

Current approved SREV

Article 1 Competitive Exhibitions

In accordance with Article 1.4 of the General Regulations of F.I.P. for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at F.I.P. Exhibitions (GREV), these Special Regulations (SREV) have been developed to supplement those principles with regard to Astrophilately. Also, refer to Guidelines to Astrophilatelic Regulations.

Article 2 Competitive Exhibits

(ref. GREV, Article 2)

An astrophilatelic exhibit is built upon historical, technical and scientific aspects related to space research and space programmes.

Article 3 Principles of Exhibit Composition

(ref. GREV, Article 3)

Appropriate philatelic material of an astrophilatelic exhibit includes the following:

1. Documents handed over by a postal administration for despatch by stratosphere balloons, rockets, spaceships, rocket planes, recovery ships, rescue helicopters and other supporting aircraft or vice versa.
2. Stamps, leaflets and vignettes related to rocket mail, postal stationery, Mailgrams and special envelopes and cards of relevance to the different parts of the space programme including the related precursors; the launch, the flight and landing of space travelling objects; and the participating tracking stations, ships and supporting aircraft.
3. Among the special characteristics of Astrophilately are envelopes and cards cancelled by the post office at the place and on the exact date of the special events.
4. An astrophilatelic exhibit may encompass all aspects or relate to a self-contained section only to the following : (for subdivisions ref. Guidelines 3.4)
 - a) From the period of pioneers to the conquest of space
 - b) Rocket Mail
 - c) Space programmes of :
 - USSR/CIS (Russia)
 - USA
 - Europe
 - CHINA
 - Other Countries
 - d) Unmanned space programmes
 - e) Manned space programmes
5. The text should cover all aspects of the exact technical data, the dates, the place and the purpose or mission of the space objects, including the special activities of the astronauts and cosmonauts involved.
6. The plan or the concept of the exhibit shall be clearly laid out in an introductory statement (ref. GREV. Article 3.3)

Article 4 Criteria for Evaluating Exhibits

(ref. GREV. Article 4)

Treatment of the exhibit (ref. GREV. Article 4.3)

Special value is attached to the exact technical evolution of the events.

Philatelic and related Knowledge and personal Study and Research (ref. GREV. Article 4.5)

A high degree of knowledge is also required on precursors related to space exploration and spaceflight.

Article 5 Judging of Exhibits

(ref. GREV, Article 5)

1. Astrophilatelic exhibits will be judged by approved specialists in their respective field and in accordance with Section V (Article 31-47) of GREX (ref. GREV. Article 5.1)
2. For astrophilatelic exhibits, the following relative terms are presented to lead the Jury to a balanced evaluation (ref. GREV. Article 5.2)

Treatment and Philatelic Importance 20/10	30
Philatelic and related Knowledge and Personal Study and Research	35
Condition and Rarity 10/20	30
Presentation	<u>5</u>
Total	100

Article 6 Concluding Provision

(ref. GREV, Article 6)

1. In the event of any discrepancies in the text arising from translation, the English text shall prevail.
2. The Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Astrophilatelic Exhibits at F.I.P. Exhibitions (SREV) have been approved by the 54th F.I.P. Congress on 5th November 1985 in Rome. These revised SREV were ratified by the 61st F.I.P. Congress on 4th May 1992 in Granada and come into force on 1st January 1995. The updated Art.3.4 with the addition of China was approved by the FIP Board and valid as from January 1st 2007

END of Current Approved SREV

Draft New Guidelines for Judging Astrophilatelic Exhibits

(13 Dec 2018 by Chris Schmied)

Introduction

These guidelines are issued by the FIP Astrophilately Section to give practical guidance on how to apply both the General Regulations for the Evaluation of competitive exhibits (GREV) and Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Astrophilately Exhibits (SREV).

The guidelines below have been developed to assist exhibitors in the preparation and judges in the evaluation of astrophilatelic exhibits.

They are intended to provide guidance regarding:

- 1 The definition and nature of astrophilately exhibits,
2. The principles of exhibit composition and
3. The judging criteria for astrophilately exhibits.

Definition and Nature of astrophilately exhibits

Astrophilately is the study of space flights and space-related events with philatelic material.

An astrophilatelic exhibit incorporates appropriate philatelic material related to space flight and space exploration.

It is a philatelic study of the historical, scientific and technical progress achieved in the exploration of space, including stratosphere research, early rocketry and the precursors to the various types of spacecraft, chronologically recording the relevant events within the different space programmes.

