

RPg

Retired Professionals Group

CILIP SPECIAL
INTEREST
GROUP

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Journeying with RPG

Post - Lib

Post-Lib Issue 97

JUNE 2022

RPg Retired Professionals Group

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Now more than ever we want to make
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email alerts from RPG at

<https://lnkd.in/d4DQCqe?>

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Chair's Note

Ian Orton

Normality must slowly be returning as your RPG managed to hold a face-to-face committee meeting, followed by our AGM on 7th June this year. This was our first face to face time since 2020 and was held in Ridgmount Street almost certainly our last face to face meeting in what for many of us has been Library HQ for a long time!

The AGM did not attract as many members as Zoom had done, but a lot of people expressed interest and wanted the future meeting streamed. So, a combination of Zoom and face to face may be the future. The AGM was particularly good because Nick Poole, the Chief Executive of CILIP came to speak about the Direction of Travel for CILIP which was very interesting. He spoke about the progress with the sale of Ridgmount Street and how the sale proceeds will help resolve the pension deficit, allow purchase of a smaller building to retain a London presence but also develop a stronger CILIP presence in the regions. Nick used the developments in Leeds as an example.

The Annual Lunch was held on Tuesday 26th April 2022 at the Civil Service Club and there were 30 members and guests.

The Underground industrial action put off some people so a slow return to reasonable numbers for the lunch. We held a raffle again and the surplus income from the lunch and raffle was enough to pay for the art work for two copies of Post Lib. The 2023 lunch is on Tuesday 25th April again at the Civil Service Club and details will be circulated in Post Lib nearer the time.

Post Lib has become the Jewel in the crown of RPG and edition 100 is due next spring and the Committee have agreed that a hard copy will be sent to all members and although we will look back over the years, we really are planning to look forward. So, if any member would like to write something for the 100th edition, please let me know.

I mentioned in my last Chair's Welcome Note that your committee are very keen to reintroduce our Weekend Trips. We have arranged a Weekend event at Rydal Hall, Ambleside from Friday 14th to Monday 17th October. There will be visits, guest speakers, great food, and lots of hospitality. If you would like more details, please let me know.

Charmaine, our Visits Organiser co-ordinated visits which can be seen on the Post Lib, link via the Cilip website, and

via our regular newsletters. If anyone can suggest places, institutions and events, RPG will work with your member network to try and arrange a visit.

Finance continues to be an issue, but continuing support from CILIP, advertising in Post Lib, donations from events arranged, has allowed us to produce one edition of Post Lib in hard copy which was sent by post to the 150 or so members of RPG who do not have internet facilities. We hope to be able to produce one hard copy of Post Lib per year. As part of the fund raising, we carried out a survey to see who was interested in joining a 100 Club; there was enough support to start it, and this will begin during the summer.

This is your committee and if you would like to become more involved, we need a Marketing and Communications colleague. If you are interested and have a few hours a month to spare, I would love to hear from you; please also let me know if RPG can do anything better!

I can be reached via chair.rpg@cilip.org.uk or ianorton5@gmail.com

Ian Orton ,
Chair RPG



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Editor's Note

Christiana Ikeogu

Awesome! Awesome! Awesome!

This is my inspiration from nature, as I sit in my lounge, looking through wide open garden doors and windows and writing this welcome note.

May I welcome you to our 97th edition of RPG's Post-Lib. I hope that you have been touched in a positive way by the beautiful display of nature's announcement of the period of our lives. I know there are many of us who are not able to get out and about as we used to but be encouraged that this month in 2022 has turned out better than last year. As the saying goes, change is inevitable and constant. My philosophy is to go with the flow, taking each day as it comes, at least most of the time.

