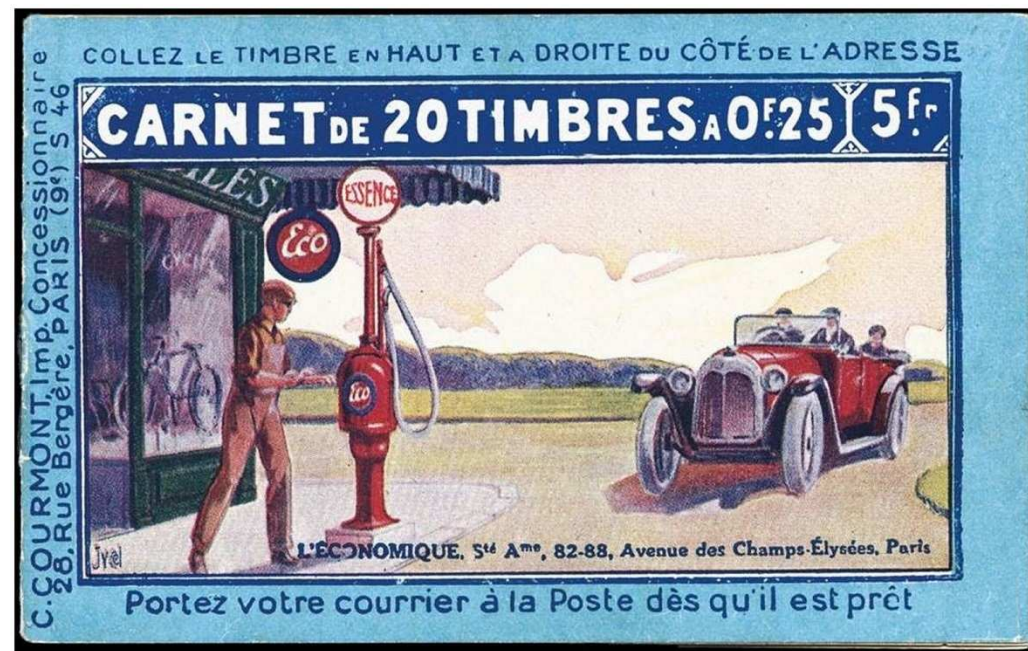


Malmö 3rd International Philatelic Summit

Philatelic Material in Thematic Exhibits

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Contents

It is all about philatelic material...

- ▼ Appropriate philatelic material
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- ▼ Demonstrating philatelic knowledge
- ▼ Using philatelic material

Appropriate philatelic material

GREV Article 3.2

- ▼ 3.2 Relevant philatelic material is defined for each class in the SREV of that class.

SREV of Thematic Philately Article 3.1

- ▼ 3.1 APPROPRIATE PHILATELIC MATERIAL
- ▼ 3.1.1 A thematic exhibit uses the widest **range** of appropriate **postal-philatelic** material (ref. GREV Article 3.2)

Postal-philatelic material

Postal-philatelic items are philatelic items that

- ▼ have been issued,
- ▼ intended for issue,
- ▼ produced in the preparation for issue,
- ▼ used or treated as valid for postage

for the purpose of **transmitting mail** or other **postal communications**.

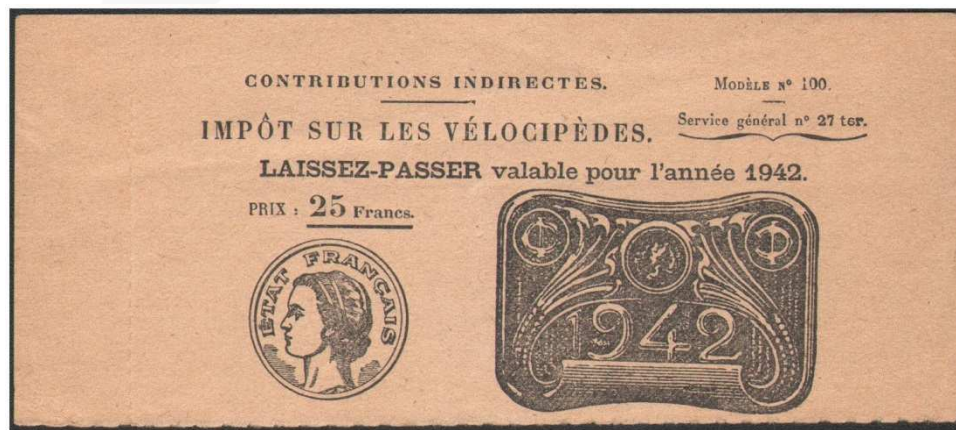


Reversed center of the 10c special delivery stamp of Cuba issued in 1902. Only one sheet of 25 stamps printed with reversed centers.

