

Title of the Exhibit

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In my course of work as a FIP Consultant for ST PETERSBURG 2007, ISRAEL 2008 and CHINA 2009 World Stamp Exhibitions, I have had the opportunity to go through more than one thousand competitive exhibit application forms submitted by exhibitors from all FIP Member Federations. I noticed that a small number of exhibitors have changed the titles of their exhibits quite drastically. This practice has to come to a stop and that is the purpose of writing this article.

First of all, the commissioners and exhibitors have to understand that all the exhibits in the past FIP exhibitions (under FIP Patronage or Auspices) up to PRAGA 2008 were registered in the **FIP Awards List** and so the titles of the exhibits were also registered. Each exhibitor would be given an Identity Number (ID) which would conveniently identify the exhibitor to the FIP Secretariat when he/she registered his/her awards in the **FIP Awards List**. It would also assist the FIP Consultant and the Organizing Committee when they checked the applications. An example of an ID is "Tay Peng Hian, FIP ID Number -1699". Each exhibitor carried only one ID Number, irrespective of the number of exhibits entered.

Where to find your Identity Number?

The Identity Number could be obtained from the Secretary of your Federation. The FIP Secretariat circulates annually "a list of Awards and ID Numbers for all exhibitors" of the member federation concerned, together with the annual membership dues invoice. Note: There is no ID Number for first time entry exhibits.

What happens if I want to change the title of my exhibit?

Minor changes are normally acceptable. For example, if the original title (that is the title used when first participated in the FIP exhibition) **Postal History of the Netherlands East Indies 1655-1870** is changed to **Postal History of the Netherlands East Indies 1655-1899** in the second participation, this in my opinion, is considered as minor and relevant changes which is acceptable for the Organizing Committee to treat the first time award as valid.

Following are some examples which I consider as minor changes:

- 1) Latvian Traditional Philately, 1918-1945 (Previous title: Latvia Selections 1918-1945)
- 2) Kuwait Postal History - Indian Era (Previous title: Kuwait Postal History under Indian Administration)
- 3) Australian Postal Cards to 1959 (Previous title: Commonwealth of Australia Postal Cards to 1959)
- 4) Finland "Issued Before UPU" 1st Issue and Rouletted. 1856/1874 (Previous title: Finland. First Issue and Rouletted 1856/1890)

However when I am exhibiting for the second time, I would have to put in the application form under the title as **Postal History of the Netherlands East Indies 1655-1899 (Previous title: Postal History of the Netherlands East Indies 1655-1870)**

Only exhibits entered at the past FIP exhibitions and continental exhibitions (with FIP Recognition status) need to fill in the previous titles.

If the title of the exhibit has a major change against the first time title, then such an exhibit should be treated as a new entry in the FIP exhibitions and begin with another national award before entering FIP exhibition.

For example, an exhibit was first exhibited with the title ***"The U.S. 1847 Issue: A Postal History Perspective"*** at ST PETERSBURG 2007. In EFIRO 2008, the title changed to ***"The U.S. 1847 Issue: Did it demonstrate that US Stampless Mail could be eliminated?"***

Strictly speaking, these two titles are in no relation and should be allotted 5 frames instead of 8 because the second title was not registered in the FIP Awards List and should be treated as a new exhibit. Then in PRAGA 2008, the title changed again to ***"the U.S. 1847 Issue: Stamps that changed the system"***. This is totally different from the previous two.

However, there is a way out to this problem. In the application form, the exhibitor should state the reason why the title is drastically changed, prove that the contents (philatelic material etc) are the same as that shown previously but have treated the subject differently (state the differences). In other words, try to explain that the second title will speak out better for the exhibit. This appeal will then be subjected to the review and approval of the Organizing Committee and FIP Consultant.

I honestly believe that many exhibitors were not aware of the consequences when they make major changes to the titles of their exhibits and they comfortably felt that they have the right to make the changes, without realizing the risks of subjecting their exhibits to be treated as new exhibits. The purpose of this article is to provide a clear guideline on the changing of title of exhibits, so as to avoid heated argument and frustrations if and when title changes are required.