JUDGING THEMATIC EXHIBITS

Understand the rules to achieve excellence in judging ... and exhibiting

FIP Seminar

Bandung, Indonesia, August 5, 2017

Peter Suhadolc, *Chairman* FIP Thematic Commission

Objectives of the Seminar

- O Explain the judging system in Thematic philately, in order that all judges understand the rules and allot the points consistently
- OPresent hints on how to appreciate and score in the single criteria
- OPresent some factors for improving a thematic exhibit

SEMINAR OUTLINE

- 1. Judging Thematic Exhibits with FIP rules An overview
 - 2. Treatment (Peter Suhadolc)
 - 3. Material in thematic exhibits (Tono D. Putranto)
 - 4. Closing remarks

Questions welcome throughout the seminar!

Part 1

Judging Thematic Exhibits with FIP rules

An overview

Judges Responsibility

- ✓ To interpret the regulations liberally
- ✓ To give the exhibit the highest possible award
- ✓ To give positive and constructive feedback

✓ To help the exhibitor improve his exhibit

✓ To be objective

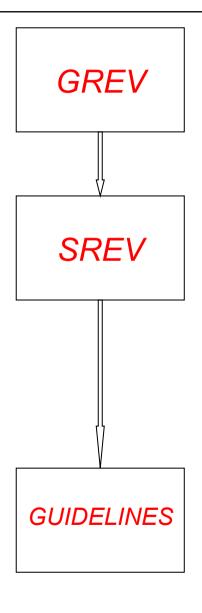
COMPETITIVE THEMATIC EXHIBITING

All competitions have rules that:

Participants have to understand and abide to them in order to gain the highest possible award

Judges have to apply them consistently in order to correctly determine the ranking of competitors

Rules for Competitive Exhibits – Where are they defined?



•DEFINITION OF **GENERAL RULES**

- •Same Principles as in GREV
- Different implementation according to class peculiarities
- •One for each competitive class
- No additional rules
- Clarification & Guidance

RULES: GREV, SREV, Guidelines

Does Thematic Philately have too many rules? No, in fact there are only FIVE:

1) The CONCEPT, as shown by the exhibit

the MESSAGE, shoud be exhibitor's INNOVATIVE approach and work!

2) CHOICE OF MATERIAL: Philatelic criteria

POSTAL aspects of philatelic material (no private prints or markings!)

3) CHOICE OF MATERIAL: Thematic criteria

LINKED to the theme or development

4) CHOICE OF MATERIAL: Philatelic variety and quality

A WIDE variety and BEST quality (condition and rarity)

5) PRESENTATION of the exhibit

Understandable, nice looking, clearly presented, nicely arranged

ALLOTMENT OF POINTS IN THE THEMATIC CLASS

Judging crit	eria	Points	
Treatment			35
1.1	Title and plan	15	
	Correct, logical, balanced, original		
	Consistency between the plan and the title		
1.2	Development	15	
	Elaboration of all aspects of the plan		
	Positioning of items and their connection to thematic text		
1.3	Innovation	5	
	Originality of treatment, new aspects		
Knowledge, per	rsonal study and research		30
2.1	Thematic	15	
	Correct, concise text and new thematic findings		
2.2	Philatelic	15	
	Widest variety and balance of all types of material in		
	respect of philatelic rules		
	Philatelic comments (text)		
Condition and	rarity	30	
4.1	Condition (quality of material w/r to its rarity)	10	
4.2	Rarity (w/r to its importance and difficulty of acquisition)	20	
Presentation			5
5.1	Overall aesthetic balance, clarity of display and text		
TOTAL		100	9

Presentation

Max 5 points

It is usually the first criterion that is evaluated. The impression one gets though has a "halo" effect throughout the evaluation of the exhibit.

The presentation (layout of the material and accompanying text) should be:

- SIMPLE
- TASTEFUL
- WITH CLARITY OF DISPLAY
- OVERALL AESTHETICALLY WELL BALANCED

Avoid the page to be too crowded, with too much text, to much void spaces (unless to underline rarities). Arrange items neatly!

