

# OCEAN COUNTY COIN CLUB, Inc.

## ASSEMBLING AN EXHIBIT IS NOT DIFFICULT!

Following is an article copied from a coin club news letter that explains how to set up a coin, token, paper money or medal collection as an exhibit. It lists a number of ideas or examples that you can use depending upon the items you collect. It advises how to layout the exhibit as well as a sketch of a potential exhibit. In addition, also attached is a blank copy of a rating sheet that the judges use to score your exhibit so you can see for yourself just what is reviewed for point totals to decide a 1st, 2nd place etc.

Exhibiting is not only educational, but it's fun and rewarding. **EVERYONE** who takes the time to do an exhibit receives an award. **TRY IT - YOU'LL LIKE IT AND SO WILL THE CLUB MEMBERS AND THE VISITORS WHO WILL LOOK AT YOUR EXHIBIT.**

If you have any questions, call me at (732) 255-6911.

### HOW TO ASSEMBLE AN EXHIBIT

*(Frank Passic is an active member of the Albion Coin Club, Albion, Mich., and general chairman of the club's 1977 show. He has been prominent within his own group in initiating exhibit rules and procedures designed to stimulate members to participate in their hobby through competitive exhibiting. The following guidelines are suggested for use by beginning collectors or beginning exhibitors in planning a competitive exhibit for their local coin show — Editor.)*

By Frank Passic

Whatever the size of your collection, no matter how large or small, old or new, common coins or scarce ones, you should take the opportunity to take a few of them out of "mothballs" and create your own individual display that you can "show-off" to the public. Not only will you have the pride and joy of having others marvel at your coins, but will also have a chance of winning a ribbon or trophy.

Your first reaction might be "Oh, I couldn't display any of my coins, they're too common. Others can compete, not me."

You need not be afraid, however, because your so-called "common" collection might just be what someone wants to look at. Your display may draw more interest than the more sophisticated ones. In any event, all coins are important, from a Lincoln cent to a \$20 gold piece. Your display will add to the completeness of the coin show.

"What can I display with my coins?" you may ask. Well, you'd be surprised how creative you can be. Below is a list of ideas to help you. When going through the list, be thinking of coins you have that fit any of these descriptions:

#### 1. One coin items:

A. Coins with an interesting story. Examples: 1863 nickel, 1916 Standing Liberty quarter, 1943 Steel cents, 1896 educational currency, etc.

B. Other one-coin items: A special commemorative piece for some event, a coin with some special meaning to you, a special medal, an "Odd & curious" coin.

#### 2. Sets:

A. Complete coin sets: Lincoln cents, Roosevelt dimes, Jefferson nickels, etc.

B. A type set or series: 20th century coins, one per year set of nickels since 19??, S-Mint Proof coins since 1968, coins with presidents on them, etc.

C. Issued sets: Mint sets, Proof sets, medal sets, etc.

D. Short sets: Lincoln Memorial cents, Mercury dimes since 1910, Washington quarters since 1941, Barber halves since 1900, etc.

#### 3. Currency:

Unusual serial numbers, sets, singles, \$2 bills, anything you like, including error currency.

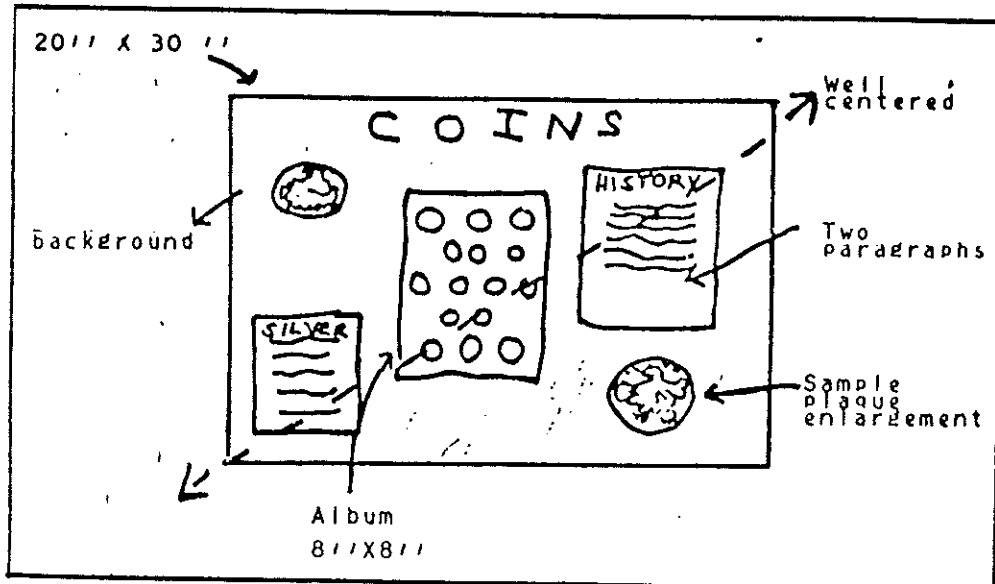
#### 4. Error Coins:

