

& Law. **Fred Chambers** the Chief Librarian of the Cambridge site and who was so involved in the development of the serials collection at what was then Cambridge College of Art & Technology retired this summer.

At Leicester University, **Jenifer Baker**, Acquisition Librarian until 1st September, is now Resources Management Librarian with general responsibility for matters financial at the library. **David Welding's** role as Technical Services Librarian now includes journal acquisitions along with book acquisitions and cataloguing. **Elizabeth Preston** remains Senior Assistant in charge of Acquisitions.

Trade News

There have been considerable changes in the trade side of the UKSG membership over the past year.

Bailey Subscription Agents were sad to announce the death of their Managing Director **Douglas Bennison**. Benny's obituary appears in this issue.

John Merriman's replacement as Director of the Periodicals Division of Blackwells is **John Cox**, who took up his post on the 17th September. John Cox was Managing Director of Scholastic Publications Ltd and brings with him extensive experience in publishing. Blackwells also have a new UK Sales Representative, **David Evans**. David is responsible for Oxfordshire and all counties south as well as Wales, where David will converse in his native Welsh.

Len Johnson, who retired from Dawsons two years ago, underwent heart surgery earlier this year. He reports that he is progressing satisfactorily. All his friends in the UKSG wish him a speedy recovery.

Patricia McDonnell joined Ebsco in March and regularly travels around the UK visiting customers. **Ree Sheerer**, previously Ebsco's Publisher Services Manager, is now General Manager of Ebsco Subscription Services in Birmingham, Alabama. **Leon Sizemore** takes Ree's old job.

Langley Shearer joined Swets earlier this year after many years at Blackwells. He is Swets' Customer Services Manager. In May Swets acquired Bailey Subscription Agents Ltd. along with a number of staff. **John Jardine** (thats me!) joined Swets' sales team. **Linda Styles**, Baileys' Subscription Manager and her deputy **Andrew Grieve** have moved to Abingdon. **Jill O'Keefe** has also joined Swets and travels throughout the Republic of Ireland.

John Tillett, the founder of Universal Subscription Agents, retired from active duty in June. **Ray Tillett** assumes all responsibilities from his father. **Martin Bailey**, formerly of Dawsons and Artech House Publishing, has joined the staff at Universal.

Blake Ratcliffe has been appointed Manager of Copyright and Licensing for University Microfilms International. He will be responsible for all C & L licensing activities for UMI's microfilming, document delivery and electronic publishing programmes.

Obituary

∞ Douglas Haig Bennison ∞

The staff of Bailey Subscription Agents were truly fortunate in having Douglas Bennison as their Managing Director. Invariably known as Benny, he joined Baileys in 1967 after spending seven years with Private Patients Plan, where he was London Manager. At Baileys, Benny was soon made a company director and set about transforming the company into a significant and well-regarded UK subscription agent. He effected this through his appetite for hard work and through his ability to manage detail and staff. He habitually took work home where, with his wife Joan, he got through the mountains of paperwork inherent in the subscription business. He referred to this as his "cottage industry".

Benny was a gifted organiser and manager. These natural talents were recognised by the Royal Navy and developed during twenty three years service in the navy's supply and secretariat function. His abilities in this field led to his being made part of Eisenhower's staff for the planning for D-day. Because of the highly confidential nature of its implication, Benny typed the weather report on which the operation was to depend. In

Normandy, Benny set up the Royal Naval Office and then followed the war through Europe, being present at the liberation of Paris and at Belsen when the gates were opened to the Allies.

At the end of the war, Benny received the British Empire Medal, Military Division for "distinguished service during the war in Europe". Later he was chosen as a member of the Queen's staff to accompany George VI and Queen Elizabeth on their planned tour of Australia. In the event, the King's ill-health caused the tour to be cancelled. He left the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander.



As a civilian, Benny qualified as an Associate of the then Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, and became a Fellow of the Society of Commercial and Company Accountants.

Central to Benny's management credo were his concern for detail and his commitment to efficient and intelligent office procedures. Baileys' success as a subscription agency in large part derived from these concerns. Equally important, and what made for the prevailing air of friendliness and the distinctive Baileys' ethos, was Benny's own nature. His staff enjoyed working for him and trusted him. He was seen as benign and just — qualities informed by a deep Christian faith.

Benny contributed significantly to the wider serials field. He was a long serving member and past chairman of the Association of Subscription Agents. He was largely responsible, during Denis Brewer's chairmanship, for revising and formulating the organisation's new rules and constitution to allow for the entry of non-UK agents. He was involved in the UKSG since its inception, and in its earliest days was its honorary auditor along with Len Johnson.

Over the last couple of years, his staff's respect and affection for him grew as they watched him battle with ill-health — first with a series of heart attacks and then with cancer. At the time when Bailey subscription Agents' future was especially uncertain, his real concern for his staff and customers kept him at the helm long after he should have retired, in order to see the business safely transferred and in good hands.

Benny retired in March and died on 10th May 1990, aged 72. He leaves his wife Joan, and two daughters, Nicky and Sara. □