

# World Scouting

## Rarity and condition in a thematic exhibit

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Hallvard Slettebø



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- Grew up in Egersund, Norway. Lives in Stavanger with Ingrid
- Exhibitor since 1992
  - **Thematic – scouting**
  - Postal history – local postal history of the Egersund area
  - Air mail – norwegian zeppelin mail
  - Also exhibits within traditional, postal stationery, maxi, literature. Hopefully one day also postcards, when time permits
- Juror since 1993
  - **Thematic FIP**
  - Also judging PH, AE, PC, OP



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# World Scouting – its Path to Success

- The idea, principles and activities of Scouting and its development from Baden-Powell's Scheme into today's world wide movement.
- FIP Court of Honour 2012
- FIP Championship Class 2018
- FIP Large Gold 2015 (96p), 2011 (95p) and 2009 (95p)
- FEPA Large Gold 2010 (95p)
- Nordic Grand Prix 2018
- National Grand Prix 2006





# World Scouting

*Its Path to Success*

World Scouting

*Its Path to Success*



## The scope of the exhibit

is to demonstrate the idea, principles and activities of Scouting and its development from Baden-Powell's Scheme to today's world wide movement.

## Thematic development

Scouting is a well-known theme; this exhibit demonstrates a novel approach as well as applying the material in a new way, utilising the thematic information to its full extent. The most appropriate items are chosen, showing the connection between width and depth in the elaboration of the theme. Personal studies have resulted in new material being included.

## Philatelic importance

A wide range of philatelic material is shown. Priority is given to highest philatelic importance: world class philatelic items (original artwork, essays, proofs and varieties); important postal history items (covers and other postal documents). Philatelic studies are included when appropriate, and are blended with the thematic development.

## The presentation

of the exhibit is also part of the development and treatment. The thematic text connects and explains the thematic qualification of the items and gives appropriate thematic information.

- This font is used for thematic text.
- This font is used for philatelic text.
- This font for important philatelic information.

## Recent development

The exhibit is continuously being developed and strengthened. Recent important new items include all plates of the 1900 Mafeking siege 1d stamp unused, all positions of the 1900 Mafeking 3d cracked plate, the 1918 Czech Masaryk telegram, a cover from the 1933 Chaco War Scout mail delivery service, the famous 1944 Poland 'Potato' postmark and Australia, Austria & Netherlands Indies proofs.

## The most important items include:

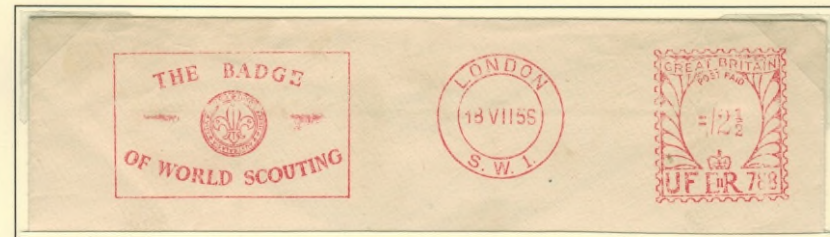
- 1.1 Mafeking 1900 postage stamps, including varieties and covers. One of only four recorded first day on cover usages of the narrow format Baden-Powell stamp.
- 1.1 Free postage certified by Major-General Baden-Powell in South Africa 1900.
- 1.1 Severely burnt cover franked with a World Scout Jamboree stamp, and salvaged from the 1937 Hindenburg airship accident.



Original artwork for the 1982 Great Britain Boy Scout stamp, in pencil and water-colour, close to the final and accepted design. Signed by the stamp artist, Brian Sanders. **Unique.**

- 3.3 Siam 1920 Scouts' Fund overprints; postage stamps, covers and postal cards.
- 4.1 1c Washington vertical perforations 14, used exclusively by the Boy Scouts of America N.Y. executive council in 1922.
- 6.2 The only recorded cover with the official postal wax seal from the 1928 national Scout camp, Norway.
- 7.2 Chaco War, Scout Mail Delivery Service in the war zone, Paraguay, 1933.

- 7.2 Czechoslovak independence 1918; stamps, covers and postal card from the Scout Mail Delivery Service, including a telegram franked with a Masaryk overprinted stamp.
- 7.2 Poland Warsaw uprising 1944 - Scout Mail Delivery Service; several items including a card with the elusive 'potato' postmark.
- 7.2 Shanghai Emergency Postal Service, Scout Mail Delivery Service which operated during the 1932 six-day postal strike.