Now back to this issue of our magazine. I am certain that you will find the articles from fellow members of the SIG and other professional colleagues very interesting and informative. I like to deep into the words of professionals such as Denise Taylor, a Life Coach and psychologist. In carrying out our own life audit, she has given us snippets of

information, and then trusting us to fill in the gaps and make it personal and relevant. Following on is David Byrne's reminder of RPG's contribution to the IP magazine of April/May this year. Life satisfaction certainly comes with continuous discovery of who we are and deriving fun from whatever we do as we get older. This issue is not only filled with ideas and views, but there are also tried, and tested examples fellow members have used, and they worked for them.

Please note Jane Daniel's call on us to showcase and celebrate cataloguing and classification experiences. I completely agree with the notion that library and information remains important and relevant, regardless of technological changes. You will notice how much RPG is improving through making connections and following today's trends when you read David Byrne's review of a unique award-winning train travel information service - 'The man in seat 61'.

For those of you who missed out on our tours last quarter, Charmaine Bourton, the organizer has given you

a taste of hidden treasures in special libraries, museums, and archives. However, nothing beats seeing those resources for yourself. So, I urge you to check out the forthcoming events below and join in. Moreover, don't forget to read the review Pat Bodin kindly did of the virtual visit to the British Library. It is one unique resource centre like no other, and a must-see for anyone who has worked with printed books and digital technology.

I very much welcome personal reflections and hope you will enjoy the second part of Jo Wormald's story on how he became a librarian, accidentally. His article prompts one to think of why and how the journey into the profession started. How and why did you get into it?

Finally, I wish to thank every member of RPG and other special interest groups for connecting with RPG. Please do not forget to check out, and support the advertisers in this issue because they contribute to RPG's well-being.

Christiana Ikeogu

NEXT ISSUE

Please send articles in MS Word for the next issue before 29th September 2022 to the editor at the following address: Christiana Ikeogu, 130 Elphinstone Road, London E17 5EX
E: christieikeogu@gmail.com You can also speak to her over the phone on 07957726215



100

CLUB

**Please complete the brief
CILIP RPG 100 Club Survey:**

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MDYGZC3



Leaving the 9 to 5 Behind: Top Tips For Information, Library and Knowledge Professionals.

By Ian Orton & David Byrne

CILIP RPG is exploring top tips for those interested in moving away from the 9 to 5.

We are planning to run a blended event later this year exploring the opportunities linked to the changing nature of work, longevity, and retirement. We are also planning to publish a document capturing the output from our discussions so that we can share learning across CILIP and beyond.

Some of the subject areas identified so far that may be of interest are:

- Life audit
- Transferable skills
- Planning and preparing for Retirement(s)
- Flexible working
- Portfolio careers
- Blending in person and online activity
- Pre- and Post-Retirement Tips for information professionals
- Planning for retirement, and how to leave things in good shape for those continuing your work
- The pros and cons of taking early retirement, including financial considerations
- How to stay connected to the profession after leaving the job / sector
- Second careers, community volunteering, travel, staying healthy, budgeting, and other post-retirement activities and concerns
- Navigating a smooth passage into retirement(s)

If you are interested in joining a small group to explore these ideas, please get in touch by emailing us at: chair.rpg@cilip.org.uk

How To Do Your Own Life Audit

By Denise Taylor: over 50s life coach and psychologist

Visit
the50pluscoach.co.uk
This article was
first published in the
Daily Mail - Femail
12 May 2022

1. Think of your early 60s as a time

of transition. There are a number of such times - leaving school and getting a job; getting married - but the difference now is you've got decades of experience behind you. That's what you'll use to make this next stage - your Third Act - the best it can be.

2. Go back in time. Think about what you wanted to do with your life when you were 10, 15 or 21. What made your stomach flip with excitement? Was it lying in a field watching butterflies, reading novels, or running

the history club at school? What happened to that first obsession? Think about how you can re-connect with those passions now.

3. Identify patterns. Are you the dutiful, expected to shoulder the caring burden while other siblings have far fewer responsibilities? Or perhaps there's a pattern in your romantic life. When you work out the patterns, you can decide what to carry on and what to ditch.

