

Librarian's Report

As I said last year, 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 on the third Thursday morning, if we can get access, but at other times if necessary. We have continued working 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. Current work means that the main reference has at present just short of 1000 entries, and this will keep increasing until Phase 2 is finished.

The following two paragraphs are a repeat of what was said last year as this is still the current practice and intended outcome.

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, i.e. 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 CDs was suggested but has been rejected as difficult to update.

Some "new" books have been kindly donated by members who have updated their own copies, and we gained some from a stock built up by the late Dan Carmichael of Broughty Ferry and handed over by his widow. *Philatelic Witnesses of the Great War* (published by the Caledonian PS) was bought at Congress. The one really new addition is the *2015 Murray Payne George VI Catalogue (20th edn)*, which is a lovely book as well as being very useful. Although Murray Payne is now part of Gibbons, there are some significant differences in layout: e.g. grouping issue dates within a large set.

Two final comments which are connected: I am happy to report that I observe an increase in the use of the Library, which is great, and related to that, I have adopted the suggestion made to me that at each evening meeting I show members a couple of books from our stock. These could be one of our treasures (like the *Bibliotheca Lindesiana* Vol 7 brought out at a recent meeting), one of the “really useful” books (such as Rossiter & Flower’s *The Stamp Atlas*, an extract from which featured in a recent display) or a book most people will not know we have (eg K C Yu’s 1973 *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue of China* which has much more local usage than S Gibbons does, and which has just been returned by one of our far-flung members who was investigating Manchukuo overprints). Hopefully this will encourage even greater exploration of one of our greatest assets, which can stand proudly as one of the best philatelic libraries in Scotland.

David Easson

Librarian