

INTRODUCTION TO RECLAIMED RESOURCES

By Bill Schapiro, President, Whitehouse and Schapiro
SMART Immediate Past President

It gives me great pleasure and pride to resurrect this heirloom, Reclaimed Resources, a wonderful book that was originally published in 1952 under the name "The Romance of Rags" and reprinted in 1962.

At a time when the industry norm was to guard business practices from competitors, My family's passion dictated that they shed light on the importance and truly unique role our industry serves in the world economy. Complete with original illustrations, photos and graphs of the era, Reclaimed Resources shows how we got to the respected place we are today.

In 1962 it was impossible to predict that much of the new textile manufacturing in this country would be drawn overseas by lower cost labor markets and that the secondhand clothing portion of our family endeavors would be the enduring one.

Today, from simple donations of clothing comes one of the leading exports of our country; and the foundation of an industry that is often called a "win-win-win-win" combination." As a result of our efforts, used clothing and its accessory items are kept out of landfills, tens of thousands of jobs are created worldwide, good affordable clothing is provided to lower income countries of the world, and charities receive hundreds of millions of dollars to run their various programs.

Of course, I didn't invent this business; I was born into it. And neither did I enter it to do good for the world. I did so to make a living. But I must say it adds greatly to my pride and satisfaction that we are carrying forward what my Great-grandfather Solomon Schapiro began in 1907 with a horse and buggy collection operation; and that every day, in our small way, what we do in our business has a positive impact on the world. I am very proud to be a fourth generation Ragman. Enjoy Reclaimed Resources!

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SMART 2009 – 10 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY & BUYERS GUIDE UPDATE

Production of the SMART 2009 – 10 Membership Directory and Buyers Guide has begun and members will be receiving information update forms from the SMART office via e-mail. Members will also be able to log-on to the new SMART website and make updates to their company listings.

SMART staff is in the process of creating a new database for members that will be a central repository of all member information and will improve the accuracy of membership information.

