

## Librarian's Report 2015

I continue to be grateful to the three other members of the Library Working Party (Alan Roy, Dave Cree and Peter Dix) for the ongoing work which we are carrying out in devising our own cataloguing system and allocating every book the Society owns to this system. We now reckon the stock is over 700. This is not yet a precise figure because some books are still turning up even when we think we have allocated them all!

We generally meet once a month, usually the third Thursday morning, if we can get access, but at other times if necessary. Phase "1" is finished i.e. we have allocated all books to a category (but see first paragraph!), and we are now on Phase 2, which is inserting Ex Libris stickers (where needed) and writing on these, both the section where the book will be housed as well as any cross-referencing deemed useful.

As this latter aspect has developed, we have decided that the main reference will appear in red on the large and fulsome book list, while the cross-reference(s) will appear in black. However each book will appear in the list in as many sections as result from our deliberations. This is causing a large expansion of the list, especially as we wish to make it readable, ie it will not require a magnifying glass to read it.

A further decision has therefore been made. All members will get a paper copy of the four sheets that give the cataloguing sections (but not any individual books). The book list (at least 80 pages and probably more) will feature on the Society's website in an Intranet section so that it is only available to members on the insertion of a code. This will avoid a huge use of paper and will actually make for easy update. For those without computer a full paper set will be available on request, at least at first, and there will be two other sets, one in the cupboards and one held by the Librarian for quick use at meetings (he hopes!). We hope this will satisfy all potential users. The use of CD's was suggested but has been rejected as difficult to update.

Some new purchases have been made. In 2014 a small book on the history of Aberdeen Philatelic Society was purchased, and in the last few days at 2015 Congress, two larger books (both Scottish Postal History Society publications) have been purchased – Roy Erskine's fascinating and prize-winning "Wilson's of Bannockburn", and William P Cochrane's "Penny Posts and Postal Routes of Fife and Kinross 1800 – 1850", which clearly has great relevance to us locally. I hope that our decision to buy these meets with the Society's approval, and they will be much looked at in days to come.

**Proposal to AGM 2015 re increasing Commission charged in the Packet.**  
**"The rate of commission charged in the packet is increased from 10% to 12.5%, starting with those packets issued in season 2015-16."**

Proposer: David A Easson, Exchange Packet Secretary  
Secunder: Charles Lloyd, Secretary

**Rationale:** The cost of postage of booklets back to owners is increasing substantially. As it is not always possible to accurately tell what this might be and deduct the cost directly from the contributors as was the practice in times past, it is now paid for by the Society and therefore comes out of the commission that is charged. Accordingly after discussion at Council in 2014 and again in 2015, this proposal is brought to the AGM to deal with the situation. If approved by the AGM, the letter that goes out with the returns for those packets issued in the current season (92 to currently 97 and possibly 101 by August) will mention this increase.

**David Easson**