

## Tip 202: You Can Start Writing Now

Exhibitors like to communicate. They enjoy sharing the knowledge and their ideas with people interested in their topics. In addition to exhibiting, many exhibitors want to write about their material as well as their exhibits.

But, in a manner similar to the difficulties exhibitors sometime face in starting their exhibits, aspiring writers sometimes have difficulties in taking the first step of putting pen to paper. They get stuck at asking themselves “What should I write about?” or “What’s interesting?”

If you want to write, you should write about whatever you want to write about and whatever you find interesting. If it is not interesting to you, it is unlikely you will be able to write it a manner that makes it interesting to others.

Build from your exhibit. There are several possible topics exhibitors can write about based on their exhibits and their exhibiting experiences. Some topics follow. These items may elicit thoughts about what you want to write about. Or you can view them as questions to which you can prepare an answer in the form of a letter or article.

1. What is your favorite cover or cancel? Why?
2. What is your favorite exhibit page? Why?
3. What is your favorite reference book? Why?
4. What are your favorite exhibiting supplies?
5. Are there exhibits that have inspired you? How?
6. If you could exhibit any stamp/subject, what would it be? Why?
7. What was the best exhibiting advice you received?
8. Is there exhibiting advice you wish someone had given you?
9. What is the key advice you would give to a new exhibitor?
10. Is there a generally accepted exhibiting rule you break?
11. What was/were the biggest mistakes you made in your first exhibit?
12. What was your biggest exhibiting mistake and how have you recovered from it?
13. Was there a time you felt like giving up on collecting or exhibiting? What happened?
14. Was there a turning point in your exhibiting career? What was it?
15. What was the most difficult exhibiting challenge you faced and how did you address it?
16. How did you deal/manage with an uncomfortable or unjustified critique from a judge?

Any of these might lead to an interesting story. An interesting story about your collection or your exhibit that you share with your friends and family might be an easy subject to write about.

And, sometimes, the research and knowledge that you have acquired but which cannot fit on your exhibit pages, may be appropriate for a specialized article on your exhibiting subject.