

Introducing Medallion Press

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In December 2006, I finally realized my dream of publication when I signed a contract with Medallion Press to publish my “outside-the-box” historical romance, *The Legacy*, set in Wittenberg, Electoral Saxony, the birthplace of the Reformation. Medallion Press is a new, growing force in publishing, seeking quality books that mainstream publishers are unable or unwilling to take a chance on because of their non-traditional settings or times. In fact, Medallion Press is building a strong niche in that market. Many people have asked me about the company and its background, so I thought I’d go straight to the source and ask Helen A. Rosburg, its founder, to tell us more about the publishing house.

TJ Bennett: First off, Helen, thank you for agreeing to an interview. Let’s get right to it. I know, of course, that Medallion Press is a royalty- and advance-paying print publisher recognized by the Romance Writers of America. Tell us a little more about the company, such as how and when it was founded, its goals, its vision—that sort of thing.

Helen Rosburg: I founded Medallion in the summer of 2003. The reason was simple. I am an author with an absolute passion for books. Simply writing them was not enough for me. I wanted to create beautiful books by wonderful authors. I wanted to mine new

talent. I wanted to live, in all ways, in the realm of the word. Medallion’s goal is to publish the very finest genre fiction and to have the very highest quality product, both inside and out.

TJB: Would you consider Medallion Press to be a “small press,” or would you describe it another way? Do you publish hardcover, trade, mass market, etc.?

HR: Medallion, because of our numbers, is no longer in the small press category. We are considered an independent press. We publish hardcover, trade, and mass market.

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TJB: Where can readers find Medallion Press books for purchase?

HR: One can find MP books in independent and chain bookstores and the various other outlets. We are constantly working on our distribution to eventually be found in *all* outlets, globally. [Since this interview, Medallion Press announced that it has signed a distribution deal with Independent Publishers Group for

U.S. and global distribution. According to the MP website, this will allow “greater accessibility of Medallion Press books as they will be consistently carried by major chains here in the U.S. and worldwide.” This includes access to markets such as Wal-Mart and Target as well as major chain bookstores.]

TJB: Medallion publishes many kinds of genre fiction, right? What kinds of submissions are you currently seeking? What don’t you publish? Do you accept agented *and* unagented submissions?

HR: MP does *not* publish erotica, inspirational, young adult or children’s books, poetry, or anthologies. We publish all other genres. Currently we are looking, in particular, for mainstream and women’s fiction, historicals (non-romantic or with a romantic element), and mystery/suspense/thrillers. Bear in mind we still publish other genres, we are simply looking for more in these categories. We accept both agented and unagented submissions. Most of our submissions, and most of the new work we buy, is unagented.

TJB: Who’s in charge? In other words, can you tell us a little about the overall management structure of the company, and who does what?

HR: Let’s start at the top, my favorite place, as that would be me! I am the President and Publisher, overseeing every aspect of the company. Adam Mock, Vice President, has the actual hands-on responsibility of day-to-day



operations. We work together closely to make sure Medallion is always a well-oiled machine on track to meet its goals and vision to produce the highest quality product. It is also our job, and our commitment, to ensure the company is run with the utmost integrity.

Adam is also the Creative Director. He is largely responsible for the gorgeous covers that have helped put Medallion on the map. He is ably assisted in this endeavor by Jim Tampa, Art Director, who is also the magician who waves his wand and makes a manuscript into a book.

Kerry Estevez is our wonderful Author Liaison and Acquisitions Editor. She and her bank of readers are the first people to look at submissions. If they pass muster they go on to me or Ali DeGray (Horror/Paranormal Acquisitions) for final approval. Ultimately, a manuscript comes back to me one more time for editing as I am also the Executive Editor with a talented group of editors and proofreaders.

Debra Damko is Director of Sales and the person responsible for getting our books into all the stores. She is our hero.

I won't bore you with the remainder of Sales and office and other support staff, although they are all awesome and hardworking and highly valued. In short, Medallion is a family, starting with staff and including our authors.

TJB: What would be your ideal submission? What leads to that final "buy/no buy" decision?

HR: The ideal submission is a fantastic story beautifully written. The

ideal submission gets bought, the rest are rejected. Sometimes a buy may be weighted by what's trending. For example, if there's a slot for one romance and we have two possibilities, say a contemporary and a historical, I would—currently—take the historical romance as they are selling better than contemporaries.

TJB: What can a writer submitting to Medallion Press expect to happen next, and what are the usual time frames for that?

HR: Thanks to Kerry's work ethic, an author can expect an up or down vote within a month or two of submission. We are, by the way, currently working on our 2009 schedule.

TJB: What qualities does the *ideal* Medallion Press author have (if there is such a paragon)?

HR: My motto is "Publishing is a partnership." Cooperation is key.

TJB: Many people already know you are one of the heirs to the Wrigley fortune. However, that doesn't really tell us a lot about you. Could you share with us what it was about your earlier life that led to your decision to found a publishing company?

HR: My grandfather and great-grandfather, Philip K. Wrigley and William Wrigley, Jr., had an inspired work and business ethic and incredible business acumen. Their passion, integrity, and entrepreneurial spirit has been, and remains, an inspiration not only to myself but many in my family. Ours is not a fortune to inherit, but a future to make.

TJB: What's in store for Medallion Press in the future? Any big plans on the horizon?

HR: Oh, yes, you bet. Stay tuned ...

TJB: Thank you, Helen. We certainly will.

For more information on Medallion Press, go to their website at: www.MedallionPress.com.

To contact Medallion Press for company information:

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St. Charles, IL 60174
630-513-8316

To send a submission to Medallion Press, please read the submission guidelines on their FAQ web page first. Send submissions to:

Kerry Estevez
P.O. Box 48889
Tampa, FL 33647



TJ Bennett is a 2005 Golden Heart finalist and winner of the 2006 San Francisco Heart to Heart contest. She has placed in several RWA contests, including the Daphne du Maurier, the Lauries, and the Lone Star. Her first historical romance, The Legacy, will be an April 2008 Medallion Press release.