

Treasures of our Memorial Library

ANTONY BRENDON SCAMMELL

Never before has your scribe drawn attention to an individual treasure we have already lost. Now, however, I remember with special warmth our privilege of crossing paths with the late Tony Scammell.

For over 15 years, Tony was one of the most active and most dedicated Friends of the Library. He is remembered especially for his readiness to help the library in any way he could, and he found many such ways, particularly in operating and staffing our celebrated book sales.

Tony was an Englishman, "born and bred", but from 1953 on, he shuttled between England and Canada, spending years at a time in each. During World War Two, he served as a captain in the British Intelligence Service, which posted him to India, Burma and the Far East. In Canada, he settled first in Calgary, but on moving to British Columbia he became deeply attached to our library - and vice versa.

Tony earned a degree in Agriculture from Cambridge, and for a time practiced his

profession with Britain's Ministry of Agriculture. In B.C., he served for some time as a property manager for a real-estate firm. In West Vancouver, this bibliophile became an active supporter of St. Stephen's Church and became deeply involved in the welfare of our library. He played an important role in the building of the library's first major expansion. Tony is particularly remembered for the salient fact that he was responsible for having the Friends of the Library certified legally as a Society under the Society Act. (18th Day of January, 1989). This incorporation made it possible for the Society becoming eligible for the famous Casino Nights. This was a tremendously important boost to our finances. Also for many years, he wrote most of the Friends' Newsletter. He had a very active sense of humour, and was certainly "well-read". Many times, he salted the bulletin with gems he had gathered from his own wide reading.

Tony was a friendly man,

though shy. Over his years here, he made a wide circle of friends, despite scooting back to Britain for several long breaks.

Shortly after Tony's death, the Friends of the Library began plans for a practical memorial in his honour. Gradually the plans took shape in the form of two specially designed rooms built at the East end of the main floor. Funds were provided by the Friends to cover design, construction, decoration and furnishing for the two adjacent study rooms. These are delightfully quiet for group study or discussion. Each is screened by glass panels, well lit, and fitted with two fine maple tables and seven or eight matching chairs. Over the entrance is mounted a simple plaque announcing that these are the "Tony Scammell Group Study Rooms".

Thank you, Friends.

And thank you, Tony!

Ted Hill

