

Fédération Internationale de Philatélie

**Postal History & Postal Stationery  
Workshop/Seminar**

Taipei 28 April 2015

Hong Kong 20 November 2015

NRB

# 1. INTRODUCTION

- AIM –
- GREV, SREV, Guidelines state WHAT to do – this workshop aims to show HOW
- To pick on problem areas
  - **Exhibitors** – to get a better award
  - **Judges** – what to look for when judging
  - **Exhibiting + Judging** = opposite sides of the same coin

## **EXHIBITING**

Two basic rules for exhibiting at National, FIAP and FIP exhibitions:

- **Your exhibit MUST tell a story** – this applies to ALL classes
  
- Every exhibit should have a **Title Page** with an **Introductory Statement**, a **Plan** and a short list of **References**

## 2. GREV, SREV + GUIDELINES

The basis of exhibit evaluation or judging of Competitive Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions

- **GREV** = General Regulations – ALL Classes
- **SREV** = Special Regulations – by Class
- **Guidelines** – more detail – by Class
  - YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THEM
- **SO READ THEM – READ THEM AGAIN  
AND READ THEM AGAIN**

# 3. A GOOD EXHIBIT

- Need to make Judges think it is a good exhibit
- **PRESENTATION**
  - Looks Good = neat layout – easy to read
  - Avoid covers ‘one up, one down’ or tram lines
- **TREATMENT**
  - Good title – states subject clearly
  - Tells a STORY – complete – no gaps
  - Develops logically

NEVER use the word “**Display**” – it is an “EXHIBIT”

### 3. Good Exhibit - 2

- Title Page needs to invite people to

**“Come and Look at Me”**

An item on Title Page may help –  
but not too big

**Use a Computer – it looks better**

**Writing up is NOT an exercise in  
Calligraphy**

### **A POSTAL HISTORY STUDY OF AIRMAILS FROM IRAQ 1919-1945**

Iraq has always been an important area for the transit of mail between Europe and India and beyond. After World War I, the Royal Air Force was given responsibility for maintaining peace in Iraq. This required improved communications Baghdad - Cairo and led to the introduction of an airmail service. In 1919 the first airmails were carried from Iraq to India by the R.A.F.

**The exhibit is in chronological order and shows the development of airmail services from Iraq 1919-1945. This includes the R.A.F. period 1919-1926 and the takeover by Imperial Airways from 1927 with extensions in stages to India, Burma, Singapore and Australia.**

**In the late 1920s and 1930s other airlines introduced services – K.L.M., Air Orient/Air Union, Deutsche Lufthansa, and MISR. Iraq continued to be important during World War II. Routes and rates changed frequently throughout the whole period.**

**Highlights of the exhibit:** Important or scarce items are matted in scarlet.

- First airmail 10 January 1919 to Delhi – cover with original letter
- Stack & Leete 1926, Cobham 1927 and Vicomte de Sibour 1929
- One of the first usages of the 'Air Letter Card' on 17 July 1933
- Baghdad-Akyab, Burma, 26 Sep 1933 – 10 flown
- "ATHENA" 1935 forced landing, "SCIPIO" 1936 & "CYGNUS" 1937 crash covers

From August 1921, the R.A.F. operated a regular airmail service between Baghdad and Cairo. Radio communication and navigational aids were primitive and there were no roads or railways to help navigate cross-country. A pilot reported that he could recognise vehicle tracks in the sand, **so it was decided to plough a furrow 520 miles across the desert between Baghdad and Amman.**



Fordson tractor and double mould board plough used for making the furrow.

The support team used six model 'T' Ford trucks.

**The exhibit includes:**

- The R.A.F. Period 1919-1926 [Frame 1]
- Early Special Flights & Start of Imperial Airways Service Cairo-Basra [Frame 2]
- Imperial Airways Extension to Karachi 1929 and Air Orient Service [Frame 3]
- First Air Mail Letter Card 1933 & Extension of Imperial Service to Burma [Frame 4]
- Regular Service to Australia 1934 [Frame 5]
- Air France weekly service 1937 & Deutsche Lufthansa Service to Berlin 1937 [Frame 6]
- Iraq Aeroplane Society, Empire Airmail Scheme & Outbreak of World War II 1939 [Frame 7]
- World War II – Changes in Routes and Rates [Frame 8]

**The exhibit reflects considerable research by the exhibitor including examination of the "Iraq Government Gazette" from 1925 – little has been published on rates and post office records are not available.**

**Main References:**

- "Iraq Government Gazette" from 1925 – a primary reference source.
- "Postal History of Iraq" by P C Pearson & E B Proud, 1966 – includes some rates only to end of 1932.
- "Airmail Operations During World War II" by Thomas Boyle, 1998 – for wartime routes but **states rates not available.**
- "Aircraft Movements on Imperial Airways Eastern Route 1927-1937" – Peter Wingent.