The postal-philatelic definition leaves out

- Non-philatelic material
- Fiscal material (such as revenue stamps and stamped papers)
- Postage stamps that are used for non-postal purposes (such as currency)

However, revenue stamps and stamp currency can be used under some special conditions.



Stamped paper (revenue) to collect an annual bicycle tax in the occupied France in 1942. Revenues printed on cardboard replaced brass plates, that were banned by the German occupation authorities.

Examples of appropriate philatelic items

- ▼ Postage stamps used for prepayment of postage
- ▼ Postal stationery produced and issued in its entirety by the post or printed to private order
- ▼ Ordinary postmark can be used due to text, illustration, the specific meaning of the origin of the place name or the reason why a place exists
- ▼ In order to prevent unauthorized use of postage stamps, UPU authorized the use of perforated initials (perfins) in 1906
- ▼ Meter marks are a kind of intermediary between postage stamps and postmarks, using them requires a contract with the post
- ▼ Postal privilege (e.g. reduced or free postage) can exist as a result of the position, condition or status of either sender or receiver of a mailed item (e.g. military, government or other official mail)

Ranges of philatelic material

Most FIP competitive classes restrict to a few types, limited time or regional range of philatelic material...

... however, in thematic exhibits as many **different types** of postal-philatelic material as possible should be presented from all time periods and regions.

- ▼ **Philatelic range** (different types and postal services)
- ▼ **Time range** (pre-stamp, classical period, present day)
- ▼ **Regional range** (different postage stamp issuing entities, both past and present)

Philatelic range

- ▼ As many different types of postal-philatelic items should be presented and used in a **balanced** way
- ▼ Philatelically more **important** types of items are preferred to items with less philatelic importance

A thematic exhibit is balanced according to material, when no single type of philatelic item clearly outnumbers other types of philatelic items.

- ▼ When an exhibit nevertheless contains a lot items of a particular type, an exhibitor should always seek for different **subtypes**, for example, different kinds of proofs from different stages of production, rather than only die proofs

Classification of appropriate material

1. Pre-production items intended for an issue or produced in the preparation for an issue
2. Postal franking items
3. Unplanned production errors of postal franking items
4. Planned varieties of postal franking items
5. Modifications of postal franking items
6. Postal cancellations
7. Postal items demonstrating rates, routes, means of transporting mail and/or postal markings
8. Stamps, cancellations, special forms or marks indicating either sender's or receiver's postal privilege
9. Maximum cards
10. Revenue stamps postally used or having postage validity

Postal services

Postal services provided by

- ▼ an official **postal authority**
- ▼ or **private post**, as authorized or tolerated by an official postal authority

Postal services

- ▼ can be initiated by private post in **total absence** of official postal authority
- ▼ **complement** the postal services provided by official postal authority
- ▼ or directly **compete against** the official postal services, whenever such activity is made legally possible, for example, due to a loophole in postal legislation



Local carrier stamp of the Concord Bicycle Co. in operation 1892-1896. Less than twelve stamps recorded.

Examples of postal services

- ▼ air mail (including balloon mail and pigeon mail)
- ▼ railway mail
- ▼ maritime mail
- ▼ catapult mail
- ▼ rocket mail
- ▼ bicycle mail
- ▼ motorcycle mail
- ▼ pneumatic mail
- ▼ electronic mail
- ▼ postal telegraphic services
- ▼ postage free official mail
- ▼ military field post (including airgraphs and V-mail)
- ▼ prisoner-of-war (POW) mail
- ▼ concentration camp mail
- ▼ packet and parcel post
- ▼ postal payment (postal giro transfer) services

The diversity of postal services, under different postal administrations, time periods and regions is overwhelming.

By 1916 pneumatic mail beyond the limits of Paris was delivered by special messengers on bicycles. The service worked inside Paris by the pneumatic post network and thence outwards to the suburbs by messengers on bicycles.