Presentation

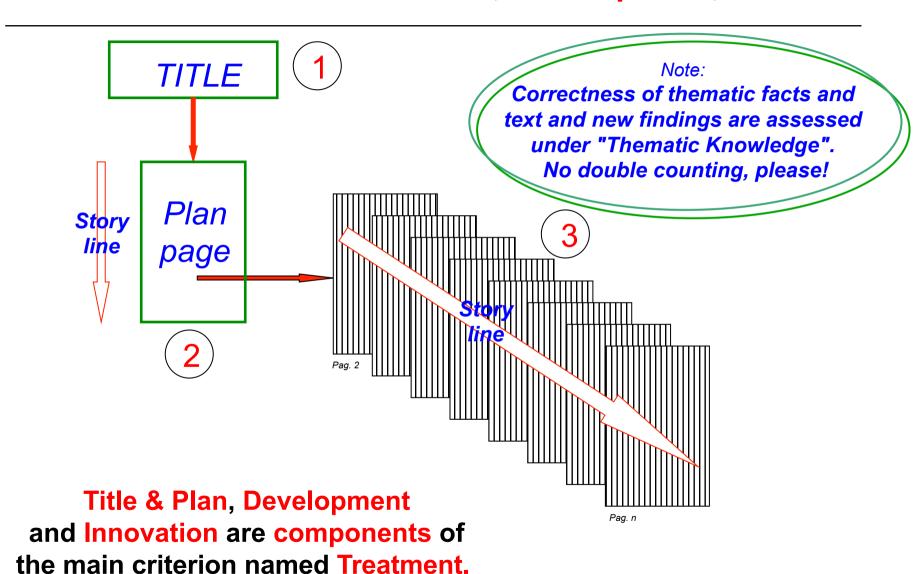
Max 5 points

Starting score: 4

Assign

- 5 when pages are overall aesthetically very well balanced and you enjoy looking at the exhibit
- 3 when pages are too crowded or too void, not neatly displayed
- 2 "horribly" looking (almost never)

TREATMENT: Title & Plan, Development, Innovation



Title Should be promising and original!

- ☐ Should clearly indicate the aim of the exhibit
- ☐ Should set the framework (extent and limits) according to which the plan is built
- ☐ Should be consistent with the plan
- ☐ Should be appealing and promising
- ☐ Should be original

Plan

Should be efficient and structured!

- □ Presence of the introductory page with the plan
- □ Consistency between the plan and the title
- □ Adequacy of the plan (= efficient for understanding the structure)
- □ Covers all main aspects necessary to develop the theme
- ☐ The structure is correct, logical and balanced (guidelines: the degree to which a story is told and not a list of various aspects, e.g. enumeration)

Title and Plan

Max 15 points

Starting score: 12

Assign it when the title and plan are simple and logical, with no mistakes, but nothing special

Get extra points for:

- Creative and appealing title
- Adequate, logical and very well balanced plan
- A plan that is more a story told than a list of various aspects (enumeration)

Get less points when:

- Title and plan not consistent; structure of plan not adequate, illogical; important aspects not treated

BASIC 12 points

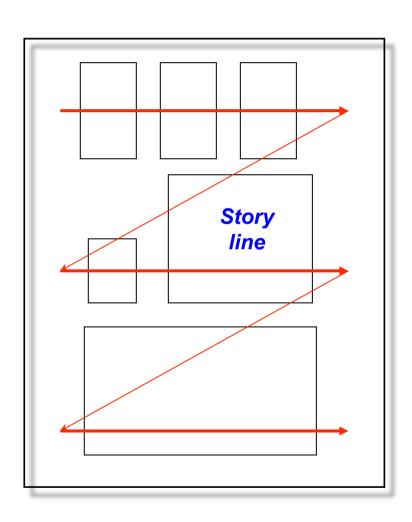
- ☐ Treatment of ALL aspects of the plan
- □ Synthesis of page content by page (sub)titles, the chapter and/or subchapter title(s)
- □ Presence of adequate thematic text
- □ Link between items and thematic text
- □ Correct choice, order and positioning of the items on the page in agreement with the story and the plan

