

NPSL REPORT 0406

There is a lot of activity relating to the library at present, but two matters have come up that you're your attention BEFORE the next Council meeting. The first informs you of a major bequest and the second matter relates to a proposal to dispose of one element of our holdings.

THE WILLIAM PARMENTER LIBRARY BEQUEST

Council is aware that Bill Parmenter sadly passed away last November. He had been a good supporter of the NPS and he had always told me that NPSL would benefit from his will upon his death. I expected a couple of boxes of books and always expressed my thanks whenever the subject was raised by him. I received confirmation from his executor yesterday that NPSL has been left almost 2000 books. Yes, TWO THOUSAND.

This is, of course, a major bequest and I am in possession of a large index of his holdings, much of which relates to Latin and South America, areas that we are not particularly strong in. I have accepted the bequest on behalf of the society (how could we say no!) and have been in discussion with Bill's executor regarding the logistics of acquiring the material. I will bullet points below:

- Material available in approximately one month's time.
- Items located at Brentwood, approx 15 miles from 107.
- It will be boxed by the executor (Bill's brother). I have offered to help, should he require my assistance.
- There are NO restrictions on what we do with the material. If we choose to put it all in a skip, that is fine with the Executor. Needless to say this will not occur.
- There are some non-philatelic books that I have also accepted (mainly historical reference works that back-up the philatelic works). I made it clear to Executor that these would be sold and profits ploughed into book purchasing in Bill's memory. He is fine with that.
- All retained volumes will bear a simple, dignified bookplate in Bill's memory.
- The Estate is prepared to pay £200-£300 towards transportation to 107.
- My friend has offered to help with transportation and lugging, but we will need help at 107 to take material off back of van and into basement, 1st/2nd floors on the day.
- Much of the material has been bound, including auction cats and periodicals, so these will enter our holdings in preference to our loose copies. I understand that the binding has been done professionally by an antiquarian book dealer from Brentwood.
- Have we got the space at 107? Mmmmmmm!!!! Ted and I spent a goodly amount of time yesterday most critically examining space utilisation and have already instituted a project to clear every single duplicate item from the premises. This will free-up a major amount of space, as will the condensing of materials, moving Lambert Archive to basement (see below) and disposing of newspapers (again, see below).
- There will be an opportunity to sell duplicate and unwanted material through our auctions. Mike, this will impact on you and your team, potentially, so will need to liaise with you in due course to work out the best way of handling this, please. Too early to do this at present, though, as we are unclear on what will need selling.

This is a great opportunity for NPSL to enhance its holdings and for the society to enhance its reputation and we WILL manage to accommodate everything somehow. It will be difficult, but I'm up for the challenge and I know that I have Council's full support.

Obviously, with the enormity of the bequest slowly sinking in, it is likely that I have missed a couple of points logistically (access to basement at a weekend, for example), so welcome any further guidance or comment from fellow Councillors.

NEWSPAPER HOLDINGS PROPOSAL

Background:

NPSL possesses several newsprint publications. They are taking-up a lot of space in the basement and need culling to make room for more important holdings (Incidentally, The Parmenter bequest came in after my decision to cull this material.)

Proposal:

- Remove all holdings of the following titles: Mekeel's and Stamp Collector.
- Remove all except the most recent six months holdings of: Linn's Stamp News. (New copy arrives, oldest gets put out for members to take)
- Retain all holdings of the British publication Stamp Weekly (bound, in good condition and requested by the membership) and Canadian Stamp News (which is less ephemeral and is accessed every so often).

Benefits:

Disposal of the above materials would result in a great saving of one of our scarcest resources – space. These titles take-up THIRTY FOUR Banker's boxes, the equivalent of SEVENTEEN Dexion shelves in the Stack. This space is better used for accommodating the Lambert Archive (rarely accessed. Ted possesses Brian Trotter's verbal approval to remove this archive from level one to basement) – freeing lots of space on the first floor for the NZPS's and Parmenter libraries.

Rationale:

- Only one member is known to look at this title – the current issue each time, never old copies.
- The stock is degrading fast due to the acid content of the newsprint.
- The Royal has just undertaken a similar exercise for the same reasons. Even APRL is considering microfilming this stock due to space and deteriorating condition.
- The "news" content of these newspapers is largely ephemeral and mainly advertising.
- Our holdings are broken runs with several whole and part years, plus "odd" issues missing.

I request that Council approves the urgent disposal of the material recorded above by sending me a one-line email ASAP. I suggest that it is offered to members first (although no-one from RPSLs worldwide membership wanted their copies recently) and then recycle leftovers if this is feasible, or dispose with the office rubbish if not.

Library Update for next Council meeting follows.....

RPSL DISPOSALS PROJECT

NPSL has benefited greatly from the decision by The Royal to dispose of its duplicate exhibition and periodicals holdings. A total of 20 "Stamp Lover" boxes-worth have now been assimilated into our holdings. A letter of thanks to Chris Harman (President RPSL) will be sent.

NZPS of GB PROPOSAL

Matters are progressing behind the scenes with NZPS, who are preparing a position paper for our joint agreement. NPS council will be shown this in due course. No urgency.