The term “cover” subsumes covers and cards.

Appropriate philatelic material

Postmarks are the most important element of each astrophilatelic cover.

They should be postmarked by the post office at the place and on the exact date of the event. If the post office is closed, the postmark of the next day it opens is acceptable. For events taking place in space, the postmark from the post office of the Mission Control Centre should be shown.

Appropriate philatelic material includes the following:

Event covers

Event covers documenting events including; launch, docking, EVA, landing, launch aborts, test launches, and launch failures. Event covers should be postmarked by the post office at the place and on the exact date. If the post office was closed, date stamps from the next day the post office was open are acceptable. For events taking place in space, the postmark from the post office of the Mission Control Centre should be used. If a participating agency used an official cachet, this should be preferred, rather than private cachets.

Covers with a postmark from facilities supporting space flights including; tracking stations, recovery ships, aeroplanes, rescue helicopters and other supporting aircraft. In many cases, those facilities use official cachets, and these are preferred

Covers with cancellations documenting technical, organisational or political milestones for space flights or space programs may be included. This includes important meetings, rollouts and roll-backs, as well as completion and delivery of key components of rockets and spacecraft. However, this kind of material should not dominate.

In cases where virtually no covers exist e.g. military mail such as early Soviet / Chinese missions, the cover should have a date as close to the event as possible. Similarly, if the correct date can only be illustrated this way, then a location farther than the nearest post office is permitted.

Stamps, postal stationery & special cancellations

Stamps or stationery issued by the postal administration of a country involved in the depicted space event within 12 months of the event, but only when special astrophilatelic material is lacking. Artist's drawings, essays, proofs and printing errors of such stamps may be shown but only when they have been issued near a mission relevant date.

Special cancellations issued by a post office from a country involved with the event may be used, where no event covers with a correct date exists.

Space Mail

Space mail, covers and cards flown onboard spacecraft, must be cancelled on board the spacecraft showing the appropriate markings. Space mail might be signed by crew members or whole crews staying in space.

Space letters, telegrams or e-mails are messages from space to Earth or from Earth to space. If onboard cancels or postmarks exist, space letters preferably should have them.

Signatures

Signatures are not a focus of Astrophilately. However, the exhibitor is expected to identify autopens, secretarial, printed or forged signatures, if this type of material is shown.

Unwanted philatelic material

First day of issue postmarks should not be shown. Covers should not bear a wording highlighting an anniversary. Faked items may be shown but must be clearly described.

Principles of Exhibit Composition

An Astrophilatelic exhibit should have a clear beginning, a central theme, and a logical ending.

The exhibit must include an introductory sheet or title page which should include:

- The title of the exhibit
- Short, precise and relevant general information on the subject
- A description of the purpose of the exhibit
- A description of the scope of the exhibit (What is included and what is omitted)
- A plan of the structure of the exhibit – chapters or sections (not a “frame by frame” or “page by page” description)
- A list of personal research by the exhibitor within the subject
- A list of the most important literature/website references. Judges will use this information to research the subject and evaluate the exhibit.

The body of the exhibit should comprise a logical and coherent assembly of material to illustrate one or more or a subset of the categories set out below.

1. Spaceflight precursors
2. Rocket Mail
3. USSR, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan programmes:
4. USA programmes:

5. China programmes
6. Europe and European Space Agency programmes:
7. Other country's programmes
8. Commercial space programmes
9. Unmanned space programmes
10. Exploration from rockets to space stations

1. Spaceflight precursors

Rocket development

The development of rockets may be documented by timely letters of the military or civilian units which carried them out. Rocket bombardments of cities with rockets like Copenhagen 1807 or Leipzig 1813 may be documented by timely pre-philatelic letters of the town hit.

Solid rocket boosters, equipped with a camera were dispatched by launchers during WWI in a military camp at Königsbrück, Germany in 1915 reached a height of 800m.

Although balloons are not capable of reaching space, covers from stratosphere balloons which contributed towards spaceflight are suitable.

WWII war rockets Aggregat 4 (A4) were the first to reach space. Their development and shots from Peenemünde may be documented with timely field post mail sent from Versuchskommando Nord or VKN which was renamed Heimat-Artilleriepark 11 after British RAF bombed Peenemünde facilities on 18 August 1943, as well as with mail timely postmarked at Peenemünde. The production was moved to Sangerhausen, where manufacturing of the A4 rocket continued, in underground tunnels that had been excavated by prisoners from the nearby concentration camp Mittlebau-Dora located near Nordhausen, Germany. The first test flight of the A4 took place the SS training camp Heidelager/Putkow, Poland.