Frame

## Prelude to the Great Adventure; Scouting takes Form ...

- 1.1 A Man, a Book, an Island – The Hero of Mafeking returns to civilian life and conducts an experiment ...
- 1.2 ... which is an immediate success, the seed planted on Brownsea Island takes root and spreads worldwide.

## ... and soon, Scouts are easily recognised by their familiar attributes; ...

- 2.1 The Scout Uniform creates an identity and constitutes a bond of brotherhood across borders, ...
- 2.2 ... while the Scout and Guide Emblems, Salute and Handshake are Scouting's unifying symbols.

## ... while the Spirit of Scouting is well received, and the community embraces Scouting.

- 3.1 The Law, Promise and Motto represent core Scouting Values ...
- 3.2 ... and St. George is the Patron Saint of Scouting exemplifying the virtues of a Good Scout. ...
- 3.3 Soon the community supports Scouting; Royal approval sets an example and governments follow their lead.

## Scouting is available to all and takes many forms, ...

- 4.1 Scout Leaders at all levels work to supply a programme that enables Scouts to achieve their potential, ...
- 4.2 ... and thereby Scouting matches the needs and aspirations of all its members, young and old alike, ...
- 4.3 ... whereas Air and Sea Scouts explore higher and wider horizons.

## ... and as a Scout you learn how to take care of yourself, to help and lead others; ...

- 5.1 The Patrol, Scouting's basic unit, allows older Scouts to take on responsibility, ...
- 5.2 ... and Scouting provides Education for Life: Scouts train and practise through learning by doing.

## ... practised when the annual Summer Camp provides adventure and fun in a positive environment.

- 6.1 Careful preparation and robust equipment is a recipe for a good camp, ...
- 6.2 ... and camping is the joyous part of a Scout's life, but you must know how to do it properly.

## Character Factory: Scouting teaches good Citizenship, ...

- 7.1 A Scout's duty is to help others: the community benefits, ...
- 7.2 ... also in difficult times Scouts have delivered the mail often at danger to themselves, ...
- 7.3 ... while it happens that Scouting is suppressed and outlawed by war or political changes.

## ... and leads to strengthening of global friendship and Scouting brotherhood.

- 8.1 International Camps promote understanding of the larger world, ...
- 8.2 ... leading up to every four years a World Scout Jamboree – the *highlight* of the World Scouting Calendar, ...
- 8.3 ... and World Rover Moots – older Scouts find ways of providing service.
- 8.4 Postlude – A Plea for the Future: The next 100 years – Scouting *deserves* your support.





# SREV 4.3 Condition and Rarity

- The condition is based on the usual overall criteria for evaluation in philately. For modern material good condition is an essential requirement. Booklets should be presented complete with stamps.
- Cancellations must be clear, and allow the stamp design, where thematically relevant, to be clearly visible.
- The rarity is based on objective criteria such as recognised absolute scarcity and difficulty of acquisition.
- It is essential that varieties, proofs, essays, are rarer than the issue itself, in order to increase the philatelic level. The same applies to blocks, strips, etc.
- It is obvious that items which, despite being very rare, have no or insufficient relationship to the theme, should not be included in the evaluation of this criterion.



# SREV 4.3 Condition and Rarity

- *The criteria of "Condition and Rarity" require an evaluation of the quality of the displayed material considering the standard of the material that exists for the chosen subject, the rarity and the relative difficulty of acquisition of the selected material.*



## 4.3.1 Rarity

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## 4.3.1 Rarity

- Judges will primarily be looking for:
  - rarities of general significance in philately, if available for the theme
  - rarities of specific significance for the chosen theme known to exist
  - how easy it is to duplicate the exhibit
- Judges will also be looking for:
  - scarce and uncommon items, particularly from traditional philately, postal history and postal stationery





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## 4.3.1 Rarity (cont.)