ADDITIONAL points

- ☐ The thematic story flows (red thread) across the page
- ☐ The items are extremely well linked to the story text
- □ Balance, given to each thematic aspects and detail, according to its importance to the theme
- □ Depth shown by links, cross-correlations, structures, causes and effects

Development

Story line ("red thread") – details on the sheets



Innovation

Innovation is demonstrated by a personal elaboration of the theme, that transforms an exhibit from a sequence of classified items into an "original" story

Max 5 points

> Introduction of new themes

A new theme, by itself, is not sufficient, when not sustained by an innovative plan & development

New approaches for known themes

E.g. Historical approach, that widens the scope for analysis

- New aspects of an established or known theme
 - New chapters, paragraphs
 - New thematic application of material
 - Support of new thematic facts

Thematic knowledge

- ✓ Thematic knowledge is related to the general knowledge about the theme, as shown in the choice of items, their mutual relationship and degree of appropriatness of the accompanying text.
- ✓ Thematic knowledge is also demonstrated by the use of "surprising" material, that is thematically appropriate, even if not immediately seen from the material alone, but whose appropriatness was discovered by the exhibitor.
- ✓ Thematic knowledge assumes no thematic errors and avoids excuses for showing material, that is not directly connected with the theme, or doubtful.

Hints:

- ✓ New thematic findings for the chosen subject
- ✓ Thematic details in text and material

Thematic knowledge

Basic requirements 12 points

- □ appropriate, concise and correct thematic text
- □ correct use of thematic material

Further requirements

Additional points

- □ presence of new thematic findings for the chosen subject
- □ "surprising" material (which does not belong to the subject, but thematically fits into the story of that page)

Thematic knowledge

Common mistakes

Deduction of points

- ☐ Lack of thematic text near some parts of the story
- □ Very general (short) text related to too many items
- ☐ Text too long and too detailed with respect to the item(s) shown
- Not adequate commentaries with respect to the item(s) shown

Philatelic Knowledge

- Presence of widest range of postal-philatelic material and its balanced use
 (according to the type of material, regional span and time window)
 - Avoid errors:
 - full compliance with the rules of postal philately
 - appropriateness of postal documents
- appropriateness and correctness of the philatelic text, when needed
- Presence of philatelic studies and skillful use of important philatelic material

The philatelic text should be in a smaller font and form!

Philatelic Knowledge

BASIC – 12 points

- Presence of good range of postal-philatelic material throughout the exhibit and on single pages
 - > Avoid errors:
 - full compliance with the rules of postal philately
 - appropriateness of postal documents
- appropriateness and correctness of the philatelic text, when needed

ADDITIONAL POINTS

Presence of widest possible range of postal-philatelic material and its balanced use

Presence of philatelic studies and skillful use of important philatelic material

Rarity

SREV

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.

GUIDELINES

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.

Rarity

- ➤ Maximum 10 points: Normal and modern with no unusual items
- Maximum 12 points: Normal and modern material plus some unusual and scarce items
 - ➤ Maximum 14 points: Several unusual and scarce items plus some rare item
 - ➤ Maximum 16 points: Several rare items and many scarce ones
 - Maximum 18 points: Overall presence of rare items, some world rarities
 - ➤ Above 18 points: Overall presence of rare and significant world rarities

Condition

The points for Condition are allotted in the following way:

Assess Rarity Points = RP Points for Condition are: RP/2 + C

The C value depends on the condition of the material for the assessed level of rarity:

Poorer than average condition: C = - 1

Average condition: C = 0

Better than average condition: C = + 1

Condition

- Maximum 6 points:
- □ Normal and modern material in good quality
 - > Maximum 8 points:
- □ Normal and modern material in excellent quality plus
- ☐ All unusual and rare material in ist best quality
 - > Maximum 10 points:
- ☐ Major rarities in above average quality (9 points)
- □ ALL major rarities in their best quality (10 points)

Part 2

Treatment

TITLE

The concept of the exhibit: about what will my story be

Symmetry, Hands, Angels, Circus...

