudulent reproduction of a genuine stamp intended to defraud. They are generally classified into two types:
 - Philatelic forgeries made to defraud collectors
 - Postal forgeries made to defraud the postal service
- Postal Documents
- Official Receipts
 - Orders and Bulletins
 - Stamp Shipment Wrappings and Labels