

Project to Archive the Samuel Ristich Papers

Few educators have been as beloved as Dr. Sam Ristich, “the mushroom guru,” who was an inspiration for countless mycologists. Any of the legion of Sam’s students and admirers will attest to his unparalleled enthusiasm for the marvels of the world of fungi and his unique talent for encouraging interest in the study of mushrooms, as well as the rest of the natural world, in just about everybody he encountered.

The Ristich family has decided to preserve Sam’s scientific legacy by preserving his personal papers in an archival collection. David Rose is the archivist selected by the Ristich family for this volunteer project to organize the Samuel Ristich Archive. David is a Certified Archivist, past president of the Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association (COMA), and a contributing editor of *Fungi Magazine*.

After the collection is organized, the Samuel Ristich Papers will be placed in a repository like the New York Botanical Garden to be made available to the general public and to any researcher interested in mycology. An “archive” is a collection of unique, original documents, and it is vitally important to preserve all the documents created by and relating to Sam Ristich to ensure that the record of his life’s work is made permanently accessible to any interested person. In this way, Sam will continue to inspire students, amateurs, and professionals in the sciences, and particularly in mycology, for many years to come.

You can help support the project to preserve Sam’s legacy in two ways: first, by donating your own personal collection of “Ristichiana” to this archive, specifically:

- **Correspondence with Sam:** letters or postcards to or from Sam
- **Scientific documents:** Sam’s manuscripts, species descriptions, reports, etc.
- **Sam’s Artwork:** spore print art or other artworks and artifacts by Sam
- **Photographs:** photos of Sam himself or Sam’s photos of mushrooms

You may contribute originals or copies (original documents are preferred). To contribute materials to the Samuel Ristich Archive, or for further information, please contact **David Rose** at tomashunders@aol.com.

Second, mycological organizations and interested individuals are invited to make a financial contribution to purchase archival supplies (acid-neutral folders and boxes and archival DVDs) to preserve the collection. This project cannot be completed without the funds to purchase supplies. All donations are tax deductible. To make a financial donation, please send a check made out to Gerald Sheine, with “for Ristich Archives, NEMF” written on the bottom of the check, and mail to Gerald Sheine, PO Box 81640, Rochester, MI 48308-1640. (contact **Jerry Sheine** tel 248-652-9498 or at gsheine@aol.com)