



RAILWAY PHILATELIC GROUP



Guidelines for Preparing Competition Entries

All members of the RPG may submit entries to any or all of the RPG Competitions (regardless of whether they attend the Annual Convention or not). RPG Competitions are open only to members. These guidelines are designed to help you prepare your Competition Entry in a way that is consistent with the Judging Criteria. In these guidelines, Competition Entries are simply referred to as '**displays**'.

Guidelines for Introductory Page

The choice of a suitable title and the preparation of a good plan or outline are key elements for any display. Together, they can help *you* to make sense of the rest of the display, help the *viewers* to understand and appreciate it, and make the judges more inclined to mark your display favourably.

The plan can also be used to give general information on the subject, which should not then be repeated on subsequent pages.

For several of the competitions, you can use the same basic structure for your Introductory page, whereas some competitions need something a little different.

a) Railway Postal History Competition - Introductory Page

For both of these competitions you can use a similar structure:

- Display Title (relevant to aspect of Postal History chosen)
- Purpose or Concept of the display
- Period covered
- General information about the chosen subject
- Development - a plan showing a logical sequence of implementation
- Personal investigation - what you have done

b) Railway Stamps Competition - Introductory Page

For both of these competitions you can again use a similar structure:

- Display Title
- Purpose or Concept of the display
- Period covered
- Printing: Methods, Designer, Engraver, Printer
- Paper: Type, Watermark, Perforation
- Development - a plan showing a logical sequence of implementation
- Personal investigation - what you have done

c) Railway Thematic Stamps Competition - Introductory Page

d) Open Postal Competition - Introductory Page

For both of these competitions you can once use a similar structure:

- Display Title
- Purpose or Concept of the display
- Development - a plan showing a logical sequence of implementation
- Personal investigation - what you have done

Guidelines for Railway Postal History Displays

A Postal History display can deal with any aspect of Railway Postal History, and you must first choose a topic and title for your display.

Your display will consist of **sixteen** A4 sheets (or equivalent), preferably mounted inside clear plastic envelopes. A plan or structure of your display (consistent with the display title) should be clearly laid out on the Introductory Sheet. The contents of the display itself should similarly be consistent with the title and plan on the introductory page. You can include any items relevant to your chosen topic, such as:

- Pre-adhesive postal service marks
- The classification and study of postal markings, postal obliterations or manuscript markings of TPOs, RSOs, Stations and Station Offices (whether applied by official or private services).
- The function of railway postal marks, their period of use, their place of use, their colour and state, their changes over a period, the hand-stamps and techniques used to apply the marks etc.
- All of postal marks, vignettes and labels relating to railway transport & offices
- The development of the railway postal services, national or international
- Postal rates
- Routes for transporting mails
- Railway mail in any form
- Postage due aspects of railway mail
- Railway Post documents
- Official and semi-official stamps, stamps issued especially for use on railways, mint or used, but preferably on cover (but a display based around a stamps rather than postmarks should be entered as a *Railway Stamp Competition* entry).
- Postal items connected with a particular means of railway transport which were not issued or applied by a postal service but which had official sanction
- Railway company postcards and cards used for conveying written messages through the post, but also illustrating railway scenes
- Documents showing evidence of having a railway postal connection
- Items relating to railway owned ships, aircraft or other transport which have a postal connection
- Leaflets, messages, newspapers cuttings or illustrations of a way of railway operation, or the event of interrupted railway post services etc
- Mail recovered from accidents
- A limited amount of general railway history - if needed

Your display should include original material (viz. stamps, envelopes, postmarks and other artefacts). Where necessary, your display may include images of maps, prints, decrees and similar material which have a direct relationship to the chosen subject.

Railway Postal History displays will be judged according the Railway Postal History Display criteria.

Guidelines for Railway Stamp Displays (Letter Stamps, Parcel Stamps, Newspaper Stamps)

You first need to choose a title for your display. Your display will consist of **sixteen** A4 sheets (or equivalent), preferably mounted inside clear plastic envelopes. A plan or structure of your display (consistent with the display title) should be clearly laid out on the Introductory Sheet. The display itself should be consistent with the title and plan.

A Railway Stamp display will usually be based on the production, collection, classification and cataloguing of Railway Stamps. Items from any aspect of railway philately which relate to these fields may be included. The display may be of a specialised nature, or take a general or overall view. Your display could include some or all of the following (or other related) items:

- Railway stamps: unused or used, single or multiples, and stamps on covers
- Varieties of all kinds: gum, perforation, paper and printing, and watermark
- Essays and proofs, whether of adopted or rejected designs
- Postal stationery showing the manner of availability and usage of stamps, or showing the physical form of paper or card, or demonstrating the postal service for which it was intended etc.
- Specialised items such as forgeries, postally used fiscal stamps, unused postal/fiscal stamps valid for postal and railway use, and private or Preserved Railway stamps etc.
- Limited background to stamp-issuing companies to provide a coherent overview of services and procedures

Your display should include original material (viz. stamps, envelopes, postmarks etc). Where necessary, your display may include maps and similar material which have a direct relationship to the chosen subject.

Railway Parcel Stamp displays will be judged according the Railway Stamp Display criteria.

Guidelines for Railway Thematic Displays

A thematic display may contain the following thematic elements:

- The development of the theme based on in depth knowledge of the chosen subject and of philatelic material strictly related to the theme
- A selection of items strictly related to the chosen theme for their philatelic content

You first need to choose a title/theme for your display. Your display will consist of **sixteen** A4 sheets (or equivalent), preferably mounted inside clear plastic envelopes. A plan or structure of your display (consistent with the display title) should be clearly laid out on the Introductory Sheet. The display itself should be consistent with the title and plan.

A Railway Thematic Display will usually be based on your own railway thematic collection. The display itself should develop your chosen theme, according to the plan outlined on the Introductory Sheet. The display should demonstrate a good knowledge of a theme, illustrating this with the chosen philatelic items. Your Railway Thematic Display may use all types of related and relevant railway philatelic material. Non-philatelic items are not allowed.

Your display should include original material (viz. stamps, envelopes, postmarks etc). Where necessary, your display may include maps and similar material which have a direct relationship to the chosen topic.

Railway Thematic displays will be judged according the Railway Thematic Display criteria.

Guidelines for Postal Competition Displays

Postal Displays are intended to be more informal, and will be judged according to a more relaxed set of Judging Criteria.

You must first choose a title for your display, which can be based on any railway philatelic topic covered anywhere within the *Railway Philately* journal or on the RPG web site (contact the Competition Organiser for guidance if required).

Your display will consist of **nine** A4 pages, preferably mounted inside clear plastic envelopes. A plan or structure of your display (consistent with the display title) should be clearly laid out on the Introductory Sheet. The display itself should be consistent with the title and plan.

Your display should tell a railway philatelic story. You may use items from any of the areas listed in the various guidelines above, but make sure that this results in a coherent story line.

You should not include original material in your display (viz. do not include any actual stamps, envelopes or postmarks etc). Instead, use scans, photocopies or other images. Where necessary, your display may include maps and similar material which have a direct relationship to the chosen subject.

Remember that your display should feel like a complete story. It also helps if you can make it look well laid out and attractive. Colour also helps!