4. Don't do too much at once! A life review is a big job. Break it down into

headings and work on one section at a time. I was 60 when I realised, I didn't want to wake up to my then-husband for the next 20 years, but I couldn't have coped with that bit of the 'audit' if I was also trying to change family relationships or overhaul my work.

5. A life review inevitably produces regrets. Remember: you did what was right at the time. Clear your mind of guilt and think about the time you were at your very happiest. Recreating that is your goal now.



Making Retirement a Time Of Adventure and Discoveries

Research from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) shows that most people are happiest between the ages of 65 and 74. See the Happiness U-Shape graph opposite which is based on data from the ONS Measuring National Well-being programme.

(See also: <https://tinyurl.com/ONShappy>)

Our happiness, contentment, and relaxation increase with age whilst at the same time anxiety seems to reduce. Only 51% of those in the 25 – 34 age group said they "often feel happy" compared to 76% of the 65-74 age group. **See the latest CILIP RPG column in Information Professional April/May 2022 pages 48-49**



Books that might inspire you

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What To Do After Retirement: A personal approach

By Sheila Walker

WHEN I retired, I joined the U3A – University of the Third Age, whose current strapline is Learn, Laugh, Live. It offers a wide choice of groups you can join, e.g. History, Current Affairs, Music Appreciation, to keep your brain active, and is a good way to meet people. The idea is to share knowledge and skills rather than a teacher/class situation. Meetings are during the day.

There are national subject advisors and a collection of resources to support subject groups. Some branches are invited to get involved with local projects, such as at the museum or with exhibitions. I joined the French group to try to keep up my language skills, we

meet weekly in a member's house, or recently, over Zoom.

The architecture group offers talks and visits and became involved with the national High Streets Project which assesses the impact of Covid-19 on our high streets. We surveyed the shops in the town centre to see how many were empty or closing down, filled in forms and took photos which we submitted to the national project. These and all those from 225 U3As around the country will be analysed to form a publicly accessible database. This provides rich data not collected by big data companies, but of important social, economic and community interest.



See: www.u3a.org.uk

[Tiny.cc/mcr6tz](https://tiny.cc/mcr6tz):

**Third Age Matters issue 45
February 2021 p47 - a huge
response to High Street Project by
Michaela Moody**



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Trending



The Man in Seat 61... A review of the train travel guide website seat61.com

By David Byrne

The seat61.com website has been a real revelation to me. It is a personal website, started by Mark Smith as a hobby. It's grown and grown and became a full-time occupation in September 2007. seat61.com was the winner of the CILIP Knowledge & Information Management (K&IM) Information Resources Award 2021. * (See below for more information on the invitation to submit nominations for the K&IM Awards 2022).

I could not fly earlier this year for medical reasons. So, I decided to check out the alternatives available by train and ship. A few examples of options hidden away on timetables but made accessible by seat61.com:

- When travelling between Luxembourg and London by rail I discovered special Eurostar tickets from London to any Belgian rail station - Arlon is a short journey from Luxembourg, reducing the cost of the trip. All you need to add on the Eurostar search form is "Brussels-Midi + any Belgian station" as destination from the pull-down options.
- I am planning to travel to Dublin for IFLA in July. The obvious travel option is a "cheap" flight, but you may need to travel at an unsociable hour, you need to allow two hours for check in and you have the cost and time for travelling to airports. I love the freedom of rail travel and seat61.com covers the practicalities. It provides details of

the discounted rail and ferry tickets for the Dublin trip: you can buy a SailRail ticket from any station in Britain to any station in Ireland. No break of journey is allowed on SailRail tickets, and no further discount with railcards. Book SailRail discount tickets via Transport for Wales (www.tfwrail.wales) which manages SailRail fares on behalf of all British train operators.

