

let's talk EXHIBITING

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SINGLE PAGE EXHIBITING AND THE CLUB ONE-FRAME CHALLENGE

There is another area where anyone with a budding interest in possibly exhibiting can get his or her feet wet. This is “single page” exhibiting, now often bundled together with the idea of each stamp club determining to prepare a 16-page (one frame) exhibit using single pages prepared by 16 different members of the club, and showcasing the range of collecting interests within the membership. Perhaps there is a theme to tie the pages together (e.g., the history of my town through philately), but there need not be. Similar to a “clothesline exhibit” at a club, they were started as a challenge between clubs to see which club could prepare the most interesting display for public viewing. Such club exhibits are now a regular feature at several stamp shows across North America. Often they are judged, and some sort of award for “best club display” is announced. The winning club then gets bragging rights until the next time the competition is held.

Such one-frame challenges are an excellent opportunity to develop one’s nascent exhibiting skills and to decide whether one might like to develop a full exhibit of one’s material. To paraphrase a term from Peter Butler, our previous RPSC Executive Manager at head office, this is “grassroots exhibiting” at its most basic.

Preparing a single exhibit page is a bit different than if you were preparing an album page for your collection; instead, it follows more closely to guidelines and suggestions that are involved in creating any single-frame or multi-frame exhibit. For example, the page should have a title, signifying what is to be shown on the page. It should have some sort of opening statement, perhaps a brief paragraph, “explaining” what is shown and that ties the philatelic items on the page together. Of course, there needs to be the philatelic items themselves (whether stamps, covers, postmarks, booklets, or whatever) that tie into the title and description. Finally, there also needs to be descriptions of the items themselves, so that the philatelic knowledge of the page creator is made evident.

Think about all this in terms of you now having an audience, and that you have to go into greater detail and explanation that you would otherwise, so that any viewer can appreciate the material as much as you do.

Figure 1 is a single page prepared by Vince Colwell, one of the members of my local club, as his contribution to a one-frame club challenge. A beginning exhibitor, he has a strong interest in Canada’s “Centennial definitives” issue, and here he has decided to show some production anomalies from the 1972 printing of the 4-cents Seaway (Scott # 457).

As the Centennials is a complex modern issue, he has quite necessarily had to include text to explain the highly technical terms and their abbreviations used by specialists to describe the nuances of paper, gum, fluorescence and tagging found for these issues. He has also had to explain, in a separate section, how the method of perforation has led to the perforation errors he is showing, and has had to



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explain, with a simple graphic, the difference between comb and line perforation. He then has had to describe, underneath each of his six philatelic items, what it is that we are looking at.

Whew! Yet it all comes together in an attractive package, and he has the beginning of what will eventually turn into a much larger exhibit of this issue as he gradually gets around to it.

As I write this (in early January) seasoned exhibitors are now beginning to think about applying to exhibit at this year's Royal/Royale, or other of our national or regional exhibitions again this season, and are making additions and refinements based upon feedback previously received from other times they may have exhibited. Please continue to support all our shows through submitting your exhibits as opportunities are afforded. In particular, think about exhibiting, and attending, a show you might not otherwise normally consider. I am sure host clubs would be most appreciative. ☒