

Historical Committee Report

January 2016

The Historical Committee has not met formally over the last six months. However, significant historical preservation activity at ARRL headquarters under the leadership of Bob Allison, WB1GCM, and Michael Marinaro, WN1M, continues since our last report in July. We are indebted to volunteers Jonathan Allen, K2KKH, and Peter Turbide, W1PT who give generously of their time and talents for this important work. Attached is a report of their activities prepared by Michael Marinaro and Bob Allison.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rod Blocksome, K0DAS, Chair
Tom Frenaye, K1KI
Dick Norton, N6AA
Michael Marinaro, WN1M
Bob Allison, WB1GCM

HISTORICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES AT HEADQUARTERS SECOND HALF OF 2015

On Going Projects

The following activities are being conducted on a continuous basis:

- a. Maintenance of the Document Archives - original *Word* and new *Access* systems.
Secretary Minutes - 8 file drawers
Word programmed - 139 file drawers
Access programmed - 25 drawers (462 individual files)
- b. Maintenance of the negative, slide, video & film collections
- c. Maintenance of the Vintage Technical Library of 640 *Excel* recorded pamphlets and books
- d. Lobby Exhibit: We are about to mount our sixth consecutive display - the Collins KWM-1 and contrasting KWM-2 transceivers.
- e. The equipment exhibits and operating stations in the Laboratory area are presentable and receive favorable comments from visitors.

Current Projects

The following activities are currently being actively pursued:

MUSEUM COLLECTION

Inspection and classification of the equipment in the vintage museum collection has been extended to include some 400 individual items located about the campus - all of which have been cataloged on *EXCEL*. We insert here the current report of the Project Custodian and principal functionary, Jonathan Allen, K2KKH:

*Status of the Hardware Collection located in ARRL HQ
including Cage 2, various offices, Historical Library and W1AW building*

Having unpacked all items from storage, this year was devoted to inventorying the collection and beginning to review those items not qualifying for retention.

The collection consists of 1,443 items, ranging from large radios to small items such as knobs, components and material commonly found in a "junk box." It took considerable time to compile a listing as each item had to be examined to determine what it was, the model number, any identifying marks such as a serial number or place of origin, manufacturer and when necessary a physical description. The items were then categorized as being associated with telegraphy, radio, amateur radio, and broadly speaking whether it fit the criteria set forth for retention.

This last area was difficult for while some articles clearly didn't fit the criteria, they had significance as they were made or used by early executives or important personnel of the League. Some items in this category include a transmitter originally built in 1902 then converted to a portable receiver in 1908 using metallic detectors in cold cream jars and the first American automatic keyer, which may be the only one of its kind in existence as examples.

We completed the initial inventory in October and we began to label and tag each item.

With the assistance of Harold Kramer, WJ1B and Bob Allison, WB1GCM, and the input of Michael Marinaro, WN1M, the telegraphy items were selected as the first to be reviewed. 35 items were determined not essential to the collection. Any item so identified will be photographed and a listing submitted to the CEO for approval of disposal. At this time, the means of disposal is still being discussed. We are considering trading items, if we can find a museum that has items we need but they don't; selling on the open market via e-bay or similar outlets; or holding a special ARRL on-line auction.

A copy of the actual inventory is available.

As I complete my fourth year of work on this project, I look forward to completing the labeling of all the items and working to reduce the collection to its core importance to the League.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan H. Allen, K2KKH
Custodian*

The principal participants have established an initial plan to ultimately create an on-line virtual museum within the League website. The museum is envisioned to feature an image, information and the significance of the prominent items contained in the hardware collection as a resource for members and the public. This museum would then become the internet unique utilization and presentation of our exceptional assets. Immediate tasks include the selection of a suitable data base program/software, defining the collection by categories, and preparing a page template.

EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Organizing the correspondence and report files of the Chief Executive Office.- principally the extensive files of D. Sumner, P. Williams, S. Mansfield and others; Board and Committee reports; Counsels reports; and legislative and regulatory information to the early 1970's. This material is being cataloged on **Access**. Currently 1350 entries have been recorded and 105 archival boxes filled and stored. In the course of this work several discoveries have been made - the promotional true first issue of QST and the hand written logs of 1ZM and 1AW Hiram Hamilton and Hiram Percy Maxim.

DROPBOX

We have established a *HISTORIAN Dropbox* to store and distribute large files of significant interest. We have downloaded two books written by Frederick A. Parsons, W2EXM, *WIRELESS ROAD* and *TALL TOWERS* likely in the seventies, which have been scanned. We believe the U.S. Park Service, individuals and institutions may be interested in these unique books. However, we have first offered them to our publishers for consideration and await their decision before making them public. We will shortly add the scan of the Maxim logs (which are being reviewed) to the site.

PRESENTATION

There is continuing interest in the production of *THE HISTORY OF W1AW* power point presentation (with or without voice-over narration) by the COO. The 95 slides and script have been prepared. The production will be offered to clubs via the on-line library system. A beta version of the Power Point presentation, without narration, is being run on a monitor in the W1AW building for viewing by visitors.

LABORATORY MUSEUM

The equipment display area is being studied for refurbishment with intent of replacing the plate glass in some cabinet fronts and installing shelving to replace the metal racks and eliminate the stacking of gear.

We acknowledge the participation of Historical Group volunteers Jonathan Allen, K2KKH and Peter Turbide, W1PT who are of great assistance in conducting these activities.

Michael Marinaro

Bob Allison