

let's talk EXHIBITING

David Piercey, FRPSC

THE NEW MANUAL OF PHILATELIC JUDGING AND EXHIBITING

Big changes are now afoot in the world of judging and exhibiting in North America which show the positive growth in this aspect of our hobby.

August 2016 saw the board of the American Philatelic Society (APS) adopt a new, seventh, edition of the Manual of Philatelic Judging, now more inclusively called the Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting (MPJE7), after about two years of revision and editing of the old Manual.

I was fortunate to participate throughout the new Manual's genesis, providing input and reaction as an ex officio member of the committee overseeing this work, and was also able, as a RPSC board member, to later propose that we in the RPSC adopt the new Manual as our standard too in Canadian exhibiting. Our board has, at Royal 2016 Royale in Kitchener-Waterloo this past August, also unanimously decided to similarly adopt the new Manual for our Canadian exhibiting and judging practices.



Intended then for implementation as of January 1, 2017 in both countries, the new Manual makes some significant improvements to our practices. On the judging side, exhibits will soon be judged on a formal point system in each of the seven areas of Treatment, Importance, Philatelic/Subject Knowledge, Personal Study and Research, Rarity, Condition, and Presentation, and a total point score will be determined from the sum of the points in each area. Having served on the jury at APS StampShow 2016 in Portland OR where we practiced with using the point system within our deliberations, I can attest the point system should also increase transparency and accountability from both the exhibiting and judging perspectives.

Formerly, the point system had only provided weighting factors in the determination of the awarded medal level, now the same weighting factors will become point scores in the new system, and awarded points will be provided to exhibitors on the Exhibitor Feedback Form (what the Americans call the "Universal Exhibit Evaluation Form"). This should more readily assist exhibitors with a determination of their exhibits' relative strengths or weaknesses in each area. The illustration accompanying this column shows the revised RPSC Exhibitor Feedback Form which we will begin using at all our national shows, starting in 2017, and shows how the scoring will be determined.

On the administrative side, we will also implement, beginning January 2017, an 8-medal award standard, adding Large Gold, Large Vermeil and Large Silver to the existing five medals

Exhibitor Feedback Form		
Name:	_____	
Exhibit Title:	_____	Frame No. _____
For the Jury (First Responder):	_____	Chief Judge: _____
Email:	_____	_____
<small>(primary contact/first responder)</small>		
Treatment		Awarded
<i>Title/Title Page:</i> Appropriate title, scope, limitations		_____
<i>Treatment:</i> Plan, development, clarity, balance, relevance, comprehensiveness, fit	(maximum 20 points)	_____
<i>Importance:</i> Subject and philatelic importance	(maximum 10 points)	_____
<hr/>		
Knowledge, Study, and Research		
<i>Philatelic and Subject Knowledge:</i> Selection and application, correctness, brevity	(maximum 25 points)	_____
<i>Personal Study and Research:</i> Analysis, evaluation, original research	(maximum 10 points)	_____
<small>(For thematic exhibits, thematic and philatelic knowledge, study and research have equal weight. The two areas total the maximum of 35 points.)</small>		
<hr/>		
Rarity and Condition		
<i>Rarity:</i> Challenge, difficulty of acquisition, presence of rare material	(maximum 20 points)	_____
<i>Condition:</i> Physical condition and appearance in light of quality obtainable	(maximum 10 points)	_____
<hr/>		
Presentation		
<i>Presentation:</i> General layout, neatness, freedom from distractions	(maximum 5 points)	_____
<hr/>		
Other Comments or Recommendations (see reverse as necessary)		
		Total points: _____
		Medal: _____
<hr/>		
Special Awards		
Large Gold 90-100, Gold 85-89, Large Vermeil 80-84, Vermeil 75-79, Large Silver 70-74, Silver 65-69, Silver/Bronze 60-64, Bronze 55-59, Certificate *17		
<small>Revised January 2017</small>		

(of Gold, Vermeil, Silver, Silver-Bronze, and Bronze) which aligns us more closely to the standard that already exists in much the rest of the philatelic world. The eight medal levels are determined by the points each exhibit receives, and will be awarded in these ranges: Large Gold 90-100 points; Gold 85-89; Large Vermeil 80-84; Vermeil 75-79; Large Silver 70-74; Silver 65-69; Silver-Bronze 60-64; Bronze 55-59; and otherwise a Certificate for any exhibit that earns fewer than 55 points.

