

How to select items from a large collection for display or competition.

For someone who has been collecting postal history there comes a moment when you realise that you have lots and lots of items in your collection. If you then wish to exhibit your collection or enter into a competition the biggest problem is often 'where to start/ what to display'? The constraints are often (initially) fitting into 16 or 32 sheets and how to tell a story that makes your exhibit interesting and understandable to another collector – or the judges!

Recently Ken Snelson wrote an excellent article for the Postage Due Mail Study Group *Journal* on exactly that dilemma. With over 2000 covers bearing some 800 different types of UK Taxe Mark he set about selecting items to enter a five frame (80 sheets) competition. While daunting as a competition effort, making a sensible selection of 80 sheets for half an evening display at your stamp society meeting is not so unusual.

The article sets out Ken's method of tackling this task in a very clear and useful manner and I recommend it to anyone facing a similar challenge. It makes an excellent job of explaining his thought process for tackling a difficult topic (showing modern 'postmarks') and whittling a large collection down to the items to show – i.e. selecting items that tell the story but are interesting/exceptional in their own right. Ken and the PDMSG generously agreed to post Ken's article on their website (as well as all 80 sheets). I thoroughly recommend reading this article.

U.K. TAXE MARKS AND THEIR OFFICES OF USE IN THE CENTIMES ERA: THE MAKING OF AN EXHIBIT,
Ken Snelson, link to the article:

<http://www.postageduemail.org.uk/public/pdf/example-journal-article-2018.pdf>

UK Taxe Marks and their Offices of Use in the Centimes Era - Exhibit by Ken Snelson, this web page has links to the sections of Ken's exhibit: http://www.postageduemail.org.uk/site/displays_02

Postage Due Mail Study Group website: <http://www.postageduemail.org.uk/>

As a footnote, while Ken has allocated 7 sections into 5 frames, your collection may well fit five sections into five frames, or more importantly, a section into a single frame. That's how to get started on your first competition entry.