

4 Farewell, but not Goodbye

BUDGE ADAMS writes:

In the first few weeks of the Society's existence I was elected to a Vice-Presidency and though my initial reaction was a grateful one I felt that if at all possible a V.P. should actually work for the Society that had so honoured him or her. My opportunity to do just that came in the summer of 1990 when I took on a quite unofficial job as producer, distributor and advertising executive (what a title I gave myself!) for the *Newsletter* and thus became an assistant to Philomena Kennedy who, as well as being the editor, was also the producer and distributor. Joan Simmonds until her retirement trudged around the town drumming up advertisements, the revenue from which was very necessary.

Talking to Philomena about her job, and sometimes assisting her, I began to feel that the expertise I had acquired in a lifetime as a printer had made possible the production of a journal that would make its mark amongst publications from similar societies. With no fuss and a nod of approval here and there I was given the opportunity to put my ideas into practice. What a wonderful opportunity it was!, I was as happy as a lark – and the thrill and sense of achievement that developed is with me still.

I began my job with issue No. 8 for September 1990 and Philomena remained as Editor until September 1991, when she handed over to Merrill Lilley. It was impossible to match the spontaneity and *élan* of Philomena's production but with expansive headings and good typography I did what I could to preserve the subtle originalty of her pages.

Towards the end of 1995 I began to take stock of the position in which my enthusiasm had placed the Society. I was in the second half of my eighties and I could see that the expertise and the necessary facilities that were at my disposal might be difficult to replace if and when I was unable to do the work – that is, if no steps were taken to find alternatives – but I had the feeling that as long as I continued those steps would most probably not be taken. That was, and is, a compliment to me, but I could see the danger. I let my thoughts be known to one or two and at the end of the year I formally told the Executive Committee that after issue No. 27, December 1996, I would 'retire from action'. Regretfully that did not prove to be possible and I then agreed to continue until December 1997.

That date is now here and, alas, after twenty-three issues I must go. I will, however, hover in the background, available to help if required or to act as a consultant (how bumptious that sounds). Merrill and I have a good working relationship and we have built up confidence in each other and I am sure this will continue. I will miss the contact with our two most excellent proof-readers, May Jones and Pat Taylor – they are a delight to work with and my admiration for their erudition knows no bounds.

Thank you all for the confidence you have placed in my efforts. Before you have this *Newsletter* I will be eighty-eight but I'm not in the doldrums yet! – I have much to do and just a few more years will not be enough!