- *Basic requirements*
  - Normal and modern material plus unusual and scarce items
- *Achievements*
  - Presence of rare items



# Rarity

- Rarity has little to do with value - many rare items are not expensive
- Absolute rarity – how many were made / can possibly exist?
  - If 20 were made, then the absolute rarity is high
- Relative rarity – are there more buyers than sellers?
  - If supply is greater than demand, then the relative rarity is low
- Difficulty in finding - cheap items can be surprisingly difficult to find
- Generally recognised rarity or artificial rarity?
  - Example: an official letter, the used official envelope is not rare
    - The postmark was brought into use when the supply of envelopes was almost exhausted. The combination is rare!
      - It is registered, even better! Only ten are known to exist!
        - » Only one was sent to Berlin! It is unique!



# FDC? Not rare?

## NOTICE.

THE new issue of stamp bearing the Colonel's photograph, will be produced on Monday, the 9th instant. These stamps can only be issued on production of letter addressed locally (Mafeking or forts). No person can for the present be allowed to hand to the officer in charge of Siege Post Office more than one letter per diem.

J. V. HOWAT,  
Postmaster.  
Mafeking,  
April 7th, 1900.

*"THE MAFEKING MAIL", Special Siege Slip No. 112, of Saturday April 7th 1900, announced the new stamp issue. Note the limitation of one letter per person per day.*

During the siege there became shortage of postage stamps. 1d and 3d stamps were produced locally by a photographic ferro-prussiate blue-print method. The stamps were only intended for local usage within the besieged Mafeking.

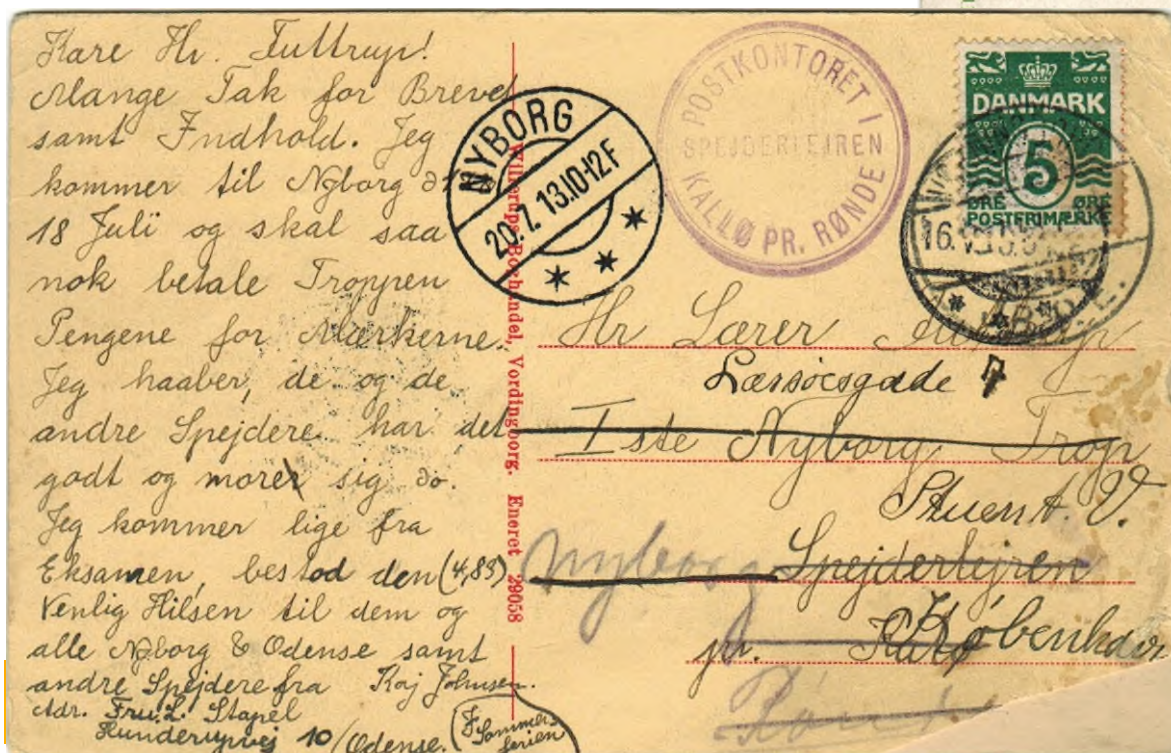


*Cover cancelled "MAFEKING AP 9 1900", official first day of issue for the small format Baden-Powell stamp. Only four covers are recorded from this date. Three pence rate for covers between Mafeking town and the outlying forts and outposts. The Railway Camp was located on the edge of the town, in siege postal zone 1 (Brickfields). The addressee, W.A. Hayes, was principal medical officer on Baden-Powell's staff, and he was the designer of the Warner Goodyear cyclist stamp.*





# Commercial mail rather than philatelic





# The only recorded postmark

- Is it important? Not really.