## **AUSTRALIA – KING GEORGE VI POSTAL STATIONERY**

Issues of postal stationery are related to specific postal rates for envelopes, postcards, lettercards and other types of stationery. New issues normally occur when postage rates change.

The exhibit shows the postal stationery issued during the reign of King George VI 1937 – 1951. Items shown are envelopes, registered envelopes, postal cards, lettercards and wrappers. Air Letter sheets, Aerogrammes and Prisoner of War items are not shown. The exhibit includes:

- A range of Post Office issues
- Printed to Private Order (PTPO) items
- Specimens and
- Usage – items are often uprated for additional services.

### **The exhibit is structured:**

1. Envelopes (Fr. 1)
2. Registered Envelopes (Fr. 3)
3. Postal Cards (Fr. 4)
4. Lettercards (Fr. 5)
5. Food Parcel Labels (Fr. 5)
6. Wrappers (Fr. 5)

KGVI oval embossed die



Each section shows the items issued during the 5 periods of changes in basic postage rates. PTPO items are included in the period to which the original indicium relates.

- Up to 9 December 1941 Basic letter rate 2d.
- 10 December 1941 – 30 June 1949 Addition of ½d per item War Tax = 2½d.
- 1 July 1949 – 30 November 1950 War Tax removed but basic letter rate increased to 2½d.
- 1 December 1950 – 8 July 1951 Basic letter rate increased to 3d.
- From 9 July 1951 Basic letter rate increased to 3½d.

Post Office issues and indicia on PTPO items were printed by the Note Printing Branch, Australian Treasury in Melbourne. Private organisations supplied their own stationery for stamping.

The embossed oval die used for KGVI from 1937 has the same frame as the KGV die but a larger crown. Private Order embossed dies were approved 13.9.1937, engraved by E.R.M. Jones based on Ronald Harrison's design. Values used for envelopes: 1d green, 1d brown, 1½d green, 2d red, 2d violet, 2d green, 2½d red, 3d red. For postcards – 1d, 1½d, 2d red and 2d green. In 1951 a new circular die was used for the 3d green and 3½d red.

### **Rarity:**

Although comparatively modern material with many items not regarded as rare, they are often difficult to find. For PTPO items often printed in reasonably large numbers, the survival rate can be as low as 1 in 50,000; used postcards are particularly scarce – examples are included.

### **References:**

1. *The Australasian Stamp Catalogue*, various editions, Seven Seas Stamps Pty Ltd.
2. *The Postal Stationery of the Commonwealth of Australia*, B C Darke, 1976-1980.
3. *Australian Commonwealth Specialists Catalogue – Section 12 Postal Stationery*, Brusden-White 2013.
4. *Australia's Printed to Private Order Envelopes*, S Schumann & W Menuz, Postal Stationery (USA), May-June 2001, Vol 43 No 3, Whole Number 318, + Addendum July-August 2001.
5. *Printed to Private Order Stationery, Tasmania, 1933-1974*, A E Orchard, Magpie Publications 1999.



# 4. TITLE PAGE = WHAT – WHY - HOW

- KEY TO A GOOD EXHIBIT IS

## A GOOD TITLE PAGE

GREV 3.3 – “The title must describe the contents of the exhibit

### Bad titles:

- 1960 Pictorials - which country??
- Avoid “gimmicky” or “smart titles –  
“Emma Chizit?” [Corruption of “How  
Much Is It? = Postage Due Mail]

# Subject of the Exhibit

- GREV 3.3: “The exhibit shall show a **clear concept of the subject treated**” and  
“The **concept shall be laid out in an introductory statement**”