Rocket development at Kummersdorf, Blitzna and other places may be documented in a similar way.

Stamps

If no event covers exist, e.g. for ancient Chinese rockets, rocket development of Conrad Haas may be documented with the earliest available stamps, stationery and special cancellations issued by a post office from a country involved. First-day of issue postmarks should not be shown

2. Rocket mail

Beginning in 1928, mail was sent by rockets. Some experimenters wanted to accelerate mail delivery and supply villages cut-off by avalanches or floods. Some tried to improve rocket technology with scientific research. Flown rocket mail should be selected carefully according to their relevance, scientific value and the title of the exhibit. They preferably should have been delivered through regular postal service. Unused rocket vignettes including artist's drawings, essays, proofs and printing errors may be added to flown items. Rocket vignettes should not dominate.

Propaganda leaflet disseminated by rockets during the Spanish Civil and during WWII may be used.

After A4 rockets reached space in 1944, rocket mail flights which were not done for reaching space did not significantly contribute to rocket development or spaceflight.

3. Stratosphere balloons

In the 1930s, stratosphere balloons were used for scientific exploration of the upper atmosphere. Manned flights were inaugurated by Prof. Jean Piccard to prove that it is possible to reach the stratosphere with the special contribution of surviving such extreme conditions. In the USA, flights like *Explorer I* and *II*, fitted with special instruments, contributed to study the influence of cosmic rays on living organisms. In the USSR, two flights were carried each out with three stratonauts. The first flight was successful, during the second flight the three stratonauts perished.

In the 1950s, *Men in Space Soonest* with the *Men High Balloon* programme of the US Air Force and the *Strato-Balloon* programme of the US Navy, performed in space-flight conditions, added valuable contributions to space-flight.

The unmanned flights in the USA, in the 1960s and 1970s, were used for exploration of the Earth, the planets and the sun.

Scientific stratosphere balloons in the 1960s and 1970s were performed in Australia, French Guyana, Canada and the USA, mainly in Palestine, Texas for universities and space organisations.

4. USSR, Russia, Kazakhstan programmes

Stamps, postal stationery & special cancellations

In the early period of the USSR no covers from space activities are known. The exhibitor/collector has the possibility to refer to the space programme by stamps, postal stationery and special cancellations. From Sputnik 2, 21 March 1958, onwards official special cancellations for recording the progress of unmanned and manned space programmes exist. Special cancellations from Kiev, Ukraine applied on the date of the event are of special interest.

The Soviet Union, as well as Interkosmos participants, issued stamps for virtually all manned space flights they participated in, Soviet Union also for major unmanned space projects. Stamps issued within a year by a participating country may be shown.

Event Covers

Baikonur Cosmodrome:

From 27 April 1975 onwards, official cancellations are available from the Cosmodrome Baikonur, recording the launch of manned spacecraft, supply craft and space stations. The cancellations of the Cosmodrome (either Russian Postal Administration or Kazak postal administration) are preferable to those of the official government (private company since the early 90s) trading company (Mezhdunarodnaya KNIGA).

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Baikonur became part of Kazakhstan. The spaceport is leased to Russia until 2050. Thus, Russian and Kazakh postmarks are valid.

Cosmodrome Plesetsk is situated some 800 km north of Moscow. Many military and civilian satellites are launched from here. It has its own cancellation. Next town is Mirny district Archangelsk.

Cosmodrome Kapustin Yar was founded as a test range in 1946. It is situated in Astrakhan, partly in Kazakhstan.

Vostochny Cosmodrome is situated in the Svobodny and Shimanovsk districts of Amur Oblast in the Russian Far East. Its goal is to reduce Russia dependency on Kazakhstan. The first rocket launch was in 2016. Postmarks exist.

Since 1960, the Mission Control Centre for manned space programmes and for deep space missions (after launch) is situated in Kaliningrad, Moscow district. Postmarks exist from 27 April 1975 onwards and should be used. In 1996, the town was renamed Korolev.

Landings of spacecraft should be documented by the postmark of the post office near the landing site. In the case of spacecraft burning up in the atmosphere or crashing, the postmark of the post office of the mission control centre or in the vicinity of the crash area is acceptable.

