



FIP Commission for Traditional Philately

The Judging Criteria for Traditional Philately

28 May 2023



About the revised Judging Guidelines

This seminar is based on the revised judging guidelines which was approved at the Traditional Philately Commission during THAILAND 2018 in Bangkok

Approved by the FIP Board in Rio in 2019

Ratified at the 76th FIP Congress in Jakarta on 8 August 2022

The revised guidelines can be obtained from www.f-i-p.ch website or the Traditional Philately Commission sub-site



Purpose of the Guidelines

The guidelines have been developed to help exhibitors in the Traditional Philately Class in:-

- ❖ Preparing the exhibit
- ❖ How the judges evaluate the exhibit



To exhibit in the
Traditional Philately Class



Read the Guidelines and
how judges evaluate

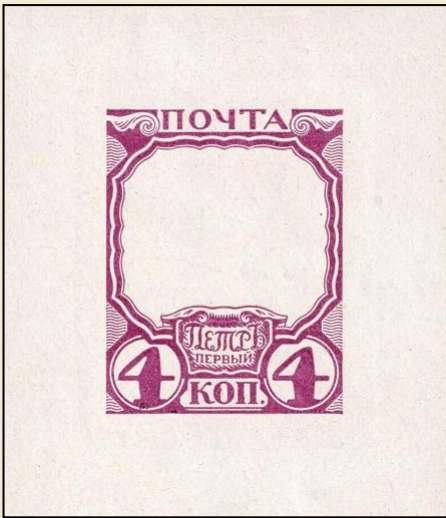
YOUR EXHIBIT



What is a Traditional Philately Exhibit?

