

So You Want to Become an APS Accredited National Stamp Show Judge?

A Guide to Participating in the APS Judges Apprenticeship Program



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**A publication of the American Philatelic Society
Committee on the Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges**

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1. Why Become a Judge?

One certainly does not become a philatelic judge for the glory, a profit motive, or the simplicity of the task. It's a difficult challenge, and not everyone is suited to it.

Although judges are accorded a certain elementary respect, the level is basic and a solid reputation as a good judge must be earned. It lasts only as long as performance at a high level is maintained.

Being a philatelic judge is a little like being President of the U.S. in that everything you do and say is subject to being second guessed and often is! You must develop the ability to evaluate criticism, understand its source and motivation, learn from it if it is valid, and to let it roll off your back when it isn't.

Achieving accreditation is not the end of your education. It is only the beginning. One of the reasons for becoming a judge is that it forces you to learn more about the breadth and depth of our wonderful hobby.

We are long past the era when the philatelic expert could know it all. However, an active judge who does a proper job of preparation for the task and a fair job of studying exhibits in the frames will

develop an excellent knowledge of philately, a respect for what others can do with the specific areas they have chosen to develop, and a healthy sense of humility about how little one person can ever know.

You won't get rich in the process. Accredited judges at a World Series of Philately national show now receive an honorarium of \$250, a banquet ticket for self and spouse, and often one meal on Friday before or during the judging. This helps with, but rarely covers the costs of transportation, lodging, meals, and incidentals. The level is set so as to make a substantial dent in the expenses without breaking the bank for the show, which (remember) has five honoraria to pay.

When the judging program was first developed, it was predicated on the tenet that this would be an opportunity for judges to give something back to the hobby which has given us so much; not an opportunity to make a profit. That remains its operating philosophy.

As an apprentice, you can expect to receive the banquet ticket(s) and often a complimentary Friday meal. A few shows give a small honorarium to the Apprentice(s), but this is not required.

2. Requirements

The Apprentice must have won at least an adult Vermeil medal at a national WSP show to enter the Apprenticeship Program and become accredited. Those who sit in judgment of others' work and presume to give advice on how to achieve higher medal levels must have demonstrated the ability to achieve at a high level themselves.

The process starts upon receipt by the Committee of a properly completed registration form which can be obtained from the Committee on the Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges (CANEJ). The Apprentice should mail the completed application to the Chairman of the Committee whose address is on the back page of the form.

The Apprentice must serve successfully at a minimum of four national WSP shows. After each apprenticeship, the Jury Chairman will file a report on the Apprentice's performance (Attachment 1) with CANEJ. These reports will serve as the basis of the decision CANEJ will eventually reach on the Apprentice's request to be accredited.

Though CANEJ may help with obtaining apprenticeships, it is the responsibility of the apprentice to contact show committees to request appointment to one of the (normally) two apprentice slots available on a WSP jury. The four apprenticeships must be completed within a five year period, though many opt to try to complete it rapidly once they enter the program.

2. Requirements Continued

It is recommended that apprentices take at least a year to do their apprenticeships to allow sufficient time between shows for the lessons of one to sink in before performing at another, and allow enough time for preparation before the next show.

The Apprentice is expected to attend at least one Traditional Judging Seminar (given periodically at shows around the country). It is recommended this be done before the first Apprenticeship. The Apprentice is also strongly encouraged to attend one or more of the other specialty Judging Seminars (such as Thematic, Youth, Postal History, etc.) preferably early in the Apprentice period.

The Apprentice MUST read and understand the current edition of the *Manual of Philatelic Judging* (MPJ), available from the APS in Bellefonte, or at the APS table at most WSP shows.

There are no age requirements or cut-offs, but the judge is expected to spend most of two days on his or her feet, stretching upward and bending downward to see material in the top and bottom rows of 16-page frames. This must be done while adhering to an inflexible schedule necessitated by the need to fit a great deal of activity into a small amount of time.

