

Rules of expertise activities

1. Targets of expert activities

Targets of the expert activity organized by Suomen Filatelistiliitto ry (The Philatelic Federation of Finland, the Federation) are:

- To act against the distribution of forged philatelic material, e.g. stamps or covers, repaired item or any other makeshift items;
- To inform collectors and philatelists actively about these phenomena and by doing this, to protect collectors and philatelic audience;
- To help the collectors to identify the authenticity of their items;
- To remove from the markets forged philatelic material;
- To promote the knowledge of the public about forgeries and the work of experts.

2. Organization of the expert work

2.1 The activity of experts in Finland is organized by the Federation. It is voluntary, and participants do it within their philatelic activity.

2.2 The Board of the Federation appoints, based on consent of the candidate, experts, who shall use in their activity title "Suomen Filatelistiliitto ry:n nimittämä aitouttaja" or "av Finlands Filatelistförbund r.f. utsedd prövare" or "Expert, authorized by The Philatelic Federation of Finland". The Federation has the right to cancel the appointment without giving the reason.

The appointment refers to a specified field of Finnish philately. If needed, the Federation may appoint Finnish experts for philatelic fields outside Finland, too.

2.3 The work will be organized by an Expert Committee appointed by the Board of the Federation. Members of the Committee are experts appointed by the Board of the Federation, who also appoints the Chairman and the Secretary proposed by the Committee. The Chairperson shall be an expert.

2.4 Only the Expert Committee may make proposals for new experts. The Committee shall deliver to the Board of the Federation an opinion about the competence of the candidate. The candidate shall have:

- A good reputation
- Extensive knowledge, experience, and reference material on the specified field, and
- Necessary equipment.

2.5 The Expert Committee shall carry out the targets mentioned in paragraph 1 above. For that purpose Expert Committee:

- Tries to remove forged material from the market;
- Requires experts to follow auctions and other markets as regards the items offered for sale;
- Takes care that the needs for expertise of collectors are covered;
- Relays information of experts of foreign items, if need be;
- Cooperates with international organizations, e.g. with the Forgeries Commission of FIP;
- Requires that forged items are marked as forgeries;
- Submits to the Board of the Federation by the end of February a report of its activity during the past year.

2.6. The Expert Committee convenes at least once a year on request of its Chairperson or him being unable, on request of the eldest member. The request may also be done by two members together.

3. Agreement for Expertise

Agreement for Expertise will be established between the mandator and the expert through the assignment of the mandator and the acceptance of the expert. Before the delivery of the item, the mandator shall be in contact with the expert and agree with the expert about the work to be done.

4. The rights and obligations of the mandator

4.1 Whoever has the right as mandator to submit items to an expert. By doing this, the mandator agrees to these rules.

4.2 On request of the expert, the mandator shall reveal the origin and the owner of the item.

4.3 The mandator shall deliver the item to the expert duly catalogued and covered, e.g. lose stamps in stock cards and postal items in protective mounting pocket. All hinges shall be removed before delivering items to the expert to facilitate the expertise and to avoid disputes. The delivery shall include return envelope including address and instructions how to send the items.

4.4 If the delivery is by mail, the items shall be sent by recommended mail or insured. All items submitted to the expert are accepted entirely at the sender's risk.

4.5 The mandator accepts, that the expert will publish a picture and details of an item which has been found to be forged, partially or a wholly forged item.

4.6 The mandator accepts that an item which has been found to be a forgery, will be marked in a permanent way, with reference to paragraph 5.1. below.

4.7 The mandator accepts to pay the expert the fee which is confirmed in the tariff of the Federation.

5. The rights and obligations of the expert

5.1 The expert gives a certificate about the item. Expert may also mark the item as specified in the annex. A forgery must always be marked.

5.2 One should be careful marking the item due to the risks involved. This does not refer to forgeries. An expert may mark clear forgeries outside his/hers specified field with the permit and on behalf of the expert specified to these fields.

5.3 The expert shall perform his work neutrally and according to his/her best knowledge. The expert shall check, before receiving the item(s), that the mandator is in possession of these rules.

5.4 The expert is not obliged to give any reasoning for his/her certificate. The expert may also, without giving any reasons, refuse to give any certificate. The expert shall inform the mandator immediately, and if requested direct the assignment to another expert.