Invitation to dinner, Orbs of beauty,

Dens sano in corpore sano (dentistry),

If the theme too wide, the treatment might be too general. Better to narrow the theme (spatially, temporally, sub-themes....)

E.g. Archeology Archeological jewels of Egypt

Olympic games.... Runs, throws, jumps

The title should be creative and appealing!

MOUNTAINS ON STAMPS

2.3 Tien Shan

2.4 Zagros

Both Title 0. PLAN 1 and Plan 1. Mountains in EUROPE 2-50 1.1 Alps 1.1.1 France are BAD 1.1.2 *Italy* 1.1.3 Switzerland 1.1.4 Austria 1.1.5 Slovenia 3. Mountains in the rest of the World 66-76 1.2 Pyrenees North America 3.1 1.3 Carpathians 3.2 South America 1.4 Dinarides 1.5 Other mountain chains New Zealand 3.3 2. Mountains in ASIA *51-65* 4. Mountains on ANTARCTICA 77-80 2.1 Himalaya 4.1 Mountain expeditions 2.2 Pamir

A Good Plan

THE CONQUEST OF THE UNPROFITABLE WORLD History of mountaineering

0. PLAN	1
1. PRE-HISTORY OF MOUNTAINEERING	19
1.1Mithological beginnings 1.2War conquests 1.3Trade routes 1.4First known ascents 1.5Religious motivations 1.6Sustainment motivations 1.7Scientific motivations 1.8First influences on art and literature 1.9Mountaineering forerunners	3 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
2. THE ALPS - BIRTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAINEERING	. 36
2.1Birth of mountaineering: Triglav and Mont Blanc 2.2Mountaineering in diapers 2.3The mountaineering organizations 2.4The golden age of mountaineering 2.5Mountaineering without guides 2.6The revolution in the Eastern Alps 2.7Roads and cable cars bring more alpinists 2.8The last problems in the Alps 2.9Artificial climbing 2.10 Free climbing	2 3 4 3 3 3 3 3 8 4
3. EXPEDITIONS TO OTHER MOUNTAINS	24
3.1The Caucasus - A playground for future expeditions 3.2The Americas - Preparations for Himalaya 3.3From Africa and New Zealand to Asia 3.4The conquest of the giants 3.5Conquering Mt. Everest - world's roof 3.6Where is mountaineering heading to?	2 6 4 8 2 2
1	otal 80