*“Le service des correspondances pneumatiques de Paris est étendu à l'aide de **facteurs cyclistes speciaux**.”*



Pneumatic post letter-card, type Sower, 30c violet issued in 1916. Used card with a 10c adhesive due to tax increase to 40c (up to 7gr) in January 1st 1917. Posted at Place de la Bourse, addressed to Enghien-les-Bains in the department of Seine-et-Oise. Manuscript 'hors limites' refers to the destination outside the pneumatic post network.

Time range

- ▼ If possible, thematic exhibit should contain postal material from the pre-stamp period, through the classic philatelic period, to the present day

For some themes, such as 'birds' and 'kings & queens', a lot of classic period material is available. Exhibits dealing with such themes have the possibility to achieve high philatelic level

- ▼ Inclusion of pre-philatelic material cannot be expected in every thematic exhibit.

Regional range

- ▼ If possible, thematic exhibit should contain postal-philatelic material from many regions and postage stamp issuing entities, both past and present

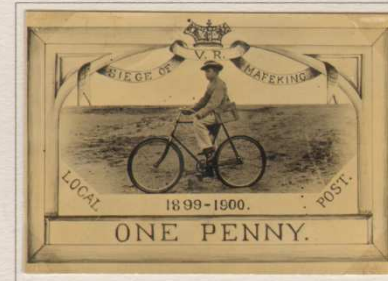
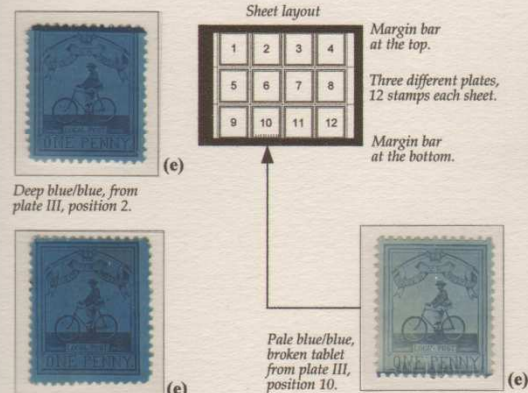
... however, issues having thematic information whose contents bear a **direct relation** to the issuing region from a political, historical, cultural or economic point of view have preference over speculative issues

IV.2 Adapting the unique characteristics of bicycles

... for setting up highly mobile bicycle troops... acting as messengers and forming reconnaissance units

In war military cyclists are commonly used as **messengers**. During the Second Boer War in 1899-1900, cadet corps, nicknamed *Boy Scouts*, carried messages within the besieged **Mafeking**. The revenue from selling the stamps was used for the purchase of bicycles and running expenses.

Cadet Sgt Major Warner Goodyear, aged only 12, was the leader of the cadet cyclists with a fine sense of duty. The essay and stamps depict him with his bicycle.



The first unadopted photographic essay of the 1d issue in horizontal format, Mafeking 1900. The initials WAH in the frame are by Dr. W. A. Hayes, who prepared the master die. His initials W and H also appear in the ornamentation of the final die in vertical format.



1d pale blue/blue vertical pair, margin bar below, with a 3d Baden-Powell small format pale blue/blue, with C.G.H. handstamps, May 17th 1900.

Deep blue/blue, from plate II, position 5.



Deep blue/blue, from plate I, position 10.

The relief of Mafeking, radio telegraph.



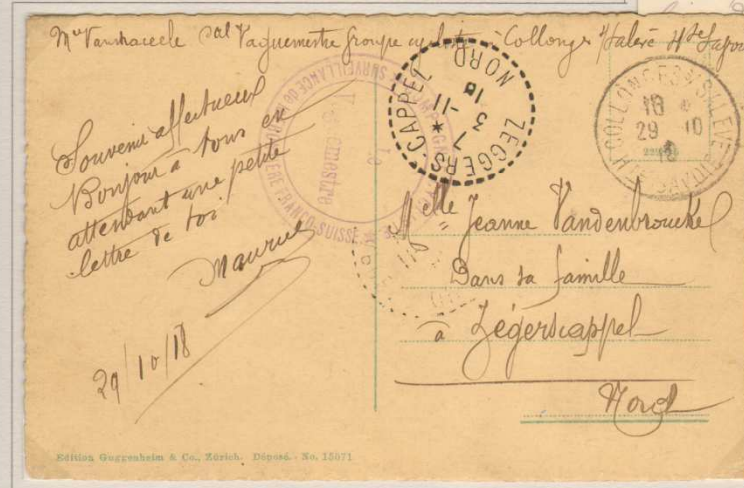
As messengers cyclists played a major communication role. In World War I, where radio telegraph connections did not exist, military cyclists **operated from central radio locations** to deliver strategic information and orders.

