



International Exhibiting 101

Selection Process of the Exhibits for the Show

How will the world's best philatelic exhibits end up at World Stamp Show-NY 2016? It is a complex process for exhibitors, organizers, and judges, but well worth it for everyone.

Exhibiting at the international level is the pinnacle of an exhibitor's aspirations. Most international exhibitions are under the patronage of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP, www.f-i-p.ch), which has set guidelines and procedures for the application, organizational, and judging aspects of exhibiting. This document is known as the "General Regulations of the FIP for Exhibitions."

To be eligible for an international show, an exhibit must first have received a minimum of 75 points (or in North America, a Vermeil medal) at a national level exhibition. In most cases, such exhibits will have received several high awards, but just one is needed.

The governing philatelic organization for each participating country appoints a national commissioner who handles applications. An official show bulletin describes the application process, rules of the competition, and includes commissioner names and contact information, as well as an application form.

Next, the exhibitor must apply to exhibit in one of several recognized FIP competitive classes: Traditional, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Thematic, Maximaphily, Youth, Revenue, Astrophilately, or Philatelic Literature. Open Philately and Modern Philately are two additional exhibiting disciplines. Note that the Popular Illustrated Mail (first-day covers) category is not among the official classes. World Stamp Show-NY 2016 will have a number of these exhibits on display as an experimental class instead.

National commissioners verify all information and forward it to the show's commissioner general, who re-verifies everything. Applications, sorted by class, are forwarded to the exhibit selection committee, which is made up of a select group of prominent philatelists. That team evaluates the entries and determines who will be sent invitations to compete. At least 20 percent of the exhibits selected must be first-time international exhibit entries. A number of the best youth exhibits from around the world also are selected. The rest are selected based on their subject, prior award levels, and an attempt to achieve a balance among the different classes and countries.

Often, the number of frames requested far exceeds the number available. This was the case with WSS-NY 2016, because some 6,400 frames were requested but only 4,000 were available. This leaves difficult decisions for the selection committee, which does its best to accommodate as many exhibitors and exhibits as possible. Results are passed along to the national commissioners who inform the exhibitors whether or not their exhibits have been accepted. If an exhibitor declines the invite, an alternate is chosen.

Judges are chosen from an international pool of candidates. It is the responsibility of the show committee, the FIP, and both organizations in concert to choose the panel. At national level shows all judges adjudicate all classes of exhibit entries. Judges at international exhibitions only judge exhibits in their recognized exhibiting class of expertise.

The role of each national commissioner only begins with the application process. It is their responsibility to collect, transport and safeguard all of their nationals' exhibits to and from the international show. Commissioners also check award levels given, and collecting medals and special prizes for those exhibitors not in attendance. Mounting and dismounting is done by an experienced group of philatelists.

The process may seem a bit complex, but in the end, it assures visitors to WSS-NY 2016 will view some of the world's finest philatelic exhibits.



May 28–June 4, 2016
New York City
www.ny2016.org

Show opens in
5
months

WSS-NY 2016
Social Media
www.facebook.com/ny2016
www.twitter.com/WorldStampShowN
www.pinterest.com/wssny2016

Discounted Delta Air Fare



World Stamp Show-NY 2016 has appointed Delta Air Lines as its official air carrier. Arrangements for discounted airfare were made through its Group and Specialty Sales Center. Details are on the show website ny2016.org.