## **WE EXPRESSIONS**

#### (WOMEN EXHIBITORS)

2008: Vol. 2-2 Feb. 28, 2008

Treasurer: Liz Hisey, lizhisey@comcast.net

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

**Next Meeting:** *STAMPSHOW*, Aug. 14-17, 2008, Hartford, Conn. **STAMPSHOW**, Aug. 14-17, 2008, Hartford, Conn.

Satellite Mtgs: <u>ST. LOUIS STAMP EXPO</u>, Feb. 29-Mar. 2; Liz Hisey.

SOPEX, April 5-6, 2008, Central Point, OR, Nancy Swan.

**RMSS**, Sat., May 17, 1 pm, Denver, CO, Dalene Thomas & Liz Hisey.

<u>PIPEX</u>, May 31, 2008, Seattle, WA, 12 noon, Ruth Caswell. <u>NTSS</u>, June 13-15, 2008; Portland, OR, Dalene Thomas.

COALPEX, June 14-15, 2008, Walnut Creek, CA, Sat., June 14, 2 pm; Vesma

Grinfelds. (Critique at 3 pm, followed by meeting at frames.)

<u>PNSE</u>, Sept. 5-7, 2008, Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA; will include mini-seminar on The Basics of Exhibiting; time TBD; Barb Harrison.

**Keeper's Korner:** Put this date, 28-31 May 2009, on your calendar. Do it now! The big news is the *Festival for Philatelic Women* to be held at the American Philatelic Center (APC) in Bellefonte,

PA. WE, supported by AAPE and APS, is sponsoring the Festival. There will be something for all. So start putting your pennies in a jar and recruit others to come with you. You'll read more about the Festival in this newsletter and in upcoming promotions. WE has a great team (Pat Stilwell-Walker, Janet Klug, Liz Hisey, Denise Stotts, Joann Lenz) heading up this event.

WE has a new board member, Vesma Grinfelds, secretary. Vesma graciously consented to serve and to help WE. Thanks, Vesma.

WE has applied for Affiliate Status with APS, a move supported by your Board of Directors. The application is now at APS headquarters awaiting approval at the next meeting of the APS Board of Directors.

You will find a revised dues statement attached to this newsletter. Liz found that the bank was charging around \$0.50 to process PayPal payments. WE is asking that you add this to your \$5.00 dues when you pay with PayPal.

Remember that WE is open to all, but we do approach philately from a woman's point of view. We've had some questions recently regarding both membership and meetings.

I'm in the throes of crafting a new exhibit. It's planned out, but not quite working as expected. Does this sound familiar? Now, back to work.

Your exhibiting partner,

#### Ruth

### \*\*\*\*\*UPCOMING SHOWS\*\*\*\*

<u>INVITATION FROM SOPEX</u>: WE will hold a satellite meeting (Nancy Swan) at SOPEX 2008 (Southern Oregon), being held at the Padgham Pavillion at EXPO in Central Point, OR, on April 5 & 6, 10-5:30 and 10-4. The WE Satellite meeting will probably be around noon on April 6. The show uses 12 page frames. There will be 12-14 dealers.

<u>INVITATION FROM COALPEX</u>: COALPEX 2008 (June 14-15) in Walnut Creek, CA, will host a WE satellite meeting (Vesma Grinfelds). The exhibition will be restricted to women exhibitors who need not belong to WE. There are 50 frames available. In consideration of others who may wish to participate, it is suggested that exhibits be limited to 5 frames or less. Special awards are available for novice exhibitors and "brand new" exhibits. Previous WSP Gold Medal exhibits will be judged head-to-head in a "best of the best" competition; all others will compete for the usual five medal levels and other awards. APS accredited judges will provide written feedback to all who exhibit. For additional information, email David McNamee, COALPEX Show Chairman at <a href="mailto:dmcnamee@aol.com">dmcnamee@aol.com</a>. NO ENTRY FEES.

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: How do you keep track of what material you already have for an exhibit(s) when you go to a show? What steps do you follow in handling the material at home: 1) before you start organizing the pages? 2) As you work on organizing the pages? 3) As you work on the copy for the exhibit? 4) Do you sometimes find you need to delete something you planned to use? Or need additional material? How do you go about getting that additional material?

(Denise Stotts) How do I keep track of material purchased? Checklists - lots and lots of checklists. These vary depending on what type of exhibit - thematics are the most difficult because I need to track not only the stamps, but covers, and other elements. I usually list the stamps and then have columns for the other related elements.