By taking advantage of their mobility, **bicycle patrols** were able to carry out tactical **reconnaissance** of enemy forces, using radio and messengers on bicycles to keep in touch with the main forces.



Austro-Hungarian WWI fieldpost card with a linear "Radfahrerrelaistation" (cyclist relay station) military handstamp, a date stamp of the fieldpost office nr. 613, and a censorship handstamp of the "Militär-Überprüfungs Kommission" in Feldkirch. Postage due in Switzerland, required affixing a 10c stamp.

In districts with good roads, and in favorable weather, bicycle patrols can get around **rapidly**. At night, bicycle patrols are excellent because they **make little noise**.



French World War I fieldpost card with a violet handstamp of the Cyclist Company surveying the Swiss border. Sent from Collonges at the Swiss border to Zeggens-Cappel in Northern France, in October 1918.

The most important concept in thematic philately:

Thematic qualification

SREV of Thematic Philately Articles 3.1 & 3.3

- ▼ 3.1 APPROPRIATE PHILATELIC MATERIAL
- ▼ 3.1.2 Each item must be **connected** to the chosen theme and present its thematic information in the clearest and most effective way.
- ▼ 3.3 The **connection** between the philatelic material and the theme must be clearly demonstrated, when it is not obvious.

*The connection is thematic in nature, not philatelic.
Only thematic information in philatelic items can
be used to define connection with the theme.*

The most important concept in thematic philately:

Treatment of a thematic exhibit

- ▼ **Title** (and optional subtitle) defines the scope and may narrow down the theme to selected points of view.
- ▼ **Plan** defines the structure of the exhibit and covers all major aspects relevant to the selected points of view.
- ▼ **Development** is an elaboration of the plan in depth, aiming to achieve an arrangement of the material fully compliant with the plan.

The most important concept in thematic philately:

Deriving thematic information

Thematic information is derived **directly** from ...

- ▼ the purpose of issue
- ▼ the use of issue
- ▼ the primary and any secondary design of an item
- ▼ the material on which an item is printed
- ▼ the functions of the postal service having thematic significance.

... or **indirectly** as a result of deeper analysis.

This enables the use of items that, at first glance, do not show any obvious connection with the theme. When the connection is not obvious, it need to be described using thematic text.

The most important concept in thematic philately:

Thematic information can be found in

- ▼ text and illustration of margins, gutters and tabs of stamp sheets
- ▼ text and illustrations of postal stationeries
- ▼ covers and interleaving of stamp booklets
- ▼ margins of stamp booklet sheets
- ▼ graphic style of text
- ▼ art style of illustration
- ▼ design of watermark
- ▼ different printing methods
- ▼ printing materials

Postal stationery card issued in Württemberg in 1897, printed to private order. Type Large 5, value 5 Pf. green.



The most important concept in thematic philately:

The origin of thematic information in philatelic items

Thematic information must be

- ▼ initiated by
 - ▼ introduced or added by
 - ▼ or approved by
- a **postal service**, that can be
- ▼ governmental
 - ▼ local (regional)
 - ▼ or private postal agency

Any private additions or modifications, which are not postally authorized, made to the item after it has been sold by the postal service, do not fulfil this requirement.