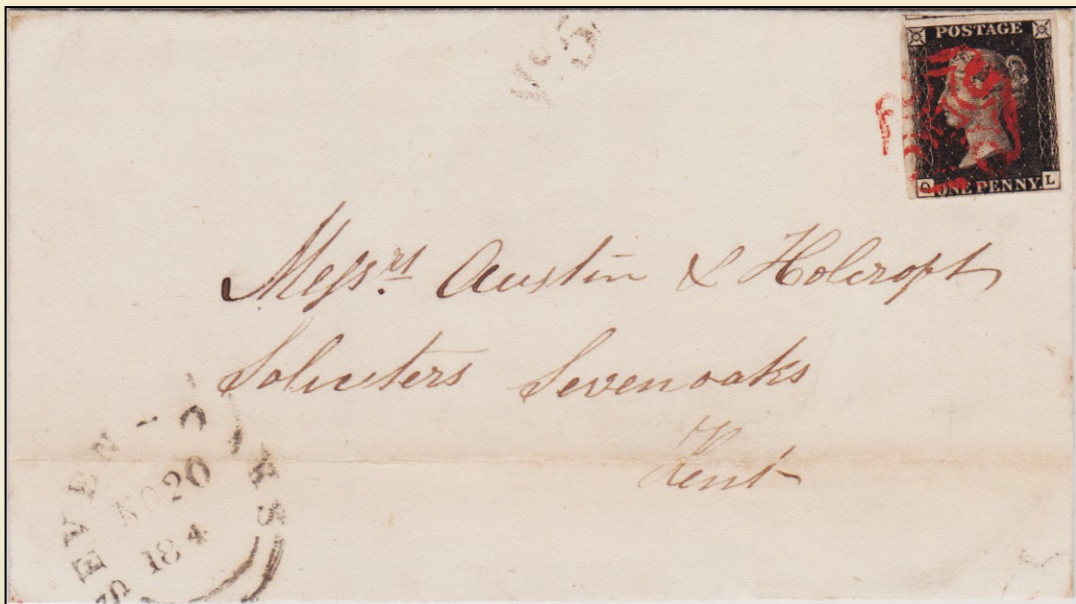
Materials that can be used:-

- ❖ Pre-production / Archive material



❖ Issued stamps and usages

- Postage stamps, unused or used, singles or multiple



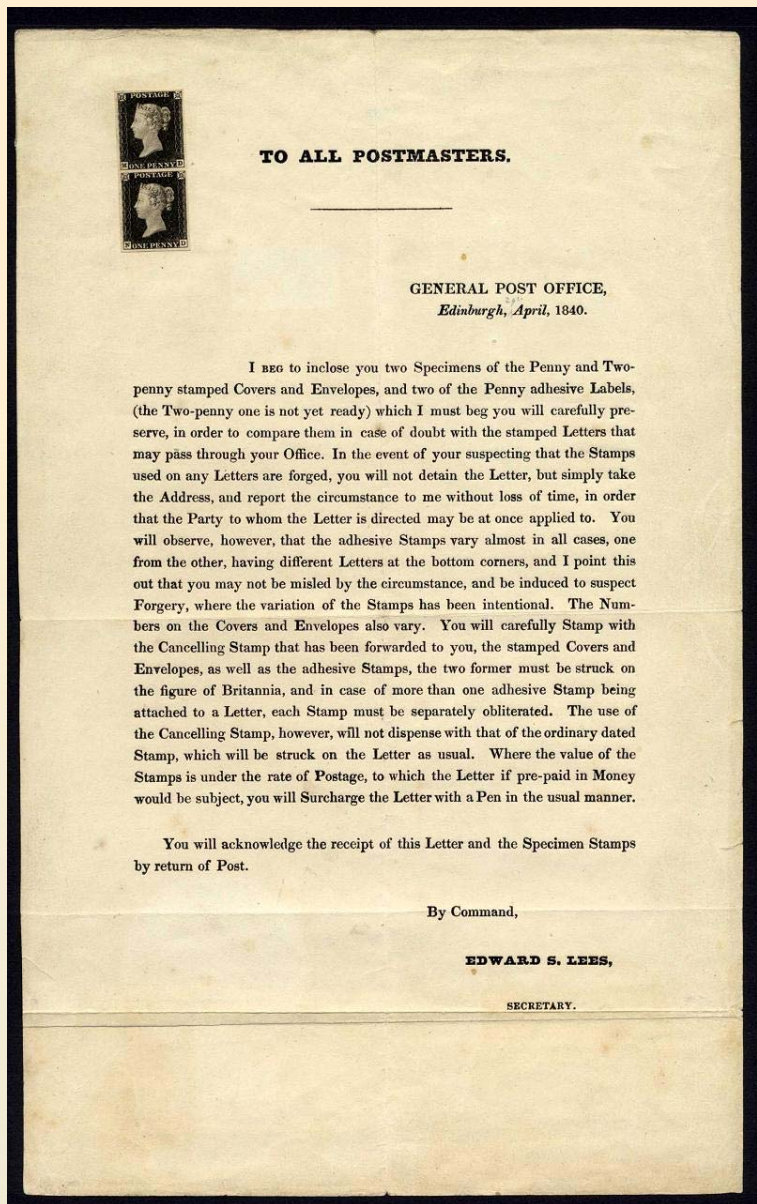
❖ Varieties



❖ Relevant documents



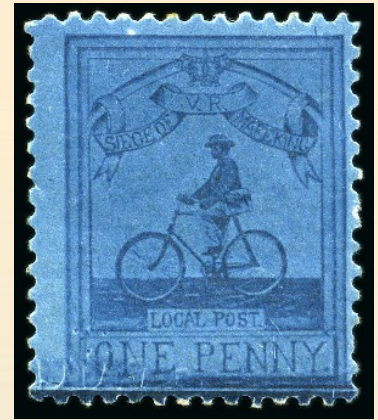
Document authorizing overprint on stamp



Postal Notice "To all postmasters"



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



❖ Plate reconstruction

HYDERABAD

The "Post Stamp" Issues 1871 - 1909

1/2 Anna


Plate 2 – Reconstruction of the Sheet

Sheet Composition "A"

| Sheet Composition | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | | | | |
| B | | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

The Printing Sheet of the "Post Stamp" issues is composed of 160 stamps, 15 stamps in 16 rows. Each sheet position of Plate 2 has been identified by enthusiastic philatelists and this collection shows a complete *Reconstructed Sheet* in 4 pages.

This reconstructed sheet includes Dot over "Fe" of "Asafia" Missing Error in 8 positions at Pos. 7, 22, 37, 52, 67, 82, 97 and 112.