Many potential Apprentices feel that they know only one area of philately and can't be good judges without a much wider base of knowledge. To some extent this is true, but it may be remedied by some general philatelic reading on a wide variety of subjects with the process of preparation for each assignment providing the factual material needed. More important is the ability to think logically, to learn the techniques and arts of successful exhibiting, and the ability to effectively transmit to another exhibitor honest but helpful comments that will help him or her solve the problems their exhibiting field poses.

3. Resources

Exhibiting and judging are dynamic. The wise Apprentice will attempt to get a sense of at least the recent history of these fields and will read extensively on the topics so as to be a better resource for the exhibitors with whom he/she will interact.

Among the resources available are these:

- APRL. The staff will assist in finding specific information, but the Apprentice is encouraged to search for the references themselves and not to expect the staff to do their work for them. You will find on the APRL website (www.stamps.org) a searchable card catalog and article index which will assist you. Additionally, there are other philatelic libraries across the country that could be of use.
- "The Ten Commandments For Philatelic Judges" by Sam Ray (Updated and Expanded to 15 Commandments by John M. Hotchner) . A copy will be found at the end of this pamphlet.

- *The New Philatelic Exhibitor's Handbook* by Randy L. Neil, now available in philatelic libraries and from literature dealers.

Additional suggestions:

- Attend as many shows as you can. Study the exhibits and assign medal levels as if you were on the jury. Then compare your results with the jury's. Talk with the accredited judges where your results differ significantly.
- Go to as many critiques as possible and observe how the judges and apprentices conduct themselves. Critique the critiquers. How could the presentation have been improved?
- Seek out opportunities to talk with other exhibitors, judges, and apprentices. Pay attention to the war stories and what they tell you about the development of the exhibiting and judging crafts.
- Read and keep a file of books and articles on exhibiting and judging.

4. What to do Before the Show

Contact the show chairman where you would like to Apprentice to request a slot. Start early. Judging panels are usually firm no later than six months before the show, and the process of selection and receiving CANEJ approval of the panel often begins a year ahead.

During the time leading up to the show, be certain that you have been informed when and where the show is being held, the required functions and where your jury is to assemble. The Jury Chairman will inform you of any other specific requirements and whether there will be any pre-judging walk through planned for Thursday evening.

Approximately a month before the show you will receive from the show committee one or more mailings of title pages and/or synopsis pages for the exhibits accepted for the show. Read them and use them as a basis for doing your judging preparation homework.

What is meant by homework? It is your time spent reading and gaining a basic knowledge of the material which will be presented so that you can

make an intelligent judgment on the scope and treatment of the various exhibits.

You may have useful literature in your own philatelic library (and it is the wise judge who adds to that library regularly to include standard reference works outside his or her own collecting areas).

What is not in your library should be available to be borrowed or photocopied at a modest charge from philatelic libraries such as the APRL at Bellefonte, PA. (See Section 3. Resources).

Specific literature references may come from the synopsis/title pages or from your library research. It is much better to read and take notes ahead of time and to photocopy only the salient information for use, if needed, at the frames.

You are not expected to be a walking encyclopedia or even to have found material on every exhibit in the show. You are expected to have made a good faith effort (as are the accredited judges) to have informed yourself sufficiently so that you can fairly evaluate the great majority of exhibits and be a useful resource to the exhibitors.

5. What to do at the Show

When serving as an apprentice your first allegiance is to the jury and its work. You are expected to be on time for its functions, stay until released by the Chairman, and attend all social events to which the jury is invited as the show's guest. Block out the times you will be busy and inform family and friends that you will not be available. This will include all day Friday, possibly into the early evening. Most juries are able to complete the work of assigning awards that day.

On The Floor – Get to the first appointed meeting early, and link up with the show committee's Judging Chairman and/or the Jury Chairman. Get and wear your ribbon or pin-badge identifying you as a member of the panel. Take care to be dressed appropriately in keeping with your task. Take your cue from what the majority of your colleagues wear.

