

## Stamp Collecting is Dead Long Live Philately!

Or in this case, My Stamp Store is Not Dead, but it isn't in Reno anymore, we just had to MOVE!

*The space is inside Antiques & Treasures Rock, 540 S. Rock Blvd. Sparks, Nevada*

**By Nadiah Beekun, Philatelist and Stamp Store Owner**

Nothing says Downtown Reno like Office Space...People come from all over the world to downtown Reno because they don't want to gamble, watch shows, catch a movie or even do something silly like go to an antiques and collectables store and, maybe, buy STAMPS. They come to Reno to go to see office space. At least that is what the buyers of the old historical (that used to be **Parkers Western Wear**) building formally known as Antiques & Treasures Downtown, and home to the only stamp store in over 100+ miles, **RENOSTAMPS.com** before they shut us down and closed the store for **RENO**vation...in order to create more empty office space.

### renovation

[ ren-uh-vey-shuhn ] *noun*

the act or process of repairing, renewing, or restoring to good condition

### RENOvation

[ ren-oh-vey-shuhn ] *noun*

the act or process of re-purposing or demolishing wonderful buildings or destroying existing businesses in order to make Nevada more like California and not let gamblers spend their money on anything but slot machines. (see "Californication" ...)

I found out that our store had been sold because one of the new owners opened the door to my stamp and fixture storage room located in the basement of the Antiques Mall where I had my vendor store space for over 17 years. I politely explained that this area was not open to the public and he told me that he was the new owner... This was at the end of July. I notified the store owners of my encounter and they told me that they had just found out about it that morning and that the new owners wanted us out by the end of the year.

Boyd and Sharon went searching for a new location and found several options but NONE of them panned out. Time rushes by and we were worried that our store would end up the way that the Virginia Street Antiques Mall had 3 years ago...Empty Building and Vendors either retired or scattered from here to Carson City. I tried to see about getting my old stand-alone store on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street back, but that building had been sold and I would have to be there instead of taking off for a couple of weeks to go see the (3 of them) Grands, go down to Goldfield or Quartzite, or go do a little traveling to Turkey or with the Fulbright program.

Eventually, Sharon and Boyd found an empty building on Rock Blvd., just south of I-80 and just north of Baldini's on Glendale. It is only 7,000 sf. Instead of 17,000 sf. And the rent is more, but now WE HAVE PARKING! They signed the lease in late September, but then had to do a lot of cleaning and repairs. It used to be a Motorcycle shop with sales on one side and service on the other. The floors and walls had to be steamed (because of oil) and repainted and things had to be fixed. We were not going to be able to start to move in until sometime in late November and everything in the Sierra St. location had to be out by the end of December. Me? I had booked tickets to Florida for the month of October in May when I found out that I would become a grandma again in late September and could I PLEASE come and HELP!

I started the de-crapification process, put my helper in charge and then left for Jacksonville where I had a great time! And then I came back to urgency and confusion. Spaces were being assigned and changes had been made and where was I going to put what? Everything had to be packed and moved and not all boxes had been marked with contents. Lots ended up in storage and while my space has always been a place of confusion, it became worse as boxes went to storage and others ended up taking space that was needed for

product placement. I and a few other Vendors are STILL unpacking, but more is becoming available daily and by mid-March the store will have an official "Grand Opening" that will (hopefully) be attended by Sparks Nobility, the Media, and paying customers & Philatelists!

As always, I do not spend every waking moment at the store so it is best to call me before you decide to come down if you want to see me although you can always look through (and buy) stamps, some supplies, and other philatelic material in my space. Thank you all for helping me for all of these years and let's see how much longer we can all LAST! Philatelically yours, Nadiah Beekun

**Renostamps.com & ClassicNevada.com**

**NOW OPEN at Our New Location!**

**Inside Antiques & Treasures Rock!**

**540 S. Rock Blvd. Sparks, Nevada**

**775-762-4905**

**Open 10 am – 6 pm Daily**

***Nadiah Beekun** is a Director in the NSSS and the current Program Chair. She owns Classic Nevada stamp store on Second Ave. in Reno. She exhibits regularly at the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show and collects Nevada stamps and ephemera, and topical roses.*