**BEST SET OF RULES for TITLE PAGE** are in the  
Postal Stationery Guidelines 2.3

Title Page should consist of -

## Title Page - 3

- a. **Title** of the Exhibit
- b. Short, precise and relevant **general information** on the subject
- Description of **Purpose** of the Exhibit
- Description of the **Scope** of the Exhibit  
( what is included and what omitted)
- **Plan** of the structure of exhibit
- List of **personal Research** by Exhibitor
- List of the most important **literature references**

# Judging the Title Page

- Title Page is judged on whether it –
  - **Introduces the purpose** of the exhibit
  - **Defines the scope** of the exhibit
  - **Explains the structure** of the exhibit
  - **Has a Plan** of the exhibit
  - **Mentions** the most important  
**references**

# Plan

- Frame 1 - Pages 1 – 16
- Frame 2 - Pages 17 – 32
- Frame 3 - Pages 33 – 48 etc

Is this a PLAN ?

- WHY ? – No section headings
- No idea of exhibit structure

## **BETTER -**

Frame 1 – Local letter Rates (4 August 1883 to .....

Frame 2 – Inland Letter Rates ( 26 August 1885 to ...)

**We know what is in each frame**

# Is this better ?

- 1. FOREIGN PRINTED MATTER 1878 – 1914** [Frames 1 - 2]  
Any printed matter in a 'wrapper' from a foreign country was subject to censorship .....
- 2. PRISON MAIL 1884 – 1916** [Frames 2 - 3]  
In the early 1900s there were up to 1 million people in the eight .....
- 3. RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR 1904 – 1905** [Frame 4]  
The only mail that shows censor marks is to foreign countries – this .....
- 4. WORLD WAR I 1914 – 1917** [Frames 4 - 10]  
Military censorship in World War I was authorised on 20 July 1914 O.S.  
Russia mobilized on 17.7.14 O.S. and all mail .....

**This shows the structure and where to find each section**  
**- Different styles suit different subjects**

# Example Title Page

## **RUSSIA - CENSORSHIP OF MAIL 1878 - 1920**

**Censorship of mail is an important part of Russian Postal History.**

Examination and censorship of mail has existed in Russia since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Civil Censorship was officially authorised by Article 7 of the ukaz of 16 September 1796. This authorised the censorship of foreign periodicals and censorship offices were set up in "black chambers" in the Post Offices. The first censor mark on mail is in 1876 for St Petersburg - with only one example recorded.

The exhibit deals with censorship in the period 1878 - 1920:

1. Printed Matter from foreign countries
2. Mail to and from prisons and the courts
3. Russo-Japanese War
4. World War I mail
5. Mail during the R.F.S.F.R. period

1. **FOREIGN PRINTED MATTER 1878 - 1914** [Frame 1]  
Any printed matter in a 'wrapper' from a foreign country was subject to censorship. These marks are uncommon with a total of only 300 - 350 marks of all types recorded.
2. **PRISON MAIL 1884 - 1916** [Frame 2]  
In the early 1900s there were up to 1 million people in the eight different types of prison throughout Russia. Only some prisons used censor markings and, except for Shlisselburg, these are all in carcer.
3. **RUSO-JAPANESE WAR 1904 - 1905** [Frame 3]  
The only mail that shows censor marks is to foreign countries - this was very limited.
4. **WORLD WAR I 1914 - 1917** [Frames 3 - 8]  
Military censorship in World War I was authorised on 20 July 1914 O.S. Russia mobilised on 17.7.14 O.S. and from that date all mail to and from Russia and in transit was subject to military censorship. Censorship facilities were expanded, especially during 1915, to cater for the increasing volume of P.O.W. mail. Russian post offices in Manchuria and in China also censored mail. Because of the large number of marks the emphasis of the exhibit is on the 'Censorship Process' and the geographical extent of censorship both within Russia and at post offices overseas.
5. **R.F.S.F.R. PERIOD 1917 - 1920** [Frame 8]  
The Imperial censorship organisation and procedures continued initially but with a progressive reduction in the number of towns censoring mail. Changes occurred in the wording of some censor marks such as the word 'censorship' changing to 'control'.

**DATES:** Russian dates are Julian or Old Style - O.S. In the 1800s they were 12 days and in the 1900s 13 days behind Gregorian or New Style - N.S. dates used in most other countries. Russia changed to New Style on 1.2.1918.

### **SCARCE ITEMS**

In World War I and later, previously unknown or scarce items are identified by †.