Examples of thematic information in philatelic items

- ▼ Commemorative stamp or overprint
- ▼ Postage stamp issued to follow changes in political or economical situations
- ▼ Special delivery stamp issued and used for payment of surcharge for an accelerated delivery service
- ▼ Balloons, named in memory of famous individuals, carrying mail from Paris during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871
- ▼ Illustration and paper of the Mulready postal stationeries
- ▼ The first definitive stamp of Latvia printed on back of German topographic war maps of Western Russia

Winged
messengers

Winged
messengers

Two
camels
ready
loaded

Two Chinese
with ponytails
dealing opium

Britannia
figure

William Penn
negotiating
with American
Indians

Women and
children under
palm trees

Two
elephants
ready for
loading

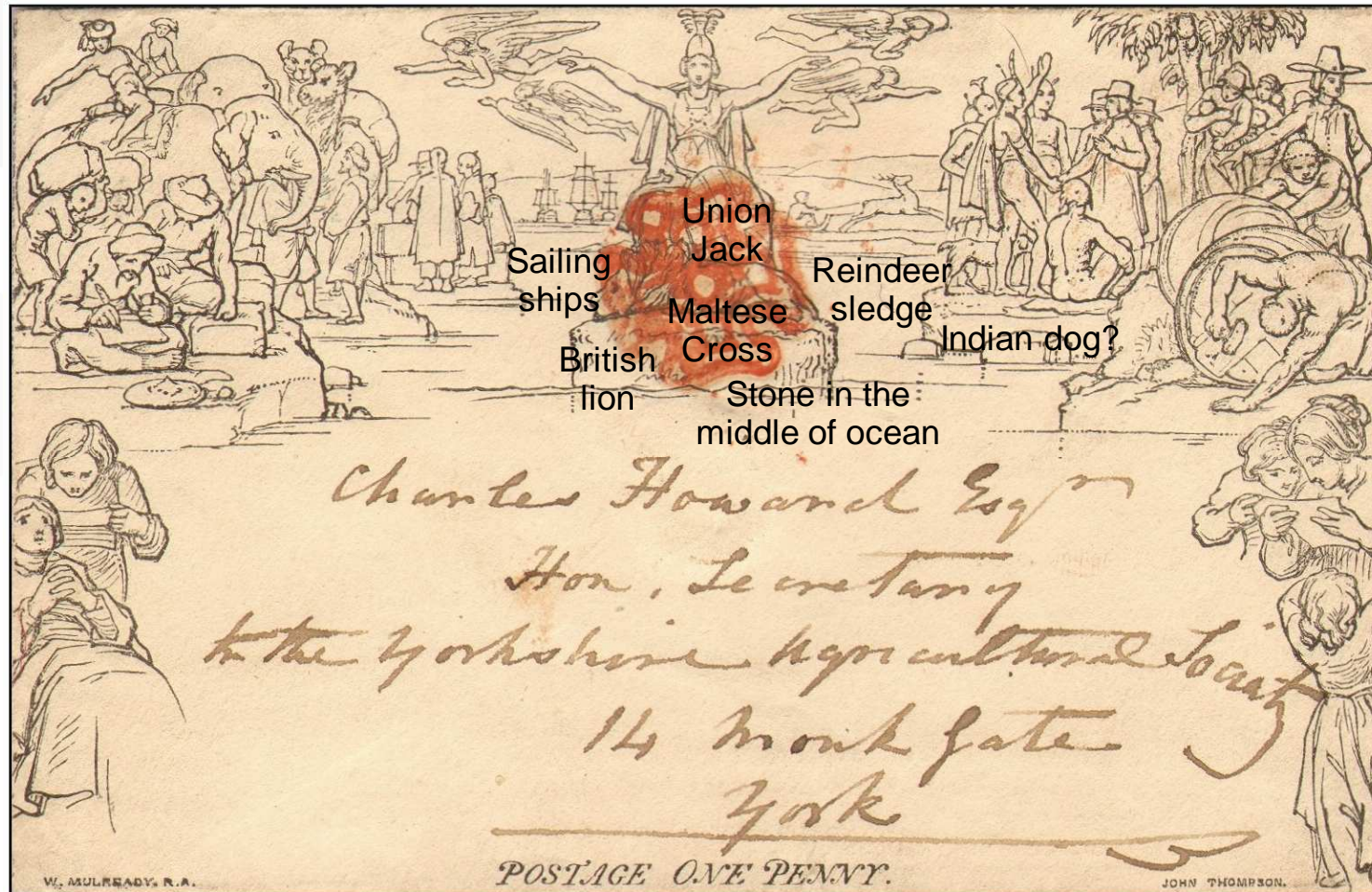
Sitting
Turkish or
Persian
writing a
letter

Daughter
reading bad
news for
elderly

Colonist with
quaker's hat
overseeing
closing of
barrels

Barrels
containing
rum, sugar,
coffee, spices
or dried fish?

Mother reading
good news for
her children



William Mulready,
designer

Postage value,
written in cursive

John Thompson,
engraver

Any interesting thematic information here?



The best-known type of silk is obtained from the cocoons of the larvae of the mulberry silkworm. Paper with silk threads has been used as a security measure against counterfeiting.



Back side of one penny black Mulready stationery envelope, stereo A 165. The Mulready stationeries were printed on Dickinson security paper. Three parallel silk threads are clearly visible.

Examples of inappropriate material

- ▼ forgeries and fakes intended to harm philately and philatelists
- ▼ illegal, fantasy or bogus issues in the name of postal territories
- ▼ facsimiles and unofficial reprints made for collecting purposes
- ▼ printer's waste, considered to be stolen property
- ▼ items produced after production process and intended for presentation purposes
- ▼ picture postcards, unless they are postal stationeries or maximum cards
- ▼ privately printed stationery or private additional prints on postal stationery
- ▼ privately printed decorations on envelopes or cards

Border-line material

There exist many philatelic items, which follow the definition of appropriate vs. inappropriate material only to a certain extent

- ▼ Such items having both **postal and non-postal** aspects are called border-line material
- ▼ According to SREV use of border-line material is accepted when “no other material is available to describe a specific thematic detail.”

It is often the non-postal aspects of philatelic items, such as privately applied advertisements, from which thematic information is drawn, that attract thematic philatelists

Examples of border-line material

- ▼ postal stationeries with privately printed advertisements (French: *repiquages*), such as Mulready advertising stationeries
- ▼ caricatures of Mulready postal stationeries as postally used
- ▼ French advertising letter cards of the late 1880's-1890's sold at reduced rate by tobacconists with an approval by the Ministry of Post
- ▼ Italian privately printed postal advertising covers of the early 1920's with adhesive stamps, overprinted with BLP, issued by a royal decree
- ▼ encased stamps used as emergency currency
- ▼ revenue stamps used for fiscal purposes
- ▼ illustrated patriotic covers as postally used



Small bicycle shops bought in components from larger manufacturers and established warehouses to supply local customers. In the early 1900s, Brown Brothers were one of the largest wholesalers in the UK. They had a ready supply of spare cycle parts available.

Souvenir card of the official Coronation Aerial Post 1911 of the United Kingdom, sold franked with an adhesive ½d. stamp. Cancelled on the first day, the first flight from London to Windsor on September 9th 1911.



Philatelically unimportant material

Some examples of **philatelic** items that should be avoided

- ▼ speculative issues exploiting the “fashion trends”, dubious items having low postal connotation
- ▼ imperforate parallel issues as opposed to perforated normal issues
- ▼ philatelic souvenirs created to attract collectors
- ▼ items cancelled to order (CTOs)
- ▼ overfranked postage due to philatelic reasons
- ▼ cancellations on stampless covers unless due to postal privilege
- ▼ franking meters with favour values (e.g. 000)

Philatelically important material

The preference should be given to important items

- ▼ types of postal-philatelic items, that are the cornerstones of philately (stamps, postal stationeries, cancellations)
- ▼ pre-production items that demonstrate the most important steps of the production process
- ▼ unusual varieties, production errors and modifications having not only philatelic, but also thematic significance
- ▼ genuinely carried mail items with appropriate postal markings demonstrating a specific form of transmitting mail, that has significance to the theme
- ▼ other items having unusual postal-philatelic characteristics

“Top exhibitors refer to items, when they speak of importance”.

2nd International Philatelic Summit

The strike of the American Railway Union paralyzed the San Francisco Bay region in July 1894. The Fresno bicycle shop owner Arthur C. Banta organized bicycle messengers to deliver mail to San Francisco to Fresno and back, a distance of 210 miles. The course was divided into 8 relays, cyclists met at the relay points and exchanged mail. The service was daily and in both directions, and lasted only from 6th until 18th of July.



Manuscript registry number 17 on a commercial cover mailed from Fresno to San Francisco on 8th of July, the first day when the local carrier stamps of the bicycle mail service were taken into use. Letter was carried by bicycle messengers from Fresno to Menlo Park, where it entered the post office on July 11th. From there it was carried to the final destination by the regular post. About 160 letters with registry numbers were carried by the service. A total of about 20 covers with registry numbers still exist, this is one of the first commercial covers and the first known to bear the return mail handstamp.