# The only recorded postmark

- Girl guides district camp at Valen, Norway 1955
- The postmark was only advertised after the event
- Few participants, only about 350
- It was raining all the time, and they even considered to abandon camp
- Conditions were not good for writing home





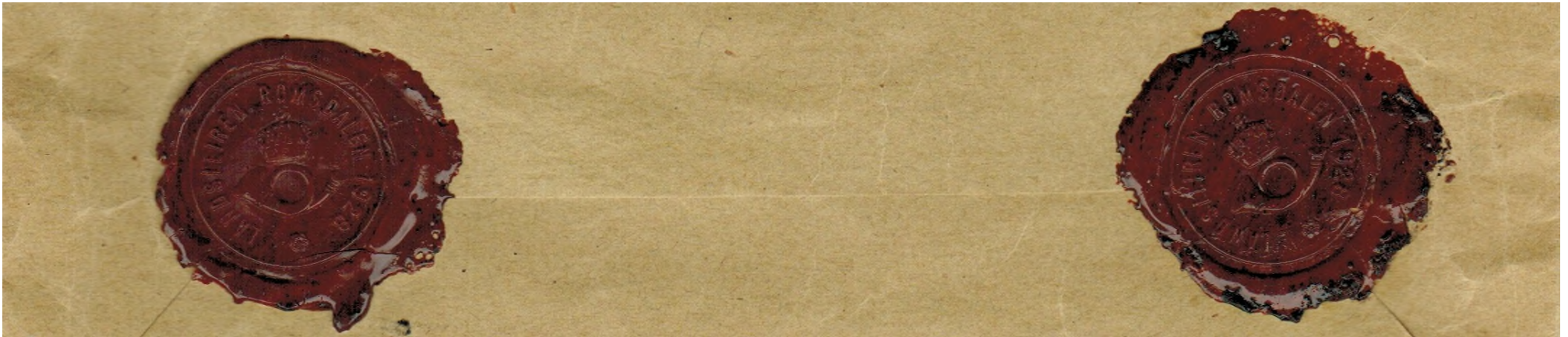
# Registered mail

- Commercially used or philatelic?



# Insured mail

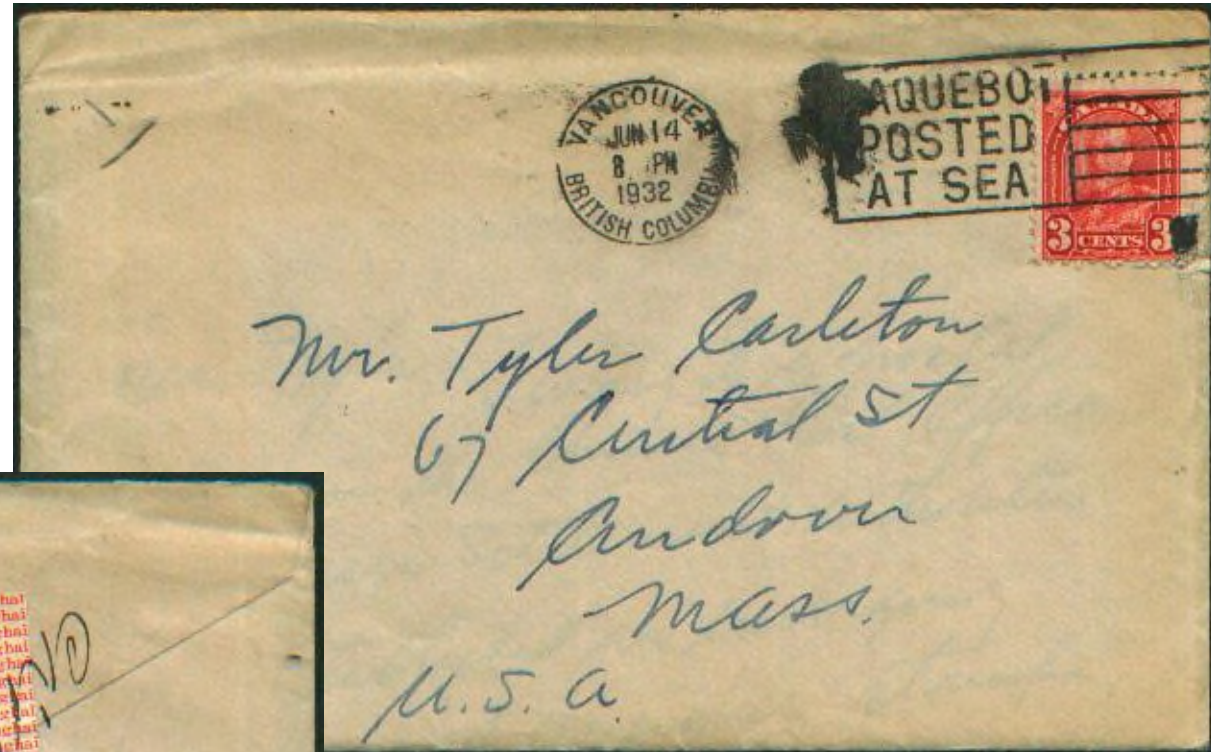
- How many Scouts do you think would need insured mail to send money home from camp?
- Official postal wax seal from the 1928 National Scout camp, Norway