### **REFERENCES:**

1. "Postal Censorship in Imperial Russia", D M Skipton & P A Michalove, 1989, J H Otten, Urbana, Illinois
2. "Watchmen at the Gates: Censorship of Foreign Printed Matter in Imperial Russia", D M Skipton, *Rossica Journal* #146
3. "Shlisselburg Hard Labor: Prison & Its Censormarks", D M Skipton, *Rossica Journal* #131
4. "Russian Postal Censorship 1914-1918" & Supplement - A. Speckaert - 1990 & 1997

TITLE

INTRODUCTORY



STATEMENT

PLAN



And shows  
where to find  
each section



REFERENCES

## 5. REFERENCES

- Give a list of 5 or 6 references **you have consulted** - at the bottom of the Title Page
- **WHY??**
  - it tells the judges that the exhibitor is aware of the main references for that subject
  - It tells the judges which references they can read **to help them judge your exhibit fairly**
  - Exhibitor can show if they have written a book or article on the subject – **put your name in Bold characters**



# Correct References - Books

- Title (+ volume if more than one)
- Author      - Publisher      - Publication Year

*Australian Commonwealth Specialists Catalogue*  
– *Section 12 Postal Stationery*, Brusden-White  
2013

In one line

Some people prefer Author first.

But the subject is more important.

# Correct References - Journals

- Title of Article - Author - Title of Journal  
Issue = Volume + Year + Issue (no. or month)
- *London Philatelist* – 1400 issues – which one?
- *NZ Stamp Collector* – published since 1919 - ?
- *Australia's Printed to Private Order Envelopes*, S Schumann & W Menuz, *Postal Stationery (USA)*, May-June 2001, Vol 43 No 3, No 318,  
+ Addendum July-August 2001

## 6. ALL EXHIBITS

- Make sure you have your exhibit is in right class
  - An exhibit of stamps (mint/used/proofs/varieties) plus covers showing usage of each face value stamp is Traditional – covers do NOT make it P.H.
- Not necessary to put Title on all pages – wastes space
- Pages with 1 cover per page – keep to minimum –
  - I use average of 1.8 covers/page = 230 in 8 frames
- Vary layout – descriptions can be at side of cover – to get 2 covers per page

# 7. POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBITS

- Postal History SREV 8.2 generally deals with:  
**Routes – Rates – Postal Markings**
- Some problem areas:
  - An exhibit MUST tell a story + have logical development
  - A collection of covers without a story is not a good exhibit
  - Forerunners – 3 to 7 pages in an 8 frame exhibit is enough

- Rates important – face value of each stamp NOT required –  
e.g. total only - Paid 24c to England  
should be:
- Rate 24c = double 12c letter rate for ½ to 1 ounce
- Try this layout – clear + easy to understand:

**Paid 13½a. For weight 50-60 gr.**

**Letter rate:**

**First 20 gr.                      3 a.**

**Extra @ 1½a. X 2 =            3 a.**

**Air Mail fee:**

**1½a./10 gr. X 5        =    7 ½ a.**

**Total                              13½ a.**

- Can go at side of cover
- SG, Scott or other catalogue numbers NOT required

## Judging Postal History – Subject Background

- **Many postal history subjects require judges to have some background knowledge of the history of the country/subject/time period.**
- **WHY – to properly assess rarity/difficulty of finding material and relative condition**
- China 1930s      China 1949-1950 PRC period
- Korea + Taiwan – Japanese occupation/control
- Russia – censorship since 1796 – foreign newspapers, books, magazines – prison conditions – 1917 Revolution – Civil War – WWII alliance with Germany<sub>22</sub>

- Netherlands East Indies > Indonesia 1945-1950
- Brasil – Civil War 1930s
- South Africa – Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal – 2<sup>nd</sup> Boer War – Prisoner of War Camps in Ceylon, India – Civil Internees
- But this does NOT mean a history lesson on the Title Page – one or two sentences ONLY

# Introductory Statement

- We see too much Geography and History – but one or two sentences may be justified – depends on subject.
- Look at Leeward Islands Postal Stationery – “The Leeward Island Federation comprised Antigua ....” [so we expect to see usage from all 8 islands]
- “The Grand Duchy of Finland was part of Russia from 1809-1917 when it became independent.” [Explains use of Russian currency]



# Split exhibit into sections

- If possible split the exhibit up into sections. First page of section with section heading. Can also have more information – avoids extra writing on Title Page
- Section numbers + headings = as in Plan on Title Page
- If not easy to split into sections and exhibit is chronological – say so on Title Page:  
E.g. Exhibit is developed chronologically with the year in heading of each page  
Don't keep the judge wondering – you may lose points – it has happened!!