Refer the Sheet Composition "C"

43



❖ Studies of printing plates

REPUBLICA ARGENTINA

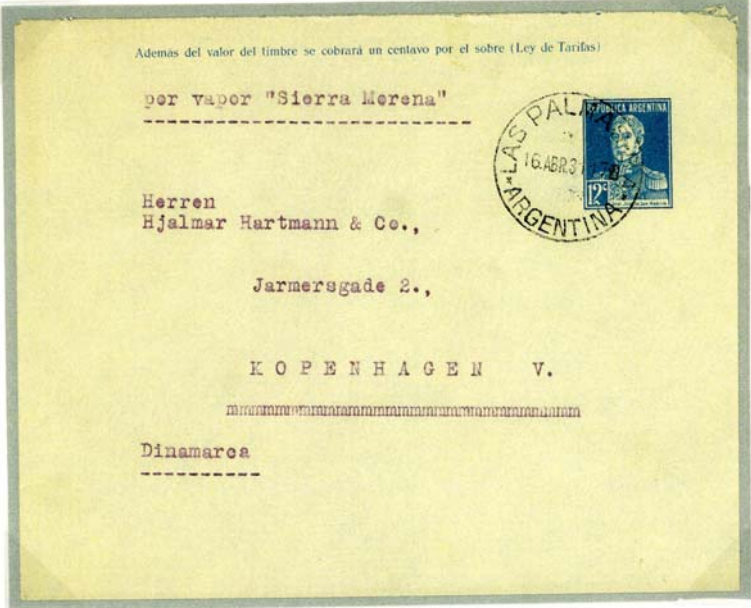
San Martin Series 1924 - 31

定常変種—変形“2”バラエティ
切手付封筒—12 Centavos

Ademas del valor del timbre se cobrará un centavo por el sobre (Ley de Tarifas)




per vapor "Sierra Merena"

Herren
Hjalmar Hartmann & Co.,
Jarmersgade 2.,
K O P E N H A G E N V.
Dinamarca



Las Palmas, Buenos Aires 1931年4月16日差出
コペンハーゲン宛船便

切手と同一版欠点(同一クリシエ使用例)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 切手シート (200%コピー) 額面数字“2”版欠点 | 左側 2 段に版欠点 | 切手付封筒 (200%コピー) 額面数字“2”版欠点 |
|  |  |  |



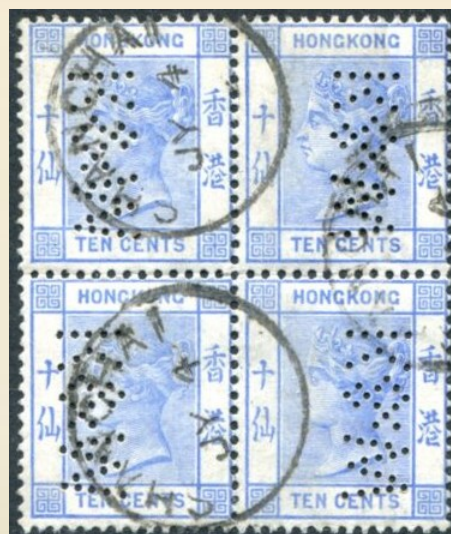
❖ Perfins, registration and parcel label



