

## Librarian's Report

The current Library group consists of Peter Dix, Norrie Kelso and myself. We continue to meet on the third Thursday morning of every month unless circumstances dictate otherwise. "Phase 1" determined the cataloguing system, unique to DDPS (but there have been subtle alterations in later Phases). "Phase 2", which was inserting Ex Libris stickers (where needed) and writing on these, both the section where the book will be housed (highlighted in red on the paper listing) as well as any cross-referencing deemed useful, is now finished, apart from the odd new book or a "lost" one suddenly appearing. We then moved onto "Phase 3" which was a general reorganising of the twelve cupboards, so that now the one which does not hold books but has the admin material and the coffee, etc, is now no. 12, the one furthest away from the window, rather than no. 9 in the corner of the L-shape. So now no. 1, nearest the window, has those catalogued under Section A1, and the Library proper finishes in no.11 with Section X, which holds the ordinary Stamp Catalogues (as opposed to Auction Catalogues, which are in Section W).

The relatively short "Phase 3" is now being followed by "Phase 4", which is going through each cupboard, checking that we have each book's details correct, inking the reference(s), dealing with any that have "appeared" and / or been missed before, stacking them in a way that they can easily be found, close to the order in which they appear in the listing by Section and sub-Section, and finally creating a new label for the inside of each cupboard. So far we have reached and completed cupboard 5, which now means every book in Sections A to H is reasonably in its proper place.

The total number of books we now believe to have is of the order of 770 but because of cross-referencing there are c 1025 lines in the current listing, which will probably continue to change until we finish this Phase. However there are some 98 books which have been previously listed but we cannot find. In a few cases we know that they were borrowed in the past but the person who took them out has now died or moved away, and we have to treat these books as "lost" to the Society. A different aspect is that we sometimes have two copies of the same book and since we have thought they were both worth keeping because of cross-referencing, we keep them in different sections. There is one old book (1912) of which we have three copies, and all three are now in different sections. Even when our work is finished and there is an updated record available on the Society's intranet, there will continue to be changes as new books are bought and added to our stock.

More members are now asking questions about what the Library has and whether it can answer this or that. This happens mostly at evening meetings and it is great that it is considered an increasing source of information and knowledge. Still only a few members are actually taking books out, but the important thing is that the Library is being used. We hope this continues to be the case and our work continues to be of use to our members.

Finally, my thanks to Peter Dix and Norrie Kelso for all their assistance in the "gang of three"!

*David Easson*

(Hon. Librarian)