



# Editorial

**H**OPEFULLY, THIS ISSUE will have arrived in good time for Christmas. Colin and Barbara had already done some preparatory work, but we are fortunate for now

in being able to rely on Allan Young at Warwick Printing Company Ltd, whose professionalism at layout has meant that our established style is being maintained and his efforts are acknowledged.

One task in which assistance from our membership would be welcomed is the preparation of photos for publication. Despite pleas for photographs to be submitted scanned as tiffs at 600dpi or higher; they still arrive in a variety of formats, jpgs, pngs, pdfs, original and copy prints, computer print outs on both photographic and plain paper and film negatives. These all require conversion and many images also benefit from further adjustment; such as altering the tonal contrast and eliminating spots and scratches. These tasks can be achieved by using a variety of software packages, although Adobe Photoshop is undoubtedly the best. If there are Society members who feel that they can make a contribution in this field, I urge them to get in touch.

Storage of Society material continues to be a problem. Ideally, the archive of photographs and documentation should be digitised and that is the long-term aim. Graham Mottram is busy sorting through masses of accumulated paperwork, with the aim of deciding what is worth keeping until it can be digitally scanned, while Colin and Barbara have already digitised a vast collection of photographs. That leaves published material. We have built up a library of essential books and other journals, but a combination of bequests to the Society and the ongoing arrival of review copies mean that there are a lot of duplicates of useful books, and a stockpile of those either of no reference value or outside the scope of our interest exists. The plan is to dispose of these. Andy is planning to use a combination of sale to members, via our website, and sale to the general public via internet auction houses, such as Ebay. Dave Smith, from Marske, has

experience of the latter and has kindly volunteered to help out. Information will be circulated as soon as things are up and running, using the website, Wind in the Wires and this column.

Another long-term aim is to find a repository for our archive, so that it can be accessible to the membership. The logistics are quite daunting because such a scheme will require a permanent 'home' and trained volunteers to manage it. Discussions are currently underway with the Stow Maries Aviation Heritage Trust regarding possible use of a building on that iconic site.

## This Issue

Colin Owers has provided another of his detailed research into British-flown flying boats, in this case the Curtiss Model T, the largest WWI boat. As ever, excellent photographs support Colin's comprehensive written account. The history of the RFC/RAF in India by Ray Vann and the late Mike O'Connor is finally published, and I hope that it will appeal to members with varying interests, be it aeroplanes, people or tactics. The piece contains a wealth of information and should be just about the last word on the subject. Paul Leaman's series on captured German aeroplanes moves on to the second series of G numbers and continues to provide numerous images, many via the goodwill of Greg VanWyngarden, whose input deserves our thanks. As a change from the biography of a Camel pilot (so many Canadians seemed to end up on them), I've selected a Stewart Taylor piece about a pilot who had the unenviable task of flying DH5s before 32 Squadron re-equipped with the SE5a. It provides useful insights to the work performed by the pilots of that short-lived machine. The final major article is another of Paul Hare's takes on the products of the Royal Aircraft Factory, this time the FE4.

Something that has struck me over the last six months is the apparent reduction in the number of relevant books arriving for review. It would seem that the euphoria surrounding the centenary of the Great War may be running out. The reduced length of the Bookshelf column in this issue was compensated for by the arrival of some useful photographs for Fabric and I consider that of Camel B3899 to be one of significance.

Mick Davis



*I was looking to follow up the view of the snake-marked Camel used in CCI 48/3 with something similar for this issue's EDITOR'S CHOICE. My initial thought was to use the dragon-marked Pup A6249 of 5 TS AFC but then recalled this shot of a delightfully marked machine, also of 5 TS AFC (or perhaps its predecessor, 30 TS) which was, apparently, taken at Ternhill. A weird and wonderful collection of creatures had been drawn on what appears to have been an overall white-painted airframe. A further view of the machine, serial number not known but nicknamed Retreat, shows further such drawings on the lower mainplanes. :CCI*

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