

Steve Zwilling's Exhibiting TIPS

[Editor's Note: We're pleased to introduce this handy column by Steve Zwilling, recently-elected Secretary of the American Philatelic Society and an exhibitor with wide experience. As his work progresses in these pages, a compilation of his Tips will comprise a convenient handbook of philatelic exhibiting techniques.]

Over my years of exhibiting I have encountered a sizable number of seemingly minor, yet rather significant, techniques exhibitors can use to solve various difficulties with their competitive exhibits. Often, the use of such techniques can not only improve an exhibit's overall appearance, but contribute to higher award levels. If you have some techniques you would like to share, send me an email in care of Editor@AmericanStamp-Dealer.com.

Exhibiting Tip No. 1

If you have more than one exhibit in a related area, consider using the same format (layout and font) for each exhibit. That way, if you want to move pages between exhibits they will fit more easily and not stand out as looking different from the others. Even if the subheadings (if you use them) are not matched perfectly, it will not stand out. Inserting a page prepared with a different template and with a different font will stand out. Using the same format may save the effort of remounting a page each time you move it between one exhibit and another.

Exhibiting Tip No. 2

Sometimes there is an imperfect cover that is a vital part of your exhibit. How can you show it and minimize the visual impact of a missing corner or a jagged edge? One possibility is to overlay the imperfect cover on top of another cover of the same paper type and similar size so the paper underneath minimizes the visual effect of the imperfect cover. Two examples are shown. In the first, imagine the cover (Indian cover with registration number 143) needs to be part of your exhibit. The damaged right side detracts from the cover. If this cover is overlaid on a non-descript cover of the same paper type and appearance the extent of the damage is not as visually jarring. (The second cover is placed upside down front side forward and behind the damaged cover.)

Figure 1 shows the original damaged cover, while Figure 2 shows the same cover with a similar cover with a straight edger behind it.

Perhaps a U.S. cover that is less damaged is a better example. Figure 3 is an imperfect cover. There is a small "bite" out of the top right. Figure 4 is the same cover with a second cover behind it. The cover is still imperfect and should be upgraded with a replacement. It is, however, less visually jarring. ☒



Figure 1. Damaged Indian postal stationery.



Figure 2. Same cover, still damaged, but more attractive.



Figure 3. Imperfect U.S. cover.



Figure 4. Less visually jarring cover with same imperfection.