

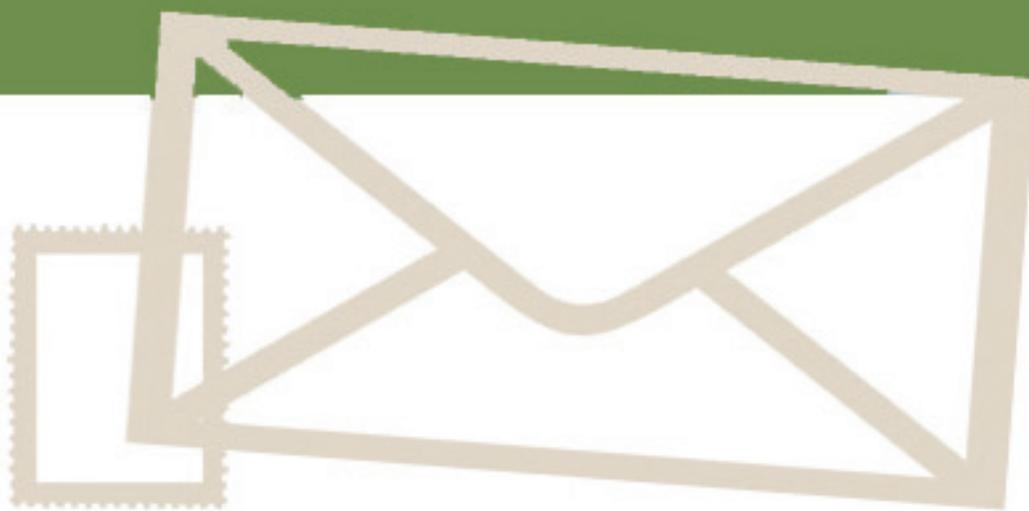
Judging Postal History Exhibits of the early Second Period (1875-1914)

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Eight years ago (2004), I was invited as a juror to a national philatelic exhibition in Denmark. There I had my first meeting with Henrik Mouritsen. Actually, I had “met” him before, but only through his innovative publishing about philatelic exhibiting. In the Danish philatelic press, I had read articles by Henrik, and it was already there clear that his ideas had the potential to change the paradigm in philatelic exhibiting. One of the exhibits competing in the national Championship class was Henrik’s, dealing with “Danish postal rates 1875-1906” and treated the way he so clearly had demonstrated in the published articles. The physical proof of someone who presented a new paradigm for excellence in philatelic exhibiting was in front of me. However, at that point, it was not yet time to change the paradigms: A traditional exhibit of first issues won. Anyway, the time for Henrik to change the paradigm came ...

- At IBRA 2009 (continental FEPA exhibition in Essen, Germany), Henrik Mouritsen was one of two “Grand Prix International” candidates. The other candidate was Joseph Hackmey with his Cape of Good Hope triangles exhibit (traditional philately). When Henrik won with his postal history exhibit, which had a perfectionated story telling concept about “Danish postal rates 1875-1906”, it was proven that a new paradigm in philatelic exhibiting can prevail. Since then, Henrik has “changed to a second gear” in his aims to challenge and develop paradigms.

- Two new exhibits has grown from his collecting of this period in Danish philately: In the traditional philately class, his exhibit “The bi-coloured stamps of Denmark 1875-1907” won Large Gold (95 points plus felicitations) at LONDON 2010 (international FIP exhibition in London). In the postal stationery class, his exhibit “The Classic Postal Stationery of Denmark 1865-1905” immediately reached 95 points on national level in Denmark.



Henrik was a speaker at the first International Philatelic Summit in Malmö, held in 2009, where he gave a presentation on the treatment and presentation of his postal history exhibit. When Henrik (again) was invited to be one of the speakers at the second summit in Malmö, I asked him if he could do a presentation dealing with all three of his exhibits. For Henrik, no challenge is too much, so he said “yes”: “I can do a presentation showing how a story telling concept of treatment can be reflected in the design of exhibits in the traditional, postal history, and postal stationery classes”. In addition, I can write a paper on “Judging Postal History Exhibits of the early Second Period”, intended for the new published series “Philatelic Summit Papers”. - “Fine”, I said, and here we are now!

The second summit is over and Henrik made a very good presentation. The first edition of this second published “Philatelic Summit Paper” was sold out, and this second edition is released after the summit. In this paper, Henrik combines his skills in “judging” and “exhibiting”. The main article is about judging postal history exhibits, and in the appendix Henrik guides us through his three competitive exhibits, sharing his paradigm about treatment and most of all how a story telling concept can be developed (... and proven to be successful in all three classes).

The tradition of excellence from the two International Philatelic Summits being held in Malmö in 2009 and 2012 continues with the Summit Paper Series. For that, thank you Henrik!

*Jonas Hällström
Editor & Chairperson of the
“International Philatelic Summit” in Malmö*

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As a speaker at the Malmö 2nd International Philatelic Summit held from April 27-29, 2012, this paper is an attempt to help other judges evaluate exhibits from the early GPU/UPU period, which is my main area of expertise. The general knowledge presented here is likely to be relevant for judging postal history exhibits of almost any country in the world from the time when the country entered GPU/UPU until the beginning of the first World War, because the GPU/UPU regulations affected the postal history of most countries very similarly. In order to refer to my own collecting, an appendix on how a story telling concept of treatment can be reflected in the design of exhibiting pages in the traditional, postal history, and postal stationery classes is attached.

"The perfect treatment can only be reached if you own a large proportion of the best material, but you can easily have the best material without good treatment".

Henrik Mouritsen

Henrik Mouritsen has a Ph.D. in Biology and works as a full professor of neurosensory sciences at the University of Oldenburg, Germany. He mainly studies the mechanisms underlying animal navigation, in particular the two magnetic senses existing in long-distance migratory birds. He was recently awarded the Eric Kandel Young Neuroscientist Prize 2011 for his work. Henrik practices his philatelic collecting as a scientist does, by applying his scientific skills from professional life and his character as a perfectionist into his collecting. Henrik collects the late pre-GPU and early post-GPU period (1865-1906) in Danish philately, which is reflected in three competitive philatelic classes: traditional philately, postal stationery and postal history, all of them on Large Gold level. His exhibit in postal history won the Grand Prix International at IBRA 2009 (continental FEPA-exhibition), which for sure was an effect of an outstanding treatment of all criteria judged.