

Subject: THIS is my REAL fear -

From: "Bob Cooper" <6meterdxclub.38@gmail.com>

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What happens to this unique collection-

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07-04-2014

Robert Britt Cooper (RBC)

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One of a kind irreplaceable items stored at above address

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The RB Cooper Historical Collection (RBCHC) traces with well preserved magazines, books, promotional literature, copies of US/Canada/European/Australia/NZ government records (many long ago destroyed in their original paper state); 16mm news films from the 1940s; BETA and VHS video tapes spanning 1970's forward of (radio, television) industry meetings, lectures; DVDs; professional 3/4" and 1" video tapes spanning the 1970s forward; audio tapes of lectures and RBC conducted interviews with early radio and television pioneers ('their history' spanning 1920's forward); correspondence by RBC with radio and television pioneers; black and white, colour photos largely created by RBC dating from early 1950s; pieces of unique radio (1930's onward) and television (1940's onward) equipment; RBC created and published magazines (1960 onward to 2008), books (1966 onward to 2012); and manuscripts and data collected for yet unpublished future books.

This Personal Collection's "value" is all of these largely no-longer-existing items are available in *one spot*; cared for, protected, and ultimately to be relocated in suitable public access venues (ie museums, university reference libraries). Even "moving" (as in lifting, inspecting) many of these items now approaching 100 years of (as printed) age results in their deterioration or complete disintegration; a seriously careful act of packing for carton or crate storage is likely to cause damage or loss. The "secondary" value is to RBC who *alone* knows of their content and storage locations – as they have continued to be irreplaceable as historical reference materials found in RBC's writings (44 published books; more than 10,000 magazine articles). And over the decades the RBCHC has provided single-source data to dozens of other technology based historical authors (as Archie Miller, former head of RCA satellite Systems credits in his 2012 book) "Coop alone was able to provide me with a published list of 'Active American Satellite Users' as of September 1983".

The RBCHC (collection) spans 58 years of activity. A very large percentage is unduplicated elsewhere and all requires extremely careful-tender handling when used; the alternative being

“lost forever”. Because RBC had more than a dozen writing projects underway when on February 9th he was denied access to his library and computer, any decision which prohibits his routine future use of this material must be avoided, even if limited by advance appointments. At some date all of these materials require sorting, packaging, labeling, which alone will demand hundreds of hours of tedious work only he can perform without destruction of the items. (Many of the oldest items – magazines primarily – literally ‘shatter’ into pieces when even picked up.) And for on-going use by a museum or library, every carton, crate will require inventory logging sheets and a master list of contents. After 58 years of very careful ‘one-of-a-kind-remaining’ locating, acquiring, transporting – RBCHC deserves skills in preservation.

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Gross Categories of RBCHC items:

Magazines:

a/ RBC self-created published 1960 to 2008//more than 500 issues

b/ RBC created reports, feature articles 1958-2012 in non-RBC published magazines, web sites// more than 130

c/ Non-RBC ‘historical reference value’ magazines 1931-2013// more than 350

Books:

a/ RBC created books, booklets, handbooks 1966-2009// more than 70

b/ RBC contributions to other-author books// more than 22

c/ Non-RBC created trade/industry books 1921-2013// more than 350

d/ RBC non-trade books 1908-2013// more than 270

Promotional literature of early radio, TV industries:

a/ More than 250 pieces

Government records copied by RBC, others from official files:

a/ More than 1,100 pieces

Films/videotapes/DVDs:

a/ 16mm news films from 1940-1960 era// more than 5

b/ Beta, VHS format video tapes of industry// more than 500

c/ 3/4”, 1” format video tapes of industry// more than 275

d/ DVDs// more than 120 for archiving previously videotaped materials (a W.I.P.; *work in progress*)

Audio tapes/interviews with industry pioneers:

a/ Tapes, several recording formats// more than 60

RBC correspondence with radio/TV industry pioneers 1953-2013:

a/ More than 320 pieces

Black & White/Colour photos:

a/ Prints/ more than 10,000

Pieces of historical electronic equipment:

a/ More than 100 pieces

Manuscripts in process, data collections dealing with yet unpublished materials:

a/ “Collections” in process// more than 20 “works underway”

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NOTE: ALL of this is “personal property” of RBC but this listing excludes his non-RBCHC items.