Collector club covers were mainly backdated and are not suitable.

Space Mail

Each Soyuz crew launched towards military space stations Salyut-3 and Salyut-5 were equipped with a circular non-postal stamp including the words "Space Mail" in the Russian language.

The Soyuz 26 crew was the first to receive letters from Earth and to write letters to Earth, in December 1977. Therefore, rocket and spacecraft producer NPO Energia delivered a non-postal cancel which was also used on Earth before and after the flight.

The first onboard special cancellations from the Soviet Union and CSSR reached Salyut-6 in March 1978, in a decree from the Soviet Postal Administration, cosmonaut Gretschnko was named as the first postmaster in space. He inaugurated the first post office in space on 8 March 1978.

In 1980, Salyut-6 was equipped with a larger pentagonal seal of the station which was not returned to Earth. If genuine it proves that the item was in space. Similar pentagonal seals of the station were on board Salyut-7 and MIR. On 23.11.1987, MIR additionally received the station's octagonal seal.

In 1988, a permanent post office was established on board the MIR space station. Its octagonal postmarker stayed on board till the end of MIR. Till the end of Soviet Union, virtually every crew with foreign cosmonaut had a Soviet on-board cancellation on board, many also had a cancellation from the participating country.

The first module for International Space Station ISS was launched in 1998. For some 10 years, letters and covers onboard ISS hallmarked with non-postal strikes mainly issued by rocket and capsule manufacturer RKK Energia. Since April 2009 a permanent postmark used at the Russian branch of ISS. Additionally, special onboard marks have been used for important anniversaries. The postal index 101000 of Moscow main post office was allocated to the mail-room on board ISS.

Flown space covers commonly were treated on board with postmarks and other onboard strikes. Many are signed by whole crews staying in space.

Space letters containing a message are rarer and have more historical value than space mail.

Covers of supporting facilities

The Soviet Academy of Sciences operated tracking ships; Cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov, Akademician Sergey Korolev and Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin. Covers from these ships during operation of a space station are suitable.

Military cancels from early missions

The building of the Soviet Union's most important launch centre, Baikonur Cosmodrome, began in 1955 next to the village Tyuratam. To keep the place secret, it was named after kolkhoz Baikonur situated 320 km northwest. From this spaceport, all Soviet manned space flights and many unmanned spaceflights, beginning with Sputnik, were launched. Until 1966 camouflage addresses Kzyl-Orda 50, 51, 52 and military field postmarks were used. In 1966 these postmarks changed to Leninsky and Leninsk when the capital of Baikonur Cosmodrome became a town in 1970. No event covers from Baikonur Cosmodrome are known from this period.

5. USA programmes

Event covers

Postmarks for precursors, including stratosphere balloons, A4 missiles and rocket-powered aircraft like the X planes (X-2, X-15, etc.) are acceptable.

The first official rocket mail, dispatched by Regulus-1, equipped with two rocket-boosters to reach the necessary speed and altitude was dispatched from the submarine USS Barbero on 8 June 1959.

Postmarks applied at NASA Centres and commercial space manufacturing, test, and launch facilities are acceptable.

Cape Canaveral AFS

Cape Canaveral Air Force Station began operation in 1948 as the Banana River Naval Air Station in Florida, USA. The first rocket launch was Bumper 8, a captured in Germany A4 rocket with US upper stage on 24 July 1950. From here, on 31 January 1958, a Jupiter rocket launched the first US satellite Explorer 1 into orbit. All Mercury and Gemini flights, as well as Apollo 7 and Dragon flights to ISS, began here. Patrick AFB, Port Canaveral and Cape Canaveral and Kennedy Space Centre postmarks are suitable for all events till Apollo 7. For later events, Kennedy Space Centre and Patrick AFB postmarks are preferred.

Kennedy Space Centre

From Apollo 8 and after, all manned Apollo and Space Shuttle launches started from Kennedy Space Centre adjoining Cape Canaveral and geographically located on Merritt Island. NASA issued official cachets for Gemini and Apollo flights. Kennedy Space Centre postmarks are preferred, Patrick AFB postmarks may be used. Covers with an official NASA cachet applied at Kennedy Space Centre post office from 1965-1975 are preferred.