A real bonus with train travel is that you can stop off at interesting places on the way. On my Luxembourg trip I got off the train at Brussels-Central to visit Brussels Cathedral of St. Gudula. The artworks were impressive particularly various crushed sculptures from 16th Century found under the choir in 1991

- "damaged by iconoclasm" according to the guidebook - and The Last Supper (central panel from a triptych) attributed to Michael Van Coxie (1499-1592).

Back on the train to Brussels-Mid in time for a relaxing beer at the Pullman Hotel Bar as recommended by that man at seat61.com: oh, the joy of travelling by train!

In the words of Mark Smith, the creator of seat61.com "Travelling by train from London to mainland Europe is a much more practical option than most people imagine. But finding out about it has become frustratingly difficult. Train travel is a more

rewarding alternative to flying which reduces our contribution to climate change and brings us closer to the countries we visit. This site explains how to travel comfortably and affordably by train or ferry, rediscovering the pleasure, romance, and adventure of the journey." **www.seat61.com**

Henry Mance, the Financial Times chief features writer, recently travelled from London to Budapest by train for a reporting trip. He reported on a simple Eurostar trip from London to Brussels, followed by a Nightjet sleeper from Brussels to Vienna, and a short train trip from there to Budapest. His trip confirmed for him three things about train travel in Europe:

- you can plan all your European journeys on Mark Smith's brilliant seat61.com (and book many tickets through the Rail Europe or Trainline apps). It removes the hassle and removes need for specialist timetable knowledge.
- Train travel just feels nice and usually so

easy: you arrive at the station, often in the city centre, walk a few metres to the platform, and ... just board.

- Train travel changes your conception of the continent. It is antidote to an island mentality. If we saw departures to Frankfurt and Zurich on the board at a commuter station such as Kings Cross, it might just change our sense

of identity. Best of all, the departure wouldn't have a single GARE CLOSING warning anywhere near it.

I include below a selection of quotes that were responding to my post on the

CILIP Library, Information and Knowledge

Professionals group on

LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1730267>

"Excellent and reliable site. Been using it for years until the pandemic put paid to travel. Hoping to use it again this Summer." Executive Consultant, Atos

"I love it. Planned to go to Switzerland and Sweden by train over the years using it." Experienced Chartered Librarian / Information Professional "I've used the man in seat 61 for journeys both real and imagined. His site is incredibly useful for taking the mystery out of plane-free travel, but it's also inspirational. Where do you want to go?" Library Assistant, Magdalen College, Oxford.

"I've found it so useful for train travel - from the reunification line the Vietnamese coast to the Bar-Belgrade line through the Balkan Mountains..." Cultural Sector Professional all-rounder; writer, editor, programme manager

David Byrne

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The Last Supper (central panel from a triptych) attributed to Michael Van Coxie (1499-1592) - on display in Brussels Cathedral of St Gudula.

*CILIP K&IM Information Resources Awards 2022

Have you spotted a notable and really useful information resource recently? Why not nominate it for the Knowledge and Information Management Group Information Resources Awards 2022.

"We are looking for outstanding information resources, whether in print or electronic format, that are available and relevant to the knowledge, information management, library, and information sector. Electronic nominations can be in the form of a website, e-book, blog, training programme, etc."

2021 Winners were Knowledge Management: a practical guide for Librarians by Jennifer Bartlett (Print Award) and www.themaninseat61.com (Electronic Award)

Closing date for nominations is 31st July 2022 Please submit your nominations to jdburntoak@virginmedia.com

Making Connections

Visit to National Badminton Centre Museum & Library

By Charmaine Bourton

Five of us went on a visit to the National Badminton Centre and Museum on the Tuesday after Easter Monday. As the Visits Organiser, imagine my panic when I arrived and asked for the person, I had been in contact with about the visit to be told "Oh he isn't here!" However, the lady who gave me this news went on to say that she and her husband were going to take us round! Heart rate back to normal!

