

CHINA 2024 IREX

ANNEX I

Guidelines for Judging First Day Cover Exhibits

Article 1: Competitive Exhibitions

First Day Cover exhibits are displayed as an experimental class in CHINA 2024 Asian International Stamp Exhibition. The primary purpose is to introduce a popular form of philately into CHINA 2024, and to encourage more collectors to participate in philately and philatelic exhibition activities.

Article 2: Definitions

2.1 A First Day Cover is defined as

- * a cover to which stamps have been affixed and postmarked by the issuing Postal Authority on the date of issue of the stamps;
- * a postal stationery item postmarked by the issuing Postal Authority on its date of issue;
- * a souvenir cover to which stamps have been affixed and postmarked on the date of issue of the stamps and the first day of the souvenir event, both should be issued by Postal Authority.
- * a cover with stamps affixed and postmarked on the first day of use of the postmark date stamp.

2.2 Exhibits may also include material used by the postal authority in the design or development of any of the above.

Article 3: Principles of Exhibit Composition

3.1 First Day Cover exhibits must be composed solely of First Day Cover philatelic materials.

3.2 The cancellation marks on First Day Cover materials must be valid postal date stamps, such as regular date stamps, pictorial date stamps, commemorative postmarks, etc.

3.3 First Day Cover exhibits may include postal authority's design drafts for creating First Day Cover carriers, proofs and samples produced during the printing process; they may also use design drafts for commemorative postmarks and stamp samples issued on the first day of stamp issue as materials.

3.4 Postal items made in violation of postal regulations, and those cannot be directly used for postal service, could not be used in the First Day Cover exhibits.

Article 4: Methods of Organizing Exhibits

4.1 By country or region;

4.2 By a specific range or a specific period;

4.3 Study and research;

4.4 Thematic or topical;

4.5 Any method of organization deemed appropriate by the exhibitor.

Article 5: Frames of the Exhibit

Each exhibit should consist of 5 standard frames, it could be expanded to 8 frames if the exhibits have

received a Large Vermeil medal or higher at FIAP exhibition.

Article 6: Evaluation of the Exhibit

6.1 Judging of Exhibits;

* Treatment (20) and Importance (10)	30
* Knowledge, Personal Study and Research	35
* Condition (10) and Rarity (20)	30
* Presentation	5
* Total	100

6.2 Treatment and Importance

Treatment refers to the clarity of the exhibit's theme, the defined scope of the topic, and the plan to develop around the theme. It should be developed logically, balanced, and narratively. The use of materials should be appropriate and complete within the theme's scope.

Importance is a comprehensive consideration of the philatelic value of the exhibit, the overall status of the chosen field as well as the difficulty of duplication in that field.

6.3 Knowledge, Personal Study and Research

Philatelic and related Knowledge, personal study and research is demonstrated by:

- * That the choice of items reflects knowledge of the chosen area
- * That items are well described
- * That the exhibit demonstrates a full and accurate understanding of the subject chosen
- * That existing literature within the area has been used

Personal studies and research are documented by:

- * It involves analysing and researching aspects such as the design, printing, issue, and usage of First Day Covers.
- * Exhibits should focus on the study of postmarks. The date in the postmark should be consistent with the first day issue by the postal authority, unless under the following circumstances, but all need to be justified:
 - a. pre-dated postal items used before the first day of stamp issue;
 - b. delayed issuance due to local policies or holidays;
 - c. non-arrival of stamps in the region on the first day of issue;
 - d. For stamps without a clear date of issue, the earliest use can be accepted.

Exhibitors are encouraged to display new research findings or particularly significant discoveries in their exhibits.

6.4 Condition and Rarity

- * All items should be in the best possible condition.
- * Stamps and their carriers should be intact and undamaged.
- * Postmarks should be clear and complete.
- * The relatively difficult-to-acquire and rare items are encouraged, and should be appropriately explained.

6.5 Presentation

The method of presentation should show the material to the best effect and in a balanced way both in the sheet, in the frame and throughout the whole exhibit.

The exhibit is evaluated on:

- * Good balance in the frames and the individual pages, with variations in the mounting between the pages
- * Good use of the page – with not too much white space on the pages
- * The write-up is clear, concise and relevant to the material chosen and to the subject of the exhibit
- * Sufficient write up – but not too much text
- * Illustrations are not too dominating and photocopies must be a minimum of 25% different in size from the original
- * Brightly coloured inks and coloured album pages should be avoided.

Article 7: The right to interpret these rules belongs to FIAP.