An even better Plan: tells a STORY

THE CONOUEST OF THE UNPROFITABLE WORLD / History of mountaineering

	Sheets		
1. MOUNTAINS ARE MUCH OLDER THAN MEN 1.1 The earth beneath our feet is moving 1.2and this movement causes also mountain building 2. BUT AT FIRST FEAR PREVENTED MAN FROM ASCENDING MOUNTAINS 2.1 Mountains as the seat of gods 2.2 Fear of evil creatures 2.3 Worshipped rocks and humans turned into stones 3. ALTHOUGH LATER ON HE WAS FORCED TO APPROACH THEM 3.1 Military expeditions 3.2 Subsistence motivations 4. AND HE STARTED TO KNOW THEM BETTER 4.1 Religious motivations 4.2 Trade routes 4.3 Scientific motivations 5. THEIR BEAUTY STIRRED HIS IMAGINATION AND HE MADE HIS FIRST ASCENTS 5.1 First influences of mountains on art ad literature 5.2 First known ascents 6. AND LED TO THE BIRTH OF MOUNTAINEERING AS DISCOVERY OF NATURE 6.1 Mountaineering forerunners 6.2 Birth of mountaineering: Triglav and Mont Blanc 6.3 Mountaineering's first steps	1-2 3-4 1 5-12 3 2 3 13-18 3 19-27 3 3 28-34 4 3 35-42 2	8. THEN GOT ORGANISED AND BECAME POPULAR 8.1 The mountaineering organizations 8.2 Dangers, safety and rescuing 8.3 Roads, railroads and cable cars allow an easier and faster access 8.4 Mountain cabins provide shelter near peaks 8.5 Alpine journals and telephones in cabins 9. AND STARTED TO EXPAND TO ALL CONTINENTS 9.1 The Americas 9.2 Africa and New Zealand 9.3 The Caucasus - A playground for future expeditions 10. REQUIRING NEW TECHNIQUES TO CONQUER ALL MOUNTAIN FACES 10.1 The revolution in the Eastern Alps 10.2 The "last" problems in the Alps 11. AND EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENTS THAT PERMITTED THE "IMPOSSIBLE" 11.1 Equipment improvements 11.2 Artificial climbing, winter and ice ascents 11.3 "Impossible" ascents throughout the world 12. LEADING TO THE CONQUEST OF THE GIANTS 12.1 First attempts in Asia 12.2 Conquering Mt. Everest - world's roof 12.3 The giants "fall" one after the other 13. AND TO PRESENT CLIMBING TRENDS 13.1 Clean and free climbing, bouldering 13.2 New trends on the highest mountains	52-66 3 3 4 2 67-77 5 4 2 78-84 4 3 85-96 3 5 4 97-116 6 5 9 117-126 4 2
 6.3 Mountaineering's first steps 7. BUT SOON MOUNTAINEERING BECAME A CHALLENGE TO ONE'S LIMITS 7.1 The golden age of Mountaineering 7.2 Mountaineering without guides 	4 43-51 5 4		2 2 125-128 2 2 Total 12

THE BEST(?) PLAN

ALL the chapters and subchapters

tell a STORY

ADVICE

In the plan keep
Chapters and
Subchapters,
the rest should go
on the single sheets

This exhibit tells the amazing story of the slow conquest of the highest parts of our world's territory, the mountains, a mostly unprofitable world, conquered by man for exploring it, for curiosity, for its natural beauties and to overcome one's limits.

0. TITLE and PLAN	Sheets				
PART I THE STORY FROM MAN'S FIRST TIMID APPROACHES INTO THE REALM OF MOUNTAINS					
1. MOUNTAINS ARE MUCH OLDER THAN MEN	2-3				
2BUT AT FIRST FEAR PREVENTED MAN FROM ASCENDING MOUNTAINS					
3ALTHOUGH LATER ON HE WAS FORCED TO APPROACH THEM					
4SO HE STARTED TO KNOW THEM BETTER					
5THEIR BEAUTY STIRRING HIS IMAGINATION, SO HE APPROACHED THEM FOR PLEASURE	25-28				
PART II TO THE BIRTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF WORLD MOUNTAINEERING					
6THE BIRTH OF MOUNTAINEERING BEING AT FIRST A DISCOVERY OF NATURE	29-34				
7BUT SOON MOUNTAINEERING BECAME A CHALLENGE TO ONE'S LIMITS					
8 THEN GOT ORGANISED, BECAME POPULAR					
9 AND STARTED TO EXPAND TO OTHER CONTINENTS					
PART III AND TO ITS MATURE PHASE, AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD AND LOOKING BEYOND					
10REQUIRING NEW TECHNIQUES TO CONQUER ALL MOUNTAIN FACES	60-64				
11AND TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS THAT PERMITTED THE "IMPOSSIBLE"					
12WITH THE CONQUEST OF THE HIMALAYA AND KARAKORUM GIANTS					
13FOLLOWED BY PRESENT CLIMBING TRENDS THAT STARTED IN THE AMERICAS 85-93					
14THAT SHOULD RESPECT AND PRESERVE THE MOUNTAINS FOR OUR SUCCESSORS.					
	Total 96				
Thematic text in normal font. Bold font indicates connection to material. Philatelic text in italics and smaller font.					

