

The Librarian 1992-93 Season

Staffing - During my first year in office, I have received tremendous help from members of the Library staff. I wish, therefore, to place on record my thanks to those who have given so generously of their time and knowledge for the benefit of the NPS. Without this assistance the Library simply could not function. My thanks, then, go to David Beech, Ian Crane, Ted Halliday, Dick Pratt, George Smith, Bill Stone, Richard West and Roy Wright. Special thanks and congratulations must go to our Deputy Librarian, Mr Whittaker, whose substantial contribution over a period of some fifteen years was marked by an Honorary Life Membership by Council. To our newest recruit, Mrs Elizabeth Graham, I say 'welcome aboard'.

Work Undertaken - A considerable number of tasks have been completed (largely behind the scenes) in the past twelve months. Much of this work has involved sorting, boxing and identifying unwanted duplicate material for disposal via a literature auction to be held Q294.

Highlights for the year include the following:

- o Thousands of donated journals have been checked against holdings and gaps filled.
- o Several dozen new monographs and handbooks have been acquired either by gift, purchase or by direct approach to author or publisher.
- o Almost 500 books donated by a public library have been sorted and those not already held are ready to be catalogued and added to NPS holdings.
- o Hundreds of new magazines and specialist journals have been put on the shelves.
- o The Library office was redesigned to give more usable space and improved security and both the Library and office were redecorated and recarpeted.
- o A committee was established that appraised the Library facilities and came-up with several new ideas to improve services to members. These will be made known in due course once details have been approved by Council.
- o Day-to-day operations that are needed to ensure the successful running of the Library were undertaken. This included photocopying, replying to numerous postal and personal enquiries, logging books in and out, cataloguing acquisitions, etc.
- o The book binding programme continued, with financial assistance being gratefully received from the British Philatelic Trust.

Donations - This past year has seen sizeable donations of literature from the British Library Philatelic Collections and Stamp Magazine. Many individuals, societies, publishers and authors have also made gifts to the Library and the Librarian is extremely grateful for their generosity.

It is appropriate here to mention that the NPS is always ready to accept unwanted philatelic literature, either to add to its holdings, to use in exchanges with other philatelic libraries or to sell in aid of Library funds if already held. Members are encouraged never to throw away anything because even one spare issue of a journal could complete a run and thus allow binding to be undertaken.

....and finally - The Library is there for your benefit. Please consider making more use of it.

Glenn H Morgan, Honorary Librarian

NATIONAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY
LIBRARIAN'S REPORT FOR 1993/1994 SEASON

The themes for this 1993/4 season report are very much ones of thanks and success.

This success is headed by the literature auction that realised almost £5,000 from 580 lots. The Library Committee will ensure that the money is spent in a wise manner that will best enhance facilities and holdings. Thanks go to the members who participated by bidding, and to the many society helpers who made it happen by undertaking the numerous jobs involved - the enormity of their contribution cannot be understated. A great deal of work has already been undertaken since the sale, including sorting hundreds of commercial and specialist magazines and dozens of books and catalogues, in readiness for a 1995 auction.

The binding sponsorship scheme has proved to be a most successful way for members to show their appreciation of the research facilities provided at the library. Status reports in Stamp Lover will keep members up to date on this important development and will list supporters. Thanks to those of you who have taken part so far. If you feel that you would like to participate, then please make contact. Thanks also goes the British Philatelic Trust for its generous on-going financial support of the binding programme.

On the people front, Bill Stone resigned from the Library Committee, so thanks are due to him for his valuable contribution over a long period. During the year, assistance has been received from Mrs Elizabeth Graham and Messrs Austin, Beech, Crane, Finlayson, Furnell, Halliday, Littlebury, Muldares (RJW- spell????), Pratt, Smith, Sylvester, West, Whittaker and Wright. Thank you all for making the Honorary Librarian's job that much easier by undertaking so many of the tasks that are required for the smooth running of a national specialist library.

The 1994/5 season is scheduled to see continuing enhancements, including improved signage, the launch of a series of information sheets on holdings and services, rearrangement of shelving to help users find books more easily, not forgetting the second literature sale. Help is always welcomed, so if you can spare some time, please do not hesitate to come forward.

Finally, if you have not visited the library at '107' for some time, do pop in and see the improvements made. However, as I write, we are still in the grips of railway industrial action, which, coupled with holidays, makes it important to remember to telephone before travelling long distances to ensure that the library will be open.

Glenn H Morgan, Honorary Librarian.

NATIONAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY
LIBRARY REPORT 1994/5 SEASON

I am pleased to report that the library has experienced another successful year in several areas. The main highlights have been: (1) our second literature auction, which raised circa £2,500; (2) the typing of hundreds of new index cards covering several aspects of our holdings; (3) improvements to signage; (4) that all books and monographs are now sorted into a straight A-Z order, with the name of the country clearly displayed on protruding cards and (5) the creation of a series of information sheets covering many aspects of our collections

Other important work undertaken has included (a) the gradual repacking of auction catalogues to protect them; (b) the creation of a philatelic bureaux collection of bulletins from many overseas postal administrations; and (c) the removal to the stack room of all but the past two years-worth of foreign language periodicals, as they are scarcely ever consulted.

On the staffing front, I have received tremendous help and support, as ever, from all members of the library committee, and others, so thanks to Elizabeth, Brian A, Brian S, David, Dick, George, Ian, Michael, Richard, Roy (to whom we send our best wishes for a return to better health), Ted, Tony, and not forgetting our stalwart Deputy Librarian, Mr Whittaker. I would add that most of what has been achieved in this past year would not have happened had it not been for these people.

