

“How to Build a Philatelic Exhibit” OFE and PowerPoint Presentation

The purpose of putting together a one-frame exhibit (OFE) on "How to Build a Philatelic Exhibit" was to serve as a guide to new and intermediate exhibitors. It does this by providing instructions that parallel the exhibit format. Thus, the Title Page of the OFE explains what the title page of an exhibit should contain, using good techniques such as "stating the purpose right after the title.

The challenge of building this exhibit has been to bring the principles in *The Manual of Philatelic Judging* 6th edition to life using examples from some of the most successful exhibits available. The exhibit tries to explain concepts such as Treatment and Rarity and how to show Philatelic Knowledge, and we try to illustrate techniques such as Windowing and Lapping. All this (and more) using examples from most of the types of exhibits that are described in the *Manual*.

The AAPE Board appointed Tim Bartshe and David McNamee to create this OFE as a possible teaching tool or something that could be used at a stamp club meeting as a program. Tim and David in turn received help from many others during the creation and testing of the final product.

When they finished with the 17 pages – remember all good exhibits have a synopsis, too – they mounted the OFE at several local shows and a couple of WSP shows, and they passed around the pages at the next AAPE Board Meeting to get reaction from various groups.

The OFE got good technical reviews, but nearly everyone agreed that the density of the pages interfered with the message. The material looked daunting and unapproachable to some. So as a teaching tool or even as an instructive display, this might not work the way it was intended. The AAPE Board asked if the committee could now take the OFE and make a PowerPoint program to teach the same principles, but in smaller bites to make it easier to grasp.

The “How to Build a Philatelic Exhibit” PowerPoint slide program was created and tested at two local shows with good results. At the last AAPE Board Meeting, the OFE and the slide program were approved for distribution through the AAPE web site www.aape.org as a service to philately. Anyone can now download and use these tools in any manner they desire.

Here are some tips on how to get the most out of these tools:

- If possible, have one of the most successful exhibitors in your group lead the PowerPoint presentation. That way, if questions arise, this person will be more likely to provide a useful answer based on experience.
- Print out the OFE pages and mount a copy of them in a frame or stick them up on a wall if no frame is available so that people can study them as an exhibit.
- Print out copies of the OFE as handouts for the PowerPoint presentation. Participants can jot notes on the pages which will make the learning more effective.
- Have a copy of the *Manual of Philatelic Judging*, 6th edition on hand. That is also available as a free download from the APS web site www.stamps.org or also from the AAPE site.

If you have tried to find a place you have never been without a map or set of directions, you know that frustration usually results. Carrying the metaphor a bit further, if all you have is a description of your destination, you can visualize where you want to be, but that does not help you get there. The AAPE Board hopes these tools will point the way to increased enjoyment of our hobby. Questions or comments can be directed to timbartshe@aol.com or dmcnamee@aol.com.