Scarce and rare material surrounded by thick frames.

Development

- > BASIC requirements:
- ☐ Correct choice, order and positioning of the items on the page in agreement with the plan
 - ☐ Link between items and thematic text
 - ☐ Synthesis of page content by page (sub)titles
 - ☐ Treatment of ALL aspects of the Plan
 - > FURTHER requirements:
- ☐ Balance, given to each thematic aspect and detail, according to its importance within the theme
 - ☐ Depth, shown by links, cross-correlations, structures, causes and effects

Example of cross-correlation







and enemies

Use of thematic text in development

Block text on top or in the middle

8.3 Roads, railroads and cable cars allow an easier and faster access

The intrest for mountains grows and traffic increases. During 1810 - 1830 most of the roads over the Alps passes are built, some Alpine roads even much later. The road over the Grossglockner is inaugurated in 1935.



Building roads



Road through the Areuse Schlucht



Inauguration of the Grossglockner road



Flexenstrasse



Sometimes even today roads are closed due to bad weather.... Road from Julieralpenpass to St. Moritz waited, due to bad weather, two day in Chur, before being delivered.

BETTER if connected to the items. according to your story !!

8.3 Roads, railroads and cable cars allow an easier and faster access

During 1810-1830 most of the roads over mountain passes are built.



Right stamp: Variety "6" instead of "S The Grossglockner road over the massif is built is

inaugurated in 1835.

Harsh terrain involved also the building of many bridges .

> ... so that public transport, coaches and later busses, allows a rapid access to mountains.



Booklet of postal cards,



The interest for mountains grows and traffic increases, new roads are built

Postkarte

Carte portale

Cartolina postale

Sometimes, even today, roads are closed due to bad weather conditions.



Mail from Julierpass to St. Moritz had to wait for two days in Chur, due to bad weather conditions, before being delivered.



The Flexenstrasse over the Flexenpass in Austria was built between 1885 and 1909.

Examples of development

Which is better?

3.2 Subsistence motivations

Mountains were visited by men looking for **crystals**, especially **quartz** for jewelry making (Col des Cristaux near Aiguille Verte in Mont Blanc massif!). **Iron** was also looked for in mountain environments. Gold (El Dorado!) and sliver prospectors and colonizers crossed the Rocky mountains during the gold rush.





MINER'S DAY JUNE 7, 1997 MITE OAKS STATION, NE

Prospecting for gold ...



... and silver

Vor- und Zuname:

Tierre Dorbier

Ort: Paris femi

Lieu de déstination:
Straße: Straße: N. 15
Rue:



Gefangenennummer II 20644

Lager-Bezeichnung: Stalag VI J

Krefeld-Fichtenhain Deutschland (Allemagne)

Iron Mountain



Quartz crystals



Prisoner of war concentration camp STALAG VI J mail, Germany 1942

efangenenpost (Gebührenfrei)

3.2 Subsistence motivations



Men visited mountains searching for quartz crystals for



Pen cancelled 1858 cover, handwritten postoffice name and date. Mineral Ridge (1854 - 1913), Iowa.

Sheep could venture on much steeper ground, where and special shoes had to be devised, and men looked for quartz crystals and minerals ore sites in the mountains.





and when the sheep got lost, they climbed the steep



with primitive shoes fitted with iron nails.



iewerly Gefangenennummer II 20644 making. Sure Sorbier Lager-Bezeichnung: Stalag VI J

Prisoner of war concentration camp STALAG VI J mail, Germany 1942.



Iron Mountain. Zemstvo stamp, Baldai administration.



Mont Blanc massif, the quartz mountain!