# Dates

- Need to be Postal History dates
  - E.g. - 1875 – GPU, UPU
  - 1939 or 1945 – start or end of World War II
  - Start of country's postal services
- NOT dates of first and last covers
- **Flowcharts + Diagrams + Tables – be careful**
  - **must be easy to follow**

# Page Headings

- Save space with single line page headings with 2 parts e.g.

Censorship Process

[at left]

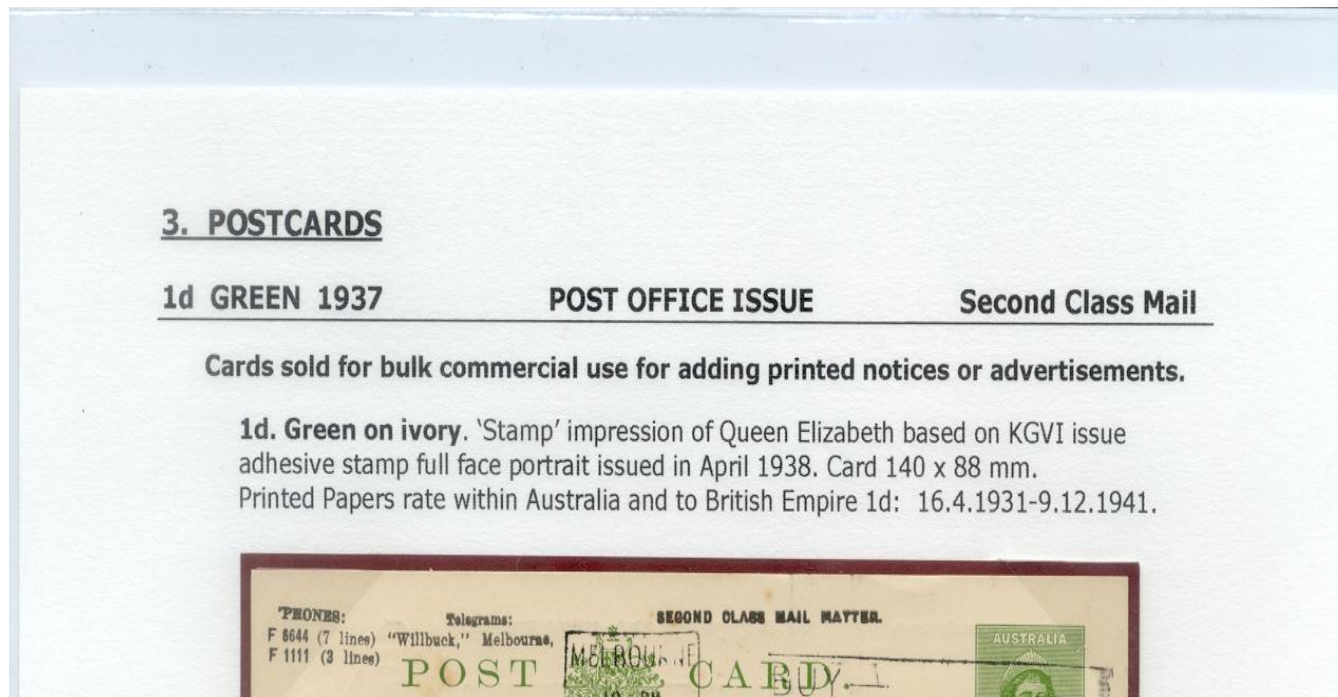
Resealing

[at right]

- Double check page heading – must be correct .  
Page had: “Postal History Picture Post Card”  
- but there were 2 postal stationery cards on page

# Section Heading + Page Heading

- Example:



# Section Introduction

## 2. PRISON MAIL 1884 - 1916

This section shows the censorship of mail by prison, court and other related authorities. For prison inmates the receipt and sending of mail was a privilege and the number of letters was restricted. **Prison authorities censored all mail but only some prisons used censor marks.** Evidence of censorship appears from the mid-1880s with manuscript notation followed by censorship cachets – some showed the prison name and/or the type of prison.