Brenda and Bill started off by telling us that the Badminton Association was founded in 1893 in a house named "Dunbar" in Southsea, Portsmouth. The house is still there today, and a blue plaque was added to it on the centenary. The museum we were there to see was opened in September 2003 and became a charity in 2007. They receive no guaranteed funding. Some of the cabinets were donated and a grant was given by the Milton Keynes Community Foundation. When the museum became a charity, every exhibit had to be archived on a computer – a mammoth task! In 1994 Margaret Cook had been invited to become the archivist so her good work carries on! For those of us whose library school education did not cover

cataloguing sports items every shuttle has to be listed separately, even if in a tube with several shuttles!

To catalogue a racket, you must include:

The name and its provenance; measurements; what the handle and strings are made of; the condition; whether it is a donation or purchased; where it is stored; and it must be given a number.

Brenda explained that badminton started as an indoor game for inclement weather in Badminton House. The north hall is the same size as the badminton court we know today: 13.4m x 6.1m. If a single player played, they would count the number of times they could hit a shuttle into the air before it fell on the floor. If two players played, they would hit the shuttle back and forth and the aim was to have as long a rally as possible.

Picture of Rackets through the ages

First, we were shown the very early battledore rackets which had leather shafts and almost circular heads. Instead of strings, the heads were covered in vellum. Next, we saw some very early



shuttles from the 1800s made of goose feathers. They always used the feathers on the left-hand side of the goose because that meant the shuttle curved in flight. They were twice the size and weight of today's shuttles. We saw a photograph from the 1930s of shuttles being made by hand. Of course, they are now made mechanically. Interestingly, many shuttles are made in the Far East. We also saw an example of much later pink shuttles. 'In forty years, I have not seen a pink shuttle, and neither have the girls that I play badminton with – and yes, they are all older than me!', said Brenda.

After this, we saw an example of the first racket to be made of steel in 1924, which was found to be too rough for the shuttles and very quickly shredded the feathers! Then we moved on to see some rackets from the 1930s. 'Some of these



"In forty years, I have not seen a pink shuttle, and neither have the girls that I play badminton with – and yes, they are all older than me!" - Brenda

For donations

**Please contact:
museum@badminton
england.co.uk**



rackets were in presses – remember as a youth, one had to keep the tennis racket in a press to stop it warping – well the same applied for badminton rackets. You all know I'm retired – well I still have a badminton racket from the late 70s in a press!', Brenda continued. Nowadays, the modern rackets do not need to be kept in a press as they are metal framed.

There are many photographs of players past and present and it was very interesting that Brenda and Bill, who both played in County matches, knew many of them. One photograph was of a Peter Birtwhistle who, when a prisoner of war, was sent shuttles and rackets by the Red Cross and other charities so that he could carry on playing and encourage others! In 1977 he received the Queen's Silver Jubilee medal and in 1985 was awarded the International Badminton Federation Herbert Scheele Medal for services to the game. He was elected President of the Badminton Association of England in 1991.

Picture of people playing in different costumes

Next to some of the photographs were medals that the players had won that had been given or loaned to the museum. Some costumes were from early times to those worn at Olympics; I have to say I would not have found it easy to play



in the early years with very long skirts exhibited! We also saw the top players for the country practising. They come in every day to play, and although some do have other jobs, badminton is their main "job" and they are funded by grants and sponsorship etc, and prize money!

Last, but certainly not least was the library which is kept in the office and consists of a couple of very comprehensive shelves of badminton books. Duplicates and older copies are stored elsewhere. There was not a hard and fast policy to buy several copies of one book as with the Hockey Museum and Library which started a policy of buying four copies of each book but of course over the years there will be some duplicates. There is also a complete holding of the Badminton Magazine from 1910 – 2018, when publication ceased.

Picture of the Library with rackets was on display

We would like to thank Brenda and Bill for a fascinating tour of the museum. The museum will be having a refurbishment shortly with new display cabinets which they are hoping will qualify them for accreditation. We are looking forward to a return visit when this is finished! The museum is always interested in donations of archive material. If you have anything you would like to offer them.