On the exhibiting side, the new Manual continues to refine exhibit classes. Classes and Divisions for multi-frame exhibits collapse instead into one all-encompassing General Class, and which will also include Picture Post Cards, plus a new category called "Experimental Exhibits" (a bit like the old "Special Studies" and which allows for blending of a larger variety of elements from other types of exhibits), and an additional thematic category called "Topical Exhibits" for those who collect solely by stamp images. Otherwise, General Class continues with all the usual and expected sorts of exhibit types, and Single-Frame and Youth

continue as separate Classes. All exhibits in the General Class will now be eligible for consideration for Grand and Reserve Grand awards, another significant change from previous practices.

The new Manual, to its credit, now includes a large section on guidelines for exhibitors, entitling a full chapter (Chapter 3) as "Principles and Evaluation Criteria for Philatelic Exhibiting" as well as including an extensive set of appendices on "Responsibilities of the Exhibitor" and "Definitions and Guidelines for Exhibit Development". Indeed, though as exhibitors we may be predisposed to think these are explicit rules for exhibiting our material, the Manual has gone to great pains to indicate these sections should be thought of more as guidelines and informed suggestions from experienced exhibitors rather than as explicit rules for exhibit preparation.

My general impression is that the new Manual is more democratic and egalitarian, and will allow greater scope for exhibitors to prepare what still remain essentially philatelic exhibits. The new title for the Manual reflects that it is as much intended for exhibitors as for judges, and should make the judging

process and exhibit expectations even more clear to all levels of exhibitors.

How this will all shake down can only be determined as we move through implementation and become comfortable with the guidelines. It is up to us as exhibitors experimenting with different ways to showcase our material that we develop our guidelines and expectations and move to a common understanding of best practices in exhibit preparation. And it is up to us who also may be judges that we similarly learn to apply these practices to form an understanding of what makes a good exhibit, to determine award levels, and to provide fair and constructive feedback to all exhibitors.

The Manual is readily available on the APS website (as a pdf file), <http://www.stamps.org/userfiles/file/judges/JudgingManual2016.pdf>, and is well worth a careful inspection. As well, thanks to the initiative of some of our RPSC judges, we have already begun to introduce the new Manual in further detail through presentations at a recent PSSC (Toronto) meeting, at Royal 2016 Royale (Kitchener-Waterloo), and at Novapex (Halifax) and CANPEX (London) this year. ☒

ADVANTAGES OF CLUBS BEING CHAPTER MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA

- Access to RPSC insurance plan
- Opportunity to order sales circuit books
- Chapter copy of *The Canadian Philatelist* (TCP)
- Access to network of certified exhibit judges
- Access to inventory of slide programmes
- Publication of club's meeting and contact details in *TCP*
- Networking opportunities with neighbouring chapters
- Link to RPSC website, with website development support
- Eligibility to hold a national exhibition and convention
- Access to all member services of our national office

AVANTAGES D'UN CLUB D'ÊTRE MEMBRE CHAPÎTRE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA

- Accès au régime d'assurance de La SRPC
- Possibilité de commander les carnets du circuit des ventes
- Un exemplaire du *Philatéliste canadien* (LPC)
- Accès à un réseau de juges d'exposition agréés
- Accès à un répertoire de programmes de diapositives
- Publication dans LPC des réunions des clubs et des coordonnées des personnes à contacter
- Possibilité de réseautage avec les sections régionales voisines
- Lien vers le site Web de La SRPC et aide au développement de site Web
- Admissibilité à la tenue de l'exposition-congrès national
- Accès à tous les services aux membres offerts par le Bureau national