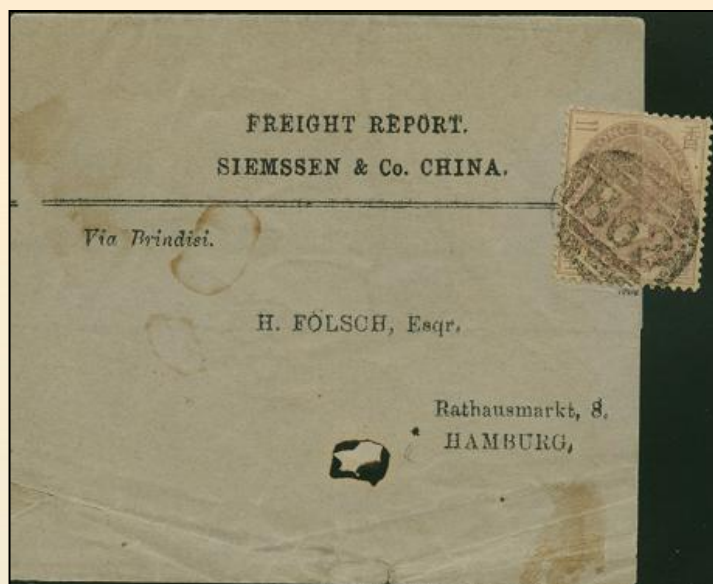
NEW GUINEA – 3d GRI 1915 Kawieng label



1984 GB Frama label trial and paper



❖ Fiscal stamps authorized for postage use and postally used fiscal stamps



HK2c revenue used on circular in lieu of 2c postage stamp



HK\$3 and NZ 15/- fiscal authorized for postal use



Other items

- ❖ Postal stationery if they are printed with the same cliché as the postage stamps and stationery cut-outs, if they are used as postage stamps



4k Die proof



❖ Postal forgeries and philatelic forgeries can be used in comparison with the issued stamps



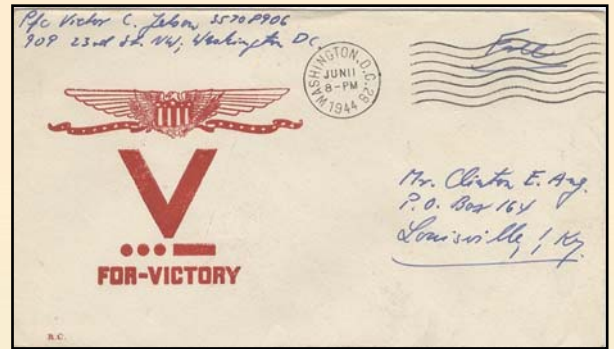
1867 1/- Green Pl 5
Stock Exchange
Forgery (left)



1991 24p GB Machin Forgery



❖ Letter culture e.g. valentine, patriotic envelopes, illustrated envelopes*



U.S. WWI & II patriotic envelopes



U.S. valentine envelope mailed on 14 February

*Could be shown under Postal History sub-class 2c



Judging criteria



Judging criteria

- ❖ Judging the appearance of the exhibit:
Presentation – 5 points
- ❖ Judging the challenge and how well the challenge has been met:
Treatment 20 points and Philatelic Importance 10 points
- ❖ Judging the material included:
Rarity 20 points and Condition 10 points
- ❖ Judging what the exhibitor knows about the material presented:
Knowledge and Personal Study 35 points



1. The Appearance of the exhibit



Presentation = 5 points

- ❖ The appearance of the exhibit should complement the treatment of the exhibit by its general lay-out and clarity.
- ❖ Judges should evaluate the work put into the appearance of the exhibit from the point of view of how it facilitates the **understanding** and **attraction** of the exhibit to judges and viewers alike.



Judges should be looking for....

- ❖ Is there clear connection between the philatelic material and text?
- ❖ Connection between material and text
- ❖ Appropriate font size and style of text is the exhibit easy to read?
- ❖ Accessibility – use of tables and short paragraphs facilitates understanding
- ❖ Related non-philatelic material e.g. enlarged part of the stamp helps to make the exhibit more understandable



- ❖ The balance on each page – is it top or bottom heavy?
- ❖ The balance in the frame – avoid frames with overfilled pages vs. pages with too many blank spaces
- ❖ No wasted space –
 - Empty space (except where used for rarity emphasis)
 - Space filled with unnecessary illustrations, large maps, or other “space filler” techniques.
- ❖ The mounting – is it carefully done or sloppy?



2 sk. print 1 line perforated
Watermark 2, line perforation 12.5

All normal frames

2 sk. print 1 line perforated. First issued: Jan/1871. Number of sheets issued: <1,000. Printed with the A- and B-sheet of Frame Plate 2. The ovals in the line perforated part of print 1 is dark ultramarine with unevenly applied colour. The frames are light blue-green.