Much work still needs to be undertaken in several aspects of library holdings and areas for focusing on in the 1995/6 season includes (i) amalgamation of all periodicals into a straight A-Z run by title; (ii) a major expansion of our binding programme to clear some of the substantial backlog, probably by taking on an additional binding company to supplement the excellent work undertaken by Tony Finlayson. (Finding someone with the same quality of workmanship as Tony will not be easy); (iii) acquisition of (primarily) recently published books and monographs lacking from our holdings; (iv) preparation of the 1996 literature sale, probably to be held much later in the year; (v) creation of a philatelic exhibitions section, contents for which are currently in over thirty boxes in the basement. These contain many fascinating and unique articles covering the whole spectrum of philately, and finally (vi) expansion of the shelving along the back wall and left hand side to provide more space.

If you feel able to help in any way towards furthering the aims of the library, or, indeed, any other aspect of NPS work, such as the role of Treasurer or Secretary, then do not hesitate to contact the office.

Glenn H Morgan
Honorary Librarian

LIBRARY REPORT - 1995/6 SEASON

Glenn H Morgan, Honorary Librarian

The 1995/6 season has been one of intense activity. None of this could have been achieved without the tremendous assistance of the library staff and my personal thanks goes out to each of them. Tragically, Roy Wright died and his help and friendship is missed. My thanks also to the supporters amongst the membership, be they helpers, donors or users of the library.

Proposed activity detailed in the 1994/5 report was all achieved, plus much more, including:

- moving the 3 glazed book cabinets into the outer office to increase open shelving space;
- shelving the back and left hand walls;
- setting shelving to a uniform A4 height to improve appearance and ease re-arrangement;
- re-ordering all periodicals into one A-Z run, instead of several separate runs;
- commissioning a 2nd bindery to increase the rate of binding to 350 volumes this year;
- lotting preparation for the third literature auction, due to be held on Saturday, 19 October;
- despatch of 350 literature request letters to secure new books/monographs at the cost of the initial letter and follow-up thank you postage only. 245 new items have resulted so far;
- transferring over 2,000 index card records to a new computerised database of holdings;
- repacking auction catalogue holdings to offer greater protection of contents;
- sorting over sixty boxes of philatelic bureau new-issue information bulletins;
- sorting and cataloguing our stamp exhibition holdings.

NPS COUNCIL MEETING 7 APRIL 1997
LIBRARIANS REPORT

DONATION LETTER PROGRAMME:

An update on successes:

- 540 letters requesting books, etc despatched
- 391 new items acquired for library at end of March with new items still arriving daily
- 367 letters of thanks despatched
- 907 letters despatched in total since scheme started
- £4,594 is the retail value of items acquired
- £353 is the cost to the NPS (postage only charged - stationery donated by GHM)

Breakdown of Acquisitions:

- 004 Binding cases
- 010 Indexes to periodicals
- 002 Videos
- 015 Exhibition catalogues/bulletins/palmares
- 008 CDs
- 005 3.5" diskettes
- 008 Ongoing subscriptions to specialised or commercial journals
- 007 Ongoing subscriptions to books/monographs as published
- 074 Stamp catalogues
- 258 Books/monographs

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NATIONAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY
LIBRARY REPORT FOR 1996/7 SEASON

The library continues to grow in physical size and philatelic importance. Highlights were:

- o Hundreds of periodicals and books/monographs added to holdings, most the result of donation request letters despatched throughout the year;
- o The Librarian represented the society at PACIFIC 97 and at the IPLA (International Philatelic Libraries Association) meeting. New contacts and many donations resulted;

- o A 4 page listing of missing periodicals circulated to 1,000 members and societies worldwide, resulting in 128 gaps being filled, with dozens more already promised;
- o Computer-generated labelling of country/theme divider cards continued;
- o Thousands of duplicate journals sorted into title order and filed for exchanges;
- o Hundreds more index cards created and added to cabinets for self-service by users;
- o Manual records of holdings continued to be added to new library computer system, for eventual self-service use by users.

As with all NPS roles, every library activity has been done by a loyal team of volunteers. I especially wish to thank Mrs Elizabeth Graham, Mr H Whittaker, Colonel Ted Halliday, Mr George Smith and Mr Michael Furnell for their regular attendance and help over the past year. Thanks also to Bill Stotton for his work with Elizabeth and Ted on computerising library records, and to our binding companies comprising Tony Finlayson and Blissetts. My thanks to the British Philatelic Trust for its continuing support of our binding programme and to John Littlebury for all that he does for the NPS in his capacity as BPT Secretary. Finally, to the many donors, sponsors, suppliers and users of the library I give my thanks, for without you all, the facility would stagnate.

I will conclude this report with two disappointments. Firstly, it will not be possible to hold a literature auction this year due to other commitments on previously available helpers. Is there a member willing to do this task and put something back into your membership, please? If not busy elsewhere, it is not onerous and can be done at your own pace with no strict deadlines.

Secondly, I am disappointed that the library continues to be under-utilised considering the gems that it holds and the catchment area that its central London location offers. There has been a limit on the hours that we can open the library in the past three seasons due to lack of volunteer staff. The number of visitors and book borrowings has, not surprisingly, suffered as a result:

Philatelic Season:	1990/1	1991/2	1992/3	1993/4	1994/5	1995/6	1996/7
Number of Users:	662	804	782	690	532	535	533
No. of Items Loaned:	567	478	458	512	467	402	408

Can you help me reverse this trend by helping to staff YOUR library, please? And do try to pop-in when time permits to see what we are all doing to make the facilities even better.

Glenn H Morgan, Honorary Librarian and Vice President