

LIBRARY REPORT 1997/8 SEASON

The highlight of the season was when the library team reached the finals of the prestigious Royal Mail Rowland Hill Awards in a British Philatelic Trust category. This was excellent recognition for the extensive voluntary work put in by Elizabeth Graham, Michael Furnell, Ted Halliday, George Smith, Ted Wilson and Mr Whittaker.

Unfortunately, we lost the services of Mr Whittaker this year after nearly 2 decades of outstanding commitment to the society. His methodical way of working, intense knowledge of philatelic literature and his personal guidance to me is sadly missed. His many friends in the society wish him well.

We suffered our first, and hopefully last, flood. It was fortunate that we escaped with minimal loss, thanks largely to the immediate help given by Susan and John from the Trust and NPS members who were on-site. To see Elizabeth and Ted with three umbrellas deflecting cascading water away from books must have added humour to an otherwise serious event.

Library holdings continue to be improved, especially periodicals. This follows intense activity designed to fill gaps and add new titles to the shelves. Sincere thanks to our many supporters, whether they have given one missing copy of a magazine or hundreds, as is the case with Amos Press, Richard West and Norman Williams. Each donor has been written to and acknowledged in *Stamp Lover*. Special thanks go to the British Philatelic Trust for its continuing annual support of the library through the binding grant and in so many other ways.

As we approach our centenary year, the library has much work to do, but I believe that we have probably never been in a better position to advance than we are now. The team looks forward to helping members in the year ahead and hopes that more collectors will take advantage of our facilities.

Ending on a personal note, I cannot continue as a Vice President, but have enjoyed serving you in that capacity for the past three years. I wish my successor well.

Glenn H. Morgan, Honorary Librarian