

RMS INSTA-POLL

“What’s the one *MAIN* reason you don’t attend RMS conventions

[October - 97 responding]

Cost	33
Distance	18
Work schedule	15
Sched. Conflicts	13
Health problems	6
Family concerns	4
Too much trouble	2
Don’t like format	2
Losing interest	1
My categories not available	1
Prefer other cover sources	1
No longer adding to collection	1

Salient comments:

- “The two classic reasons, time & money followed by burn out. The 3 or 4 times I went were just non stop, needed a vacation when I got home. So, if I stay home I can add 500 to a thousand \$'s worth of matchcovers to my collection.”

- “Distance is the only reason. I live on the west coast of Canada which is always remote from the RMS conventions in the eastern US. It is not because of expense. However, I do intend on getting to the next Sierra Diablo gathering on the west coast which is not too distant from me.”

- “Distance and expense are the same for the west coast. If you want to pay a few bucks apiece for covers then going to Pennsylvania is just your ticket when you factor in what it costs you to get there. Otherwise, going to your own swapfests in whatever part of the country you are surely yields

more material for less dough. After the Angelus club hosted the last RMS west of the Mississippi (is that right?) more than a decade ago, it became clear that easterners were less than enthusiastic about travel out of their time and comfort zones, despite protestations to the contrary. To most of us out here *[in the West]*, RMS is an eastern U.S. hobby organization which started and will expire there with or without us. While it is good to have a blanket organization for the hobby, this blanket has always covered the right half of the country by choice. So, we have learned to try to look out for ourselves and have not done too bad a job. As time passes so many more unaffiliated with the hobby collectors are surfacing also, making accessible material available in large amounts. Winning lots in a live RMS auction requires Thurston Howell money and nerve.”

- “The location would have to be in driving distance for me (which is getting smaller as I grow older).”

- “Location is the number one reason. Nearly, always, east of St. Louis. I would like to see more in California.”

- “After attending RMS Conventions quite regularly since 1985, we stopped attending several years ago because my active collecting categories haven't been available anymore. The expense is too high for a strictly social time away from home.”

- “eBay. I can find more covers for my collection there in a month than I would find at a convention and never leave home. Call me lazy and anti-social but that’s the way it is for me. I haven’t attended a convention since the ‘90’s.”

- “I usually can add more to my collection with the time and money I'd spend going to a convention, by trading or shopping other venues.”

- “As an outsider looking in having never attended one - here is my issue. Why in heavens name is this convention held over such a long period of time? I won't spend 4,5,6 hotel nights. I would consider

going a reasonable distance if it was a 2 or 3 day event, but can't justify the hotel cost. Whatever I would want to do could be done in a lot less time. Also consider having this in the off travel summer season. From the pictures in the last RMS issue it appears there is no one with little kids that would only allow them to travel in the off school season.”

- “I usually attend the 12 years I've been a collector, but the following have entered into my thoughts: COST, but also banquets. I don't like them and do not attend them, cutting out earlier on Saturday. Overall, the convention is just too long. A week is more than I want to invest in the hobby and takes away from going to other meetings and swaps. I usually attend 3 nights/4 days, minimizing my costs and eliminating much of the do nothing early days of the week. Thursday/Friday still allows me to make contact with those people I want.”

- “Distance/cost from the west. Many conventions are in the east and hard to reach. Places like St. Louis, with direct flights, are good.”

- “Expense. Add airline fare to room rate and a limited income = I can't afford. Why is the convention 7 days anyway? I can't think of any other club or collecting group I belong to that has a convention more than 3 days. Why can't we do 4 days instead of 7?”

- “I'd luv to come to the Big Show, BUT.....it's cost prohibitive. A flight, room, baggage fees etc. If you ever hold one (much) closer to where I would be able to drive to it, it would enable me to come. Until RMS is held west of the Rockies, I can only dream of coming.”

- “I work full-time with limited time off. I've attended one in all the years I've been a member & that's because it was close.”

- “My wife does not want to fly anymore, so if the convention is too far to drive from FL, we do not go. We missed it this year because St. Louis was too far. We plan on Bethlehem next year since it is easier to drive from FL.”

- “The main reason is cost of flights to the US in August from the UK. Example over £1,000 each for the dates in 2015 as opposed to Australia £760 for their autumn (April/May). In September the price drops by about half! We managed to get a reasonably priced flight to New York for the Morgantown meeting the other week (under £500 each) - still probably a lot for a week though.