

Scribblings



---from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

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WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE RMPL?

That is the question most frequently asked of me recently, so we felt that it would be a good idea to send out another issue of "Scribblings" even though we are not having any current activities.

Since I sent out the "Crisis in the Library" letter in the middle of January much has been happening. As I told you in that letter, we had to be out of our location because Dave Capra (and his partner) had the opportunity to lease it to the dentists next door for expansion of their offices. It was nice while it lasted and we must thank Dave again for his generosity in allowing us to use the locations rent free for about a year and a half.

Some frantic times happened since the time we were notified to evacuate. By Saturday, January 21st, almost all of the materials were packed (mostly by Ellengail Beuthel) and moved to the storage area that Dave is allowing us to use. We were ready to move the heavy items like the desks, shelves, and counters. Bright and early the following persons arrived to help: Bill Dunn, Jim Kilbane, Don Lovelace, John Broberg, Dan Thomas, Ed Schenck, and Don Beuthel. This portion of the move was made much easier because Roger and Marty Rydberg had come over the previous evening and had all of the shelves separated from each other. John Bloor arrived just as we were finishing with that part of the move shortly after noon. Tables and chairs had to be left because the ROMPEX Committee was to meet at the RMPL on the 24th.

The following Saturday, January 28th, Bill Dunn, Sue Dunn, and Linda Warman-Holt finished the move. We sincerely thank all of those people who helped to put the RMPL in the storage mode.

SEARCH FOR A NEW LOCATION

Since we found out about Jan. 1st that we would have to vacate, we put the New Location Committee (which had already been doing some looking) into the panic mode. We have looked at many places all over the city, some of which you wouldn't believe for the prices they are asking.

One of our prime considerations is the location. We must have a location that would be safe for our volunteers. It must be in a safe section of the city so that members will feel comfortable when they come to use the facility. It must be in a location where people will feel safe enough to come to night meetings. Most of the places we

have been shown do not meet the safety test. Also, we have been trying to find something a little more centrally located, but not too far from our volunteer base which is southeast.

Another consideration is the size. We feel that we should be looking at about 2000 sq. ft. This would give us room for some expansion in the next few years and room to hold club meetings. We don't want to have to go through this packing up phase very often. It gets to be a lot of work. One of the things that we must keep in mind is the weight factor of all of the books. This eliminates most structures with wood floors or non-commercial buildings. Also, we would like to have close-in parking available.

Obviously, another consideration is price. We have just about eliminated leasing space. The going rate for leasing space in decent neighborhoods is at the \$6 - \$7 per square foot level. Multiply that by 2000 and we arrive at \$12,000 to \$14,000 per year and dividing that by 12 we are over \$1000 per month, which is beyond our present means. Add to that the length of lease which is generally 3 years and we conclude that leasing is not really a good deal for us. That is why we are looking for a building to buy.

We did find a location that the Board "fell in love with" - so much so that we made an offer on it. The seller made a counter offer which allowed us to be saved from the "indignity of having a loan rejected." At the time we just didn't have the money to make it work. The building is still for sale. We haven't had the opportunity to see many locations since we withdrew our offer. Possibly the real estate agent with whom we had been working is less than enchanted with us.

We need your help in finding a new location. If you know of a building that might work, please let us know. If you know of a real estate agent who might be interested in helping, please let us know. We want to find a place soon!!!

RMPL BUILDING FUND

Bill Dunn is leading the effort to solicit funds from our members and from prominent philatelists all over the country to be put into a Building Fund. This fund is growing slowly, but it is growing. If you have heard from Bill, I urge you to be as generous as is possible in your situation. If you haven't heard from Bill, I'm sure that you will soon. While we will gratefully accept any donation,

we are desperately searching for the large donations. We need to build this fund to the point where we can go in and ask for a loan which is less than what we already have in hand to put toward the purchase. Hopefully this will keep the payments at a level that we can handle.

We would love to be able to go back to the building we liked so much and make another offer - this time with enough money in our Building Fund to make it work. It is still available. If you have any ideas or can help in any way please contact Bill Dunn at 303-321-8746. Remember that any donations to the RMPL are income tax deductible since we are a 501 (C)(3) organization.

APPLYING FOR GRANTS

Our Vice President, Jim Kilbane, and RMPL member, Dr. John Bloor are researching the possibility of securing grants from philanthropic foundations for the RMPL. There are many of these foundations and we need to find the ones who might be willing to help the RMPL. Of course, our first need is the building, so we need to locate those who are willing to help with grants for the "brick and mortar". Others will be contacted to help with funds for the acquisition of philatelic library materials and equipment such as a good computer system, capable of doing more than the ones we have now.

If you have any suggestions regarding grants, please don't hesitate to call Jim Kilbane at 337-9543. We need your help.

RMPL SILENT AUCTION AT ROMPEX

One of our members suggested that we have a silent auction at the RMPL table during ROMPEX. We are going to try it. We will need to have donations of a wide variety of items for this. Our plans are to have several choice items that will be available for bid throughout the whole show and the rest will be available for bids and closed out at the end of the day for each of the three days of ROMPEX. What do you have that you could donate for this fund raiser??? Contact Don Beuthel at 755-9328 to make arrangements for these donations. Again, be as generous as you possibly can.

CORRECTION

In the last issue of "Scribblings" we were honoring our Volunteers and listed the number of hours that they had worked. Unfortunately a "1" was left off of several of those listed. This created a slight problem because one of the wives read the listing and wanted to know where her husband was spending the rest of the time when he said he was working at the library. The correct number of hours that Joe Weinman has worked is "189", not "89". George Snyder has worked "189" hours not "89". We apologize for this error and hope that this gets them, and us, out of the dog house.

DONATIONS TO RMPL CONTINUE

Recently we have received the following materials as donations:

Rodesia-Postal History, Stamps, Posts, & Telegraphs - R.C. Smith
Stamps & Postal History of the Channel Islands

William Newport

Via Airmail

American Air Mail Society

Aerial Mail Service

A.D. Jones

Universal Postal Union

George Arthur Coldding, Jr.

Rare Stamps

L.N. & M. Williams

The Postage Stamp - History and Recognition

L.N. & M. Williams

World of Classic Stamps

James A. Mackay

The Wild Side

Stephen R. Datz

While we are temporarily closed we continue to accept donations of all types of philatelic materials. The books listed above are only examples of the type of material that we are receiving as donations. Remember that the fair market value of donated items is deductible on income tax since we are considered to be a public charity - a 501 (c)(3) organization.

RMPL IS NOT DEAD !!!!

As you can see from all of the activity described above, the RMPL is not a dead organization - we are temporarily dormant - hibernating until we can spring forward to new quarters. We are working very hard to try to get the RMPL back into active status.

For our members - Rest assured that the duration of your membership will be extended appropriately to compensate for the time we have been closed. Additional membership renewals are not being sent out until we can have the library open and available for your use.

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Donald G. Beuthel
Editor

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