Colour trial for the 2 sk.
for more essays and proofs,
see the introduction

**Line
perforated**



print 1 pos. A51
line perforated
mint



Plate proof print 1 corner block of
three pos. A80-A90-A100
**LARGEST RECORDED
MULTIPLE OF THE
2 SK. PLATE PROOFS**



print 1 pos. A15
line perforated
mint

**Line
perforated**



print 1 used
line perforated



2 sk. print 1 LINE PERFORATED, 4 sk. print 1 comb perforated, and 8 sk. 1864 print 3 line perforated
on a registered letter sent to Sweden 21/Mar/1871. Rate: 6 sk. + 8 sk. = 14 sk. 01/Jul/1869-31/Dec/1874.
**ONE OF TWO RECORDED USAGES OF 2 SK. LINE PERFORATED IN PRIVATE HANDS
SENT TO A FOREIGN DESTINATION**



Design and production
Perforation

Perforation machines and perforation mistakes

All regularly issued bicoloured øre stamps are comb perforated. From 1875-1895, the perforation was 14x13½. From October 1895 onwards, the perforation was 12 3/4. In the 14x13½ period, three different perforation machines were used: KI (1875, and again 1879-1889), KII (1875-1895), and KIII (1889-1895). KI and KII had the needles irregularly placed so that the vertical row in the sheet can be determined. Only six stamps with inverted comb perforation are known. These are all strongly off centre by a characteristic distance because the perforation guide dots (see previous page) were not centred exactly between row 5 and 6.



KI, 5th vertical line KII, 8th vertical line **inverted comb perforation (KIII)** KIII perf. 12 3/4
ONE OF SIX RECORDED

During the comb perforation process, several things could go wrong. Most of these perforation mistakes appear as a result of improper forward displacement of the sheets between the perforation of consecutive rows. Such problems can lead to very low stamps, very tall stamps, and double perforated stamps. Almost all of these mistakes were caught in quality control, so very few stamps with major perforation mistakes actually reached collectors. Several bicolours also occur entirely imperforate. In most cases, they are plate proofs "liberated" from the printers or the Postal Museum in early times, since they are only recorded unused.



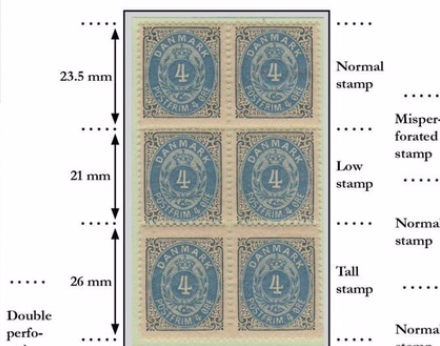
12 øre print 12, 16 øre print 12, 25 øre print 4, all pos. 99 imperforate
ONE OF ONLY TWO RECORDED IMPERFORATE 12 ØRE, 16 ØRE, AND 25 ØRE STAMPS IN PRIVATE HANDS



imperforate pair
4 øre print 38 position B17-B18



Block of four with double perforation of the lower two stamps
print 15b pos. B49-B50, B59-B60



Block of six where the top two stamps are normal height, the middle two stamps very short, and the lower two stamps very tall.
print 59 pos. B49-B50, B59-B60, B69-B70



Corner block of three with strongly displaced perforation on the upper stamp
4 øre print 55 pos. A10, A20, A30



2. The Challenge and how well that Challenge is met



Treatment = 20 points

- ❖ Title Page defines.....
 - Purpose and scope of the exhibit
 - Provides references for the subject chosen
- ❖ Material selected should....
 - Provide a logical storyline e.g. start and end dates and a balanced exhibit
 - Adequate material used to explain the subject without duplication
 - The focus is on the stamps themselves reflected in the write-up
 - Completeness – any missing material particularly the key items.



Philatelic Importance = 10 points

- ❖ The significance of the subject within the philately of the country or area exhibited
- ❖ The significance of the subject on a worldwide scale
- ❖ How difficult is the selected area to collect?
i.e. The Challenge factor
- ❖ Can the exhibit be duplicated easily?
- ❖ How much of the key material of the chosen subject is present



3. The material presented in the stamp exhibit



Rarity = 20 points

- ❖ In assessing rarity keep in mind it is both an **objective** and a **relative** term
- ❖ A judge needs to assess the difference between the rarity of major printing error and a minor plate flaw even if only the same quantity of each have been so far recorded
- ❖ Does the exhibitor explain what is shown being rare?
- ❖ Does the exhibitor uses philatelically produced material?



