

THOUGHTS ON AWARDS AND DISPLAYS by BARBARA BARRANS

The following is a checklist of items to include/exclude (and think about) for a competitive list of awards.

Listed items are meant to be a guideline for both competitors as well as judges. I hesitate to assign a rigid point system as I do not believe that is the best way to judge a tray of buttons. As hard as we try to construct a classification to eliminate confusion and controversy, we find that the judging process will always involve some measure of interpretation.

Here are some thoughts on how to avoid unpleasant judging experiences.

1) Read the award carefully, paying special attention to division, class number(s) listed, number and size. Check the Appendix for these classes in case there is additional information there. Check and double check your tray, especially if you have made any last minute changes. More trays are disqualified for size errors than any other mistake.

2) If an award is written ambiguously, ask questions or simply don't enter. Choose a concisely written award in which to compete.

3) Label any button on your tray that is not completely obvious as to why you chose it. This guides the judges on your thinking.

4) Leave out any buttons that may raise questions in your own mind. Focus is the key to determining button classification. Remember the old adage "when in doubt, leave it out." That said, I would like to encourage judges to extend BOD (benefit of the doubt) whenever possible. Entrants would rather have a comment made about poor choice, or have credit deducted from their tray, rather than be eliminated altogether. Only very definite errors should disqualify a tray from competition. These are enumerated in the *Blue Book*.

I would like to remind everyone about Division VI, which is non-competitive, described on Page 3 of the NBS classification. It is designed for collectors to display buttons for the pure joy of it. We invite all of you to share your favorite buttons for their artistic beauty, education, or both.

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