



Women Exhibitors
APS Affiliate #260

WE EXPRESSIONS



Supported by AAPE

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: *To provide a vehicle through which women exhibitors can encourage each other through sharing information, ideas, experience, advice, problems, and solutions.*

- Festival:** Festival for Philatelic Women, May 28-31, 2009; Bellefonte, PA. Keynote speaker, Dr. Cheryl Ganz, *Women in Philately: Where We Were, Where We Are, and Where We're Going*. Lots of other great workshops, seminars, social events.
- Next Meeting:** STAMPSHOW '09, Aug. 8, 2009, at noon; Pittsburgh, PA. Denise Stotts will speak on *Philatelic Elements for Thematic Exhibiting*.
- Satellite Mtgs:** MERPEX XXXIII, Sept. 4-5, 2009; Pennsauken, NJ; will include mini-seminar on *The Basics of Exhibiting*, by Barb Harrison, on Sat., Sept. 5, 1-2 pm.
- Hudson-Fulton StampExpo 400*, Sept. 25-27, 2009, Albany, NY; will include mini-seminar on *The Basics of Exhibiting*, by Barb Harrison, on Sat., Sept. 26, 1-2 pm, room TBD.

Keeper's Korner: This is an exciting time for WE. The first ever *Festival for Philatelic Women* is taking place within a month. You don't want to miss this historic and informational event. Good fellowship with philatelic friends, already known and just new, will abound as well as research, meeting, exhibits and more. WE extends thanks to both AAPE and APS for helping with the *Festival*. AAPE helped with funding, and APS with promotion, venue, and more. Your publicity team is working on a proclamation for "Women Stamp Collectors Week in Centre County." APS, with Fred Baumann designing, has a 10-page album on *The First Fifty Women on United States Stamps*. This album is in public domain and free to download at www.stamps.org/Albums/Women.pdf. Do check it out. It is interesting and informative. I've shared it at several show and tells. You should be sufficiently tantalized by now to make sure you attend the *Festival*. Be sure to extend thank yous to the Festival Team: Pat Stilwell-Walker, coordinator; Janet Klug, programs and venue; Denise Stotts, publicity; Liz Hisey, registration, lodging, and food; and Joann Lenz, exhibits. They have worked hard and accomplished much.

Stamp Show is rapidly approaching. Please mark the date of the WE meeting now on your calenders. WE will gather Saturday, August 8 at noon for a brief meeting. Then, Denise Stotts, our speaker, will tell us about *Philatelic Elements for Thematic Exhibiting*. Many of our members start with either thematic or display exhibits, so this presentation will be informative and timely for WE. Last, don't forget your dues. If you are among the non-paid, please send your dues to Liz now. You will save WE the postage cost of mailing your dues statement.

See you at the *Festival*.

Ruth

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: Most shows require that exhibit pages be enclosed in protective "plastic" pages, with exhibitor's name on the reverse of each. What advice can you offer, from your own experience, concerning "plastic" pages (what kind, where to purchase, prices, etc.), what kind of paper to use (why, weight, color, etc.), how best to include your name on the reverse of each page, and how to number the pages (on reverse) to show their position in the frame.

From Janet Klug: No to plastic page protectors! Yes to Mylar or Melinex, available from Atlantic Protective Pouches or Leonard Hartmann. They cost more, but they last a long time and are archival quality. The plastic stuff you get at K-Mart will likely damage your material over time.

From Jean Kasper: Having mounted hundreds of pages over the years, my one comment would be: do not use the flimsy pages with the 3 holes on the side for putting into a binder for your exhibit. For the most part they are not archival and fall out of the frames during mounting which can accidentally cause damage to the pages. Get some heavier, Mylar pages that will stand up in the frames when mounted. They should be archival so that you can leave your exhibit in them until ready to change it or send it out again. Sources of the pages can be found on the internet and many different sizes as well. Cost varies by size.

From Denise Stotts: Page protectors: an ABSOLUTE MUST whether the show requires it or not. Case in point: several years ago a roof leaked right over my frames -- the inside of the frames got wet and the outside of the page protectors as well. I use side loading page protectors and that was what saved my pages. These can be bought (not cheap) from Atlantic Protective Pouches -- I don't have the contact info handy, but they advertise in the AAPE journal. You can buy them in any size. Since I use page-and-a-half and double-page formats, it is nice to have those sizes available. I think that there are also archival protectors at office supply stores, but I'm not sure about the side loading feature. The protectors last and last, so the initial expense is worth it.

Paper: Because I do thematics and cut lots of slits and windows in my pages, I use a heavier than normal paper, the heaviest that will work in our printer. I personally like a creamy, off white color.

Labeling: I make little tags with my name, address, frame number and page number and place them behind the pages - you could also just write lightly in pencil on the back, but if you change pages frequently, it's nice to be able to reuse the tags. When there is a double page, I write both page numbers on the tag so there is no confusion.