# Shanghai Emergency Postal Service 1932

- Scouts participated in the postal service
- Little information available, so I researched the topic and wrote an article



## 4.3.2 Condition

- The condition is based on the usual overall criteria for evaluation in philately and is related to the degree of rarity of the items present in the exhibit.
- All items should be in the best possible condition. The condition of items is evaluated as if they were stamps: No tears, no missing corners, no bends, no stains, no missing perforations (if present), etc.
  - The condition of common material should be impeccable.
  - Exhibitors are encouraged to show unique or very rare material that does not occur in fine condition but are cautioned from including other items in a condition that may reduce the perceived overall condition of the exhibit.



## 4.3.2 Condition (cont.)

- It is important to remember that the actual condition obtainable will vary according to the country and period.
- Commercially used items are to be preferred to philatelic produced ones.
- Cancellations should be as clear as possible with all essential wording complete and allow the stamp design, where thematically relevant, to be clearly visible.
- Booklets should be presented complete with stamps.
- If an item has been restored or manipulated, it must be described as such.



## 4.3.2 Condition (cont.)

- *Basic requirements*
  - Normal and modern material in excellent quality, plus all unusual in good quality and rare material in average condition
- *Achievements*
  - Rarities in above average up to the best quality





# Condition / quality

- Technical quality
  - Undamaged
  - This is the focus for this part of the presentation
- Philatelic quality
  - Relates to selection of material, appropriateness of the chosen material, avoiding philatelic errors
  - This is covered by philatelic knowledge



# Rarities in the best quality

- The basic stamp is rare with only 3036 printed
- The cracked plate variety is much rarer
- The postmark is superb



# Rarity in not so good condition

- Coils produced from imperforate sheets, with private perforations (gauge 14) of the Boy Scouts of America executive council in New York, circa 1922.
- These stamps were used in an automatic stamp affixing machine.
- Only about than 10 copies are recorded and all are precancelled NEW YORK / N.Y.
- Condition:
  - Off-centre
  - Thin
  - Precancel somewhat unclear