Charmaine Bourton

Report on The British Library Virtual Tour

By Pat Bodin

This virtual tour was another fascinating and informative 'visit' in the series of RPG events. These online events have been great at keeping us all in touch and helping us to keep our lifelong learning going during the pandemic and they continue their good work, especially for those of us who live at a distance from these libraries and special collections.

Seema Rampersad, the Senior Research and Service Manager, welcomed us to the British Library which is the National Library of the United Kingdom and the Legal Deposit Library for the United Kingdom and Ireland. It is also one of the largest libraries in the world! The library is for everyone who wishes to research.

With the aid of an excellent slide presentation, Seema gave us a very knowledgeable and informative tour of the library - its history, architects and founders, collections, activities, and exciting future developments.

Seema started by telling us the history of the current main building at St. Pancras, the famous Round Room, and the Knowledge Quarter. The architectural design of the Entrance Hall and Knowledge Centre in the form of a ship is amazing!

Seema described the Special Collections of which there are many. I shall just name a few here in which I was particularly interested. The Treasure's Gallery sounded really intriguing and is free to visit without a pass. The King's



Library is in a tall glass tower at the centre of the building and houses the collections of King George III. There are also the Philatelic Collection and various Digital Collections. The library houses specific centres too such as the Newsroom and the Business and IP (Intellectual Property) Centre.

The reader registration and visitor procedures were explained to us, and Seema described how the physical reading rooms are arranged by subject. The library is very much a working library with the Document Supply Centre based in Boston Spa. The library promotes its space too - special exhibitions, events and talks are held. There is also a bookshop.

The British Library doesn't stand still! It is involved with a two-year pilot project called the Living Knowledge Network (a powerful partnership with 21 major libraries in cities and towns of the UK to share knowledge and resources and combine creativity and expertise). It is also involved in other nationwide and international projects. There are exciting and innovative plans for a new building to the north of the existing Grade 1 listed building. Thus, the library is continuing to grow and develop in the digital age. I haven't visited the British Library for some time and this virtual tour certainly made me determined to visit in person again very soon!

Pat Bodin



Report on Visit to Trinity House, London

By Charmaine Bourton

Fifteen of us enjoyed a visit to Trinity House in London with City of London Guide, David Lloyd on 30th May 2022. The building dates from the 18th century, built in the years 1794 – 96 by Samuel Wyatt. Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger laid the foundation stone on 12th September 1793, this being the third property held in the City of London after incorporation by Henry VIII in 1514, after two had previously burnt in fires.

It was again gutted during the Blitz on the 29th of December 1940. This was very unfortunate as most of the treasures had been removed earlier either to Bayham Abbey or to the Tower of London, but because of dampness at the Tower, some had been returned for onward transmission to Northumberland only two days later. The reconstruction was undertaken by Professor (later Sir)

Albert E Richardson using photographs taken of the rooms to reconstitute almost exactly the interior as it was originally. The ballast office was replaced by a new wing containing the library, reading room, Pepys room and the corporate offices.

Trinity House is Grade 1 listed and was refurbished and redecorated in March 1990, in keeping, where possible with the 1790s period. The organisation is first and foremost a charity; a maritime charity which looks after retired mariners. A large legacy was left by Richard Maples, who has a statue at the bottom of the stairs. There are now 18 almshouses in Walmer but historically there were many more in Deptford and Stepney. The other large statue at the bottom of the stairs is of Robert Sandes who bequeathed a farm of 500 acres which is still providing for the charity. There is also Trinity Village,

south of the river, beyond Borough, which produces 300 rents for the charity. Finally Light dues are collected from every ship which comes into port to pay for the navigation aids.

Statutory Responsibility:

To maintain lighthouses and buoys; there are 600 aids to navigation in England and Wales, the Channel Islands and Gibraltar. Scotland and N. Ireland have their own charities. There are no longer any manned light vessels or lighthouses - the last was in 1998. Admin responsibilities are carried out in Harwich.