Wallops Island

Smaller, unmanned rockets have been launched from Wallops Island in Virginia. The first rocket launch took place on 4 July 1945. On December 4, 1959, the Rhesus monkey *Sam* was sent on a ballistic flight from here during the Project Mercury. Many more bio-test followed. Other important tests were carried out here, such as the Little-Joe test flights for the Mercury and Apollo escape towers. Launch of the Antares cargo freighter, in support of the International Space Station, was also launched from Wallops Island.

Vandenberg AFB

Unmanned probes requiring a polar orbit are launched from Vandenberg AFB in California. These include Discoverer, Atlas PRIME, Gemini MOL and others.

Mission Control Centres

Beginning with Mercury Control Centre that was located on the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Whilst from Gemini 4 all manned missions are controlled from the Johnson Spaceflight Centre in Houston, Texas. Unmanned probes, especially for deep-space missions, are usually controlled by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. Events occurring in space may be documented with covers postmarked at acting Control Centre.

SpaceX's Mission Control Centre is situated in Hawthorne, California.

Space Mail

Covers flown to the Moon exist for Apollos 11-16. Of the nearly 1,000 Moon covers identified, more than half were carried on Apollo 15. Some were flown in lunar orbit (Apollo 11, 13, 15), and in a LM to the lunar surface (Apollo 14, 15, 16). US Post Office Department cancelling devices were brought onboard Apollo 11 and 15. Trial cancellations exist and are very rare.

NASA and the US Postal Service carried 261,900 covers onboard Space Shuttle Challenger during the STS-8 mission and 500,000 stamps onboard Space Shuttle Endeavour on the STS-68 mission.

Covers of supporting facilities

Mercury, Gemini and Apollo flights splashed down in the Pacific or Atlantic Ocean. Their landings are documented by covers postmarked on board the recovery ships. Cancellations from the Primary Recovery Ship which recovered the crew and/or spacecraft are of special interest. If not available on the ship, the postmark of the port of landing or of the nearby supply base, after the arrival of the ship may be shown. Recovery ship covers can have additional official cachets, referring to the mission.

Space Shuttles landed on Shuttle Landing Facility at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, or at Edwards Air Force Base in California, and one at the White Sands Space Harbor in New Mexico.

During Launch and Recovery operations of spacecraft, numerous aircraft and helicopters are tasked. Flown covers are acceptable. Tracking stations that receive and transmit data may be shown if the date is during the period the spacecraft is in flight. Tracking vessels used to relay data do not have onboard postal facilities. Envelopes carried on these ships or aircraft can be postmarked on return to port or base. For space capsules splashing into the ocean, their onboard mailrooms should have a cachet. Secondary Recovery Ships are acceptable.

In the case of a spacecraft burning up in the atmosphere or crashing, the postmark of the post office of the mission control centre or in the vicinity of the crash area is acceptable.

Stamps

The US Postal Service issued few stamps for their space program compared to the Soviet Union and other nations. While the focus of Astrophilately remains on postmarks, stamps which relate to specific advances in the US space program (Project Mercury, Gemini Twins, First Man on the Moon, Decade of Achievement twins, ASTP, Space Shuttle, etc.) together with the relevant event cover may be shown. Stamps issued more than a year after the event and issues for deceased astronauts (Alan Shepard and Sally Ride) should not be shown.

6. China programmes

Event Covers

Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre

In the early period, the construction of China's space launch site was top secret. From this important period, space exploration can be recorded by covers showing the postmark of the sites of a military unit or scientific institution or construction unit associated with a mission.

Prior to 1986, no announcement was made in advance of the launch site or date of a rocket or satellite launch. It is possible to record space events with covers with postmarks from the military post office of Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, Lanzhou 27th branch post office

After 1986, cancellations recording launches of spacecraft should only be shown from the post office nearby the launch site with the exact date of the event.

Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre

Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in Kelan County, Xinzhou, Shanxi Province was founded in 1966. It launches meteorological satellites, earth resource satellites, scientific satellites on Long March launch vehicles into sun-synchronous orbits and tests ballistic missiles.

Spacemail may be included. For the missions of unmanned and manned space programmes (after launch) the postmark of the corresponding mission control centre, responsible for the supervision of the spacecraft is valid. Covers from tracking stations, ships helicopters and supporting aircraft may be shown as a supplement if they are dated during the mission. Landings of unmanned and manned spacecraft shall be recorded by the postmark of the post office nearby to the landing site.