# Condition of crash mail

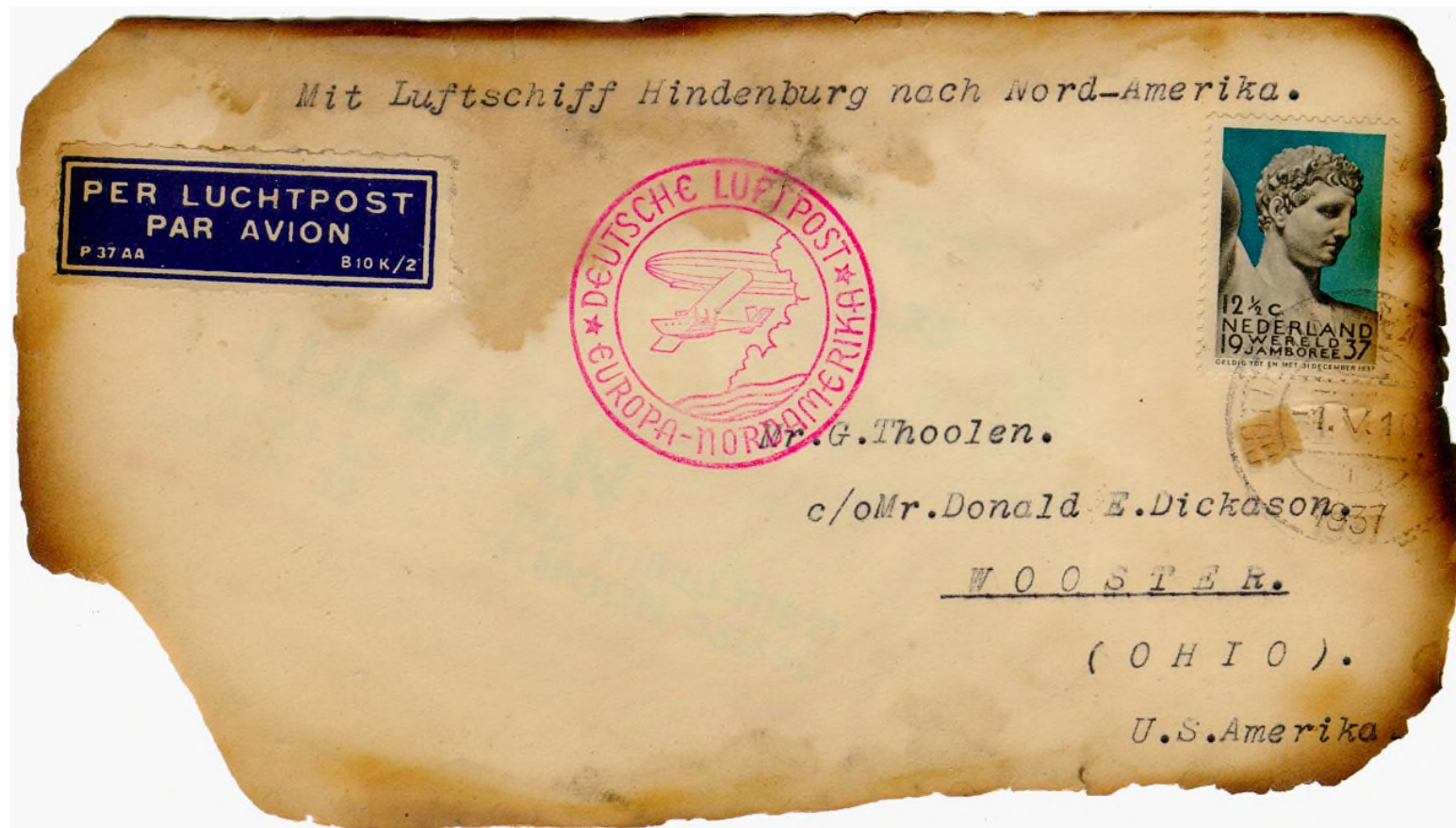
- Crash mail is expected to look like it was in a crash
- Markings, labels etc should be in good condition





# Condition of crash mail

- Crash mail is expected to look like it was in a crash
- Markings, labels etc should be in good condition



# If an item has been restored or manipulated, it must be described as such

- Stamps lifted off (for certification) and re-affixed





- The lower right corner is missing
- Not restored, not manipulated
- Backing paper with similar colour makes the presentation neater



