



Editorial

Mick Davis

A couple of important topics have been discussed in recent Committee Meetings and it was considered sensible to use most of this issue's editorial column to bring them to the attention of the membership at large.

These are in addition to the need for a Sales Manager, which is covered by the advertisement on this page.

Bequests

So many of us have collected interesting books and documents over the years, as we've pursued our shared passion for WW1 aviation. Inevitably, as we get older, we start to wonder what will become of our hard-won collections in the future.

The prospect of bequeathing your collection to CCI is a simple and appealing option for many members and their families – and a solution we would encourage. Over the years too many valuable and often unique collections have been lost or broken up. Yet it does present the Society with several resultant difficulties; all with associated costs. Your committee has explored a number of possibilities over several years now, to find a like-minded organisation which could host and make accessible a CCI archive of documents and photographs, but as yet none have proved viable. We continue to look for a

partnership which will benefit all concerned, although it is fair to say that there is currently no obvious candidate.

In the meantime, we continue to rent a storage unit to store back copies of the Journal and our growing archive. The costs of this are affordable at present. And indeed, the sale of the book collections associated with bequests over the years, have helped cover the costs of the storage rental.

The Committee feels that it is important to make members aware of the current situation and set a broad policy for the future. The Society continues to encourage and welcome bequests but if you do consider bequeathing your WW1 aviation collection then please bear in mind that it costs the Society both money to collect and money to store. Our top priority remains the care of your bequeathed documentary and research materials, but book collections are generally sold off, hopefully to other members, to help defray the costs of collection and storage.

Finally, please consider how it would help your Society if your estate could take the trouble to set aside some money to cover the upfront costs of collection and sorting.

Subscriptions

For some years, your committee has been considering when and how best to publish the journal digitally. This year, with the dramatic and continuing increase in postage costs, we decided it was time to act.

Rest assured that the printed journal will continue – there is no intention to cease production of the printed journal.

We've decided to publish the journal as a high-quality PDF, unprotected by any form of DRM (Digital Rights Management). This approach keeps things simple - our hope is that our open policy will not result in a loss of subscriptions through copying.

Starting in 2022, we're offering the digital journal either stand-alone, or as an addition to a print subscription. Options (including postage) are:

DESTINATION	PRINT	DIGITAL	COMBINED
UK	£32	£20	£42
EU	£42	£20	£52
US	£50 (\$70)	£20 (\$30)	£60 (\$85)
ROW	£50	£20	£60

Clearly there's a significant cost benefit in opting for the digital subscription, especially for those outside the UK. Additionally, the PDF will be fully searchable – making research that much easier. Plus, for those with limited shelving, the PDF takes up no space!

Access will be easy – on publication you'll receive an email, letting you know that your PDF journal is available to download from your web shop account. For active subscribers, it will remain available for the whole of the next calendar year. For full details and to resubscribe for 2022, please see the sheet enclosed with your journal.

This Issue

Only four articles this time round. The appendices to Ian Burn's opus on Nieuport floatplanes will appear in 52/4, as will the concluding part of the FA 301 story. Both these features have included information about the Battle of Beersheba, that town being home to Elimor Makevet. David Méchin's study of WWI Breguet bombers sheds light on these relatively rare machines and the SE5b has long needed attention, so Paul Hare's contribution is welcome.

SALES MANAGER

Willing to give time to CCI?

Have available storage space for CCI stock?

Have a nearby Post Office?

These are the main requirements.

The amount of time required will vary but is never too great.

The Sales Manager holds stock of the books and magazines advertised in the Society's on-line shop. Shed, loft or garage space is necessary. He/she should be prepared to order new stock as required.

Despatch of items can be done at on regular basis, weekly, fortnightly etc. Order acknowledgement and order despatch e-mails are sent to the customer automatically – so the only communication necessary is when things go wrong, which isn't often. The routine is to export orders from the Society's web shop and import them into Royal Mail's Click & Drop system – which produces address labels and customs declaration forms (for overseas orders) and handles the electronic customs pre-notification.

Naturally, initial guidance will be provided by Marcus and others involved.

Any interested member should contact our Chairman or any other member of the Committee – addresses on contents page.

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