

Editorial

The major item in this issue is Patrick Hutton's long-awaited piece, 'So Runs The Tale', in which he teases out a comparison between SBG and Robert Hawker, and follows up the controversy raised by SBG's 'Hawker of Morwenstow'. Our former Hon. Secretary has been worried about possible offence caused to Baring-Gould family members - or fans! - but your Editor has encouraged him to publish, and hopefully not be damned! Rather I hope it will encourage others to do a bit of original research.

Speaking of research and publication, we are looking forward to the day when the efforts of two of our members, Keith Lister and Harold Kirk-Smith reach fruition. I am also trying to persuade another member to write an article for 'Book and Magazine Collector'. At my last enquiry there are no further reprints planned by Rebecca Smith at Praxis Books for the moment, but Richard Dalby is intending to have 'A Book of Ghosts' reprinted later this year, as well as continuing to anthologise single SBG ghost stories. The most recent to appear (story, that is) was 'H.P.' in 'The Mammoth Book of Victorian and Edwardian Ghost Stories' (Robinson pbk £5.99).

I cannot speak for the other booksellers among our membership, but compared with the effort of producing lists, the rewards do not generally seem worthwhile. Certainly books seem to sell better 'on sight' at gatherings, and understandably so. Apart from any other consideration, postage adds substantially to the price. However it might be more productive for all parties if members were to send 'books wanted' lists, either via the newsletter mailing, or specifically to our bookselling members. Roger Bristow, Patrick Hutton and I all hold fairly substantial stocks of SBG titles, and Roger Collicott of Honiton and Richard Parry of Exeter Rare Books would, I am sure, be happy to receive requests. If other members are also 'traders' please let me know. None of these remarks of course preclude anyone sending in 'for sale' lists in the usual way.

David Shacklock