



AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC FEDERATION LTD

THUMBNAIL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE EXHIBITION CLASSES

“How best to show my material”

In brochures 8a and 8b the collector has been introduced to the excitement, benefits and frustrations of exhibiting.

In exhibiting there are a number of exhibition classes. A class is a description of the type of material or the method of presentation of that material. Some of these classes are very specific, such as Traditional Philately which relates purely to stamps, or restrictive such as Aerophilately which limits the type of material which may be included. There are also classes which allow for a wide range of material such as Thematic Philately, as well as classes which permit the inclusion of non-philatelic material, such as the Open Philately and Polar Philately classes.

This brochure gives brief descriptions of each of the exhibition classes to assist a prospective exhibitor in deciding the appropriate class to most advantageously present his material.

These classes are split between those that are available on a world-wide basis, and those that have been initiated by the APF and are generally limited to Australia,

The World-Wide Classes

Traditional Philately relates to all aspects of the production and use of postage stamps, from the initial design through to their being used for the purpose for which they were issued. This is the most popular class.

Postal History has three sub-classes: Postal History, Marcophily and Historical, Social & Special Studies. It focuses on the study of the postal system in operation, and invariably involves the accumulation of used stamps, letters and documents that together tell the story of how an aspect of the delivery of mail was conducted.

Postal Stationery is postal matter which either bears an officially authorized pre-printed stamp or device or an inscription indicating that a specific rate of postage or related service has been prepaid. The most familiar items of postal stationery are stamped envelopes, aerogrammes, stamped postcards, letter cards, and newspaper wrappers.

Thematic Philately is collecting stamps and other philatelic items that illustrate a theme: birds, soccer, history, art, way of life, trees, etc. The term "theme" has a dynamic meaning implying the personal elaboration by the collector, who develops a full story around it. Collections that do not develop a theme but simply accumulate philatelic items with a common subject are far from the essence of thematic philately, since they present no "story", or little personal study of the theme.

Aerophilately is the branch of philately that specializes in the study of airmail. Philatelists have observed the development of mail transport by air from its beginning, and all aspects of airmail service have been extensively studied and documented by specialists.

While most of the study of airmail assumes transport by fixed-wing aircraft, the fields of balloon mail, dirigible mail, zeppelin mail, missile mail, and rocket mail are active subspecialties. Airmail as a collecting area mirrors aviation history and the airplane's impact on the world's communication systems.

Astrophilately is a very interesting and exciting class. Among its special characteristics are the use of envelopes and cards cancelled at the post office near the place and on the exact date of the special events related

to space exploration, i.e. launches, landings, or other space activities. It also includes mail carried on manned space vehicles, rockets, and commemorating stratospheric balloon activity.

Youth Philately relates to exhibits prepared by collectors under 22 years of age. There are three age groups, A, 10 to 15 years, B, 16 to 18 years, and C, 19 to 21 years, with increasing requirements as the collector ages. Youth Philately is a classification of the exhibitor and carries its own marking scale. The material in a youth exhibit can be in any one of the remaining classes.

Revenues comprise stamps used by governments at all levels to signify the payment of a wide range of taxes and fees. 'Stamps' in this context can be adhesive ie. similar in style to postage stamps, or embossed or imprinted onto documents. The range of revenue stamps is especially large with most governments not only having a basic Stamp Duty series used for general revenue purposes but at various times have issued stamps specifically designed for individual taxes. Among these are Unemployment, Health provision, Betting Tax and a range of agricultural taxes that have included Cattle, Pigs, Sheep, Goats and Eggs. Another tax of note is that on Beer but not for wines and spirits.

Open Philately allows the exhibiting of material that does not comfortably fit within any other exhibition class. By allowing up to 50% of non-philatelic material, the class provides much flexibility and scope for innovation in both content and presentation, and allows for the development of a subject according to the choice of the collector, giving him almost total freedom in the inclusion and arrangement of the material. However, the non-philatelic material must be no thicker than 5 mm to fit into the standard exhibition frames.

Maximaphily is the collecting of Maximum cards. A Maximum card is made up of three elements; the postage stamp; the picture postcard; and the postmark, which are joined together in a fascinating way conforming to the very precise regulations adopted by the International Philatelic Federation (F.I.P.). The concordance of the above three elements has a close visual relationship.

Literature uses narrative works and illustrations from all other competitive classes to record, explain and illustrate a wide range of the aspects of philately.

