

WOODGROUP ARCHIVES

During my term as Secretary, I inherited bundles of papers, minutes and other miscellaneous documents of earlier Woodgroup Activities. Much of it was duplicated and not in any sequence. It was also in several forms; - from minute books to loose sheets. The earliest Newsletter (Nov. 1983) was on foolscap paper and was produced on a 'Gestetner'. Some of the early records are hand written. I saw a need to plan and organise this valuable archival material, because it could all be simply lost. However, due to other pressures, I placed it in cartons for a later date.

After I completed my term as President, I set myself the goal to establish a system for recording and preserving these precious Archives. It was an appropriate time in that 2003 was the 20th year of the Woodgroup's operation, and the committee was planning some form of celebration. When the Picnic Day was set as our celebration activity, I decided to use it as an occasion to present and distribute this Special Edition of our Newsletter.

I used my own collection of Newsletters together with those stored in the Library. Fortunately, all Newsletters were numbered (Nov. 2003 was No 222). Thanks to the help of members who responded to my appeal, we have a full and complete set of all Newsletters over the twenty years. The minutes of the committee meetings have been a little more difficult to collect. Although I have a complete set from 1995 onwards, there are some gaps in some of the previous years, but it might have been that meetings were not always held every month.

I had planned only to compile a list of the major office holders, but as the task progressed, it seemed to be appropriate to collect as much information as possible. In this regard I was much encouraged by Dick Pillar and others, who kept suggesting that if the information wasn't stored now it probably would never happen. The result is the five double pages of spread sheet which follows. This format allows easy access to information year by year, as well as a progress through particular office holder or events over our history.



*Don Freeman Award Trophy
carved by Sathi Sathianathan*

Now that the format has been developed, it will be a simple task for the Archivist to continue the process. The history of the development of the Special Interest Groups is also readily displayed. One of the late developments of the spread sheet was a column which included demonstrators and awards. This column shows visiting demonstrators, and a quick glance might suggest that we need to redress the lack of these over the past few years. I have only included such events when I have been able to confirm such through minutes and Newsletters. This column will now take on additional importance with the advent of the Don Freeman Awards, the first of which was presented in December 2001 and the introduction of the Service Awards, the first of which will be presented in December 2003. This column also displays the history of the Life Membership Awards.

Information for this record has been collected from Newsletter etc. If members have additional information or amendments or alterations I would be pleased to here from you. Finally, the sketch below is from one of the very early meetings and is from hand written notes. One of the items of business was seeking ideas for a suitable logo and this was offered as an example. It certainly influenced the first and current Logos.

Ron Allen