Krefeld-Fichtenhain Deutschland (Allemagne)

SECOURS

In mountain environments also minerals like iron were looked for.

TOO MUCH TEXT!!



MISSING OR SCARCE TEXT!!





INNOVATION

Innovation is demonstrated by a personal elaboration of the theme, that transforms an exhibit from a sequence of classified items into an "original" story

- > Introduction of new themes
- ➤ A new theme, by itself, is not sufficient, when not sustained by an innovative plan & development
 - New approaches for known themes
 - > E.g. Historical approach, that widens the scope for analysis
 - > New aspects of an established or known theme
 - > New chapters, paragraphs
 - New thematic application of material
 - > To support new thematic facts

RUBBISH IN DAILY LIFE

With increusing standard of living and advancement in urbanization level, rubbish adily life has also increased leading to competition with people for living space. When people we faced with the rubbish left from daily life, they have to worry bout where they have to go? And are they useful or useless? And how to reduce them from originating.

Plan

1. Where are They From ?

- 1.1 Clean body
 - 1.2 Daily life activities

2. Damages Brought By Them

- 2.1 Hotbed for disease transmitter
- 2.2 Effect on water resources
- 2.3 Deteriorating air

3. Recoverable Rubbish

- 3.1 Meaning of recycling symbol
- 3.2 New life in wastepaper baskets
- 3.3 Recycling of glass and plastics
- 3.4 Rebirth of scrap metal
- 3.5 Salvage of old clothes

4. Kitchen Rubbish

- 4.1 Classification and characteristics
- 4.2 How to dispose them
- 4.3 Magical effect of bones

5. Harmful Rubbish

- 5.1 Chemical rubbish
- 5.2 Cigarette butt and secondhand smoking
- 5.3 Invisible garbage——noise

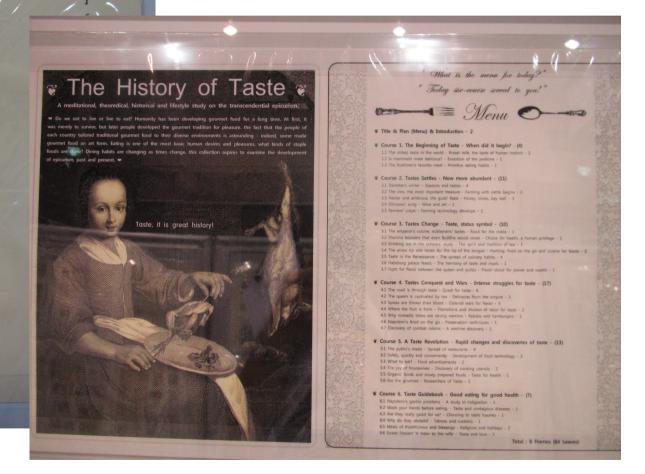
6. Other Rubbish

- 6.1 Combustible rubbish
- 6.2 Interred rubbish
- 6.3 Excremen
- 6.4 Floral and foliage droppings

7. Reducing The Generation Of Rubbish At Its Source

- 7.1 The struggle for energy saving
- 7.2 Repair and maintenance of objects
- 7.3 Saving water
- 7.4 Living frugally

Innovative Themes



What should you pay attention to in TREATMENT

The **TITLE** is the reference to determine the goal of the exhibit 2. Analyse the **PLAN** i.e.: **□** Consistency of the exhibit structure given the goal, implied by the title □ Correct order and balancing of the main chapters and subchapters within a "red thread", that demonstrates the flow and development of the plan, more than a enumeration of the main aspects ☐ Full coverage of all main aspects, relevant for the title 3. Analyse **DEVELOPMENT** i.e.: □ Consistency with the plan □ Correct order and balancing of thematic details within the "red thread" that is based on the sequential positioning of each item on the sheet □ Depth and width of what is shown In the above **BE INNOVATIVE**: original title for a new theme, original story in the plan, introduce new aspects, new use of material.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !!