

# Fundamentals of Philatelic Judging Part I: Treatment & Importance

APS Committee on Accreditation of National  
Exhibitions and Judges



# Workshop Objectives

Through Lecture, Discussion and Practice at the frames, at the end of the workshop each participant should be able to answer these questions about exhibits:

- What is Treatment?
- What is Philatelic Importance?

# Aspects of Treatment

From the *APS Manual of Philatelic Judging*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition:

- Title Page/Introductory Statement
- Coverage
- Development
- Completeness
- Balance

# Title Page/Introductory Statement

- The title reflects exhibit content: “shows the way”
- Defines exactly what exhibit will be: PURPOSE
- Defines SCOPE of exhibit
- May describe what will or will not be included and why: SCOPE LIMITS
- Describes organization and development via a plan:
  - Narrative
  - Outline
  - Bullet points

# Coverage

- Based upon stated scope: all relevant aspects of the subject should be covered
- Coverage should not exclude parts of the story solely for reasons of rarity or arbitrary constraints

# Development

- Logical development of the story: beginning, middle and end
- Representative showing of all important sections of the subject
- Development should have enough depth to give subject richness in the telling of the story
- Placement of items relates to the portion of the story being told
- Lesser important aspects of the story should not be overdeveloped

# Completeness

- All necessary philatelic and other material that are required to accomplish the stated purpose and scope of the exhibit should be present
- There are no redundant or irrelevant items

# Balance

- Each section of the story or subject development should be balanced based upon the importance of each section in relation to the others . . .
- . . . taking into account the amount of existing material available
- Balance does not equate to numerically equal

# Judge's Checklist for Treatment

- A clear and concise title
- A clear and concise statement of purpose and scope
- A logical plan
- Plan sections as headers and sub-headers as appropriate at top of exhibit pages to aid navigation
- A story with a beginning, a middle and an end
- Adequate and complete coverage of the subject (story and philately)
- Balanced sections

# Aspects of Importance

From the *APS Manual of Philatelic Judging*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition:

- Importance on a World Philatelic Level
- Importance on a Regional or Country Level
- Importance on the Exhibit Level

For Discussion:

What synonyms come to mind when thinking of “importance”?

# Importance

## on a World Philatelic

### Level

- Importance of exhibit subject in relation to the development of the overall philatelic aspects of the subject on a global basis
- Globally philatelic important subjects not adequately treated will NOT do well in Treatment

Note: This is VERY important because potential does not equate to actual performance.

# Importance

## on a Regional or Country Level

- Importance of exhibit subject in relation to the development of philately\* within the selected area as acknowledged by collectors of that selected area
  - \*post or revenue systems, stamp production, etc.
- A portion of a region or country is not as important as the whole
- Modern or obscure topics are not unimportant
- Small countries do not equate to unimportant subjects

# Importance

## on the Exhibit Level

- The exhibit is the definitive expression of the subject
- The exhibit reflects considerable effort to assemble
- The exhibit cannot be duplicated easily

# Judge's Checklist for Importance

- The relationship of the subject chosen to global, regional or national developments in philately
- Challenge or effort should be recognized
- Exhibit's standing within the subject area

# Conclusions

- What is Treatment?
- What is Philatelic Importance?

Questions and Discussion

Adjourn to the Frames