Xichang Satellite Launch Centre

This launch facility is situated near Xichang, Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan. It became operational in 1984 and is primarily used to launch powerful thrust rockets and geostationary communications and weather satellites and Chang'e Lunar exploration space probes. Space events before 1986 may be documented with envelopes or cards postmarked at Mianning 5th, 4th, or 3rd Post Office, or in Xichang, Sichuan.

Wenchang Space Launch Site

China's southernmost space vehicle launch facility is in Wenchang, Hainan, China. It allows an increase in payload for the future manned program, space station and deep space exploration program. The first launch was the new heavy-lift Long March 7 booster in 2016.

Beijing Aerospace Command and Control Centre is a command centre for the Chinese space program. It is in a suburb northwest of Beijing. Xi'an Satellite Monitor and Control Centre is the primary Chinese space control facility. Covers postmarked at the proper control centre document events in space.

Landings of unmanned and manned spacecraft may be documented with the cancellation of the post office nearest to the landing site.

Space Mail

Beginning with 16th Recoverable Satellite in 1994 virtually all spacecraft and satellites returning to Earth carried space mail being covers, cards and stamps. This includes all Shenzhou and Tiangong missions as well as Chang'e capsule orbiting the Moon.

Flown covers have a notary's dry seal. They are accompanied by a certificate of the notary. An exception is Shenzhou-2 since almost all space mail damaged at landing. 15 Shenzhou-2 flown covers issued by Jiuquan Satellite launch Centre have the notary's dry seal. 50 of the covers which orbited the Moon with Chang'e 5-T1 capsule have the dry seal and certificate of China Aerospace Philatelist Association.

On 03 November 2011 China's first space post office opened. It has two venues, one inside the Beijing Aerospace Command and Control Centre and one virtual office aboard Tiangong space station. On 26 June 2012 Shenzhou-9 taikonauts symbolically used the "China Post - Space Post Office 1" cancellation on the Tiangong-1 Space Station on a few covers. This cancellation was also used on Earth after their landing.

Covers of supporting facilities

Covers postmarked at tracking stations, ships and supporting aerospace craft, and covers carried by helicopters or aircraft involved in space recovery missions, exist. They may be shown if they are postmarked during the mission.

Stamps

Stamps issued within a year by China, Hong Kong or Macao postal services may be shown.

7. Europe and European Space Agency programmes

The European rocket and satellite inventors and constructors during this period and after WW II responsible for the development of satellites and spacecraft.

The co-operation programmes between Europe and USA with launches in the USA at Vandenberg and Wallops Island, USA in the 1960ies.

The European Space Agency ESA (ESRO / ELDO until 1975), CNES and OMM

Event Covers

Since the development of the first ballistic missile reaching the altitude of space (A4) in Germany during World War II was top secret, this important period in space exploration may be recorded by philatelic items not relating to the launch date of an A4 but showing the postmark of place and/or additional specific marks referring to a military unit or a detachment, which can be demonstrated to have been responsible for the development and/or the construction of such rockets.

France inaugurated a launch site at Hammaguir, Algeria in 1952. From 1965, the French Space Agency (CNES) was the third nation that succeeded to launch their own satellite with their own carrier-rocket *Diamant D-1* into orbit. Only the military personnel were able to send covers postmarked with the date of the launch. Until 1967 other satellites and Biotest flights followed, then the base was closed.

In 1968, a new spaceport in Kourou, French Guyana was opened. From 1968 to 1978, the Hammaguir programme was continued, as well as scientific rocket experiments were performed.

This platform is up to now the most important place for launches of the European carrier-rocket Ariane. Until the first successful launch of Ariane, test-flights took place. The first test flight was launched on 9 April 1968.

On 23 November 1978, the Centre Spaciale Guyane (CSG) and the CNES were reactivated and the first cancellation from the CS was available.

The launcher of the European Space Agency (ESA) was developed to deploy satellites for European and overseas countries. Many European countries and companies engineer and produce parts for the Ariane. The engines are tested in Vernon, France and in Hardhausen, Germany. After the first successful test of the launch system on 21 October 1976 and three test flights with the Ariane launcher took place. The first successful launch of the Ariane-1 (L01) took place on 24 December 1979. Newer and heavier versions followed and up to now, Ariane is the most successful space programme of Europe.

Covers with an additional official ESA cachet from, Kourou (1979-mid 1980s) are of special interest.