The mechanics of the judging process by a specific jury are decided by its Jury Chairman who will direct you and assign your judging mentors. Most juries will be split into two teams to facilitate the actual judging. For your first three apprenticeships, you normally will be teamed with two accredited judges.

It is common for the Jury Chairman to go back and forth between the teams to monitor progress and listen to the discussions. At no time should you wander off to a dealer's booth or society table, engage in lengthy conversations with friends, or leave to attend meetings or ceremonies during the judging day.

5. What to do at the Show Continued

You will be asked questions by the accredited judges. You will be expected to state your medal level determination and be able to justify it. You are also expected to ask informed questions since this is intended to be a learning experience. Take notes on your observations as you go. You will need them at deliberations and at the critique.

During your final apprenticeship you will be expected to judge the exhibits by yourself and to justify your medal level awards based on your own efforts. You may request guidance on some exhibits, but you should be able to show that you have developed the skills to reach and justify decisions expected of an accredited judge.

During Deliberations – After judging at the frames the jury will retire to a private room to deliberate. The medal levels and special awards are determined by consensus at that time. The Jury Chairman will most often alternate between the apprentices for first comment at these deliberations. You will be asked to recommend a medal level and give two or three sentences of justification for each exhibit.

After the Apprentices have given their recommendations, the accredited judges are polled on a medal level. If a consensus is reached among the five judges, the Jury Chairman will record the final award level and repeat the process with the next exhibit to be evaluated. Only if there is no consensus will the judges be asked to comment on what led them to the award they selected. The great majority of these discussions are rapid and easily settled. On occasion it may be necessary to go back to the frames to clarify points before settling on a level.

The votes of the Apprentices do not count in selecting the consensus award, but their reasons given for their estimation may have a contributory effect in influencing the outcome. Likewise, the Apprentices do not have a vote in determining special awards, but are welcome to take an active part in nominating exhibits for them, and providing rationale for their recommendations.

Once all the awards have been decided, the Jury Chairman will establish a first responder for each exhibit at the critique. If you are

uncomfortable with any of the assigned exhibits now is the time to inform the Jury Chairman.

The Jury Chairman will give final instructions on the conduct and manner of the critique. You may be asked to assist in the preparation of any score sheets that have to go back to the exhibitors.

All the deliberations are secret. You and your colleagues must be free to discuss objectively whatever you believe to be the important points in evaluating the exhibit (NOT THE EXHIBITOR!), without fear of being quoted.

The medal level awards are secret until posted on the frames. The special awards are secret until announced at the Awards Ceremony, usually a Saturday night banquet. There is no faster way to get into hot water than to leave the deliberations and start giving hints to your friends about what they can expect and attitudes expressed toward their work. You will be pressed by some. The best strategy for dealing with it is to say simply, “Sorry, I can’t discuss anything that went on in the deliberations.”

Preparing For The Critique – You should go back your assigned exhibits to make notes in greater depth. Your notes should include specifics, both positive and negative, that would be useful at the critique. You may do this either after the deliberations or on Saturday before the critique. Your judge’s badge will often get you into the exhibition before it is open to the public.

Be prepared to justify the jury consensus on all exhibits rather than your own determinations. You may not say, “I voted for a gold (or silver) but the rest of these folk thought it was a vermeil.” Your task is to explain briefly what the exhibitor must do to raise the medal level from the consensus award level. Seek advice from your colleagues if you are in doubt, especially if you are in your first or second Apprenticeships.

At the Critique, exhibitors are given the opportunity to request comments from the jury. When called upon you should begin your statements with a positive comment, but not something trite as “I liked your exhibit...”, then offer specific suggestions for exhibit improvement.

5. What to do at the Show Continued

Avoid cliches, attempts at humor, or offers to sell material. It is important to show respect for the exhibitor's choice of subject. It should NEVER be denigrated. Be helpful, not antagonistic. Your comments may address such subjects as information in the exhibit that could be expanded or corrected, ways to organize the

exhibit more effectively, material or subjects to add or delete, condition, issues, etc. If it is apparent that you have a great deal to say, the Jury Chairman may break in to suggest that you and the exhibitor meet at the frames after the critique to finish your evaluations.