Handling the material at home: I put stamps and small items in stock books, covers in boxes. For the Japanese Art exhibit, I put the stamps in sections that roughly follow the chapters. For traditional exhibits, I file them by stamp issue. When I start to organize the pages, I usually work on a chapter at a time, then break that down into sub-chapters and ideally 4 page sections. I spread out all the material that I have that fits the chapter and start laying it out with the key items first, next best stuff goes next, and so on. Sometimes, an item chosen is determined by the shape and size needed to have the pages flow and lay out attractively. Most of the time, items will be deleted and holes will be discovered - if there is time, I try to find what I need. If not, I just do whatever I can with what I have and hope it's not noticeable! Acquiring the additional material, again, would depend on the time limitations - obviously, in the best situation, I will be attending a show or two before I need to finish the exhibit and can find the item there. If not, I start to look on-line (for me, a last resort).

(Jane K. Fohn) I am a swineophilatelist. I began collecting swine items in 1985. The first thing that I did was go through the Scott catalogues and look for anything that had a remote connection with pigs, then the ATA mammal publication. I made a stamp checklist with notes about varieties of swine stamps. A completely different stamp list was made of material related to swine, such as Columbus who brought pigs to this part of the world, the sport of curling, insulin, heart transplants, and reaching for various animals, people, things, and obscure relationships with pigs.

I poured over the perfins catalogue and collected perfins that related to meat packing companies such as Swift. I also made a list of town cancellations.

I read about pigs at the library and collected clippings. I made index cards for a bibliography, the different breeds of pigs, and important information about swine as I read. I have more notes than I need (a few file drawers) that will be culled as I do the exhibit.

The stamps are organized by country in manila stock sheets according to catalogue number, and the covers are in a box. I plan the pages on manila stock sheets so that I can make notes. I have a great book about swine raising that came from the feed store that will be a perfect outline for the exhibit.

About 15 years ago, I did a two-frame fun exhibit for a Mega Event in New York. Someone requested it to be a background for the World Wrestling Federation's Hillbilly Jim. The exhibit needs to be redone with all the wonderful things I have accumulated through the years. The first pig effort wrote itself taking on a life of its own, as did the retriever exhibit.

Over the years I have developed a group of friends who keep an eye out for my exhibit interests. I haven't used the Internet for finding swine material. Have been pretty lucky finding material on eBay for my "Hillcountry Honkytonkin Rita: Labrador Retriever," "The 9-Cent Alamo Stamp and Its First Day Covers," and turkey exhibits.

The Alamo exhibit is handled differently from pigs; Rita's exhibit just sort of has a life of its own and things turn up. The turkeys are on the back burner, but I do an Internet hunt occasionally.

(Pat Stilwell-Walker) My main collections (both postal history) are pretty mature by this time (19 and 30 years respectively) – I have spent enough time with the current exhibits to know what will enhance them; unfortunately it's rarely found at a show by this time. On the other hand for my Howard County collection – I'll get anything I find that's not one of the two major towns regardless of whether or not it will fit in the current exhibit – which is display class. I'm looking for ad covers addressed INTO the county since finding them going out of the county is pretty hard. Mostly I have it in my head.... Not a good system admittedly.

Before I start organizing the pages, the material gets dumped in a couple of boxes – one for each collection. Then I sort by time period. Sometimes it gets put in two pocket pages and makes it into a binder. More often it goes into manila envelopes with generic labels. A lot of it lives in safe deposit boxes (sigh).

As I organize the pages, I pull every item that fits in the time period or subject matter (lately I've been making single frame exhibits) together and sort it out – tending to identify the best pieces (most unusual, rarest, best looking). If it was sorted better ahead of time this would be a lot easier, but I procrastinate until the exhibit deadlines loom. I then group it into the chapters of my exhibit story. If I'm lucky I have more than I need – see next 2 paragraphs.

As I work on the copy, I compose directly into the computer – I have the material sequenced by the story. So I have a pile of covers that relate to the part I'm working on on my computer desk – the first thing I do is measure them and put their dimensions on a sticky note. Then, when I start a new page I draw text boxes that I size to the covers to hold the space for the items before I start to write the text. I use MS Publisher so this is easy!

Do you sometimes you need to delete something you planned to use? Or need additional material? How do you go about getting that additional material?