- ❖ The judge should consider the rarity being shown in the exhibit
- ❖ An exhibit with only ordinary material cannot get high points
- ❖ An exhibit with many rare items relevant to the subject might get maximum points even if a few rarities are **missing**
- ❖ If an exhibit has many rarities getting close to maximum points, **adding more rarities** should generate more points in e.g. Importance/Knowledge



Levels of rarity

The judge should consider the rarity being shown in the exhibit

- ❖ Primary Material: including world rarities
- ❖ Secondary material: including great rarities and important items
- ❖ Supporting material: including unusual items



Primary Material: including world rarities

- ❖ Highest known rate or franking
- ❖ Single use of a rare stamp on cover with the correct rate



❖ Earliest usage of a stamp



F.D.C. of the “Schwarzer Einzer” Bavaria 1kr black of 1849



❖ Largest multiple of the stamp



Complete sheet of “Sachsen Dreier” Saxony 3pf. Of 1850



Secondary Material: including great rarities

- ❖ Archival/documents supporting the stamp issue
- ❖ Covers bearing the stamp showing special rates, routes, destinations, significant dates
- ❖ Use of a rare and significant handstamp or a rare and important cancellation on the stamp
- ❖ Abnormalities in paper, watermark and perforations and colour



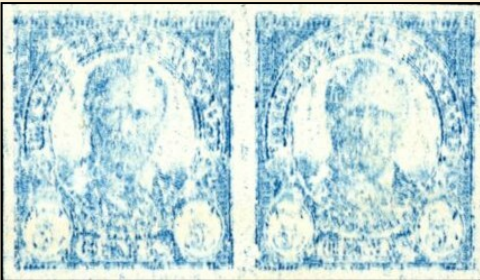
Secondary Material: including important items

- ❖ Same as above categories but slightly more common
- ❖ Included to facilitate understanding of the exhibit



Supporting material: uncommon

- ❖ Plate/cylinder blocks
- ❖ Printers waste



Supporting material:

- ❖ “Collector’s” Specimen
- ❖ “Collector’s” Proofs



Quantity produced is usually limited. But would not gain marks in “Rarity”.



Rare material tends to attract forgers attention....

Look out for:-

- Fake stamp, covers and errors
- Fake rare postmarks on stamps
- Fake rare overprint and perfins
- Fake perforation errors
- Fake archival material

Notify the expert group for further examination if needed



Condition = 10 points

- ❖ When assessing condition the shown items should be in the best possible condition **for what is available** to get full points
- ❖ Any repaired stamps and covers will lead to reduction of points
- ❖ If not stated “repaired”, the judges may refer the item to the expert team
- ❖ Postmarks on stamps and covers should be clear unless clear examples do not exist



Condition & Rarity

- ❖ While rarity is still in our minds, the judge should realize that an item in remarkable condition may be truly exceptional even though a large number of examples exist
- ❖ On the other hand, rare material in poor condition will not score as high if this material does exist in better condition



4. What the Exhibitor knows about the Material Shown



Philatelic knowledge and Personal Study = 35 points

❖ Implicit Knowledge

- Material selected to tell story

❖ Explicit Knowledge

- Explanations and analysis in write-ups

❖ Research & Personal Study

- New Information presented as part of exhibit story



Implicit knowledge

- ❖ Assess the material included or excluded from the exhibit to tell the philatelic story...this will indicate a strong or weak grasp of the chosen topic
- ❖ Determine if the exhibit consists of mostly common single stamps and covers showing common rates, routes or markings



Explicit knowledge

- ❖ Determine if the items shown are properly and accurately described.
- ❖ The judge should determine if all relevant information about the stamps being noted e.g. printing quantities, shade, perforations, watermark, postmark on used stamps, in case of rarities, how many known
- ❖ Avoid lengthy write-up of the rates, routes and markings of covers
- ❖ Rarities/significant items should be highlighted and explained



Implicit vs. Explicit Knowledge

1874 cover
Hong Kong to
Melbourne via
Galle franked
24c green wmk
CC 18c no wmk
as late fee



Implicit knowledge: Use of a “late fee” cover to Australia rather than a single-rate cover franked 24c green (1/-) to U.K. which is fairly common

Explicit knowledge: Description is too “auction catalogue”



Implicit vs. Explicit Knowledge

Same cover written up for a Traditional Philately Class exhibit



24 Cents green watermark Crown CC showing a constant variety 'Break in top frame over 'O' of 'KONG' and colour flaw in the top left corner' (NE/36). The stamp is used together with an 18 Cents lilac no watermark on a 26 November 1874 cover from Hong Kong to Melbourne Victoria. Postage is made up by 24 cents (1/-), the single rate to Australia, plus 18 cents (9d) 'late fee'.



