

Quinquennial Report. (Editorial)

It is uncertain what SBG would have made of such a bureaucratic requirement with regard to vicarages, introduced the year before he died - a measure intended for the benefit of the occupants, it must be said. However, as we enter the Society's 5th year, it may be time to do our own 'quinquennial'. What is the state of SBGAS? Are we achieving the aims, as set out inside the front cover of the newsletter? Well, we haven't yet published a 'periodical journal' - and I'm not quite sure myself what that would be! In the light of experience so far I would feel that our first objective in terms of special publications should be the Bibliography. The first step towards that would be to achieve completion of the outline work that Roger Bristow has been so competently putting together these past two years. That might take another couple of years. Then perhaps we could set our sights on a fullscale, detailed, printed and illustrated Bibliography - a much longer-term and more ambitious project. Alongside that I hope we would be able gradually to reprint the scarcer pamphlets.

The first part of the aim is, I believe, being met, and although our membership is modest in number, it is growing, and stands well poised for further increase. We have not yet managed annual gatherings in all the regions - that remains a challenge, but one that will be well worth the effort of meeting. Clearly the nature of the man himself will mean that there will always be a strong Westcountry and bibliophile emphasis, but it will be really enriching to have a fuller involvement of the North, South and East, as well as the contributions of members or potential members with artistic, archaeological or antiquarian interests, or maybe linguistic, liturgical or literary ones!

Looking back to the first issue, I see that the editorial concluded with the following sentence: "It would be good to hear from members how interest (in SBG) was kindled for them, and how their collections of his work have developed". That invitation still stands, and each reader must surely have a story to tell. I don't think any contribution has been rejected yet, and only once or twice has an item been deferred for lack of space.

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