

### Tip 312: How Judges can Communicate Clearly to Exhibitors

Exhibitors frequently want more structured feedback from judges than they receive. Unstructured comments from a judge focusing upon anything a judge wishes to comment upon in any way he or she thinks useful may not have a lot in common with what an exhibitor wants. Many years ago, Bob Odenweller prepared a lengthy series of checklists - so long that I think it ran across several issues - in the [New York] *Collectors Club Philatelist*. It seemed to me to be a good checklist for advanced exhibitors to self-critique their exhibits, but when I first saw it, I didn't see another application for it.

Recently I looked at parts of it again and I thought that a highly condensed subset of what he laid out seemed to offer an opportunity for more focused and targeted communication from a judge to an exhibitor. Perhaps using an abbreviated checklist as part of the judging form might make it easier for judges to provide useful feedback and for the feedback to be useful to exhibitors. Then, if space could be added for targeted comments, it might even be more useful.

**Figure 312-1 – Conceptual Supplement to judging Form to Improve Feedback to Users**

<b>Introductory Statement</b> Is there an adequate introductory statement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Marginal	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Completeness</b> Does the exhibit have all the material indicated in the introductory statement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Marginal	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Balance</b> Is there an overconcentration on area and too little in another?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Marginal	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Rarity</b> How easily could this exhibit be duplicated?	<input type="checkbox"/> Impossible	<input type="checkbox"/> Difficult	<input type="checkbox"/> Easy
Possibilities for Improvement:			
<b>Condition</b> What is the overall condition of the material in the exhibit compared to that available?	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Low
<b>Material</b> Is there material shown that should have been omitted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is there material omitted that should have been shown?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Write-Up</b> Is the write-up clear?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Possibilities for Improvement:			

Judging is not a static process. It is always undergoing self-examination and judges are careful to pay attention to the needs of the exhibitors whose exhibits are being judged.