



FRIENDS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HISTORY COMMITTEE

Guidelines for Donating Original Peace Corps Materials and Artifacts to the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in Boston

January 2010

Greetings Members of Friends of the Dominican Republic and Fondo Quisqueya:

You are invited to donate your original photographs, diaries, letters written home, Peace Corps documents, and other items—representing a long, continual, historic Peace Corps service—to the JFK Presidential Library. Aside from knowing the good use to which they will be put, we will no longer need to carry these materials around as we move, or have to worry about what will happen to them when we are gone.

The Library has a Peace Corps exhibit at the Museum with artifacts from the time of the John F. Kennedy administration. There also is a small but growing RPCV collection that can be visited in Boston and online. Your Dominican records will be added to that collection.

The Library and Museum are very supportive of our history project and efforts. They said that Friends of the DR is the first country-of-service group to approach the Library with an organized effort to promote donations.

We invite and appreciate your interest, support, and cooperation. This is an exciting endeavor, and we are honored to be involved in building a Peace Corps DR collection in Boston.

Yours in world peace and friendship,

Neil W. Ross
Neil W. Ross
DR 7 Forestry & Scouts, 1962-64
PCDR History Committee & Founding FDR President
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THE JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY

The Kennedy Library is part of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), as are all presidential libraries. The National Archives in Washington contain the most extensive records on the Peace Corps worldwide.

The Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Collection of the John F. Kennedy Library is the repository for personal materials that relate to the individual and group experiences of those who served as Peace Corps Volunteers and staff from its inception in 1961 to the present. It consists of papers, such as letters, diaries, newsletters, and journals; photographs; oral histories; and other items of unique archival value.

Over time, individual RPCVs have donated materials about their personal experiences in more than seventy countries where Peace Corps volunteers were—and still are—on active tours of duty. This collection is uniquely organized because it is continually expanding; additional materials come in on a regular basis.

<http://www.jfklibrary.org/Historical+Resources/Archives/Archives+and+Manuscripts/Returned+Peace+Corps+Volunteers/>

The Kennedy Library is an archival repository, as opposed to a “research library” or “special collections’ library,” both of which are often found in university settings. An archival repository collects only “primary source materials”—that is, originals only.

Research does indeed take place at the Kennedy Library, but their focus is on *original* records. The Library does not accept copies of records (copies are not considered primary sources, but carbon copies are). If you are planning to make a donation, please make sure that what you are sending to the library is an *original*.

Also, donations must be directly related to the Peace Corps/Dominican Republic (PCDR). Most materials will come from former Volunteers and PCDR staff (American and Dominican).

DONATION GUIDELINES

1. RECORDS

What is a record? It can be a report, a letter sent home, an original newspaper article written by the RPCV or PC staff, a project plan, a staff report, training materials, slides, original negatives and/or prints, film, videocassettes, and so forth.

If the document(s) is important for your own records, it is recommended to either make a copy or scan it for yourself, and then send the *original*.

If you cannot send the original record, do not donate it to the Library. The Library does not want to separate you from cherished memories.

If you are making a small donation, you will most likely receive a Library letter of acknowledgement.

If you are donating several records, you will be asked to first sign a Library “deed of gift” that will be sent to you. Once the Library receives your package and your signed “deed of gift”, they will sign the deed as well and return it to you.

Note of caution regarding the “deed of gift document: It must be clean. Do not write on it other than your signature.

2. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (PCV/DR) PUBLICATIONS: *Polymagma*, *El Cuchicheo*, and *Gringo Grita*

When we mentioned these PCV-written publications to the Library Archivist, he advised us to gather all these magazines in one place first, before donation, and send them once a year to supplement the time period covered. They will be placed separately in the Archive.

If you have original editions of newsletters, other PCV/DR volunteer/staff publication or memo, please contact Neil Ross, to discuss what you have and what has already been collected before he bring the collection to Boston, at:

PCDR History Project, c/o Neil Ross
138 White Horn Drive, Kingston, RI 02881
neilross@cox.net, 401-782-2116

3. PHOTOS AND SLIDES

The Library only wants original photos, slides or movies that show the PCV during training, at work in the DR, or involved with their community. Photos of PCV groups are wanted, as are pictures showing

you doing projects with Dominicans are highly desirable.

They do *not* want photos of parties, vacation trips, pretty scenery, or groups of volunteers having fun. If submitted, they will not be returned.

The Library is happy to receive slides, original negatives, and/or prints. However, they *do NOT* want 500 slides or prints per person. Instead, they consider up to 50 slides or photographs to be a maximum representative set.

Please scrutinize your photos and be selective. Make a copy for yourself of what you are sending. The best course of action is to send a representative sample with a written description of *who* is in the photo, *what* is going on, *where* it was taken, *when* and *why*, as much as is possible.

Here is an example of a qualified photo.



Andy Hernandez, 1st Peace Corps Director in DR, preparing a well drilling head. 1963 USIS photo.

4. TECHNOLOGY

The Library will accept open-reel audiotapes, audiocassettes, film [16mm, 8mm, Super8], VHS tapes, and good quality digital copies.

5. COSTS

The donor must pay all costs of copying and shipping donated items. The Library's budget does not cover these costs.

Each of us had unique experiences in the DR, and, as a result, came home different. Now we have an opportunity to archive our records in the JFK Presidential Library and Museum where others, including family, can learn what helped shape us so much.

READY TO DONATE?

Double-check the Library Guidelines. Make sure you are only donating *original* primary source material. Prepare a written inventory list of every item, including specific information about each (i.e., who, what, when, where, and why).

The Library wants items that help tell the story of what the Peace Corps does and how we did it.

The Library wants Peace Corps documents from all years since 1961, especially from the DR starting in 1962 to today. Even newly returned RPCVs are urged to contribute, as well as old timers and all in between.

Contact the Library Archivist *before* sending any material, as he/she must review each inventory list before it can be accepted for donation. That also is the time to ask all questions and agree on gift details.

You will be notified which items will be accepted and which will not be. The Archivist may also send the deed of gift out for you to sign and then ask you to return the signed deed along with your donation.

Remember; *always* contact the Library Archivist *before* sending any materials:

Mr. Jaime Quaglino, Archivist
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Collection
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library
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Tel. 617-514-1633, Fax: 617-514-1556
Email: jaimie.quaglino@nara.gov