**Rotation**

**Why ‘****Rotation’ is inappropriate when applied to Archival activity.**

Archivists are the custodians of the Fellowship’s history at whatever level. To fulfil that responsibility, they are required to become a focal point for the collection, cataloguing, filing, writing and rewriting, of source material. In addition, they are required to, store artefacts and memorabilia on behalf of the Fellowship of A.A. Members may also make enquiries to the archivist, and they often may be called upon to bring to light examples from the past, which may influence decisions made by a group.

In this work however, the quintessential continuity is destroyed by rotation. Archives work involves a lengthy learning process before significant results can be produced on an integrated broad front, and a wide spread of skills and know-how are required to bring this about.

Application of rotation to the Archivist at Fellowship level, proved to be counterproductive, over a period of some 10 years prior to 1989. Three successive Archivists achieved some work on Group Histories and the correspondence of the Groups, but no coherent overall strategy was evolved.

Pre-1989 it was made clear by Regions, that they did not want Archivists as an additional formal tier of voting trusted servants. In the “informal structure” created in 1990/91 and accepted by the GSB, and Conference, this has been recognised. In addition to this, Archivists are prepared to always ensure accountability to the group in carrying out their role, which since 1990/91 has produced co-ordinated work and a longer-term strategy, which is now in the process of implementation, albeit slowly.

The principle of rotation when applied to trusted service (normally) seeks to ensure the Right of Participation. However, the Fellowship has already accepted that this principle could not and should not apply to the editing of Share and Roundabout, consequently there is a precedent within Great Britain.

However, one of the problems of the Right of Participation, (as in some other areas of service) is rather one of finding members able and willing to undertake some form of calling, rather than the more usual service tasks.

Finally, it might be worth remembering that nature imposes its own kind of ‘rotation’, and the change in personal circumstances (e.g., illness, unemployment) is yet another.

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