6. What to do When the Show Ends

The Jury Chairman, often after consulting other members of the jury for their thoughts, will submit a written report on your performance to CANEJ. This report may be shared with you. If not, it is appropriate for you to ask for the Jury Chairman's opinion of your performance and the ways in which you can improve. Feel free to ask others on the jury as well. If you have made any

commitments to exhibitors to provide copies of relevant material, addresses of specialists, etc. deliver on those promises.

It is not out of place to drop a note to the show committee thanking them for the opportunity to apprentice. This may be remembered later when you are accredited and are looking for judging assignments.

7. Applying for Accreditation

Obtain from CANEJ the necessary form to use in applying for accreditation after your fourth apprenticeship. Once you submit this form, it will be circulated to CANEJ members together with the evaluation forms from each show at which you were an apprentice. The CANEJ decision could be immediate accreditation, a suggestion that you do an additional apprenticeship with one of the CANEJ members as a Jury Chairman, or a finding that you are not an appropriate candidate for accreditation.

The third alternative is rare. An Apprentice who is uncomfortable with performing the duties of a judge will usually realize this and drop from the program before the fourth apprenticeship.

Similarly, an Apprentice with a history of poor performances will have been notified along the way and encouraged to resign. This is no reflection of one's philatelic ability. The judging process is not suitable for everyone.

Most Apprentices feel discomfort or anxiety at some time in the process. The specific interim reports from the Vice Chairman for Judges and Apprentices to each Apprentice should alleviate some of this stress.

The Apprenticeship program is demanding and requires the development of specialized skills, but it is considered by many to be very worthwhile.

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

APPRENTICE JUDGE APPLICATION

Date _____ APS No. _____

Name _____ Birth date _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____ Fax No. _____ E-mail _____

Where and when did you obtain your vermeil or gold medal qualifying award?

Give details and title of your exhibit

Have you ever been expelled from or denied membership in any philatelic organization? _____

If so, please attach explanation _____

Philatelic Society Memberships: _____

For what areas of specialization or expertise do you seek accreditation? Please fill out the attached form on your areas of special knowledge.

What other languages besides English do you read? _____

How far are you willing to travel in order to serve as an apprentice judge? _____

Please Complete the Reverse Side

Have you judged at any local or regional shows in the past 5 years?
If so, please list: show, city, year

Have you exhibited within the past 5 years?
If so, list the titles of all exhibits with the relevant show and the award

Have you authored, edited or published any philatelic books, journals, or articles
within the past 5 years? If so, please list:

Return Completed Questionnaire To:

COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION OF NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS & JUDGES

**Stephen Reinhard, Chairman
P.O. Box 110
Mineola, NY11501**

Areas of Special Knowledge

In order to be more helpful to those judging co-ordinators from Shows around the country who are attempting to put together balanced jury panels, it has ben decided to update all judges' proficiency levels for their various areas of specialization and expertise. These areas of special knowledge will be particularly helpful when more than one specialist society is convening at the Show. The new judges' list on the APS web pages will reflect these changes.

Use Class numbers 1 - 10 (1 - Traditional; 2 - Postal History; 3 - Postal Stationery; 4 - Aerophilately; 5 - Thematic; 6 - Maximaphily; 7 - Literature; 8 - Youth Philately; 9 - Revenue; 10 - First Day Covers)

List just those areas of specialization or expertise for which you can demonstrate one or more of the following proficiencies:

Examples

CLASS number	Areas of expertise	Exhibited to National Level Vermeil	Lectured or Written about subject - give details	Seriously Collected for minimum of 5 yrs
3.	Australia Iceland South America	x - -	- - x RPSL Talk - 1997	x x x
2.	Postal History in General California Postal History	- x	x Chicago Coll. Club Talk - 1996 -	x x
5.	Thematics	x	x 3 articles in Topical Times 1995 - 1999	x

Please also check here if you have attended the relevant seminar and are qualified to judge:

_____ One Frame exhibits

_____ Display exhibits

Use the back of this form if there are any other areas that you may wish to include.