Philatelic quality

According to GREV 30% of the points are allotted for the quality of the material exhibited (aka “material points”)

Philatelic quality consists of two interrelated components

- ▼ condition
- ▼ rarity

SREV of Thematic Philately Article 4.3

- ▼ The criteria of “Condition and Rarity” require an evaluation of the quality of displayed material considering the **standard** of the material that **exists** for the chosen subject, the rarity and the **relative difficulty of acquisition** of the selected material.

Condition is based on usual criteria

Items unsuitable for collecting purposes because of their state must be avoided, such as

- ▼ incomplete stamp booklets
- ▼ incomplete postal stationeries
- ▼ items with creases, missing corners or punches
- ▼ incomplete or faded postmarks, that do not allow their design to be clearly visible
- ▼ cancelled stamps, that do not allow their design to be clearly visible

*Evaluation of the condition needs to take into account the availability and scarcity of the items. To score high points in condition, the unusual and rare items should be of the **highest available** condition*

Rarity is based on objective criteria

Rarity is based on

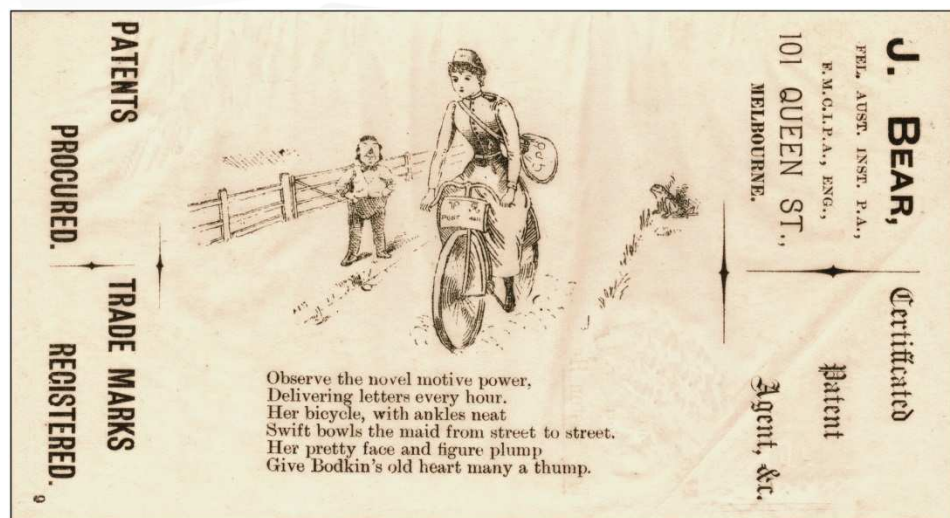
- ▼ recognized absolute scarcity and
- ▼ difficulty of acquisition

Scarcity is objectively defined by stating either

- ▼ the absolute maximum number of produced items or
- ▼ the currently recorded number of existing items

Difficulty of acquisition refers to the time needed to find such an item (rather than the amount of money to buy one)

High demand for certain attractive “key items” of the theme is like to increase the price beyond the level that can be explained with scarcity alone



Postal stationery envelope of Victoria, printed to private order, value 1p orange, issued in 1890.

A booklet containing advertisements had to be inserted in the envelope with a crescent cut-out. The pages were folded so that when the stamp was impressed on the envelope, the crescent allowed part of the stamp to be impressed on the pages.

These items were sold by the advertiser to the public at half face value. Only very few envelopes appear as genuinely used.

Philatelic knowledge can be demonstrated by

- ▼ displaying philatelically important items
- ▼ displaying outstanding or seldom seen philatelic items for the theme
- ▼ accurate and concise descriptions of philatelic items, where needed
- ▼ presenting well documented philatelic studies
- ▼ expertizing any doubtful items
- ▼ avoiding philatelic mistakes

Paper accordion fold of the United States 10c special delivery stamp issued in 1917. The 5th edition from plate number 8508.



Philatelic text is used for

- ▼ defining outstanding philatelic items
- ▼ rarity statements of scarce items
- ▼ describing specific philatelic characteristics of an item, when they are not self-explanatory or easily recognizable
- ▼ defining the postal-philatelic status of border-line items
- ▼ presenting philatelic studies
- ▼ documenting special research

Amount of philatelic text is an indirect but effective way to pay attention to philatelically important items: more philatelic text means higher philatelic importance...

