

## **What is One Frame Exhibit**

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Concept of One Frame Exhibit originated several years ago to provide an introduction to exhibiting for novice exhibitors and hopefully a stepping-stone to further involvement.

When one-frame exhibits were first accepted at local then national philatelic exhibitions, there was a great outcry that the traditional exhibits were being undermined by inferior efforts. It took a while to convince the critics, but one-frame exhibits, which appeal to both novice and expert, are now part of most shows and One-frame exhibiting is growing in popularity.

FIP guidelines for the evaluation of One Frame exhibits were not been declared till 2002 but few years back FIP started allowing One Frame Class, on an experimental basis, at international shows. The first ever FIP One-Frame class competition was held at Bangkok 2003 in Thailand (4<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2003) The One-Frame exhibit has now become an established and popular part of the National and International Philatelic Exhibitions.

There are two different thoughts about the concept of the One Frame Exhibit Class. The first one is the one-frame exhibit could be the starting point for a multi-frame exhibit on the same topic. Under this concept One Frame Exhibit will provide new collectors a platform to start exhibiting on a small scale at a Philatelic Exhibition. Collectors would be able to start modestly, get their feet wet, and then continue to develop their exhibit into a more complex and complete one. This was the concept under which one-frame exhibiting began in the United States.

Another concept is opposite to first one. One Frame Exhibit provides established collectors an opportunity to prepare exhibits on subjects or themes that cannot be treated well in more than one frame. A one-frame exhibit is an exhibit that is completely contained within the confines of one frame and not be able to be expanded into a multi-frame exhibit.

I personally think and feel that both of these concepts can be brought into the picture and can work hand-in-hand. The important point is that the one-frame exhibit must be self-contained, but, if the topic is selected wisely, it can be expanded into a multi-frame exhibit. It provides an opportunity to exhibitors who are developing a subject which is capable of expanding to more than One Frame in the near future.

The One Frame Exhibit may well be described the short story of philatelic exhibiting. When we speak of Promotion of Philately, One Frame Exhibit is the best tool to promote philately amongst beginners, budding philatelists and school children. By way creating awareness about One Frame Exhibit we can also create awareness about the hobby of philately and encourage new philatelists to participate in the philatelic exhibitions.

Another benefit of One Frame Exhibit is those who have already developed thematic exhibits can also re-think or rework on their collection and use the knowledge and the material already accumulated by them for “inventing” a different or new theme in the same area to make it suitable for the One Frame Exhibit.

Collections on any aspect of established competitive class like traditional philately, postal history, postal stationary, thematic, aerophilately, maximaphily, social philately or fiscal philately can be developed in One Frame. A One Frame Exhibit can be developed on subject that narrates a complete story of either an issue, stamp, country, era, geographic location, theme, or other distinctive concept. As for Thematics only a very narrow theme should be chosen. Though the One Frame Exhibits are narrow in scope, the depth of treatment and importance should be as complete as possible.

It is to be noted that One Frame Exhibits should not be simply one frame extracted from a multiple frame exhibit. In short One Frame exhibits should be based on a subject or theme that is best treated as One Frame.

The first and foremost thing to be kept in mind while developing the One Frame Exhibit that it should hold visitors' attention from the first to the last page and be informative, as well as educational.

The 'One frame' exhibit must have an introduction or plan page which lays out the concept, intention and scope of the exhibit. This page should also contain philatelic material. It is also very important that the title should describe the contents of the exhibit. The exhibit should be treated fairly and correctly and should consist solely of appropriate philatelic material fully consistent with the chosen subject or theme and supporting documentation. The selection of material should show the appreciation of the exhibitor as to what is available in the context of the chosen subject. The selection should also show the fullest range of relevant philatelic material and of the highest available quality.

Presentation and write up of the exhibit should be simple, tasteful, and well-balanced. The text should add information to that provided by the material and should demonstrate the level of understanding of the subject and the personal research of the exhibitor. Also remember that an exhibit is stamp exhibit not an article illustrated with stamps so make your philatelic items the focus of your exhibit and let each philatelic item have room to be noticed and not be lost in a sea of text and other philatelic material.

A photocopy of the title page and the plan page or a one page synopsis of the exhibit should accompany the exhibit. Synopsis of one frame exhibit helps the judges understand your exhibit better.

While evaluating the One Frame Exhibits, the emphasis is placed upon treatment, development, knowledge, research and presentation of the exhibits. Following are the basic criteria used for judging One Frame Exhibits:

**Treatment & Significance (Maximum Marks: 30)**

- Scope and Limits
- Coverage and Development
- Relevance

**Philatelic & Related Knowledge and Personal Study & Research ((Maximum Marks: 35)**

- Philatelic Knowledge
- Related Knowledge
- Personal Study
- Research

**Condition and Rarity (Maximum Marks: 30)**

- Condition
- Rarity/Difficulty of Acquisition

**Presentation (Maximum Marks: 5)**

**TOTAL MARKS: 100**

In general, an exhibit starts with 100 points. Points are then **deducted** for non-compliance with or shortcomings in the evaluation criteria

It is rightly said by Charles Verge (A stamp columnist and past President of Royal Philatelic Society of Canada) that "times have changed," and the One Frame Exhibit "has proven itself." It is not a "weak feature of the hobby," but rather "an innovative one that is here to stay."

In my opinion, it will be a boon for collectors to develop One Frame Exhibit because one can participate in any International Philatelic Exhibition, without any pre qualifications. Thus, new participants will spring up in the International arena. Therefore I appeal to fellow philatelists to get themselves prepared for the "One Frame Exhibits".

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