



EDITORIAL

THE DOWNSIDE OF THE RMS CONVENTION

Oh, yes! There *is* a definite downside to the convention each year. I partially bear the brunt of it myself...as all those frolicking conventioners see the sights on the wonderful tours, cavort by the pool with pirates harassing mermaids, indulge in all that scrumptious food, and rake in all of those glorious plaques and trophies—trading throughout the hobby comes to a grinding halt!

Wait! It gets worse! Not only does trading all but disappear during the convention week, but any veteran will tell you that the decline becomes very noticeable at least two weeks *before* the convention and doesn't get back to normal until at least two weeks *after* the convention! That's five weeks!

Oh, to be sure, there will be that occasional *lonely* trade morosely sitting there in your mailbox during those five weeks, but it's just salt in the wound to remind you that the rest of your trades aren't there, aren't coming, and aren't going to be there in the near future, either!

WHY? I mean, we're only talking about some 300 people at the convention from year to year; that's only a fraction of the total number of collectors out there....*allow me to answer my own question*....because they're 300 of the most active people in the hobby!—the workers, the movers and shakers, the innovators...and...the traders! And so each year, I resign myself to the inevitable. For five long weeks I'll look forlornly towards my mailbox, knowing all too well what lies within....bills, circulars, and flyers advertising hair restoratives and weight loss plans (*No! I don't know how many names got on those mailing lists, thank you very much!*).