... however, philatelic text should be concise, accurate and use only philatelic terminology

Philatelic research

Personal philatelic research and study are demonstrated by the presence of

- ▶ important philatelic items generally considered the “key pieces” for the theme
- ▶ material which has not yet been researched for the theme, or where there has been very little research
- ▶ material from an uncommon area of philately
- ▶ philatelic studies of selected items based on serious philatelic foundation



Pale blue/blue, position 10 from the bottom margin of plate III of the 1p local issue of Mafeking with the broken value tablet variety.

Three types of philatelic studies

- ▼ Type 1: Several pages present a well-documented, philatelic **in-depth analysis** of a thematically important aspect by the detailed study of the **philatelically important varieties**
- ▼ Type 2: One page presents a detailed philatelic study of the **most significant varieties** for an **identical** thematic details or important philatelic items for the theme
- ▼ Type 3: Two or more items of an **identical** thematic detail are shown to underline philatelic knowledge of the items

In thematic philately the aim is not completeness, but the presence of the most significant philatelic varieties

IV.2 Adapting the unique characteristics of bicycles

... for contributing to postal services world-wide... by securing faster and more reliable delivery



Imperforate pair of specimen stamps of Panama (1929) with security holes.

In the early 1900's **express mail** was delivered by postmen on bicycles. A special delivery stamp, when affixed to a stamped letter or an article of mailable matter, **secured immediate delivery** upon arrival at the destination post office.

The Panaman and Cuban special delivery stamps were inscribed "Entrega Inmediata," Spanish for "deliver immediately."



1st edition (1899): *Entrega Inmediata* by error.



2nd edition (1902): *Entrega Inmediata*.



Specimen overprint with a punched security hole (1910).



Reversed center, only 25 printed.



Small die proof on white wove paper, from a Roosevelt presentation album with special prints of all stamps of the United States printed until 1903. 85 albums were created consisting of 309 proofs and were given to dignitaries.

In the United States the special mail delivery service was **available at all post offices**. The fees for delivery, collecting by sales of the stamps, were credited to the post offices delivering the letters. The delivery messengers were paid from the funds thus accumulated.



Specimen, 1st edition (1902): perf. 12.



1st edition (1902):
Horizontal perforation shift.



1st edition, reissue plate #5244 (1909): perf. 12, with the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing margin print left to the plate number. Printed on double line watermarked paper with the USPS watermark.

Speed and reliability were the main reasons for adopting bicycles. The bicycle provided new technology for delivering mail. This design remained on all special delivery stamps in the United States for nearly twenty years.



2nd edition (1911): perf. 12.
With plate #5514.



3rd edition (1914): perf. 10. (e)



4th edition (1916): perf. 10.



5th edition (1917) from plate #8508.
Paper accordion fold.



Special delivery cover from Columbus to Canton, Ohio, 10c express delivery postage required in addition to the regular postage. The cover bears the "Fee claimed by office of first address" handstamp, indicating that the letter was taken out by the special delivery messenger and he "claimed" the fee. The manuscript delivery record number 914 applied at the receiving post office, where the letter was entered in the messenger's delivery book and was delivered.

Using philatelic material

Most important philatelic considerations:

- ▼ Material selected for display should be in full compliance with the rules of **postal philately**
- ▼ Postal-philatelic **status** of border-line items should be defined
- ▼ Suitability of postal documents considers their **philatelic appropriateness**, such as correct postage
- ▼ Presence and balanced use of as many **different types** of philatelic items as possible
- ▼ Items of real **philatelic significance** should be displayed rather than extravagant pieces intended for collecting purposes
- ▼ **High quality** philatelic items are preferred to items with quality issues

Conclusion

- ▼ A thematic exhibit uses the **widest range** of appropriate postal-philatelic material
- ▼ To become a successful thematic exhibitor requires not only deep **thematic knowledge** of the chosen theme, but also wide **philatelic knowledge** in general and of the material connected to the theme in particular
- ▼ Arguably thematic philately is philately in its widest and most **challenging** form...
- ▼ ... which is one reason why thematic philately continues to appeal to so many philatelists