

Librarian's Report 2006/7 Season

This past season has seen the move of the library from 107 Charterhouse Street to the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) premises at Mount Pleasant. The preparation work involved was enormous, but, thanks to the volunteers, the task was completed on time and with minimal expenditure to the society. Thanks go to the British Philatelic Trust (BPT) who paid our removal costs, Simon Richards who made off-site storage facilities available to the society and BPMA who so readily welcomed us into their premises.

May I encourage members to re-read the Library information sheets contained within the April issue of Stamp Lover and to consider utilising more often the excellent facilities now available within Freeling House, as NPSL deserves better patronage than it receives. We held a Library Open Day at the end of last month to encourage visitors and only time will tell whether this will result in greater use being made of the library going forward.

The move of premises was not all that NPSL was involved in for the period 2006/7. During the season we successfully negotiated the permanent loan of the library of The New Zealand Philatelic Society of Great Britain, resulting in NPS members having access to a really impressive collection of additional reading material relating to that country. We also assimilated a lot of new philatelic literature relating to Central and South America as a result of the sad death of long-term NPS member William (Bill) Parmenter. The library also now possesses a better collection of books on the stamps and postal history of China following the equally sad and untimely death of NPS President, Richard W Pratt FRPSL. It is always with mixed emotions when such additions to holdings are received, but depositing within NPSL does help their names to live on and for their libraries to benefit new generations of collectors.

This has been my final season as Librarian after 15 years, so may I take this opportunity of passing on my huge thanks to everyone that I ever came across during my time in the position. I will not do a role call for it would be too lengthy, but they include, first and foremost, the terrific team of NPS library volunteer staff, plus BPT staff and Trustees, donors, fellow librarians and archivists from other societies and organisations and, of course, the general membership and Council of the NPS. If I might be permitted to single-out Ted Halliday for special mention, for he has been such a supporter of the library and I would have struggled to have managed had it not been for his extensive knowledge, guidance and friendship down the years. Finally, I wish my successor, Mike Bramwell, an enjoyable time and know that I am leaving the library in a safe pair of hands.

Glenn H Morgan FRPSL
Honorary Librarian