From Sheryll Rueker: I have used the expensive top-opening mylar protective sheets for my main exhibit ever since my first show in Australia back in 2000. These were available from the APF through the sales superintendent in my local stamp club. I have been told that they are available here from Atlantic Protective Pouches, NJ (see ad in TPE). For some of my other exhibits, I have used the cheaper side-opening polypropylene protectors available from

the APF (trimming the side to fit A4 paper), and since my move to the US, the presentation sheet protectors which have holes in the side for storage in a 3-ring binder.

Our stamp club in Australia used to get archival quality 165gsm "goat parchment" paper in bulk from a local printer. It has an ivory cream color, which many Canberra philatelists liked as a softer backdrop to their material. I used the cut-down A4 size as the larger size in use then would not fit in my printer. When I moved here, I was taken to Arvey, a paper store here in Portland, and I found an almost perfect match for it, 90lb (I think) letter size paper without watermark (a bonus!).

I reuse the backs of my pages when redoing them, and I have noticed that this paper is more see-through than my old paper, not because of the weight, but because I am now using an inkjet printer instead of a laser printer. So far this hasn't been an issue with the judges or my scanner, only my own eye.

When mounting my exhibit for my first stamp show, I found putting page numbers and name and address labels on the backs of the pages themselves awkward, especially if I wanted to redo a page afterwards. I got around this by putting them on the backs of my mylar protectors instead! I used a removable round sticker for the page number (writing it on - nice big number 1, 2, etc) and a removable rectangular sticker for my name and address. As I have moved a couple of times, these stickers have in turn been covered with new name and address stickers!

From Barb Harrison: The sheet protectors need to be both archival quality and acid free. Depending on your budget, you can purchase them as suggested by Janet, or you can get various store brands, including Staples (in several qualities). I am now using medium weight from Staples which I recently found on sale – first time I've seen that in 5 years! Another good quality is Ultra-Pro. Both of these brands have the 3 holes and work well in the frames (I insert 67 lb. cover stock behind the exhibit page for support).

Once I'm ready to start writing an exhibit, I prepare the sheet protectors by placing a self-stick address label on the reverse of each (the kind that I receive after giving contributions), along with frame/page numbers using self-stick labels (small ones, cut in half). I write the frame number first, followed by page number: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, etc. Then 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, etc. Then I add the first-draft pages, as I write them, along with the exhibit material, changing to the final pages as they are completed. If I change the order of pages, I simply place a new page number label over the old page number.

Not knowing any better when I first started exhibiting 5 years ago, I used a bright white paper, and immediately decided on 20 or 24 lb. bond, using a 67 lb. cover stock sheet to slip into each sheet protector behind the typed page to offer support. I have since switched to using cream colored paper, but I still prefer to use 20 lb. stock with the heavier 67 lb. stock for support. For me, this works well, and I find it cheaper than using heavy stock for every page. Until I print the final copy, I also print on both sides, to save paper, using "draft" quality to save ink. I have quite a few windowed pages, and 20 lb. bond works fine. I am gradually re-doing every exhibit, switching to cream color as it looks much better with the older covers and postcards than does the bright white. I buy the cover stock in large quantities whenever it's on sale. Since I still have some white cover stock, I'm using it up for the

stiffening for new exhibits even though I'm using cream paper – it doesn't show, so it doesn't matter. I also use the 67 lb. cover stock for mats for special material, in addition to now using mats for ALL material. I keep a variety of colors on hand, using plain colors for mounting everything and a contrasting, brighter color for special items (although often the judges don't seem to take note of this in the Synopsis or Title Page).

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO ANSWER FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: (Vesma Grinfelds suggested:) **How do you organize your stuff for an exhibit? How do you mount your material on the pages? How do you lay it out?**

If you've never sent in your answers to a monthly question, this is a good time to do it!

HELP!! SUGGESTIONS FOR MONTHLY QUESTIONS ARE NEEDED FROM YOU, in addition to your answers!! PLEASE SUBMIT QUESTIONS OR TOPICS FOR UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS, AND ALSO SEND IN YOUR RESPONSES –THIS IS AN EASY WAY THAT WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER!!

ONLY A FEW WEEKS AWAY: May 28–31, 2009

******Festival for Philatelic Women******

There will be ample time to make use of the American Philatelic Center and all it has to offer stamp collectors. For last-minute information contact Women Exhibitors, 7277 Sparta Road, Sebring, FL 33875. Email: WEfestival@comcast.net.

The Festival Committee needs to know that you are coming! PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM TO LIZ HISEY IMMEDIATELY. CLOSING DATE IS APRIL 28. LAST MINUTE NOTE FROM LIZ: ROOM CUT-OFF HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO MAY 4 IN CASE OF LATECOMERS.

LAST-MINUTE INFO FROM JANET: I have just found out that a "Rummage Sale" will be going on throughout the full run of the Festival (Thurs through Saturday). It will consist of in-kind donations to APS, the sale of which helps APS and helps the collector who buys the stuff. They do this at Summer Seminar and I have acquired some lovely things this way. Bring money! Had I known about this earlier we could have made some hay with publicity. Still.....what fun! Thought you'd want to know. The staff is really going all out for the Festival. I think they are as excited about it as are we.

PLEASE NOTE: Anne Harris will NOT be renting a van to drive from Pittsburgh to Bellefonte due to high plane fares and no response to her offer.