PHILATELIC APPRENTICE JUDGE EVALUATION FORM

Apprentice Name _____ Date _____

Exhibition _____ This is apprentice's _____ apprenticeship

NUMERICAL KEY:

1 = *Unacceptable*. This is an area of urgent concern. The apprentice should make efforts to correct this clear deficiency. If it persists after more than two apprenticeships, the apprentice should reexamine whether she/ he wishes to become a philatelic judge. The evaluator must make comments and recommendations on this criterion in the narrative section.

2 = *Less than Acceptable*. This is an area of deficiency that requires some attention on the part of the apprentice. An apprentice cannot be accredited with any criteria scoring at this level on the final apprenticeship. The evaluator has an obligation to address any criterion rated at this level with comments and recommendations.

3 = *Acceptable*. This is a minimum level on each criterion. Improvement over this level is to be encouraged through comments and recommendations.

4 = *Proficient*. This is the level at which an experienced judge should perform. And it is the expectation that during the fourth apprenticeship an apprentice should perform at this level as well.

5 = *Commendable*. The apprentice is performing at the highest levels. Special effort should be made to praise an apprentice performing at this level. It is not expected that an apprentice will perform at this level on all criteria. Indeed there are times that accredited judges may not perform at this level on all criteria.

1. Preparation. To what degree did the apprentice show evidence of preparation prior to show through the study of handbooks, articles, etc?	1	2	3	4	5
2. Knowledge					
a. Of own field(s) of philately	1	2	3	4	5
b. Philatelic knowledge of many countries	1	2	3	4	5
c. Of diverse philatelic areas (e.g. thematic, postal history, stationery)	1	2	3	4	5
d. Technical philatelic knowledge (e.g. printing, perforation, papers)	1	2	3	4	5
e. Knowledge of philatelic exhibiting	1	2	3	4	5
3. Exhibit Ratings					
a. Efficiency. Does apprentice schedule her/ his time to give each exhibit proper consideration but still complete her/ his duties on time?	1	2	3	4	5
b. Accuracy. Are the award levels the apprentice recommends close to the levels of the remainder of the jury?	1	2	3	4	5
4. Jury Deliberations					
a. Communication. Does the apprentice contribute willingly and effectively express herself/ himself when explaining her/ his reasons for ratings?	1	2	3	4	5
b. Contributions. Does the apprentice contribute willingly and positively to the deliberations (as opposed to parroting others)?	1	2	3	4	5
c. Analytical ability. Is the reasoning to justify ratings of exhibits logical and consistent?	1	2	3	4	5
d. Compatibility. Does the apprentice get along well with other members of the jury?	1	2	3	4	5
5. Critique					
a. Suggestions. Does the apprentice assist exhibitors with useful suggestions?	1	2	3	4	5
b. Reasons for award level. Does the apprentice tell exhibitors the real reasons an exhibit receives a lower award?	1	2	3	4	5
6. Personal Bias. Is the apprentice free from bias towards any philatelic area or collecting interest?	1	2	3	4	5
7. Overall Appraisal of Apprentice as Future Judge	1	2	3	4	5

Evaluator (Please print) _____

Apprentice signature _____
(optional)

Chief judge MUST make additional comments on back of this form.
Mail completed form to Stephen Reinhard, Chairman CANEJ,
P.O. Box 110, Mineola, NY 11501

Appendix IV The Ten Commandments For Philatelic Judges



Reprinted from *The Philatelic Exhibitor*, Vol. 7, No. 1, Jan. 1993

by Samuel Ray Updated and Expanded to 15 Commandments by John M. Hotchner

In the 16 years since the late Sam Ray set down his landmark list of the behaviors of an effective judge (including apprentices), the field of exhibiting has grown and matured at a rapid rate, and the expectations of judges have grown with it. Further, as independence has been achieved by more and more countries, and the countries of the world continue to pour out new issues, it has become impossible for any one judge to meet the standard of earlier days: to be deeply knowledgeable in the philately of the entire world.

