

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PHILATELIC LIBRARY (RMPL) DONATION POLICIES

Providing access to one of the largest assortments of stamp-collecting literature west of the Mississippi River, the RMPL is open to all who are interested in stamp collecting. The Library welcomes donations of cash or philatelic materials. Proceeds from the sale of donated items are used to support the RMPL mission. Located at 2038 S. Pontiac Way in Denver, CO, the RMPL accepts donations during regular business hours or by appointment. The Library organizes donated material for inclusion in our holdings, for sale, or for other RMPL activities (including youth) and markets them in our facility, on eBay, and in public auctions.

WHAT WE WILL ACCEPT Examples include:

- Collections of U.S. and foreign stamps, postal stationery, first-day covers, and postcards
- Albums containing U.S. or foreign stamps
- Better sets and single stamps, U.S. or foreign stamps
- Mint U.S. postage in sheets and blocks
- Good 19th and 20th century postally used covers, especially those with advertising
- Classic (pre-1930) Christmas seals
- Philatelic literature that will add to the library's collection
- Auction catalogs that contain significant philatelic information
- Philatelic supplies in new or excellent condition

WHAT WE WILL NOT ACCEPT:

- **Damaged stamps, including those that are stuck down**
- **Water-damaged or vermin-infested boxes, albums, etc.**
- **Philatelic supplies that are damaged and unusable**
- Heavily duplicated common stamps and bundled stock
- Sheets of canceled-to-order stamps
- Stamps that are available in quantity at a fraction of the catalog value
- Common philatelic publications such as Linn's, Scott's Stamp Monthly, or the American Philatelist
- Out-of-date auction catalogs or those that are normally provided gratis
- Commemorative souvenir memorabilia printed or promoted through private for-profit commercial organizations

The RMPL reserves the right to reject certain materials or modify our donation letters to exclude materials that volunteers unwittingly accept. The above material has negligible value to the Library and the collecting community. Frequently, such material has to simply be discarded. RMPL personnel will normally advise that these materials are highly questionable, so the donor can return the material home.

DONATING STAMPS TO THE RMPL

The RMPL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is eligible to receive tax-deductible donations of property, including stamps, albums, accumulations, postal stationery, first-day covers, philatelic literature, supplies, and other items of philatelic interest. Donors may deduct their gift's fair market value (FMV) as a charitable contribution on their income tax return if they submit IRS itemization forms. For tax purposes, FMV is defined as "the price a collector would pay if buying the material for his or her collection, NOT the catalog value or the price a dealer might offer if buying the material for resale." Determining FMV is the donor's responsibility. The donor is recommended to consult a tax advisor and also review the internet *IRS Publications: No. 561, Determining the Value of Donated Property and No. 526 Charitable Contributions*. The RMPL may not determine the FMV. The best all-around guide is the current edition of Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalog. However, it should be noted

Scott's catalog values are for stamps in very fine condition and the prices of low-value items may be highly inflated. Donated stamps in lesser condition should be discounted accordingly. Guidance for determining the FMV of U.S. stamps other than in fine condition may be found in the Scott U.S. Specialized Valuing Supplement available in hard copy and worldwide wide. Please note that individual catalog values are not appropriate in sorted or unsorted bulk envelopes, packets, mixtures, and bundled stock. This is because the actual FMV of stamps in these formats is lower than their sum. For example, a one-pound mixture containing 5000 stamps cataloging the minimum amount of \$.20 each can be purchased from most stamp suppliers for \$30.00, far less than its catalog value of \$1000.00

HOW DONATING STAMPS HELPS THE RMPL

When retained, donations add to our significant philatelic collections. When sold, these donations produce funds to support the Library. Contributions can result in tax savings as well as financial and estate planning benefits to the donors. However, the RMPL is not prepared to offer legal or tax advice.

DONOR PAPERWORK

The donor reports philatelic donations on *IRS Form 8283, Noncash Charitable Contributions, and Schedule A, Itemized Deductions*. A qualified appraisal must be obtained for donation (s) valued at \$5000.00 or more. A qualified appraiser and an authorized representative of the RMPL must sign Form 8283. A dated receipt is provided to the donor by the RMPL. Any donation in excess of \$5000.00 is held by the RMPL for three years in the event of an IRS inquiry.

Donations less than \$5000.00 do not require an appraisal. However, donors are required to support their deduction with a description of the items and the date the gift was made. The RMPL provides a letter describing the donation (excluding unacceptable items) without assigning a value.

PLEASE NOTE: [It is helpful if the donor can supply an inventory list at the time of donation.](#) If not, the RMPL volunteers will endeavor to inventory the donation (minus unacceptable items). Such an inventory will not be comprehensive, but rather a summation of the major features of the donation at the time of receipt and assignment within the RMPL. [Unless valued greater than \\$5000.00, the Library will hold the donation for 3 days before assignment to volunteers for sorting. The donation cannot be modified or returned once it is integrated into our system.](#)

HOW TO DELIVER AND/OR SHIP

Donations may be delivered or shipped to the RMPL. If shipped, they should be securely packed in durable containers. An inventory listing the items donated and the name and address of the donor should be included. The inventory does not need to be exhaustive. For example, a large collection can be listed as: "One volume collection of 20th-century mint U.S. stamps." If the donation is valued greater than \$5000.00, the appraisal and IRS Form 8283 must be included. The shipping address for packages is Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, Attention RMPL President, 2038 S. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224.

QUESTIONS

For questions or additional information, please call (303) 759-9921 or email us at rmpl@qwestoffice.net. Our website is www.RockyMountainPhilatelicLibrary.org. We sincerely appreciate your interest in the RMPL and encourage you to become a member of the Library. Together, we really can make a difference in furthering the goals of the RMPL.