Traditional Philately

Philatelic Material and Exhibiting

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Editor Jonas Hällström

Philatelic Summit Papers

Number 7

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MALMÖ 3rd INTERNATIONAL *** 25-27 APRIL 2014 *** PHILATELIC SUMMIT

*The **Malmö 3rd International Philatelic Summit** will be conducted 25-27 April 2014. For the third time this will again be a well-attended event with delegates from around the world - more than 100 with 21 different nationalities. The Summit is a "destination event" for philatelists. The interest in exhibiting in all of its facets is so strong that people dedicate a whole weekend to the formal presentations with 'Questions & Answers' and informal discussions that will pepper the three days. The Summit Paper Series is planned with six releases in conjunction with the third Summit, two prior to the Summit, one at the Summit and additionally three after the Summit. This Paper is #7 by Brian Trotter and is released and available to the delegates at the Summit.*

Brian Trotter is very well-known to the philatelic audience, he is an RDP, he was head of London 2010 International Exhibition, Past President of The Royal Philatelic Society London and the current chairman of the FIP Commission for Traditional Philately. Brian is also a very experienced philatelic judge with his roots as collector, exhibitor and judge in several different philatelic disciplines.

Writing an intellectual philatelic Paper like this, addressing collectors and exhibitors of traditional philately is probably one of the most challenging tasks a philatelic stakeholder and leader like Brian can do. Why? - Because one always takes a risk when intellectually defining the scope and hopes to improve a philatelic discipline. In particular that risk refers to Traditional Philately being the "mother-class" of all of today's other philatelic disciplines. Traditional Philately also contains the philatelically (… and economically) most important material in our context. Brian does respectfully take on this challenge in his Paper, achieving a great end result.

In the Philatelic Summit Paper Series, Brian's Paper is the second dealing with Traditional Philately. Paper #3 in the Series by Chris Harman was the first. When having read Brian's Paper it's obvious that he continues from where Chris ended. Concerning "Material" it's clear that Brian in his Paper pushes an ambition to be very straight forward to clarify the facts which are published in "black on white" in the regulations and guidelines for Traditional Philately. That straight forward approach is extensively mixed in the Paper with his intellectual discussions, thoughts, considerations and best practices. All this is based on Brian's experiences and intuition for what's best for the progress of Traditional Philately. As being the chairman of the Commission (head of Traditional Philately), Brian's words make a strong impact and will add to the success if the readers are humble and read what he writes. Traditional Philately very much refers to the "Material" when aiming for successful exhibiting. Without appropriate research and study as to what philatelic material is available, and then being able to correctly treat that material and present it in a story-telling concept, one is lost in today's competitive philately.

In the past, competitive Traditional Philately only referred to "Material, Material and Material". But, with only "Material", one doesn't reach the top anymore in competitive philately - not in any philatelic discipline. In Traditional Philately, lacking the most important philatelic material for a chosen subject, will always be obvious for the viewer. That's why "Material" is more important for Traditional Philately, than for most other philatelic disciplines. Knowing the "process" of what is expected in a Traditional exhibit, is a key for success and Brian provides access to understanding that in the Paper.

The availability of Brian's Paper at the Summit will serve the purpose to better follow his presentation as given at the Summit. Keeping in mind Brian's intellectual discussions in the Paper, I recommend you to carefully listen to the straight forward approach we can expect from Brian during the presentation in Malmö.

Thanks Brian for this very good Paper carrying on the tradition of excellence in the Summit Paper Series.

Jonas Hällström
Editor & Chairman of the
"International Philatelic Summit" in Malmö

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Brian Trotter RDP (left) is the current chairman of the FIP Traditional Philately Commission and Past President of the Royal Philatelic Society London. He was chairman of the London 2010 international exhibition, past chairman and present committee member of the British National Exhibitions Committee and past chairman of the British Philatelic Trust. Brian is a collector of airmail, postal history, postal stationery, revenues and traditional philately. As an exhibitor he has been awarded four large gold medals at FIP shows for three different exhibits. Brian is an FIP judge with accreditation for the Postal Stationery, Revenue, Traditional and Literature Classes. Heading the Commission, Brian and his team in the Bureau (here in Jakarta with the secretary of the Commission Lars Peter Svendsen) are very active educating philatelists to practice the current traditional regulations.

Why Attend a Philatelic Summit?

Why would someone attend a Philatelic Summit, or even consider reading through this Philatelic Summit Paper? While we can all probably find several reasons, for example, I have never been to Sweden before, or it is a great opportunity to meet and interact with my fellow philatelists from different parts of the world, or I might be able to learn something. For many of us a good reason would be that we had been to one before, and found it stimulating. All probably very valid points, but the primary reason that we come to an event like the Philatelic Summit, and many of us are coming for a second or third time, is because we are interested in exhibiting! We may also be interested in judging philatelic exhibits, but that is all part of an interest in exhibiting, which is the primary reason to come to such a Philatelic Summit.

Another important aspect is that the Summit is an independent forum, allowing everyone to express views and opinions unfettered by any official constraints that may apply if the Summit was held under the auspices of one or more of the official parts of national or international philatelic organisations.

The theme of the 3rd Philatelic Summit in April 2014 is defining philatelic material, following on from the theme of a focus on philatelic treatment in the 2nd Philatelic Summit in April 2012. The original concept was for this Summit Paper to be about the defining and selection of material for Traditional Philately exhibits.

If that was all it would do, it would make for rather tedious and dull reading. Perhaps it would only be of potential interest to those with more of a technical philatelic orientation to exhibiting, rather than the average exhibitor or juror.

Consequently, while still maintaining a degree of focus on material selection, it has been positioned more as a broad look at exhibiting and judging Traditional Philately, and indeed exhibiting and judging in a more general sense. It looks at where we are today, and how we got there. Perhaps more importantly, it suggests where we might be going and where we could be tomorrow.

Yet another Summit Paper?

This is Summit Paper #7! These have been written by six different people, each giving their own perspectives on exhibiting and judging. While all make different points, they also all make some similar points. This is to be expected, and the more Summit Papers that are written, the more the similar perspectives will be repeated. This is not a bad thing, as it reinforces what went before, and the reader may either not have read all the other Summit Papers, or may indeed have forgotten some concept or other since reading it in one of the previous Summit Papers.

A much used expression with regard to presentations and associated publications is to tell them what you are going to tell them, tell them, and then tell them what you have told them. The expectation being that if things are reinforced they are more likely to make a more lasting impression. I intend, at least to some extent, to do just that! There are nine points that I wish to have the reader consider. I am ***not*** *going to tell you what I am going to tell you at this juncture regarding those nine points, at least not in any detail. They are just summarised below, but they are obviously highlighted and discussed in the text, and then also summarised again at the end. Hopefully at least some of these nine points might stimulate some debate.*

The Nine Point Summary

1. ***Three basic elements of exhibiting***
2. ***Material for Traditional Philately***
3. ***Logical scope of exhibits***
4. ***Exhibiting a collecting passion***
5. ***Liberal interpretation of the rules***
6. ***All exhibits have evolved to a "story"***
7. ***Exhibitors responsibility***
8. ***Dating of the marking points?***
9. ***Keep it simple and encourage exhibitors***

Brian Trotter