



AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC FEDERATION LTD

AN INTRODUCTION TO EXHIBITING - Part 1

“The ultimate in stamp collecting”

Making the Initial Decision

There are many people who collect by themselves without knowing other collectors, or without being members of clubs. In general, they tend to just try to collect all stamps according to some list usually from a catalogue.

By being a regular member of a club you have probably already advanced past this stage. You see what other people collect, and you are able to get more feedback about what are more desirable types of items to add to your collection.

This is important. As we all have limited amounts of money to spend in expanding our collection, it is essential we direct that money to providing the greatest pleasure from our pastime.

When you first started collecting there were no restrictions upon what or how you collected, nor were there any restrictions on the way that you stored your material. Whether you wrote up your collection or simply left it without comment, was again your decision.

If you were invited to give a display of your material at the club, again there were no restrictions on how you presented the material. Generally, you were thanked for this display and the members showed their appreciation by acclamation.

In other words, up to this stage, there are no rules governing what you have done, nor is anyone looking over your shoulder. Many collectors are happy with this scenario and have no desire to go any further with their enjoyment.

Exhibiting is regarded as the ultimate in philately as you are embarking on a whole new experience, in that you are having your work and material assessed by an independent source.

Exhibiting introduces rules that govern and guide what you display and how it should be done. These rules are necessary to ensure that all exhibitors are on the same playing field, and to guide the judges so that all similar exhibits are judged equally.

These rules govern the types of material which may be included, how it is to be presented, how it is to be judged, and the conduct of the judges in the judging process.

Exhibiting is competitive, but it is not a case of selecting first, second and third. Each exhibit is judged on its own merits and the person you are competing against is yourself.

There are additional benefits arising from exhibiting

- It is always pleasing to receive compliments and constructive criticism about your exhibit from other knowledgeable collectors.
- You can meet other exhibitors with similar collecting interests to yourself.
- Your material is now known by a much wider group, any one of whom may advise the location of an item to enhance your collection.
- You may have already done some writing up for your own album pages, or for club displays, thus requiring you to do some research. From this research many people have discovered that some of their own items are better than they originally thought. Thus the appreciation and knowledge of your own material increases, and thereby you derive more enjoyment not only from the exhibit, but your overall collection
- This research also assists in identifying weaknesses in the exhibit where additional or replacement material is needed.

- Assistance with research is available from the Australian Philatelic Federation (website www.apf.org.au/research.htm) or the various State Councils listed at the end of this brochure.

As a precursor to exhibiting it is beneficial to have studied existing exhibits, specifically the layout or presentation of the material and the Title Page, the first page of each exhibit. The presentation shows how the available space can be best utilized as well as illustrating the types of material available. The Title Page will be addressed in more detail in Part 2.

This study is not always easy to do as major exhibitions only occur every two to four years in each state. However, many Clubs have regular displays from established exhibitors. Take the opportunity to visit other Clubs and examine these displays from a wider point of view, rather than just admiring the material.

Details of Club programs are available for some states through the APF website. At the time of publication, full details are available for New South Wales and Western Australia, and some clubs programs are included for South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. Keep monitoring the APF website for expansion of the included information.

To further assist in studying existing exhibits, there is a Virtual International Philatelic Exhibition on the web always worth looking at. The website is called Exponet, whose address is www.japhila.cz. This site has in excess of 470 exhibits from 43 countries.

About Exhibiting

Once you become committed to exhibiting you must be prepared to continually improve your exhibit, as an exhibit will change many times before it nears the ultimate peak of perfection. These changes will generally occur over a period of quite a few years.

You must also be prepared to be disappointed and criticized. When you prepare an exhibit your expectations are generally high. You sincerely believe that you have magnificent material and it is superbly presented. It is somewhat deflating when a judge identifies weaknesses in your exhibit, and then proceeds to point out many ways in which it can be improved. To be successful these circumstances must be accepted and used as stepping stones in the development of your exhibit.

All exhibits are judged in a positive manner. Judges are not there to pull down your work, but to assess the exhibit fairly with a view to identifying ways in which it can be improved. A point score out of 100 will be determined for the exhibit, you will be awarded with a medal appropriate to that point score, issued with a Certificate confirming the medal, and, if you attend the exhibition, will have the opportunity to discuss the exhibit with the judge(s) whilst it is still mounted in the frames. You will also receive a Critique Sheet showing how your point score was determined and with constructive suggestions for improvement.

The Exhibition Classes

In exhibiting there are a number of exhibition classes. A class is a description of the type of material or the method of presentation of that material. Some of these classes are very specific, such as Traditional Philately which relates purely to stamps, or restrictive such as Aerophilately which limits the type of material which may be included. There are also classes which allow for a wide range of material such as Thematics, as well as classes which permit the inclusion of non-philatelic material, such as the Open and Polar classes.

There are specific rules associated with each of the classes. Most of the classes are recognized on a world-wide basis, but there are some classes which have been developed specifically for Australia, and also been picked up by New Zealand.

The complete list of classes currently used within Australia is

World-wide Classes

- Traditional Philately
- Postal History has three sub-classes
 - Postal History
 - Marcophily

Historical, Social & Special Studies
Postal Stationery
Thematic Philately
Aerophilately
Astrophilately
Youth Philately
Revenues
Open
Maximaphily
Literature

Australian Classes

Cinderellas
Polar Philately
First Day Covers
 First Day Covers
 Souvenir Covers & Postmarks
 Thematic or Topical Exhibit
Postcards
Frugal Philately.

There are specific rules associated with each of these classes, many of which are recognized on a world-wide basis, whilst some classes have been developed specifically for Australian collectors to widen the scope of exhibiting, and thus allow more collectors to enjoy the associated experience. Descriptions of the above classes and their respective rules can be viewed on the APF website www.apf.org.au/classes.htm.

These classes cover a broad range of material, including, in some cases, non-philatelic material can be included to supports your story.

The Rules and Guidelines for Judging for all of the above classes are available through the APF website, as are contacts ready to provide more information about these classes. For the Rules click on the *Exhibition Classes* button. For more details click on the *Contacting Us* button, and scroll down to the sections headed *FIP Commission Delegates* and *APF Experimental Classes*

Included in Part 2

Part 2 of this brochure includes more detailed information regarding Multi and One Frame exhibits, and Youth Exhibits, as well as the Title Page plus the benefits of using a mentor.

For Further Information

www.apf.org.au

or

Contact your State Council

ACT: ACT Philatelic Council,
GPO Box 980 CANBERRA ACT 2601
NSW: Philatelic Development Council - NSW
GPO Box 9800 SYDNEY NSW 2001
QLD: Queensland Philatelic Council
18 Coolcrest Street WYNNUM QLD 4178
SA/NT: South Australian Philatelic Council
GPO Box 9800 ADELAIDE SA 5001
TAS: Tasmanian Stamp Council
GPO Box 9800 HOBART TAS 7001

VIC: Victorian Philatelic Council
GPO Box 9800 MELBOURNE VIC 3001
WA: Western Australian Philatelic Council
GPO Box 9800 PERTH WA 6001

(Further contact details, including email addresses, are available on the APF website.)

Other brochures in this series are available from the Australian Philatelic Federation or your State Council:

- 1 *Why Collect Stamps*
- 2 *Why Join a Stamp Club?*
- 3 *I have just inherited a stamp collection - where do I go from here?*
- 4 *I have just rediscovered my old stamp collection – where do I go from here?*
- 5 *Where do I get stamps for my collection?*
- 6 *Beyond Australia!*
- 7 *How can I identify and value my stamps?*

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