I sometimes need to delete items because they don't "fit" – either literally in terms of size or the item makes the story awkward or redundant. If I'm lucky the "additional material" is already in that pile of covers I have. Rarely do I go out to buy a specific item – I usually re-arrange the story to do without.

One time I did need something. When I first put together the Baltimore Postal History exhibit, the chapters were the major domestic rate periods. I started each chapter showing an item from the single letter rate. The last chapter started in 1872 and the single letter rate was 3 cents – I end the exhibit in 1875. I had plenty of 3 cents covers but they were all post 1875. I needed an interesting one dated 1872. So my husband and I went to the weekend bourse for me to find one! Fortunately there are a LOT of US 1870s banknote covers – finding an interesting one mailed in Baltimore was the challenge -- and yes, I was successful. This was many years ago, and the need to do this was so unusual for me that I still remember it today!

(Barb Harrison) I wish I could say I have everything beautifully organized on the computer. But that is true for only one exhibit. In that case, it was very helpful in avoiding duplicate material. When I made the list, I included brief descriptions of the material and also the cost, so it's useful in keeping track of the value of the exhibit. In all other cases, I go through the material before attending the show and make lists. Some of the lists are of the material that I have already assembled, either from purchases or from borrowing from my many collections. The other lists are of what kinds of things I still need to find to fill in certain areas. When at a show, my first activity each evening is to sort all the material I purchased that day, make sure it's crossed off the "Want" list and added to my "Have" list.

Once I get home from the show, all the material is placed with the other material for that exhibit. If it's an exhibit which I'm still assembling, it goes into its own labeled box. (I use the pretty archival boxes designed for storing pictures, videos, etc.) If the exhibit has progressed to the next level, it will then go into 3-ring binders which contain 2-pocket archival "plastic" pages. At this point I can judge in my head how much material will fit on a page. The pages can be moved around easily to change their order.

If the exhibit has progressed even further, it goes into the 3-ring binder from which I work as I actually write and produce the final pages. This binder has the one-pocket pages which I have already numbered on the back as to frame and page number, have already affixed my name/address labels, and have inserted my "backing" pages. (I use 20 lb. paper for the final copies, and use card stock for support in each one-pocket page.)

Sometimes I do delete items from the final exhibit, for various reasons: redundant, condition not good enough, doesn't fit properly into the story, etc. There are also those times when I need more items, for various reasons: need something in better condition, need another "philatelic" item instead of collateral, need to cover another facet of the story, need to replace or add something (as suggested by several panels of judges). Those items are placed on my "Want" list for the next show, and I also scan the few catalogs I receive. Now that I'm getting to know more dealers, I may e-mail explaining my needs. I do NOT use E-Bay as I like to actually see and hold any items that will go into my exhibits.

**QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO ANSWER FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:** What is your favorite Class or Division of exhibiting, and why? What do you see as specific advantages? Disadvantages?

#### **HOLD THE DATE:** WE is planning a unique event – The Festival for Philatelic

Women! This four day event will be held May 28 - 31, 2009 at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. It is still in the early planning stages, but your Board is hard at work making plans to hold a spectacular event. There will be workshops for every level of collector and exhibitor, exhibits to learn from, time to use the American Philatelic Research Library, and lots of fellowship (or should we say "ladyship"?!).

The cost for enrollment is \$85 and this covers meals! (We've seen the preliminary menus – it's well worth it just for the food!) We will also be organizing a roommate match up service for those who would like to share a hotel room.

Please watch for further information in upcoming newsletters and in the philatelic press.

# WE ARE ON THE MOVE: WHO IS EXHIBITING WHERE????

Please remember to click on the WHO attachment to read this impressive list, which is continuing to grow. Does your name appear?? Have you sent in shows recently entered??

#### WE PEOPLE IN THE NEWS: For about the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> time in the last 8 months or

so, Women Exhibitors (or specific WE members) has been mentioned in The American Stamp Dealer and Collector, published by the ASDA. In the February 2008 issue, on page 14, John Hotchner's article discusses the information from our recent newsletter about the characteristics of a good dealer, how we can help dealers to help us, and what we can do to be good customers. It was a very positive article and included many quotes from our newsletter. John concluded by reminding dealers that they cannot afford to brush off or insult women, or behave in a condescending manner, because women exhibitors can become good customers if dealers will just take the time to treat them as well as all other customers. Thank you, John!!

#### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

- Welcome to Judy Willig, of Houston, Tx. Judy joined WE at AmeriStamp last month, wanting to share her husband's passion for stamps. Originally from Breaux Bridge, LA (home to the French-speaking Acadians), she plans to start collecting specifically on the Acadian people's exile from Nova Scotia, Canada. She is interested in both stamps and post cards. Judy is recently retired from helping to publish the *Senior Guidance Directory*, a free resource for seniors and caregivers in Houston.
- Welcome to Mary Ann Frost, of Palm Harbor, FL, who joined at the Sarasota show.
  She is a family psychotherapist who is planning a display exhibit about "gender roles as shown by Disney philately." In addition to Disney, she collects Poland, along with her husband.

#### ++++<u>OTHER STUFF</u>++++

<u>IMPORTANT</u>: Please inform editor immediately of any changes in email address. Also – please keep up with your e-mail. Because of the time involved, your editor will NOT keep re-sending the newsletter to you if you have a full mailbox. If you have NOT received your newsletter by the last day of the month, contact the editor. If you do NOT receive a newsletter and wish to have it, contact Barb.

<u>DUES FOR 2008</u>: If you haven't already sent in your dues for 2008, please send them now to Liz Hisey, using the revised dues form attached to this newsletter.

ANY PROBLEMS OPENING ATTACHMENTS ON WE EXPRESSIONS?? Please let Barb know if you have had any difficulties in opening any of the attachments on our newsletters.

<u>BUTTONS</u>, <u>BUTTONS</u>: WE buttons are being distributed to members at satellite meetings by the meeting leaders. If you are unable to attend meetings, you can e-mail Liz to request your button. If at all possible, please pick up your button at a meeting.

<u>AAPE</u>: If you are not already a member of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, we highly recommend you join (\$20/yr.). Benefits are: 4 very informative issues per/yr. of TPE (The Philatelic Exhibitor); critique service; mentoring. Contact AAPE Secy., our own Liz Hisey, for membership info.

<u>REMINDER</u>: Please do NOT forward the membership list to anyone. When a new member joins they will receive a dated copy of the most recent membership list, which is kept current and sent out to the membership by Ruth. Be sure to proofread your own info on the list and let Ruth know if there are any errors. If there are changes during a given month, everyone will receive a new list, with the current date, around the same time as the newsletter is sent.

<u>BACK MATERIAL FOR NEW MEMBERS</u>: When new members join, they receive a copy of the last newsletter, Membership List, and Collecting Interests List. Should any new member NOT receive a back issue or two, PLEASE e-mail Barb, who has been known to have an occasional "senior moment." If any new member wants to hold a satellite meeting, e-mail Barb to request the poster and handouts you can use. (If you have not received a Membership List and Collecting Interests List, contact Ruth.)

<u>IN CONCLUSION</u>: During these winter months, I hope everyone is finding time to work on their exhibits – and I hope you've been more successful than me! My new exhibit is taking much longer per page to write, isn't working as well as I had hoped, and I get to feeling frustrated. It's times like this that I ask myself "Why are you doing <u>another</u> multi-page exhibit? Why don't you do an OFE instead???" Even better yet, start NO new exhibits and re-work all the pages that need to be changed in the completed exhibits! So many other things, all very worthwhile, keep interrupting me. One good thing has happened: I've been coerced into entering a couple of shows that I haven't entered before, and I'm learning how to safely pack and mail my exhibits (something I've been afraid to try up to now). So, I suppose that can be considered progress of another kind!

I'm running out of ideas for monthly questions, so if there's something that's been bugging you, if you're in desperate need of help (or even just a little bit in need!), PLEASE send me your suggestions for questions. And along with that, of course, I need you to also send me your answers to the monthly questions. If you've already answered a question or two, please feel free to answer some more. And if you've NEVER answered any questions yet, please do so SOON! If I have a flood of answers in any given month, I'll save some answers for another issue. We need to hear a variety of opinions and ideas so that we can all learn something new. Especially if you're new to exhibiting, you MUST have some questions we could use! Let me hear from you!!! I would also like to run an occasional philatelic bio on our members, but I need you to write one up about yourself and send it to me. Please don't be shy—we'd all like to learn more about our members!

I hope you all noticed the info about the Festival for Philatelic Women in 2009! It certainly sounds like it will be an exciting and interesting time for all who can attend.

Now to get back to work – new cat??? New exhibit??? New cat?? New exhibit?? Hmmmmmm.......

Barb, Editor

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