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DEUTSCHER PHILATELISTEN e.V.



## Successful FEPA Jury Seminar 2014 in Berlin

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The FEPA Jury Seminar 2014, which was announced in March, finally took place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October in Berlin. The participants from seven European nations had an excellent Friday evening hosted by Schlegel Auktionshaus, followed by a training day on Saturday.

At the start of the training, the two keynote speakers and group coaches, Dr. Wolf Heß for Postal History and Vojtech Jankovic for Thematic Philately gave presentations on the lead topics, and afterwards the two groups started the work sessions centered on the judging of several exhibits that were displayed in frames. Each group had the task to present their work results at the end of the session.

The Postal History lead topic was around "Treatment and importance", and one of the main objectives was to investigate the possible influence on other judging criteria. Another aspect was to examine the reasons why there may be a disconnection between exhibitors and jurors when it comes to rating treatment and importance. Regarding importance, the point ranges are first of all decided by the theme. In case of themes below "top-level" importance a clever, in-depth and innovative treatment can help to bolster its perception by the judges. It was interesting to find a strong link between treatment and rarity. While it seems that in some cases exhibits with extremely rare material not only get high points for rarity, but also additional points for that in treatment, the group consensus was that this should not happen.

The Thematic Philately lead topic "How to judge innovation" was not only about the term itself, but also about how innovation is part of the composition of an exhibit. In addition to that an analysis showed how innovation is interwoven with other judging areas such as philatelic material. The strongest link the group found was between innovation and treatment, which means that these two criteria go "hand in hand" when it comes to awarding points. Another finding was the importance to select the material carefully; making sure it belongs to the subject and has its "role" in the exhibit. Finally it was remarked that a possible trend towards an emphasis on material in the judging may raise the bar considerably for exhibitors in terms of affordability.

The training was an excellent exercise to align the understanding in key judging aspects. It also showed the benefit of having in-depth discussions in order to find a final consensus. This will at the end help to ensure a high quality of the judging, and it will enable us to give consistent feedback and advice to exhibitors how they can maximise the potential of their exhibits.

While the Jury Seminar was regarded as very valuable, it was asked whether it would make sense to open such events to exhibitors. This would be an innovative and possibly promising move that should certainly be considered.

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