A Privilege
by Barbara Waterman-Peters

Nestled among trees and set back from the brick street sits a small museum called The Red Barn. It was once the studio of Lester Raymer, a man of such creative energy that he defies definition. The collection of Mr. Raymer's fabulous paintings, sculptures, prints, toys, and architecture forms a marvelous backdrop for the artists fortunate enough to be selected to work there.

I have been [privileged to be] one of those chosen [artists] few on three occasions and each time has been memorable. Quiet hours to make my work, opportunities to walk among such an amazing array of wonderful things where I can feast my eyes, my soul, and my intellect, and friendly and gracious people who facilitate this are a heady combination. In each instance I have come away with new vigor and a nurtured heart.

I am grateful to the legacy of Lester and Ramona Raymer and the dedicated people who carry it on. I encourage other artists to apply for this privilege in Lindsborg, Kansas, which is an appropriate city for the residency with its artistic and cultural richness.

(Barbara Waterman-Peters is a studio artist from Topeka, KS)
**Raymer Society Artist-in-Residence Purpose:**

The Raymer Society Artist-in-Residency program purpose is to perpetuate the memory of Lester Raymer and to offer an opportunity for visual artists and craftsmen, to pursue their particular art form or experiment with another art form while being surrounded by the inspiring environment of Lester Raymer’s Red Barn Studio.

**The Red Barn Studio**

The Red Barn Studio was the working studio of multi-talented artist Lester Raymer. Raymer was born in Oklahoma, educated at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1945 he married Ramona Weddle and settled in Lindsborg, KS where he created a unique environment that is the Red Barn Studio. Raymer worked as an artist and craftsman in many different mediums, listened to classical music and opera, and read extensively. While not a physical traveler, Raymer visited many countries and cultures through books and periodicals.

**The A-I-R Program**

The Artist-in-Residence program at the Red Barn Studio offers visual artists and craftsmen the opportunity to pursue their particular art form or experiment with another art form while being surrounded by the inspiring environment of Lester Raymer’s Red Barn Studio. The Raymer Society offers the participant the use of a small apartment and studio space for periods from one week to several weeks.

The artists are expected to be in the studio during the Red Barn Studio open hours, 1-4 PM, Tuesday through Sunday. Exceptions will be made for artists working off premises.

Participants are encouraged to bring examples of their work to display and sell during the residency. The Raymer Society gets 25% of all sales during the artist’s stay. Kansas sales tax is charged on sales.

Participants are encouraged to give workshops in their area of expertise or interest. Proposals for workshops should be made at the time of application.

*NO SMOKING OR CANDLES ON PROPERTY!!!*

*PLEASE LEAVE THE APARTMENT MOVE-IN READY FOR THE NEXT ARTIST.*

**How to Apply**

Applications for the Raymer Society Artist-in-Residence program are accepted year-round. Selections are made by a panel composed of professionals from various related disciplines. Selections are made solely on the basis of merit.

Please send an application consisting of the following:

1. A copy of the enclosed application form.
2. A one to two page resume and summary of creative works.
3. Samples of one’s recent work (slides, photos, or digital images).
4. A brief statement from the applicant stating what he/she hopes to achieve from the residency.
5. A proposal for workshops.