Sets, singles, filled dies, a series, unusual errors. The field is wide open. Display either as is, or as a display of how they were manufactured, with coin examples.

#### 5. Foreign coins:

Foreign coins are becoming popular, and if you have some, it might be worth your while to go through them and look into their history and value, no matter how old or new. Many of these coins and tokens have a very interesting history behind them, as well as beautiful designs. If your local library or coin club does not have an up-to-date catalog on world coins, the American Numismatic Association Main Library will have some. By all means check into your foreign coins.

Examples: German Notgeld; English pennies; Austrian crowns; Israeli coins and medals; Colonial money (French Indo-China, British India, African colonies).



Author's sketch of a potential exhibit.

**6. Private Issue Medals or Sets:**

Franklin Mint sets & commemoratives; silver ingots; coin club wooden money set.

**7. Interesting Story or Special Items:**

How interesting and how special is up to you?

- A. Coins you found with your metal detector.
- B. Bicentennial medals.
- C. Odd and curious: Elongated money, money substitutes.
- D. A coin that has been in your family for three generations.
- E. Local money and tokens: Bank notes, scrip money, etc.

Now, having read this list, there is certainly something that you have that you can display. If not, then you probably don't have a collection.

**Planning a layout**

After you have decided upon what you want to display, the next step is to plan its layout (how it looks). People will be looking at your display, and you want it to look good.

To do this, you need to be aware of the judging standards. Each club's specific standards may vary, but here are some of the usual criterion:

**1. Numismatic information conveyed to the viewer:**

What is your display about? What is the history of what you are displaying? What are the mintages? Who designed it? Why is it an important coin or medal? You will need to do some simple research for this. Check the nearest coin library available to you, or check with some fellow coin collector who might be able to help you. In any event, numismatic information is very important.

**2. Layout, eye-appeal:**

Is it centered? Is it simple enough? Are the color contrasts complementary to the rest of the display? For example, don't have a black background with black lettering.

3. Depending upon what you are displaying (called comparative), the judges will also be looking at such items as:

Condition and color of the coins, completeness of your collection, value, and scarcity. Don't worry about how rare or valuable your display is, however. You can have a top-notch display without going broke.

**Constructing a display**

If you have displayed your coins before, you know the importance of planning in advance. Have you ever discovered that your display was too big for the case?

Believe it or not, year after year this happened to me until I brought a measuring stick with me one year and got exact measurements. No more last-minute cutting, trimming, eliminating, and shuffling. Knowing the exact display space I have eliminates worrying about shifting backgrounds.

The size of most newer displays, which are made of light metal, such as aluminum, is 20 x 32 inches.

This is actual display size, not the size of the case, which is about half an inch more both ways including metal. Actual display size is the actual size you have to put your coins, background, lettering, and writing on. If you use other types of display cases, by all means write down the actual display size and bring a ruler with you.

Knowing the size you have to work with, you can now proceed to plan with confidence.

Your first priority in planning a display should be the protection of your coins. They should be housed in an album, case, or plastic container, depending upon the condition and the circumstances. If the coins must be displayed directly on the background, or on a stand, make sure the surface will not harm the coin. Example: Don't put a Proof coin on soft cotton, as cotton collects moisture.

Keeping this in mind, here are some materials that are available at any business supply store or department store which you can use.