After launch, the mission control centre responsible for the supervision can be ESOC/Darmstadt GSOC/Oberpfaffenhofen, Columbus Control Centre /Oberpfaffenhofen, CNES mission control centre in Toulouse, etc. Similarly, for other missions or satellites, their designated control centres should be documented. For different national space programmes, the national mission control centres are responsible.

Postmarks recording the launch of satellites and/or research and experimental rockets should be shown from the post-offices near the launch sites including the Europe/USA (Vandenberg & Wallops Island, Space Shuttle, SPACELAB) and the Europe/USSR/Russian (*Intercosmos*, *EUROMIR* & *ISS*) co-operation programmes. Broglio Space Centre (San Marco platform), Malindi (Kenya), Woomera Rocket Range (Australia) and Estrange, Kiruna (Sweden) until the mid-80s are of special interest.

Cancellations from tracking sites participating in the mission may be shown as a supplement.

8. Other Country's programmes

Other countries with private or state-owned space programmes and launch sites, such as Australia, India, Iran, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Vietnam, etc. may be shown by recording the different rocket and satellite launches and the purpose of their mission.

Some partners on International Space Station have their own Control Centres like ATV Control Centre in Toulouse, France, Columbus Control Centre in Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany, JEM Control Centre and HTV Control Centre in Tsukuba, Japan, and John H. Chapman Space Centre in Longueuil, Canada.

9. Unmanned space programmes

The exhibit could consist of material relating to one or more of the following

- **Astronomy:** The exploration of the Moon, the Sun, the planets and star systems by use of stratosphere balloons, rockets, satellites and space probes recording the various events.
- **Meteorology:** The beginning of weather forecasting and use of; research balloons and high-altitude ballistic rockets, with emphasis on modern data collection and transmission by recording the launches of various types of meteorological satellites.
- **Telecommunication:** Following a brief survey on the initial means of transmitting news, show the progress in technology from the launch of the first telecommunication balloon and satellite test flights to the present world-wide network of different types of telecommunication satellites launched by activities of participating countries.
- **Exploration of the Earth:** Progress in exploring the Earth's magnetic field, atmosphere, radiation belts, and geographic, geodesy and geological data collection by stratosphere balloons, rockets and satellites. May include astrophilatelic material recording the deployment of satellites. Covers recording space events referring to research work performed by astronauts or cosmonauts during manned space missions are not suitable.
- **Unmanned space exploration** that led to manned space programmes and interplanetary probes.

10. Exploration from rockets to space stations

The exhibit should consist of material covering all the categories above in historical sequence. Care should be taken to ensure a balance across all aspects of space exploration over the nominated time-period.

One-frame Astrophilatelic Exhibit

A One Frame exhibit of Astrophilately is intended to be an exhibit with a very narrow subject that fits into one frame. If the exhibit can be shown in more than one frame, it is not suitable as a subject for a One Frame exhibit.

A selection of items from a multi-frame exhibit may be suitable only if the selection can completely treat a natural sub-theme of the exhibit within one frame. An extract from a

multi-frame exhibit, showing only the best items ("cherry picking") from a multi-frame exhibit is not appropriate.

The Judging Criteria of astrophilately exhibits

Judging of an exhibit will be carried out in accordance with Section V of the GREX.

The jury will use the following general criteria (GREV, Articles 4 &5):

	Astrophilately Judging Criteria	Points	GREV Reference
1	Treatment	20	GREV, Article 4.5
2	Philatelic Importance	10	GREV, Article 4.6
3	Philatelic and related knowledge, personal study and research	35	GREV, Article 4.7
4	Condition	10	GREV, Article 4.8
5	Rarity	20	GREV, Article 4.8
6	Presentation	5	GREV, Article 4.9

Exhibitors should be aware of the need to consider carefully the various aspects which combine to maximise the award an exhibit can attract

Some indications are given below of the basic elements underlying each individual criterion.

Treatment (20 points)

Treatment of the exhibit reflects the degree to which the exhibitor can create a balanced exhibit characteristic of the chosen subject. A logical progression that is easy to follow and a clear concise write up will help the jurors to appreciate the exhibit. In assessing treatment jurors will check that the statements made in the introduction and plan are adequately represented in the display.

