

# Thoughts on Treatment

Using Treatment to Enhance the Appreciation  
of a Traditional Exhibit

Christopher G. Harman RDP, FRPSL

Editor Jonas Hällström

Philatelic Summit Papers

Number 3



AuctionHouse international

*Postiljonen*

*We value your collection*





The **Malmö 2nd International Philatelic Summit** was conducted 27-29 April 2012, which confirmed this Summit's strong reputation by attracting 92 delegates, representing 23 different countries from four different continents. This was an increase in attendance from the first Summit in 2009 with 81 delegates from 18 countries representing four continents. While Europe was the dominant continent because of proximity, delegates came from as far away as China, Korea, India, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico and the United States.

What makes these attendance statistics particularly impressive is that the Summit is a "destination event" where philatelists were showing up to talk even though no medals were being handed out! Any serious philatelist or exhibitor was welcome to attend simply to participate in the discussions and debates about issues in exhibiting which are important to them in this current moment of the hobby's life. And we are all finding that exhibitors and philatelists from all over sense the same need to explore and address common issues (which are becoming self-evident across the globe regardless of one's geographic area of activity).

The **Malmö 2nd International Philatelic Summit** was conducted over three days with a compressed and fast-moving program of seminars dealing with "treatment" from the perspective of the "storyline" concept in an exhibit. The seminars used as their foundations the regulations and guidelines established by philately's world-wide coordinating body, the FIP (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie).

Treatment is an essential judging criteria within all FIP classes as well as being the judging element undergoing the most critical thought and change at the moment. But, as Chris points out in this paper, the concept of philatelic "class" has itself undergone dramatic change in just the last half century. In its turn, this somewhat new concept of philatelic class has changed the whole perspective of treatment.

Philatelic exhibiting once had only one type of treatment, despite having different classes based on the quantity of stamps in the exhibit. While philately moved on to limit the frame space given to any single exhibit, the successor to that change was only later named "traditional" philately. And it has been from this concept of "traditional" philately from which all other classes of philately have been born. And so, traditional philately is in my view FIP's "first class". Traditional philately is always listed first in any list of classes, whether in regulations or an exhibition catalogue.

In his presentation of traditional philately at the Summit, Christopher G. Harman RDP, FRPSL (Chris) gave a very succinct lecture about the development of traditional philately up to today – which was amazing for most people to learn. Hence, Chris's Paper will be a treasured resource for his research and studies in this field in addition to his insights through his extensive experiences and personal meditations on these matters.

Chris's Paper further focuses on the treatment criteria from both the theoretical and practical viewpoints (using one of Chris's own exhibits as the point of discussion). In reading Chris's Paper, today's exhibitors will not only find the challenges properly defined, but appropriate solutions suggested to help the exhibitor in overcoming those challenges.

What impresses me tremendously is that Chris "keeps it simple". The Paper is very straightforward in telling the reader not only what to do and why, but also in offering thoughts on how to do it.

*The tradition of excellence continues. Thank you Chris!*

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

© This is a signed article by Christopher G. Harman RDP, FRPSL, who owns the rights to the whole content. Usages of the content in this article are only allowed after permission from the author.

© Postiljonen AB has the full copyright on this book, which is published in the series "Philatelic Summit Papers". "Philatelic Summit Papers #3" is published by Postiljonen AB, Malmö, Sweden in May 2013.



*This Paper is based on the presentation I gave to the **Malmö 2nd International Philatelic Summit** in April 2012. The theme of the Summit was to discuss and understand the concept of “Treatment” in philatelic exhibiting. This Paper focuses on Treatment from the point of view of an exhibit in the Traditional class.*

*The Paper offers a personal view and thus has no particular endorsement from other exhibitors, jurors, or from the FIP. Nevertheless, the information in it has been garnered from many conversations with other exhibitors and jurors over many years and I would be surprised if any would take particular issue with the views expressed.*

*At a competitive exhibiting level (whether international, regional or national) one of the judging headings is “Treatment and Philatelic Importance”. This is subdivided into:-*

<i>Treatment</i>	<i>20 marks</i>
<i>Philatelic Importance</i>	<i>10 marks</i>

*Christopher G. Harman RDP, FRPSL*

*Chris Harman has collected stamps since about the age of 6. He collects a broad range of countries and subjects including: Nineteenth Century issues printed by Perkins, Bacon; Great Britain stamps, postal history, revenues, classic private posts (such as College Stamps, Circular Delivery Companies, Carrier Labels etc.); Fakes and Forgeries of the world; several reference collections from many countries and Philatelic Literature, especially handbooks and journals. He is a past president of the Royal Philatelic Society London and a member of the Expert Committee of The Royal Philatelic Society London since 1985, of which he is now chairman. Chris has been an exhibitor since 1978 and an accredited National judge for many years, as well as an accredited FIP international judge in traditional philately and philatelic literature. In 2003, in Gateshead, Chris was called to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Today he is one of the members of the Board of Election to the Roll.*