

Planning to exhibit your perfins: here are some suggestions

Dr. Harvey Tilles emphasizes that a good collection is *NOT* a good exhibit!

In the January *Bulletin* we passed along an offer from Dr. Harvey Tilles to help members who plan to exhibit at upcoming shows. Now Dr. Tilles, a nationally accredited judge, has been named a judge at PIPEX, the Spokane show which will also offer special Perfins Club and other awards.

Clearly it would be inappropriate for Dr. Tilles to review and comment on the work of those who plan to exhibit at PIPEX. After the PIPEX show is over, of course, Dr. Tilles' offer stands: send him a photocopy of your exhibit and he will offer suggestions for improvement.

Before the show, though, Dr. Tilles says he will respond to e-mail or telephone questions about exhibiting. He can be reached by e-mail at Htilles@triad.rr.com and by telephone at 336/882-1965.

In the meantime, here are some general suggestions from Dr. Tilles that might help those of you planning to exhibit.

First of all, he says, collections are not exhibits! Sticking your perfins collection in a series of frames in a show does not make it an exhibit. You have to design and plan an exhibit to appeal to viewers—and judges.

Exhibiting perfins is no different than exhib-

iting any other subject within philately. The exhibit must tell a story: What, Why, Where, When, How! There must be a beginning and an end to the story. Most important is what Tilles calls the "golden thread"—the theme of the exhibit. It must be present. This is what judges look for.

Are you showing

face down, he reminds us that judges are not proctologists (well, some may be!), but stamp collectors. Show the stamp face up and put a drawing of the pattern next to it. Never use catalog numbers. They are meaningless to the judges.

Exhibit pages should be the same color. Tilles says he has seen three or

Back to the beginning: tell a story with your exhibit—and forget the idea of doing "an introduction to perfins." That one has been beat to death.

Select a perfins topic you can cover in a reasonable number of pages: perfins of a particular country, or state, or region, or a type of perfin, or perfins related to a particular subject or topic.

Dr. Tilles says a model for taking the simple to the ultimate exhibit is Arnold Selungut's *Precancels* exhibit. It has won every award including grands, reserve grands, and it was in the Champion of Champions class this past year.

The exhibit started as an informational introduction to precancels. In the beginning, says Tilles, it was terrible. But Selungut worked hard and turned it into the best precancel exhibit in the world!

Editor's note. If you do exhibit at PIPEX, corner Dr. Tilles after the exhibits are judged and ask him for a critique. You won't find anyone more knowledgeable in both perfins and exhibits to guide you to a better exhibit.

It's PIPEX 2001

The Perfins Club will be one of the featured societies meeting at PIPEX in Spokane, WA, on June 8, 9, and 10. The show will feature an exhibition and a large bourse—and a special welcome from show chairman Ken Rehfeld, who is also the Perfins Club Secretary. Spokane also has a lot to offer to family members who are not interested in perfins. For more information, contact Rehfeld at the address on the back page.

what your title page says?

Are you clear and concise in your story telling? Every word should have significance to the story-line. Judges are not bewildered by words but they are not happy with too much verbiage—and neither are most exhibit viewers. Keep your story brief but informative.

The title page is extremely important. First impressions are lasting impressions.

Make your pages eye appealing and neat.

While Tilles understands that the best way to showing perfins in a collection is stamp

four different colored pages, from stark white to almost a beige, in the same exhibit. They are distracting and can cost you points in a competition. Buy new pages for the exhibit. Plain white is always preferable.

Do not use black background mounts for your stamps. The exhibit should not look like it is in mourning. If you are going to use mounts, use clear.

Use covers and other support material if you can and if they contribute to the story you are telling. Usages and destinations are intriguing.