

I had the good fortune to lead the exhibiting seminars at APS' Summer Seminar for three years. I thought it would be useful to describe the contents of the seminars so those interested in the seminars' content would have the information they want. Also, to the extent that this detailed discussion about the content of an exhibiting class might be of utility to others who teach similar classes, this detailed discussion allows us to begin sharing ideas.

No two summer seminars are the same; the knowledge, interests and experience of the participants is never the same from year to year. Whatever outline or syllabus I have only lasts until the first few moments of the first hour of the first day. The major content areas are largely the same but there is a tremendous amount of variation from year to year. Please remember, this outline covered a three full day class.

The major content areas include:

### **Introduction and defining context**

What is an exhibit? A question that leads to an interesting opening discussion

Why exhibit?

What are the rewards or benefits of exhibiting?

What is your topic?

What do you want to exhibit?

Range of personal goals

Types of exhibits

### **Exhibits**

Story telling

Parts of an exhibit – description and purpose

Title Page

Index and Headers

Content Pages

Synopsis

Descriptive and Contextual Information

One Frame and Multi-Frame Exhibits

Examples of successful Title Pages

Examples of successful Synopsis Pages

Templates

## **Supplies and Material**

Hinges

Papers

Mounts

Page protectors

Glue dots

USB Microscope

Printer

Scanner

## **Mechanics of Making Pages**

Page Layout

Headers

Boxes and frames for items on exhibit page

Highlighting

Type faces and fonts

Selecting Paper size

Using corner mounts, stamp mounts, hinges and different paper to see how they work/look (hands on exercises)

Self-Critique

## **Elements of Exhibiting**

Planning

Including Descriptive and Contextual Information

Distinguishing between philatelic, historical and contextual information

Synopsis dos and don'ts

Title Page dos and don'ts

Choosing between a one frame exhibit or a multi-frame exhibit

What is treatment?

Congruence between title page, synopsis and exhibit:

Level of focus: page, frame and exhibit perspectives

## **Resources**

On-line exhibit resources

APRL exhibit collection

AAPE

Title page critique service

Synopsis critique service

Exhibit critique service

## **Possible areas of confusion**

Topical vs thematic vs display

First Day Covers vs Illustrated Mail

Use of copies vs use of originals

Difference between exhibit and monograph

## **Judging**

APS' Judging manual

Judging criteria and weights

Treatment

Knowledge

Research/Personal Study

Rarity

Condition

Importance

Presentation

Exhibit Evaluation Forms – blank and real ones from shows

Judges' Feedback Session

## **Stamp Shows**

Rewards of a people-based hobby

Medals

Mounting and dismounting exhibits

Shipping exhibits

Insurance

Volunteers

International shows

#### Note

In addition, we review exhibits, exhibit pages, title pages and synopsis pages prepared by participants.. Other exhibits were available for critiquing and discussing. There were also about 45 handouts to illustrate specific points or to provide more in-depth information than could be covered in class. Not all seminars address every topic as the seminars reflect the interests and prior experience of the participants. This is a general guide.

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