Personal Study

- ❖ If the subject is relatively unstudied area the judge would expect to find a good deal of personal study and the exhibit should be given credit for this or lose points if not present
- ❖ If the subject is well-studied assess the amount of personal study by the exhibitor's grasp of the literature in their chosen subject and the analysis of this research
- ❖ If the exhibit of well-researched subject provides an appropriate fresh approach this adds points for personal study



Design and production
Perforation

Imperforate stamps
(continued from previous page)

8 øre print 43 and 4 øre print 38 imperforate got into the hands of a contemporary philatelist. Most exist unused except for six covers and less than 10 used stamps. Single sheets of 8 øre print 70 and 108 also exist unused. 8 øre print 108 imperforate with frame tête-bêche is shown on page 16. The only imperforates which probably reached a post office by mistake were 4 øre print 22, 8 øre print 51 and 8 øre print 53. One unused stamp is known of 8 øre print 53. 8 øre print 51 was until recently thought to be the only imperforate bicoloured stamp known to have been genuinely used. Two stamps cancelled Fredericia (see under 8 øre print 51) and one cancelled Randers (shown here) have been recorded. In 2023, a genuinely used imperforate 4 øre stamp from print 22 was sensationally found 140 years after it was issued.



8 øre print 53 position A99
imperforate

**THE ONLY RECORDED
IMPERFORATE STAMP
FROM PRINT 53**



8 øre print 70 position B87-B88, B97-
B98 in block of four with one normal
and three inverted frames

One single sheet of print 70 was issued
imperforate, so the normal frame is
THE ONLY ISSUED EXAMPLE!



8 øre print 51 position
A4 imperforate

all three recorded copies
are defective!
THE RANDERS COPY
(The best Fredericia
example is shown under
8 øre print 51)



8 øre print 43 position B91
imperforate



4 øre print 22 position B4 imperforate

**THE ONLY RECORDED IMPERFORATE 4 ØRE
FROM PRINT 22 AND THE ONLY RECORDED
4 ØRE IMPERF SOLD FROM A POST OFFICE**



100 øre print 2 position 5-6
imperforate



**IMPERFORATE STAMPS ON COVER: 4 øre print 38 pos. B7-B8 and pair 8 øre print 43. Correctly paid 36 øre letter.
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF THE SIX RECORDED COVERS WITH IMPERFORATES**



Judging One-frame exhibit

- ❖ All judging criteria for judging multi-frame apply to assessing One-frame exhibit
- ❖ Appropriateness: check whether the exhibit is TRUELY one-frame or part of a multi-frame exhibit
- ❖ A selection of items from a multi frame exhibit may be suitable only if the selection can completely treat a natural sub-theme of the exhibit within one frame
- ❖ Consult more experienced judges in other classes if in doubt



What is expected of a good philatelic judge?

- ❖ Adequate preparation before arriving at exhibition
- ❖ Judge all exhibits within the time-frame allocated
- ❖ Consult more experienced judges in other classes if in doubt
- ❖ Give helpful critique/feedback verbally or written to exhibitor or commissioner
- ❖ Be courteous at all times – discuss in a harmonious manner with the exhibitor and judging team members



Acknowledgement

Illustrations

- ❖ IBRA 2023 newsletter for German States rarities
- ❖ Private collectors
- ❖ Koichi Sato RDP
- ❖ FIP Postal History Commission
- ❖ Prof. Henrik Mouritsen RDP
- ❖ David Feldman SA/Christoph Gaertner
- ❖ eBay.com
- ❖ Spink
- ❖ Oldbid.com
- ❖ Wikipedia.org



Thank you for listening