This makes the composition of the jury all the more important. Since the major areas of the world and types of collecting are split among the jury, there is additional and increasing pressure on each individual judge and apprentice to perform their tasks with excellence. This is given even more emphasis by the increasing degree to which the panel is reasonably expected to provide useful feedback to the exhibitors.

And so, while I hesitate to monkey with a legend, it is clear that Ray's 10 commandments has become a jumping-off point rather than the final word they were 16 years ago. It is in that spirit that the revision which follows is offered.

1. Knowledge - Judges are presumed to be highly knowledgeable philatelists. Exhibitors consider them to have at least a nodding acquaintance with all aspects of philatelic specialization as well as a profound knowledge of their several areas of expertise. Every judge should endeavor to merit this high regard not only by his/her actions in judging but through self-education in philately.

In preparing to become a judge one should read and study widely in every aspect of philately, and particularly in the fundamentals. One should subscribe to - and read - a wide range of weekly papers and society publications; and at least some of these should be beyond the scope of one's own fields of interest.

One should collect in a number of disparate fields and categories in order to gain as much varied experience as possible. One should attend all possible exhibitions to study the collections on display, and should attend meetings and lectures regardless of the subject presented. Everything is grist for the mill. One's education should continue after becoming a judge -- this is actually the time to redouble one's efforts, for philatelic

education is a never-ending process, and the scope of the hobby is ever increasing.

2. Continue To Exhibit - Judges should continue to exhibit; improving the exhibit(s) that met the exhibiting requirement for accreditation, and developing new exhibits in other exhibiting categories. The object is not the winning of medals. Rather it is to retain empathy for the person who sits on the other side of the critique table, to maintain a feel for the changes that are occurring in exhibiting standards, and to learn first hand the problems that must be overcome by exhibitors whose efforts the judge will be called upon to evaluate.

3. Preparation for Judging - Judges should be prepared to judge both the material in the exhibit and the effectiveness and coverage of the subject (story line) as presented philatelically. One need not be a subject matter expert to do an effective job but a good faith effort should be made before arriving to judge at an exhibition to use the information provided by the exhibitors in title pages and/or synopsis pages. They, or the exhibit title if that is all that is available, should be used as a jumping off point to consult philatelic/historical references so as to learn as much as possible about the content of the exhibits -- especially the unfamiliar areas -- to be judged.

4. The Challenge Level - Judges should look for and evaluate the challenge level that the exhibitor has set. Novice exhibitors and those on their way up the ladder often need to think about how they have titled their exhibit and/or what the exhibit actually attempts; and whether that is something that can earn a gold medal as it is presently defined. Judges should be extremely wary of saying "You can't get a gold with this exhibit," when what is meant is: "To get a gold, I believe you will need to add such and such type of material/limit the area shown in order to provide more depth/explicitly broaden the scope of the exhibit to include so and so."

5. Encouragement - Judges should at all times keep in mind two cardinal principles: that philately is a friendly hobby, and that exhibitions are its public face. It then follows that exhibitors are to be encouraged rather than discouraged. Judges should be friendly and helpful toward exhibitors and should refrain from a superior- than-thou attitude. In practice,

judges should find and emphasize elements that would justify encouragement. This is not to say that higher awards should be freely given -- gold medals still have to be earned -- but when lesser exhibits show effort, merit and the possibility of development, the judge should seek to help the exhibitor on to the next step.

6. Dominant Considerations - Judges should avoid a tendency to give too much weight to such things as the arrangement of material, the presence of a typographical error, or the length of write-up, instead of the material. Judges should always remember that the material is the dominant factor, and that judging the write-up and decoration is not a substitute for judging the material.

Questionable material should be given the benefit of the doubt unless it is established beyond doubt that there is a misrepresentation. The weight given to such a problem must be assigned according to how seriously it reflects upon the exhibitor's knowledge of the material.