Other Responsibilities:

- 1) Assess shipwrecks and report
- 2) Sponsor cadets in Merchant Navy and train pilots

Trinity House owns 3 ships and rents another.

Entrance Hall: The most notable display item is a model of the Prince Royal ship referred to as Prince Henry who died at 18. (He was the eldest child of King James I).

There is also a model of the Trinity House vessel Patricia, so named after the daughter of a former master.

Standing in a custom frame is a Chinese gong, used as a fog signal. There were other methods used such as cannons as indicated on the models of the light vessels.

Organisational Pyramid:

Master: the term has been retained although the current Master is Princess Anne. She took the title from her father in 2011.

Elder Brethren: These can be either male or female and consist of a group of 30 – 40 people who have legal political qualifications.

Younger Brethren: These consist of 300 – 400 members consisting of pilots, harbour masters, yacht-masters etc.

Quarterdeck, on first floor:

Houses a huge painting by Gainsborough du Pont, nephew of Thomas Gainsborough which depicts Samuel Wyatt delivering the plans for the current Trinity House building. Some interesting facts about the painting were given to us. For example, the bodies are too big for the faces because the individuals depicted couldn't be all there at once, so he painted bodies of dockers and then added the faces. The far-right hand side of the painting has Joseph Huddart sitting, but he was abroad at the time and was upset he wasn't in the picture. So, he was added but by then there was a powder tax and therefore he



is the only one shown without a wig.

Elsewhere on the quarter deck to the left is a model of the Cutty Sark presented to Trinity House in 1949 whilst below the large painting is a recent painting with the Elder Brethren in 2011. This shows the master Princess Royal, Captain McNaught the deputy master and John Major amongst others.

Courtroom: This is the room where the Elder Brethren meet. There is a copy of Holbein's portrait of Henry VIII. Henry gave Trinity House its first charter in 1514 and is often described as the founder of the Royal Navy. Opposite is a portrait of his daughter, Elizabeth I, which was cut down from a much larger picture. Other royals fill the other corners, with George III and Queen Charlotte's paintings the largest.

The carpet is one of only two in the country - the other is at Windsor Castle. It took 10 weavers four to five months to make. At functions only white wine is allowed – no red wine!

Luncheon Room: This room contains full-length portraits of former masters - The Duke of Wellington, Prince Albert, The Duke of Edinburgh, and the Duke of Gloucester, during whose Terms of office the restoration work was accomplished.

There is a ship portrait of the Sovereign of the Seas, which was Charles I's biggest ship. Trinity House said the ship was too big and it would be an obvious target. A nod to the painter's sense of humour shows monkeys painted into the rigging rather than sailors! It was indeed seized by the Dutch at one point.

Reading Room: This is a post-war addition. It contains the famous painting of Churchill and Roosevelt at the 1941 Atlantic Conference on board HMS Prince of Wales, by Raymond R Wilson.

The Library – the final room: A library – with no books!! We were told there were books locked in cupboards but unfortunately our guide did not have a key to those cupboards! It was built as an event space, and to showcase the Corporation's collection of silver. The centre piece is a wine cooler bearing an embossed figure of Britannia, presented by William IV. We were told this was the last room, but it isn't quite - a door in the north wall of the library leads to the Pepys room. In this room are portraits of former Elder Brethren including Sir William Fraser and Captain Arthur Morrell, and some panels with wallpaper with pictures of books! **Charmaine Bourtons**

If you missed out on this very interesting tour, you can book one by e-mailing tours@trinityhouse.co.uk

People

The Accidental Librarian (PART II)

By Jo Wormald

In April 1954, National Service completed, and I returned to Southwark Public Libraries. At least I was up to date on the gossip as Miss Gibson had become Lorna and we had been exchanging letters while I moved round various army camps in England and sat beside the Suez Canal for a year. So it was back to the old routine, with the addition of studying for, taking, and occasionally passing the various parts of the LA Registration Exams, only for about eighteen months, however. At the time pay scales were rigidly applied throughout local government but staff shortages were forcing some authorities to offer extra increments. Islington was offering four, so late in 1955, I and two others found it paid to take up the offer despite the extra time and cost of travel.

