

Any Old Iron ???

by Aivar Kaulins

From time to time, our club receives notification that a former cine-video enthusiast is about to give up the hobby and would like to donate films and/or equipment to us. This also happens when somebody dies and his family would like to clear their shelves.

Needless to say, we are more than happy to receive whatever is on offer, for the alternative is just too horrible to contemplate – his once treasured items consigned to the local waste disposal facility!!!

For several years now these donations have been aimed in my direction - sometimes by post, e-mail, or telephone contact, sometimes via other club members.

With the assistance of fellow club member David Hughes, I contact a potential donor to see what is on offer; also, where the items are currently stored, hopefully not too far from our home patch.

All being well, David and I then travel to collect whatever is of potential value, which is where the real time-consuming work begins.

Every item has to be carefully examined, projectors have to be run and probably serviced before deciding on their value, as do cameras, both cine, video and stills, without actually exposing film in them.

Thereafter, sales lists are prepared, giving full details regarding condition and price, then photocopied for distribution to interested parties, hopefully potential buyers.

We have received film prints in all house gauges, i.e. standard 8mm, super 8mm, 9.5 mm and of course 16mm, in both sound and silent versions. All prints have to be screened, often after doing repairs, remaking failed splices, extending leaders where required, then noting a synopsis of content and condition, finally deciding on its sale value, i.e. asking price. From this, sales lists are prepared and duplicated – photocopied – for distribution to interested parties.

To receive copies of these lists, please send one or more large (C4) self-addressed envelopes – with a 'large' stamp attached – to myself, Aivar Kaulins at 19, the Ridgeway, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 4BD, stating which gauge is of interest to you – perhaps all four!

Adverts have to be placed in whatever publications exist these days, as well as distributed to known film and equipment users/collectors.

Yes, it all amounts to quite a lot of hard work, although for both David and myself it is a labour of love, knowing that we are helping our club finances, as well as providing a service to fellow enthusiasts and thus keeping alive a great hobby!!!

Unfortunately, sales of these items have been somewhat slow, but then we now live in a different world.

Even so, from January 2016 to April 2017, sales of these donated items have amounted to £504 – hopefully, with more to come.

I rest my/our case!!!