### **KARA PRISON, Siberia**

Sredne-Kariisk, Zabaikalsk Oblast 18.12.1884 addressed to St Petersburg, 31.1.1885.  
Middle Kara is in the Nerchinsk goldfields area on the River Kara 300 km east of Chita.

Card has been sent by political prisoner N.N. Dzvonnevich to his wife in St Petersburg.



# Description v. Analysis

- Many exhibits state what can be easily seen on covers = Description
- Not enough ANALYSIS of rates and routes.  
~~Cover from~~ Bombay to London, England  
franked ~~with East India 1a. (1) and 4 as (1)~~ 5as  
= letter rate for [weight] cancelled with 'B'  
within square of bars and 'Bombay Feb 22'  
cds. London arrival [date] datestamp type 10.

## 8. TREATMENT — SREV Art. 3 + G/L # 2

- Follow the Plan
- Development of subject – MUST be logical
- Proper analysis of covers
- Completeness of material shown – including rare or difficult to get items
- Difficulty of duplicating exhibit – how many years? State on Title Page if possible
- Avoid padding or unnecessary duplication
- Maps (**essential detail only** not copied from an atlas) - may help with routes or location of post offices AND they break up the exhibit

# Map on page 129 of 10 frame exhibit

## CENTRAL ASIA, SIBERIA, FAR EAST, MANCHURIA & CHINA



**CENTRAL ASIA:** Large numbers of P.o.W.s were held in camps in the Tashkent area of Turkestan.

**PERSIA:** The Russian Army occupied Hamadan twice and established censorship facilities there.

**SIBERIA:** Censorship facilities were established at the many Prisoner of War camps in Western and Eastern Siberia, especially at places near the Trans-Siberian Railway.

**PRIAMUR:** In the Russian Far East, censorship was carried out at Khabarovsk and Vladivostok and at camps near these towns

**MANCHURIA:** Russian censorship facilities were established at the post offices on the railway stations at the western and eastern border at Manchuriya and Pogranichnaya.

**CHINA:** The Russian Post Offices at Shanghai and Tientsin has censorship facilities.

### SAMARKAND - Самаркандъ

±± Oval 43 x 30 mm with town name SAMARKAND / MILITARY CENSOR / 29 JULY 1916 / №



### Central Asia



Not previously recorded

Origin unclear but censored in Samarkand - censor's date and postmark date both 29 July 1916



## 9. IMPORTANCE

- In relation to general postal history of country
- In relation to philately in general
- Is it a good reference exhibit on this subject?
- You may get good Treatment but  
low Importance

# **10. KNOWLEDGE & RESEARCH**

- **Each item shown should be explained + analysed in relation to Title, Subject and Plan**
- Have you transferred your knowledge to the exhibit pages?
- Knowledge is more than information in catalogues
- Personal Study is proper analysis of the items
- Overpaid or Underpaid covers should be analysed/explained

- Use photocopies of covers ONLY when necessary – in colour + 25% different in size but ... a single postmark can be full size
- If one postmark on back of cover is important - **photocopy only that postmark** – NOT all the back. Photocopy can be at side of cover.
- **Helps you get 2 covers on page**
- Identify your own research

# 11. CONDITION

- **Condition v. Rarity**
  - lose a point on Condition v. Gain a point for Rarity – should the item be included??
- **Condition is relative to subject –**
  - wreck covers normally in poor condition but markings should be clear
  - wartime mail often not in best condition
  - pre 1900 mail from Australia/New Zealand generally not in as good condition as mail sent within Europe



# Condition – 3

Peru to Moscow 25.8.1917: “Return”  
“Sending Not permitted / Military Censor”



## 12. RARITY

- **Is an item really rare??** – hundreds of items on eBay “Very Rare” at \$ 9.99 ??????
- **“Unique”** – don’t use – could be 2 in the next exhibit – it does happen
- Better to say: “One of 5 recorded to date”  
- quote an authority if possible
- Highlight rare items – use Red mattes or put \*\* against item – state method on Title Page

## Rarity 2

- “Not previously recorded” or  
“Only one recorded”  
perhaps put this in a box so that judges see it
- Problem is those items very difficult to find  
but not expensive in \$\$ terms.