5.5 The expert shall do the work in reasonable timeframe. If it takes more than four weeks, the mandator shall be informed.

5.6 The Federation will organize the necessary insurance which covers the liability related to the activities of the experts.

5.7 The assignment has been done when the item(s) have been given to the mandator or mailed to the address given by the mandator. The responsibility of the return mail arriving correctly is of the mandator.

5.8 The expert shall give the Chairman of the Committee by the end of January a report of the certificates given during the previous year.

5.9 When the appointment of an expert expires, he/her or his/her estate shall return to the Committee all stamps, forms, and copies of the certificates.

5.10 The expert shall follow according to his/her circumstances auctions and other markets to be able to remove forged items.

5.11 If an expert does not have the possibility to participate in the meeting of the Committee, the expert should express his/her opinions in advance to the Chairman of the Committee.

5.12 The expert has the right to remove and mark as forgeries items which has been found in VBO-booklets of the Federation.

6. Target

6.1 As targets are only: stamps and postal items, postal stationery, revenues, freight stamps, forgeries, essays, proofs, reprints etc. No certificate will be given of propaganda stamps, letter sealing stamps, forgeries of them etc.

6.2 The certificate does not include any information or estimate of the value of the item.

6.3 The expert may use standard methods as put the item into water, or purified petrol or remove a hinge. The use of further methods shall be agreed with the mandator.

7. Certificate

7.1 Certificate will be written on the form confirmed by the Board of the Federation. It will be done in three copies: one for the mandator, one for the expert and one for the Federation. The expert will send the copies of the Federation to the Chairman of the Committee at the end of the year. The expert shall store the copies ten years.

7.2 The expert shall number the certificates annually beginning always with the number 1.

7.3 The certificate shall include where applicable:

- Reference catalogue and the number of the item
- Country of origin, issue, possible overprint, and face value
- Identification of the item/stamp and color of the postmark
- Perforation and its gauge
- Paper and watermark
- Destination and country
- Date and place of obliteration
- Other postal markings
- Postal tariff
- Other possible marks for identification.

7.4 Further definitions belong to the certificate if they are generally available in the catalogues. If the expert defines the item more thoroughly, he is entitled to an extra fee agreed upon beforehand.

7.5 Definitions shall be those generally used within philately.

7.6 Information about the condition of the item.

7.7 Opinion of the expert.

7.8 Date of the certificate and signature of the expert.

7.9 Picture of the item which shall be bound to the certificate with the signature of the expert.

8. Fees

8.1 The Board of the Federation will confirm the tariffs proposed by the Expert Committee. In addition to these fees, the expert has the right to charge his real costs.

8.2 The expert has, however, the right to charge the fee for major lots so that the fee is at maximum 5 € per item and the fee is agreed upon per item beforehand. The examination of lots requires a separate agreement like a request for a certificate.

8.3 All disputes about the fees shall be settled by the Board of the Federation.

8.4 The expert has lien to the item to receive the payment.

9. Expiration

9.1 The certificate will expire on the tenth anniversary of its date.

9.2 All claims towards both parties or their beneficiaries will expire on the tenth anniversary of the date of the certificate. The same applies to all claims made towards the expert.

10. Responsibility

10.1 The Federation has no responsibility about the activity of the Expert Committee or experts.

10.2 The Expert Committee has no responsibility about the activities of the experts.

10.3 The responsibility of the expert is limited to his willful act as distinguished from carelessness or negligence, if caused direct damage. The expert is not responsible for indirect damage nor damage caused thereafter. Furthermore, the responsibility of the expert is limited to the market value of the item, at the maximum of 20.000€ per incident.

11. Place of authority

11.1 These rules are governed by the laws of the Republic of Finland.

11.2 Any disputes arising shall be first settled by the Board of the Federation.

11.3 If any party is not satisfied with the decision of the Board of the

Federation, the place of authority is the Court of Justice where the expert has his/hers registered address, and if the dispute includes several experts or the expert does not have his/hers registered address in Finland, the Court of Justice of Helsinki, Finland.

The Board of the Philatelic Federation of Finland ry has adopted these rules on 14 April 2011. They will be effective as of 14 April 2011 and cancel the rules as from 22 April 2010.