# Very rare, but poor condition – what to do?

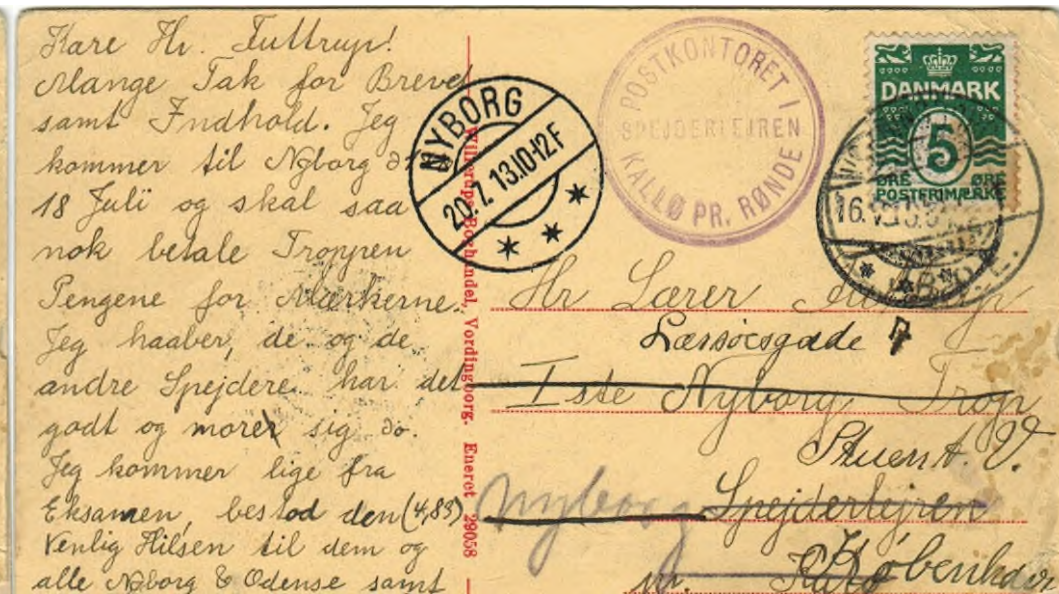
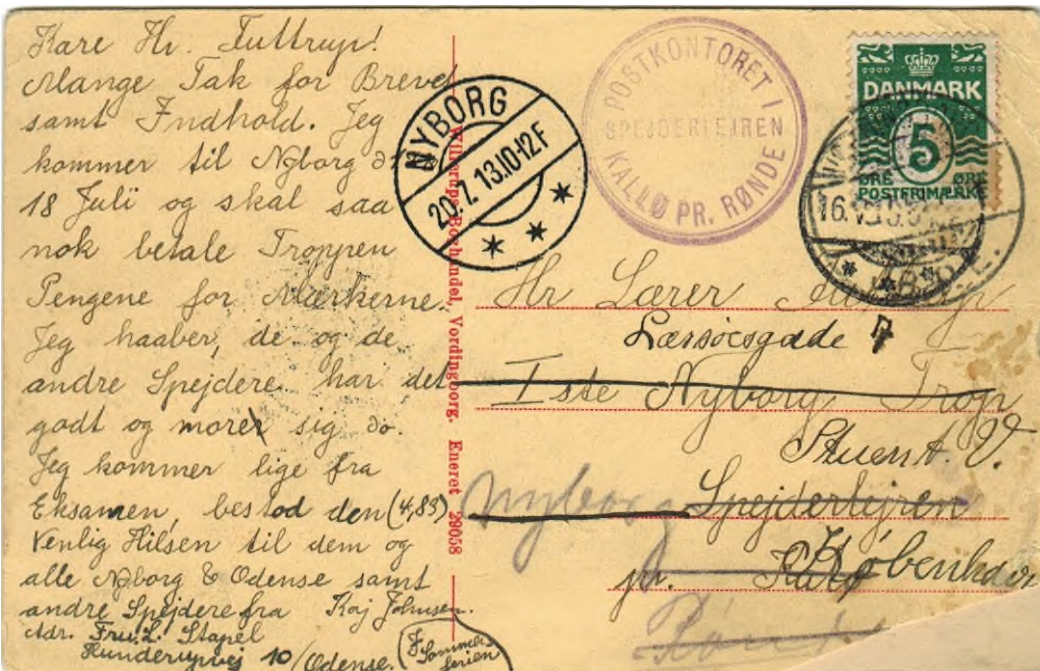
- I have various rare items in poor condition.  
Shall I include them or not?
- SREV: *Exhibitors are encouraged to show unique or very rare material that does not occur in fine condition but are cautioned from including other items in a condition that may reduce the perceived overall condition of the exhibit.*
- This is difficult, and we may have different opinions.





# Very rare, but poor condition – what to do?

- Show or hide the defect?
- Windowing?



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# Evaluation form / judging score sheet

- Condition 10 points
- Rarity 20 points



# **World Scouting**

## **Rarity and condition in a thematic exhibit**

Stockholmia 31 May 2019

Hallvard Slettebø

# **Thank you**

