**Changes to the Guidelines for the Revenue Class**

The following is NOT a prescriptive listing of changes to the Revenue class as the Guidelines have been completely rewritten, to both expand the scope of revenue exhibits and to distinguish the class from Traditional Philately.

It is important to note that the new guidelines were approved in Jakarta and subsequently approved at the Congress, also, so are now to be used in exhibitions (where the prospectus has not already been issued).

**Background**

Revenue stamps and associated material have been collected for a long time and were often grouped in with Cinderellas. They became an experimental class in 1988 and since then have been considered completely differently from philately. However, it is important to note that postage stamps go back to 1840, postal stationery to 1838, while revenue stamped paper goes back almost 400 years.

Revenue exhibits have tended to look a lot like Traditional exhibits when stamps are being studied and displayed. The similarity was causing issues and there was some talk of folding the Revenue Class back into Traditional Philately. Rather than let this happen the Commission took a new approach to see how we could expand the class. In the preamble to the Guidelines it notes the following:

*The major difference between a Revenue exhibit and an exhibit in one of the Postal classes is that a Revenue exhibit may contain elements (but not postal material) of some or all of these “Postal classes” in the one exhibit, as long as the exhibit tells a coherent story.*

**Major Changes**

Fee and Credit Stamps of Private Organisation – Under definition the following is noted:

*Additionally, any other fee or credit stamp of a private organisation, either insurance, transport, bank, union, political party etc. may also be considered as revenue material under this definition. When showing such material, a precise description of its nature and usage is essential.*

In the past only Government revenue stamps and material was allowed so this is a major change. However, for the time being it is NOT expected that an exhibit would comprise only private material. For the moment (and this may change over time) such material can be part of an exhibit as long as it tells a part of the story (see underlined statement).

Railway Stamps – Although not explicitly stated, railway stamps can be exhibited in the Revenue class where they not of a postal nature. Some railway stamps were issued by postal administrations and can be shown in Traditional. While railway stamps have been a vexed issue over the years what is likely to happen is that they will end up with dual classes, like postal notes (revenues and postal stationery). Which class you use will largely depend on how they are treated.

Different Types of Revenue Exhibits – Revenue exhibiting has been expanded to allow innovative thinking in exhibits. The three different types of exhibits are as follows:

* Traditional Exhibits
* Fiscal History
* Subject-based Exhibits

Traditional exhibits are exactly that, the study of the stamps in the same way that traditional philately studies and exhibits stamps. Fiscal history describes fiscal systems (the development of fiscal systems or duty rates in an area, country or even worldwide). The story would normally be told using documents etc and is akin to postal history. The third area, subject-based is an exhibit on social or historical phenomenon and is similar to thematics in a way but this term was not used for obvious reasons.

It is important to note that an exhibit is expected to be along the lines of one of the above treatments and should NOT be a combination of the above. So, you wouldn’t have 3 frames of the traditional study of stamps followed by their use in a fiscal History study. That is not to say you can’t be innovative and if you can come up with a novel treatment then the judges will need to take this into account.

**Judging**

It is likely to take some time for judges to get used to the new approaches and judging seminars are going to need to be held at exhibitions because of the significant changes in the Guidelines

**Longer Term**

What we are hoping is that exhibitors take to the new guidelines and come up with novel treatments that stretch the judges. We want the class to expand and become a little more like Open. However, it should be noted that while non-revenue material can be used in an exhibit, its use should be quite limited, and the items need to be well explained as to why they are there.

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