7. Exhibit Preparation Methods - Judges must not display a prejudice against any method of writing-up of a collection. Hand lettering, guide lettering, typewriting, computer printing, and even pencil lettering are equally acceptable, as long as the work is done in good taste and is appropriate. In this connection, exhibits should not be downgraded because of an occasional erasure, typographical error, grammatical lapse, or any other such capricious reason, as long as the general effect is one of neatness.

8. Logic of Presentation - Judges should know there is no "right" way to collect or to present a collection. Some collectors prefer to collect and present the stamps and their problems separately from the postal history; other collectors remove aero-philately from the body of the collection and present it separately. Such individuality is to be respected; it is an absolute right of every collector to exhibit in the manner that seems most logical to him. It is the responsibility of the judges to determine if the exhibit is arranged logically within its own parameters.

9. Focus of Judging - Judges are strictly cautioned that they are not judging the owners, the previous owners, the circumstances of acquisition, or any rumors concerning the exhibit, but that their judging

is limited solely to the material in the frame. Awards are given to the collection, not the collector. It is the responsibility of the local exhibition committee to police its own rules concerning the ownership of the collection or any other legal or moral matters, and these must be of no concern to the judges.

10. **Foster individuality** - Judging should not be approached as an ego trip but as a responsibility; with the humility born of recognition of how much the judge does **not** know. Judges should therefore make an effort to seek out and empathize with the exhibitor's topic or subject, and should refrain from imposing their own standards. One of the charms of philately is the individual approach, it should be remembered that all exhibitors are free to follow their own ideas in exhibiting, and their efforts should be accorded full and serious credence. Comments on the effectiveness of the approach to the topic or subject are fine, when accompanied by specific suggestions for improvement. Denigrating the entire effort should be avoided at all costs.

11. **Unbiased Judging** - Judges should avoid bringing their personal prejudices into their judging. All collections accepted by the exhibition committee, including those that are professionally prepared, are entitled to serious consideration and careful judging even though there may be a prevailing bias toward them. For example, there are no rules that state that nineteenth century collections are more "classical" or "important" than twentieth century, or rules that permit a bias toward certain countries or fields, or even material commonly regarded as "philatelic" when that is the accepted norm for the era and area. If the exhibitor is presenting a serious study, then the exhibit should certainly be taken seriously by the judges.

12. **Cost A Nonissue** - Judges should avoid displaying any prejudice toward or against inexpensive material. Exhibits of inexpensive material may represent a significant challenge and should be given as much serious attention as any other exhibit. On the other hand, there should be no bias against rarities or rather costly material. The phrase "All you need is money" and similar comments hardly indicate a judicial climate. Such attitudes must be carefully avoided by temperate judges.

13. **Judges Must Vote** - Judges should carefully avoid the temptation to downgrade an exhibit because they know little or nothing about the collection. Admitting ignorance is no sin. However, judges may not refuse to judge an exhibit. If a judge feels that he/she is insufficiently familiar with what is being shown in an exhibit,

advice should be sought from other members of the panel or an impartial expert or specialist; this is a permissible and well accepted practice. If the judge feels that he/she can not vote in good conscience because of a total lack of understanding of the material, the situation should be discussed with the jury chairman. A judge who has materially assisted in the preparation of an exhibit should note that fact when voting.

14. **Preparing For the Critique** - After the end of formal judging, judges should spend additional time on their own reviewing exhibits they will be expected to speak to at the critique. This should be done whether the exhibitor is expected to attend or not, and regardless of the medal level. (One never knows when an exhibitor will write after the exhibit asking for a critique, and the judge should be prepared to respond.) Given the speed with which normal judging must take place, this additional attention to one's assigned exhibits is critical to an appreciation of their strong points and the areas in which improvements are possible; and allows the judge to make specific comments keyed to frame and page number.