Commuting from south to north London proved an interesting experience; almost like living in two different worlds. However, the branch in the Caledonian Road was not that different from the Old Kent Road, but Mildmay branch, a later move, despite being housed in a prefab was in an area undergoing “gentrification” and the clientele reflected it. During my time at Islington there was a curious outbreak of vandalism. Many of the illustrations in the art books were being subtly altered



either by changing the captions or even cutting out and transposing figures from one plate to another. It was very cleverly done and, no doubt, amused the perpetrators but as it involved replacing the whole collection it proved a very expensive joke. Happily, they were eventually discovered and served a prison term.

Islington housed two prisons within its boundaries Pentonville (males) and Holloway (females) with the Public Library providing a service. In due course I found myself spending two hours once a fortnight in Pentonville prison library, advising and taking requests for books from our stock (carefully vetted to eliminate any which might prove too stimulating). The library (three cells knocked into one) was immediately above the condemned cell, at that time still in use. This meant that when any occupant was taken out for exercise all doors including the library had to be

locked – rather daunting at first with forty or so inmates and one warder for company.

Chance again took a hand, and I was packed off to the Reference Library for what was meant to be a temporary job but which as usual became permanent. Somewhat to my surprise I found that I enjoyed it and so my career, such as it was, took a new turn. It was rather an idyllic life.

Enquiries were varied and frequent enough to be interesting and there was time to browse the stock in quieter moments. But, alas, like the Garden of Eden it did not last. There were two reasons. First, Lorna and I had married and the APTI scale did not support a wife and family. Secondly, the Council of the Library Association had decided that we should be a graduate profession and it would, after a short period, no longer set its own exams. All my (relatively) hard work was in danger of being lost with only one paper still to pass. Unfortunately, this was the dreaded three section Cat and Class, taken several times without satisfying the examiners. However, the threat was enough to provide the final spur and the hurdle was cleared. I had my coveted ALA, and it was time to move on.

To be continued **Jo Wormald**

Reports, Events & Announcements



Calling all volunteer cataloguers!

By Jane Daniels

I have recently retired and as a past chair of the CILIP Metadata & Discovery Group (previously Cataloguing & Indexing) I know that many cultural and heritage organisations rely on retired library professionals (not necessarily career cataloguers) to help with the description and classification of their collections.

The fundamental need for resources to be described and arranged, so that they can be found and accessed, has

not changed although the technology and the standards that we may use to accomplish this have.

Library and information skills are as important now as they have ever been and are highly transferable between sectors – whatever your age!

So, my question is, have you or someone that you know been involved in volunteer cataloguing or classification in e.g., a museum, archive, gallery, local history collection, charity, or educational

institution? Perhaps the work had been done hands on with collections or online via crowd sourcing e.g., the tagging and transcription of digitised documents or images of collections?

I would like to showcase and celebrate this work so if you would like to share your experience as a volunteer,

Please get in touch by contacting Jane Daniels
janedan61@gmail.com

Visit to Moravian Church 24th October 2022

Monday 24th October 2022

Time: 2.00pm

Venue: Moravian Church House Library and Archives

Address:

Description: The library contains printed books relating to the history of the Church both in Britain and abroad, biographies, Moravian hymn and tune books and theology. The archive material consists of records relating to certain congregations particularly those no longer in existence, mission reports, Synod minutes and much more.

No. of places: 10 - 12

Cost: Free but donations very much appreciated

Please contact Charmaine if you would like to come on:

charmainebourton11@hotmail.co.uk or 020 8395 9209

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