

Librarian's Report

I start this year's report on a sad note, in that as you all know, Alan Roy died in December. He was one of the Library's "gang of four" and in fact himself a former Librarian of the Society. His knowledge was invaluable, especially in our current task of cross-referencing. Just occasionally he got so engrossed in looking at a particular book that he forgot to tell us what he was thinking and so had to be gently reminded we were waiting for him. His usual response was to give us his opinion and then tell us he would be taking that "fascinating book" home! We are missing him greatly.

We continue to meet on the third Thursday morning of every month. 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. We have only the catalogues to do in this Phase but currently we reckon we have at least around 860 volumes, and, with cross-referencing, our full list now numbers more than 1070. Most of the 210 extra are the result of 1 cross-reference but there are some where we have decided on 2 cross-references. Although we have been tempted we have drawn the line at 3 cross-references. Just occasionally if we have more than a single copy of a book we have kept both or in one case of a book from 1912 we have kept all three copies and filed them in the different sections.

However there are some books where we have decided that we don't need a second copy and by and large we have offered these free to members on a Thursday evening. Recently we discovered a pair of large, fairly modern, and reasonably expensive books, the spare of which came with the Bullough collection and we are thinking that we may make it available for offers of purchase with funds going to the Society as we do not think we need two copies. Watch this space!

This brings me to our current Vice-President's efforts to sell off the non-philatelic sea-faring books that came with the Bullough collection. So far we have been told he is not getting much response but we applaud David Millar's efforts and hope that success will come in time!

We have gained some new books this year, some as a gift and one or two bought. I have displayed these at evening meetings as they have arrived, along with others, continuing my "raising-awareness" efforts.

When we have finished Phase 2, there are other Phases to consider.

- One is "what goes where". At present in the first two cupboards are the Catalogues, which are category X in our listing, which is historic but appropriate in the enquiry sense "where does this stamp come from?" Should they be in two of the sideways cupboards completing the alphabetical order? Should we move the non-book cupboard ie the one with coffee etc in it to the last cupboard, rather than in the corner cupboard? What makes it less than easy is of course the fact that some cupboards have three shelves while most have two, so some are more suited to smaller books and some to larger. Any opinions will be welcome.

- Then there is the production of our listing for folk – this has been discussed and currently Norrie Kelso is transferring the listing to our webpage BUT as you will no doubt have discovered this is only available to you once you have logged in, so if want to search for something to see if we have a copy and can't find your log-in details, please contact Norrie. So far Norrie has about half the books entered. However, as we have said before, for those who are not on the internet, a paper copy of the complete listing (currently 66 pages!) will be available on request - eventually. There will also be a copy or two kept in Roseangle. The topic listing (4 pages) will be made available to anyone who wants a copy – again some copies will be in Roseangle for consultation when present at meetings! Our thanks go to Norrie for all his work on this time-consuming aspect of webpage maintenance.
- Of course, there is THE OTHER CUPBOARD, just before the kitchen but I will not discuss that now!

Finally my thanks to Peter Dix and Dave Cree for all their assistance in the now “gang of three”, and their ability to put up with me when I can't find a reference in my copious notes or when we are looking for a book that somebody has already taken out - and I hadn't checked! Despite these little hiccups we are making progress to what I hope will be the benefit of the Society.

David Easson

(Hon. Librarian)