

THE
SOCIETY
FOR
CO-OPERATIVE
STUDIES

THE
SOCIETY
FOR
CO-OPERATIVE
STUDIES

THE
SOCIETY
FOR
CO-OPERATIVE
STUDIES

THE
SOCIETY
FOR
CO-OPERATIVE
STUDIES

Society Notes

Farewell and Hail. Mrs. Lily Howe, editor of the *Co-operative News* and *Management and Marketing* retired in June 1984 and was accompanied by warm-hearted appreciation of her service and good wishes for the future. Her Co-operative work — and faith — have been devoted mainly to the consumer Movement but had also reached beyond it — witness her past membership of the Co-operative Development Agency and her present and continuing place on the executive committee of the Plunkett Foundation and on the North West Co-operative Development Council. It had also included support for this Society and Bulletin. I cannot improve on a tribute paid to her in the *Co-operative News* — though certainly many others could:—

“The last time I offered a public word on a Press matter, I was in a lonely and uncomfortable minority. Ever since then, I suppose, I have been hoping that the balance might be redressed by the chance of sharing in a cause not only just but universally supported.

And here it is at the end of Mrs. Howe's editorship, when very properly all conspire to praise her and wish her well.

A co-operative editor, I am sure, has to reconcile many different pressures. The movement makes heavy demands on its Press and may not match these with the resources it provides. In the Press, co-operative institutions and policies have to be respected and yet independently and reasonably assessed. An editor is inescapably positioned to see the weaknesses of the movement's operations (and operators) and yet has to retain and encourage confidence in their intentions and capacities. And so on.

Lily's editorship has accommodated and reconciled these tensions and through it all she has remained for readers and contributors a companion and friend of lively and generous spirit. We are all in her debt — and I hope she will suspend her scruples of modesty and let me say so in her own columns.”

And Hail

At the same time hail and warm greetings to her successor at the Co-operative Press Mr. David Short — and with more than nominal aptness to

Mr. Peter Short and the new quarterly magazine "*Co-operation*" which he edits and which was launched in the autumn of 1983 by the Co-operative Information Services Group. It has set for itself this objective:—

"*Co-operation* is not a trade paper nor an academic journal — neither is it the 'in house' publication of any organisation or political grouping. These all exist and we have no wish to compete with them or to set ourselves up as the only voice of co-operation. We intend to develop *Co-operation* as a broadly-based magazine addressing both the workers' and housing co-operatives and the older established Co-operative societies."

Please also see the further fraternal reference below in Newsletter.

Into the Next Half Century of Bulletins

In at least one sense, I hope this is among my last references to Bulletins. The name has been increasingly a misnomer and perhaps at the A.G.M. in September we can consider the prospect of changing it — say to Journal.

Anyhow, No.50 appears to have been well-received both for its substance and for its new format. Now Bulletin 51 in addition to its Newsletter and Reviews contains some explorations began in its predecessor — the "*Wider Search for Co-operation*" and the prospects for workers' Co-operatives; it examines the motivation for members to participate in consumer Co-operatives; and it considers the question of crisis in the Labour movement and the relations between its partners — consumer Co-operatives, trade unions and the Labour Party.

In Bulletin 52 we hope to continue all of these debates, particularly the last, to report the Society's Annual Conference and A.G.M. — and to maintain the invitation and space for 'Letters to the Editor'. These contributions are now coming more frequently and freely and as the exhortation runs, in my imperfect recollection:—

"Smooth and coherent let thy offerings flow
Not impudently swift, not tediously slow"

Annual Conference and A.G.M. 1984

Publicity for the annual rendezvous should, of course, have gone out long before this Bulletin but, to recapitulate:—

Date: Saturday afternoon 15 September/Sunday 16 September

Conference Theme: The Crisis of the Labour Movement

Speakers: Will include

- Professor T.F. Carbery, University of Strathclyde
(Author of "*Consumers in Politics*")
- Paul Whiteley, University of Bristol
(Author of "*The Labour Party in Crisis*")

The Report of the Secretary for 1983-84 and the Income and Expenditure

Account and Balance Sheet which will be submitted to the A.G.M. are printed below.

And if you have not yet booked for the occasion but would like to do so, the Secretary would be glad to hear from you.

A Local Initiative

The Report of the Secretary for the year offers up-to-date information on national and regional developments that might otherwise have been included in these Notes. Here instead is a word of appreciation to Bill Thompson, 35 Shaftesbury Road, Southsea, PO5 3JP in his efforts to gain support for a South Coast branch of the S.C.S.

The Society has had a varying record in reaching out into any regional or local organisation and where there has been any success it has been almost entirely due to the enthusiasm and hard work of one or two individual members.

We look forward to news of the South Coast project and, we hope, of its progress.

Wanted: An Interested Home

Roger Spear writes that when the I.C.A. moved from London, some archive material relating to I.C.A. meetings and publications in the early part of the century was given to the Co-operatives Research Unit. The C.R.U. has extracted some of the material for their own specialist library on worker Co-operatives but all the rest is surplus to requirements. It will have to be shredded, if no one responds with interest and accommodation for it.

All enquiries to Roger Spear at C.R.U., The Open University, Technological Faculty, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK7 6AA.

July 1984

R.L.M.