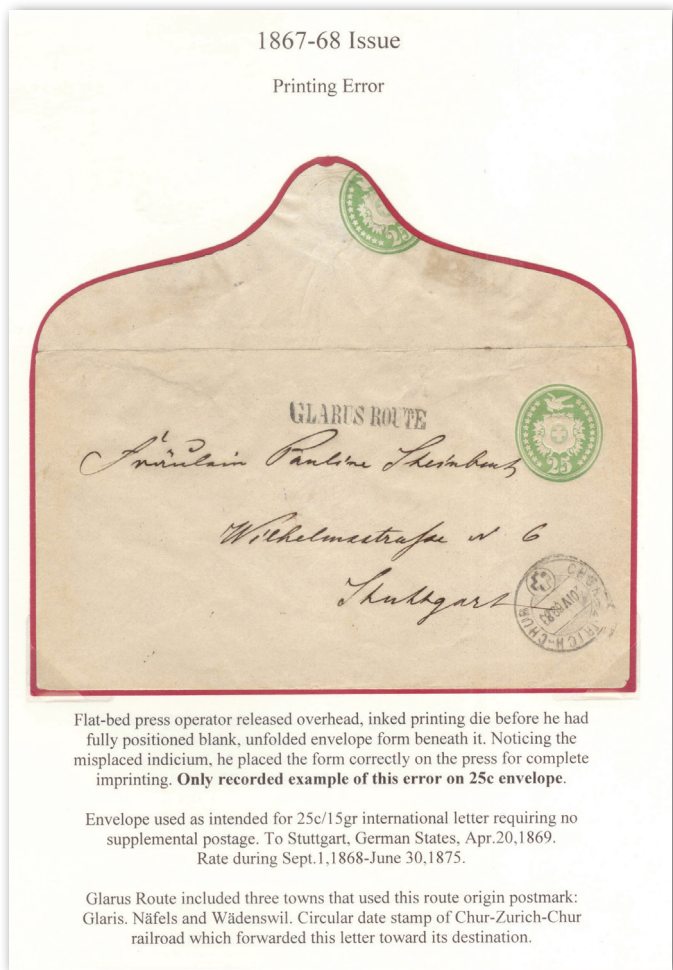## Tip 46 – Consider low tech solutions to display challenges

Harlan Stone faced an interesting challenge in preparing his exhibit *Switzerland's Stamp-Imprinted Envelopes: Federal Issues, 1867-86.* He wanted to know how to highlight one of his better items so judges and other viewers of the exhibit would know that it was one of his key pieces. Matting seemed an obvious choice. When an exhibitor mats a rectangular cover or a single stamp it is not too difficult to get the mat to the right shape: you cut your mat paper in a paper cutter to the size you need and you're almost done. Harlan's challenge was to prepare a mat for the cover with the flap open so that the mat was not rectangular (Figure 46-1). How do you mat a curved item and make it look good? What did Harlan do? He cut the mat by hand. Even if it took two or three tries, cutting the mat by hand was the simplest, easiest and most effective way to do it. Figure 1 shows Harlan's handiwork. The cover is wonderfully highlighted. And Harlan did something extra that shows why he is a Champion of Champions exhibitor. The red shade used to highlight key pieces in his Switzerland exhibit is the same color red as the Swiss flag. Along with a low tech solution is a high impact attention to detail. It's a great exhibit page.



Figure 46-1.

## Tip 47 – Remember there is more than one way to prepare an exhibit

Each of us experiments and explores ways of doing things, including preparing stamp exhibits. Some ways may work, some may not work, but it is a learning process. We may assume there is the 'right' way to do things, but that can be a misconception. Look at Figure 47-1, the title page for one of John Warren's exhibits of stamps from Bundi, an Indian Feudatory State. The map showing the location of the state is very well done. I can't do maps that well so I asked John what program he used to make his illustration.

I thought I could get the program he used and then I would be able to make maps like he does. He laughed. He told me he made the map by hand by tracing and cutting and Xeroxing and using whiteout and doing it again and again. That showed me two things. I, or anyone else, can prepare a map that is well done (even if it looks complicated or if it looks like it came from a computer) that adds to the story an exhibit tells. Second, although we may assume that computers always make things easier, there are some things we can still do by hand that look first rate. (And doing it by hand may even be easier than mastering a new piece of software just to use it once or twice.)

There is no right way to prepare an exhibit. There might be other equally good 'endings' to an exhibit of Hemisphere '68 stamps (mentioned above) instead of a cover from the last day of the exhibition. It depends on the story you want to tell and how you want to tell iit.



Figure 47-1.