

## A Proposal For a Traveling Exhibition

Here is a suggestion, or at least the beginnings of one...based on feedback from a recent Insta-poll regarding what RMS can or should be doing about publicizing the hobby, combined with the *RMS Bulletin's* bimonthly report of various collectors publicizing the hobby on their own...Why not combine the two? *[What a stroke of genius!....Now watch various people come up with a bunch of good reasons why it can't work!]*

Here's my 'vision'—A traveling exhibition (display) that could gradually work its way back and forth around the country. Really a travelling display, it would have everything necessary to make an informative, eye-catching display (i.e...*instant publicity*).

*Where would the material come from?* RMS acquires, puts it together, fashions it all into a mobile, ready-to-ship-anywhere package. RMS members, conveniently spread out throughout the country, would do the foot work of lining up the display sites. A collector, for example, might approach his or her local library with the idea of a display and secure an OK and a set time. RMS would then mail him the display package; the collector sets it up and later disassembles it at the end of the display run; and either ships it back to RMS or forwards it on to the next collector who has already set everything up at his location for the next designated display. And so it would go.

RMS would own the material, which it would have either obtained either through donations from members or simply buying it through various sources *[RMS is loaded! They can afford to buy it. Collectors are too often asked to donate]*. The question arises, though, what would be appropriate display material?

Well, on a general level, we'd want material that was interesting, colorful, and eye-catching. That would be easy enough. The problem would be with the specific content. It's one thing to tailor a display to the probably interests of that library in Los Angeles, but what we need here, is a display that would be of interest to *all* possible locations *[so RMS would not have to be constantly changing the display contents but rather using the same display over and over]*. Thus, as far as material content, then, we need to come up with something that would have an appeal from one end of the country to another.....*Hmmmmmm....Now what could that possible be?....Hey, I know!....How about a History display! [You knew that was coming, I know].*

Am I suggesting History just because I teach History and it's my favorite topic? No! History is something that transcends the peculiarities of all locations, and it's a topic that most people have at least some interest in, even if only for reasons of nostalgia. Imagine, walking into your local library, bank, whatever, and seeing a dazzling display of past Political Campaigns, Navy Ships, World War II Patriotics, a chronological series of Coca-Cola covers, and an array of Famous Places and Events—National Parks World Fairs, Amusement Parks, and so forth. Why, you'd be stopped right in your tracks, losing sight of your original destination altogether, amidst the widest assortment of ohhhhs and ahhhhs from yourself and the vast crowd of onlookers around you. Amazing! And, of course, a plug for both RMS and the local collector would be a prominent part of the display...*and think of the calls and letters that local collector would receive from people who would just love to find a home for grandpa's cherished matchcover collection.*

So, all it would take is RMS to put the display together, someone in RMS to keep track of where it's supposed to be, when, and if it ever came back from the last location...and those local collectors willing to go out and secure display locations...