15. **In the Critique** - Judges should make substantive comments highlighting both the strong points noted in reviewing the exhibit, and the areas in which the exhibit can be improved. The latter can include points of presentation, but a critique focused on those alone is inadequate. The judge who has comments to make that may be embarrassing to the exhibitor should make those comments one to one, at the frames if possible, but not in the public forum of the critique. Attempts at humor at the exhibitor's expense "just to lighten the atmosphere" should be avoided.

Judges should be extremely careful about directing exhibitors to specific dealers or offering to sell useful material to exhibitors. Exhibitors should never be told that specific items are essential and then pressured to acquire them from a given source.

The judge should take pains to differentiate for the exhibitor his/her personal opinion and suggestions from objective requirements. The judge's thoughts about ways in which the exhibit might be restructured to be more effective should never be presented as requirements in the same context as the need to remove or properly label an acknowledged fake.

NOTE: The author wishes to thank Bill Bauer, Jo Bleakley, Bud Hennig, A. Don Jones, Peter McCann, Randy Neil, Steve Schumann, Bud Sellers, and Ann Triggle who reviewed and made suggestions to

improve a preliminary draft of this presentation. JMH

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

APPLICATION FOR JUDGE ACCREDITATION

Date _____ APS No. _____

Name _____ Birth date _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____ Fax No. _____ e mail _____

Collector _____ Dealer _____ Collector/Dealer _____

Requirements for Accreditation

1. You must have exhibited and received at least a Vermeil medal in a National level show before beginning your Apprenticeships. Give details:

2. You must have served as an apprentice at a minimum of four APS accredited National level shows. Please list these WSP shows with their dates:

Show Name	City	Year
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Are you an American Topical Association Accredited Judge? _____

Date of ATA accreditation: _____

ATA Accredited Judges may substitute this accreditation for one of the required WSP Apprenticeships and attend the appropriate seminars

Please Complete the Reverse Side

3. You must have attended at least one APS Traditional Judging Seminar. Attendance at other APS Judging Seminars (Postal History, Thematic, Youth, FDC, Aerophilately, Postal Stationery, Revenues and Philatelic Literature) is recommended, and attendance at the appropriate seminar is required if accreditation is sought in one of those specialized areas.

Seminar Attended	Presented By	Given Where
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

For the areas of expertise that you seek accreditation, please update the attached form for your areas of special knowledge

If you have met these 3 requirements this application is complete

Notes:

1. A person, who is first accredited as a Philatelic Judge need serve only three literature apprenticeships to upgrade the accreditation to include philatelic literature, plus attend the appropriate judging seminar. The other criteria are stipulated in the APS Apprentice Literature Judge Application.
2. A person, who is first accredited as a Philatelic Literature Judge need serve only three philatelic apprenticeships to upgrade the accreditation to include philatelic judging, plus attend the appropriate seminars. The other criteria are stipulated in the APS Apprentice Judge Application.

Return Form to:

COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION OF NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS & JUDGES

**Stephen Reinhard, Chairman
P.O. Box 110
Mineola, NY 11501**

TO: APS Accreditation of Judges Committee

Date _____

JUDGE'S PLEDGE

I agree, if certified as an Accredited Judge by the American Philatelic Society, to approach all philatelic judging in a realistic and objective manner.

I will at all times, compatible with personal responsibility, prior commitments, and available transportation, be willing to serve when asked.

I will not exhibit for competition in any show in which I am a judge.

In all cases I will try, to the best of my ability, to render honest and equitable judgment upon the material presented, without fear or favor.

I will confine my judging activities to those categories specified upon my Accredited Judge certificate.

I will be willing to train apprentice judges during my assignments and will report to the Committee on Judging Credentials when requested my estimate of the qualification of any apprentice assigned to work with me.

Should controversial factors arise in the judging, I will consult disinterested non-exhibiting authorities in the given field for clarification before rendering a decision.

I further agree to attend all judging critiques and be of assistance to exhibitors at all reasonable times.

I acknowledge that if I accept a judging assignment and fail to notify the Organizing Committee promptly of my inability to attend, I may be subject to suspension by the Accreditation Committee.

To all the above conditions I freely pledge myself,

SIGNATURE _____