Construction paper (Can be used for back-

ground, lettering, and is available in many colors. Get as big as possible if used as a background; the fewer seams showing on your display, the better); "Rub-On" Lettering, Available in different sizes. Great for titles; Stencils, for lettering; Felt pens, markers; Felt pieces (Available in different colors. Great for background, especially when coins are in a protective case. Good for hiding "seams" between pieces).

You may also need: Typewriter (Make sure the ribbon is new, or well inked); An unusual background (A flag, map, newspaper, etc. depending upon what you are displaying. Be creative).

Now that you have your materials gathered together, don't start cutting yet. Grab a piece of paper and draw a sketch of where you want everything to be placed on your display. Keep in mind your display should contain: (1) the coins in a well-centered place; (2) A history and information of what you are displaying; (3) a good appearance, contrast, eye-appeal, etc., and a title.

Notice that the accompanying sketch of a possible display is well on its way to becoming reality.

Contained in it are:

1. the colors to be used; 2. the size of the display; 3. the size of the coin album; 4. the centering placements; 5. places for the history; 6. title; and 7. a background color, and material.

After you have your layout planned, it is finally time to bring everything together and con-

struct your display. Of course, you will have to write down what you want to say, and will have to do some cutting and adjusting where you see fit, but you are now ready to "put it all together!"

### Timing

The question is, "when?" When should you start planning a display?

The answer is, "now." One week before the coin show is usually too late. The time is now. Go through your coins, choose a subject to display, find out about its history, etc. Give yourself time to work on it.

It is suggested that you begin planning your display no later than one month before the show, at the very latest. If you are active in the coin club, your last week before the show will probably be busy organizing, sign making, etc., leaving no time to plan displays.

The biggest advantage to having a display all done and ready to go is that you just need to take it with you to the show and place it in the display case, all done. No hassles, last-minute planning, or frustration. You have spent the time on a display that you can be proud of. You usually can tell just by looking at them who "worked" on their display.

I hope that this planning sheet has been a help to you, and will motivate you to do your best to have a creative display, one that you can be proud of. The choice is up to you, however. A successful coin show depends upon its members. Your active participation in the exhibits will help immensely. The choice is up to you.

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## RATING SHEET FOR JUDGES OF NUMISMATIC EXHIBITS

TITLE OF EXHIBIT: \_\_\_\_\_ JUDGE #: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASSIFICATION: \_\_\_\_\_ #CASES: \_\_\_\_\_

### NUMISMATIC INFORMATION - Total maximum points: 35

#### TITLE - 5 points

Title should be prominent enough to be seen immediately. There should be a general statement about the exhibit which tells the viewer what the exhibit is trying to show.

SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

#### BASIC NUMISMATIC INFORMATION - 15 points

Description of specimens should be clear and concise. Details supplied should be adequate for the viewer to gain full understanding and appreciation of the individual specimens as collector objects. Degree of satisfaction to a numismatist.

SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SPECIAL NUMISMATIC INFORMATION - 15 points

Interesting biographical, historical, geographical, and heraldic background details. This phase should balance, not dominate the exhibit. Degree of satisfaction to a non-numismatist.

SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

### EXHIBIT PRESENTATION - Total maximum points: 40

#### CREATIVITY AND ORIGINALITY - 15 points

Personal judgment, pure and simple.

SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

#### ATTRACTIVENESS - 15 points

Color harmony, arrangement of parts should create a generally pleasing display. Points awarded on degree of achievement of this effect.

SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

#### BALANCE - 10 points

Relation of specimens, information, decoration, and non-numismatic objects to each other, and to the achievement of a pleasing, total effect.

SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

### ADDITIONAL FACTORS - Total Maximum Points: 25

#### COMPLETENESS - 15 points

Completeness of exhibit material as it relates to the scope to be determined from the title of the exhibit or other data in the first case of the exhibit.

SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

#### CONDITION - 5 points

For maximum credit, the material exhibited should be the best that is reasonably available to the collector. The exhibitor may make a statement about the condition of the individual items or the overall exhibit.

(NOTE: A proof coin is NOT a grade or condition, but a method of manufacture).

SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

#### RARITY - 5 points

The rarity of the specimen is judged by the number of like specimens believed to exist. (NOTE: Selling price is not necessarily a measurement of rarity).

SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_