

TOPICAL CLASS – EXPERIMENTAL RULES

The Topical Class is an APF Experimental Class at Australian National Philatelic Exhibitions.

The intent of the Topical Class is to provide collectors with the opportunity to exhibit material by topic or subject with the items in the exhibit connected by the subject shown and not by a thematic theme or a Traditional country treatment. All items in the exhibit should fit the subject shown.

Examples of a Topical Class exhibit could include birds, vehicles or scientists on stamps. The difference between Thematic Philately and the Topical Class is that a topical class exhibit would show only philatelic items depicting the subject while a Thematic exhibit would have a theme which would allow the inclusion of philatelic items related to the theme, for example, a topical exhibit of motor cars could be arranged by make, model and year and include material depicting cars while a thematic exhibit could be the history of the motor car and include material showing car manufacturers and designers, factories, road safety, roads and material related to petroleum.

The exhibit must include philatelic material only. [Exhibitors wishing to include non-philatelic material need to consider Open Class as the avenue to exhibit while exhibitors wishing to show picture postcards should consider entering the Postcard Class.]

The marking system is:

Treatment			20
Knowledge			
	Philatelic Knowledge	20	
	Subject Knowledge	20	40
Condition			10
Rarity			20
Presentation			10
Total:			100

GUIDELINES

The Introduction Page should:

- Introduce the purpose of the exhibit
- Define the scope of the exhibit
- Explain the structure of the exhibit
- Have a plan of the exhibit
- Mention the most important literature/references

Treatment.

Topical philately embraces all aspects of philately.

- This includes those aspects which may be used in other FIP classes and which support the story the exhibitor is telling by his exhibit.
- This story must be developed according to a logical plan leading through the exhibit.
- It may include aspects of the story of the stamp such as the development from essays and proofs to the issued stamp with its printing phases and all kinds of varieties of material shown.
- The subject needs to be shown on each item throughout the exhibit.
- The written explanations should be concise.
- Usage showing the correct use of philatelic material by way of commercial material should be included.

Knowledge

Philatelic Knowledge: The exhibit should show a knowledge of the material shown and can include a variety of types of philatelic material such as stamps, usage, postal stationery and first day covers showing the subject chosen. Revenue stamps, postmarks, meter material commercial mail with an explanation of postal rates, Postal Stationery with an image of the subject and First Day Covers including information on the release date for the stamps can also be included.

Subject Knowledge:

The exhibitor must demonstrate a good knowledge of the subject:

- A good balance of information of the subject shown on each page is required. The exhibitor should tell a story rather than just exhibit a collection of items.
- The written word and other aspects are a secondary part of the story and should not overpower philatelic material on each page of the exhibit.

Condition.

Items should be shown in the best condition possible. Mint stamps and minisheets may illustrate the story better than used copies where single items are shown.

Rarity and Difficulty of Acquisition.

Rarity is directly related to the philatelic items shown and to the relative scarcity of this material (however, not the value). For example usage of material can be inexpensive but difficult to obtain.

Presentation.

Presentation should show:

- Good balance in the frames and the individual pages.
- Good use of the page with not too much white space on the pages.
- A clear write up, concise and relevant to the material shown and to the subject chosen for the exhibit.
- Sufficient write up but not too much text.
- Illustrations that are not too dominating. Any photocopies must be a minimum of 25% different in size from the original.