

From the membership secretary

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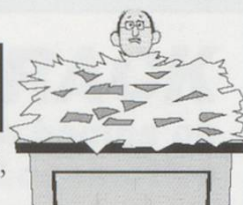
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FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



Thank you all for your prompt and efficient renewal replies - especially for the 136, which arrived on January 5th followed by the 104 the next day!

I must apologise for erroneously transposing the overseas credit card payment slip onto the UK renewal form. The correct subscription was given at the top of the form but I am sorry for any confusion or inconvenience caused. The use of separate renewal forms for the UK and different overseas regions was designed to avoid confusion, not cause it! The error was compounded, a little, by the editor omitting my short piece on renewal from the December magazine. For those with access to the internet it is always worth a look on our web site when such problems arise. An explanation was prominently placed on the site immediately.

Once again many thanks for your co-operation with renewals and your help with the very short, but hopefully useful, questionnaire.

Modern technology is not infallible and as such should not be taken for granted. Wherever possible all correspondence, electronic or postal, is acknowledged and answered by all officials of the Society. However, the membership secretary discovered that over 300 emails over a five month period had been left with his server and not delivered to him by his email programme. He apologises to all those who thought they had been ignored. (*The Editor has inevitably advised him to get an Apple Mac*).

Dave Howsam

ALFRED HAUSER-GUBSER

MEMBERS WILL BE SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE DEATH IN NOVEMBER OF ALFRED HAUSER-GUBSER. I HAVE WRITTEN TO HIS WIDOW ON BEHALF OF THE SOCIETY EXPRESSING OUR SYMPATHIES. ALAN PIKE HAS PREPARED THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY

PAUL RUSSENBERGER

It is with great regret that I have to report the death on 6th November 2004 of our first President at the age of 79.

He was a very private person and a gentleman in the true sense of the word. I knew little about his work but I understand he became the Financial Director of the Swiss Locomotive and Machine Works (SLM) in Winterthur. Even after his retirement he was very active on behalf of the company travelling as far afield as, for example, China.

I had the pleasure of visiting him and his wife Rosa (an enthusiastic philatelist) at Hettlingen near Winterthur and was impressed by the fact that he travelled daily to and from work by bus, an example that might well be followed by others wherever good quality public transport is available.

His knowledge of Swiss railways and technical railway matters in particular, as his many articles in *Swiss Express* demonstrate, led many to believe, initially myself included, that he was an engineer.

His modesty was such that some years ago he asked to stand down from the Presidency because he felt unable to play a sufficiently active part in Society affairs. Despite my best efforts I was unable to dissuade him but his continued contributions show his lasting interest in our Society.

On behalf of all members of this Society, I express our condolences to his wife and family.

Alan Pike - Joint President