As well as books, Literature includes monographs, journals, columns, priced catalogues, special auction catalogues, and electronic media:

Modern Traditional Philately is an experimental class and follows the traditional philately rules except that exhibits are restricted to stamp issues during the previous 50 years.

Australian Classes (*Not available at International Exhibitions*)

Cinderellas are non-postage stamps. A Cinderella may look like a stamp, but it won't carry the mail. The category includes locals, labels, tax stamps, fiscals, poster stamps, charity seals, forgeries, fantasies, phantoms, revenues, etc. Some are more elaborately designed than the postage stamps they imitate. An exhibit could include such items as private local issues, bogus and phantom issues, labels and other items associated with philatelic exhibitions, advertising labels and covers, Christmas and TB seals and perhaps forgeries of postage stamps and other official postal items. Such Cinderella material is not normally an integral part of the payment of charges for official postal delivery or stamp duty. The class does NOT include all forms of revenue stamps (ie. Government issues used as receipts for a range of taxes and charges).

Polar Philately looks at mail and postal services in the Polar regions. The class covers the ambit of all other classes of philately and includes items such as private cachets, labels and signatures from expedition members. Polar philately is an area where you can acquire interesting material at reasonable cost and undertake your own philatelic research. The items in an exhibit can include up to 50% of non-philatelic material.

First Day Covers includes three sub-classes: First Day Covers, Souvenir Covers & Postmarks and Thematic or Topical Exhibits, and relates to an accumulation of material evidenced to be the date of issue of a stamp, cover, postmark, or other philatelic item. The range of acceptable material is quite wide, and the inclusion of thematic or topical exhibits provides a great scope for the exhibitor's innovation.

Frugal Philately provides an opportunity for collectors to prepare an exhibit comprised of interesting philatelic material of low cost and in doing so enhance their philatelic skills. It is intended to encourage those who might be put off exhibiting by the high cost of items needed to compete in some of the other classes. The Frugal Philately class concentrates on the criteria of treatment, importance, knowledge, research and condition. The exhibit can be in any of the other FIP or APF Classes, except for Youth and Literature, but is restricted to 3 to 5 frames. The wholesale value of the exhibit should not exceed \$1,000.

Picture Postcards. A **postcard** or **post card** is a rectangular piece of thick paper or thin cardboard intended for writing and mailing without an envelope. In some places, it is possible to send them for a lower fee than for a letter. Stamp collectors distinguish between **postcards** (which require a stamp) and **postal cards** (which have the postage pre-printed on them). While a postcard is usually printed by a private company, individual or organization, a postal card is issued by a relevant postal authority. Postcard exhibits allow for the inclusion of up to 25% of other material to compliment the display.

Further Information

For more information regarding any of the above classes, visit the APF website's Exhibition Classes page at www.apf.org.au/apf-exhibition-classes. This page provides links to the rules for all classes, the Commission websites for the FIP (world-wide) classes, and email contacts for any further information on any class.

For Further Information

www.apf.org.au

or

Contact your State Council

ACT: ACT Philatelic Council,
GPO Box 980 CANBERRA ACT 2601
NSW: Philatelic Development Council - NSW
PO Box 220 Darlinghurst NSW 1300
QLD: Queensland Philatelic Council
PO Box 941 Wynnum Plaza PO
WYNNUM WEST QLD 4178
SA/NT: South Australian Philatelic Council
GPO Box 9800 ADELAIDE SA 5001
TAS: Tasmanian Stamp Council
GPO Box 9800 HOBART TAS 7001
VIC: Victorian Philatelic Council
GPO Box 9800 MELBOURNE VIC 3001
WA: Western Australian Philatelic Council
GPO Box 9800 PERTH WA 6001

(Further contact details, including email addresses, are available on the APF website.)

Other brochures in this series are available from the Australian Philatelic Federation or your State Council:

- 1 *Why Collect Stamps*
- 2 *Why Join a Stamp Club?*
- 3 *I have just inherited a stamp collection - where do I go from here?*
- 4 *I have just rediscovered my old stamp collection – where do I go from here?*
- 5 *Where do I get stamps for my collection?*
- 6 *Beyond Australia!*
- 7 *How can I identify and value my stamps?*
- 8a *An Introduction to Exhibiting – Part 1*
- 8b *An Introduction to Exhibiting – Part 2*
- 10 *An Introduction to Stamp Collecting*
- 11 *Using the Internet to Widen Your Research Boundaries*