The treatment of the exhibit is evaluated on:

- The Title Page of the exhibit clearly shows the purpose of the exhibit. It defines the scope and explains the plan and structure, as well as guides the juror to the most important literature/website references for the subject chosen.
- The subject has been chosen to enable a properly balanced exhibit to be shown in the space available.
- The content reflects the title, purpose, scope and plan.
- There is a logical narrative shown, created with text and material with a good balance between the different parts of the exhibit.
- The primary focus is on the philatelic material
- The completeness of material shown in relation to the scope of the exhibit with the pioneer period where applicable
- The headings support the understanding of the treatment.
- There are a natural start and ending point of the exhibit.
- There is no duplicated material.
- Text at each item documents reason for showing it.

- The text covers key aspects of the exact technical data, the dates, the place and the purpose or mission of the space objects, including the special activities of the astronauts and cosmonauts, the payloads, and scientific experiments involved.

The selection of material is an important factor not only in assessing treatment, but also knowledge. The exhibitor may omit material that is of lesser significance. In general, the common material of a programme may be represented by a token showing, whilst the better material of the same project should be shown in depth. The judges will appreciate that this treatment shows the exhibitor's knowledge of the material.

Philatelic Importance (10 points)

The "importance" of an exhibit is determined by both the overall significance of the subject in relation to astrophilately and the significance of the material in relation to the subject

The philatelic importance of the exhibit is evaluated on:

- The significance of the selected area relative to world astrophilately
- The significance of the selected area relative to the specific space programme or subject
- The difficulty of collecting the selected area
- The significance of the material shown relative to the selected area
- The amount of key material of the chosen subject is present

Philatelic and related knowledge, personal study and research (35 points)

The proper evaluation of philatelic and related knowledge, personal study, and research will be based on the relevant description of each philatelic object shown. Only the knowledge, study and research documented by the items in the exhibit can be judged.

Philatelic and related knowledge of the exhibit is evaluated on:

- A demonstrated a full and accurate understanding of the subject
- Good choice of items reflecting knowledge of the chosen area.
- Accurate description of material with fakes, alterations, backdating or repairs should be clearly noted. Such items should be accompanied by genuine ones. Pointing out the differences.
- Appropriate use of existing literature/websites within the area
- Rarity statements ("One of X recorded") mention their source. Expressions such as "Unique" or "Very rare" are not used.

Personal study and research of the exhibit are evaluated on:

- Research and new discoveries are given full coverage in accordance with their importance.
- Major discoveries are identified with important coverage and recognition. Minor discoveries should not overpower the main exhibit
- The exhibitor has made good use of published studies
- The information given does not overwhelm the philatelic material shown

It is unrealistic to require an exhibitor to develop new findings in a heavily studied and researched area. Such exhibits will not be penalised for a lack of personal research but will be given additional consideration if the exhibitor has managed to come up with new findings.

Condition (10 points)

- The condition of the exhibit is evaluated on:
- The material is in overall good condition, if so available

- Fine and clear cancellations wherever available
- If an item has been repaired or manipulated it must be described as such
- The condition of common material should be impeccable
- Exhibitors are encouraged to show unique or very rare material, that is not in fine condition but are cautioned from including common items in a similar condition
- The modern material should be in perfect condition. Exceptions are to be made for material that originates from an accident, crash landing or other irregular events.

Rarity (20 points)

Rarity is the relative scarcity (not the value) of the philatelic items shown.

The rarity of the exhibit is evaluated on:

- The difficulty of obtaining the relevant and interesting material shown
- That most of the appropriate rare items are shown
- That common material does not dominate the exhibit
- The exhibit would be difficult to duplicate

Presentation (5 points)

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 presentation of the exhibit is evaluated on:

- Good balance in the frames and the individual pages, with variations in the layout between the pages.
- Good use of the page with not too much white space on the pages.
- Careful mounting
- The write-up is clear, concise and relevant to the material chosen and to the subject of the exhibit.
- Enough write up, but not too much.
- Illustrations are not too dominating, and photocopies must be a minimum of 25% different in size from the original.

No advantage or disadvantage shall apply as to whether the text is handwritten, typewritten or printed. Brightly coloured inks and coloured album pages should be avoided.

Concluding Provisions

These Guidelines are not intended to provide an answer to every possible exhibitor's question; nevertheless, we hope that this advice will help the judge and the exhibitor to better understand the regulations.

Exhibitors should be aware of the need to consider carefully the various aspects which combine to maximise the award an exhibit can attract.

In event of discrepancies in the text from translation, the English text shall prevail

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