

Obituary

and before long his house in the Chilterns began to fill up with his acquisitions.

In 1979, he issued the first edition of 'The Waddleton Chronology', a hand list of the collection at that point, and this gradually expanded into a fifth edition of 656 pages, garnished with three indexes (the earliest specimen included was an Augsburg *Sphaera Mundi* with polychrome initials printed in 1488).

The chronology was eventually augmented by six supplements, which did not simply record works that he owned but added huge lists of those that he didn't, thus 'magnanimously sharing with rivals his list of desiderata' as **Bamber Gascoigne** put it in a foreword to the third supplement. It was a mighty record even if it was, early on, warily described by the Cambridge University librarian as making no claim 'to be complete bibliographically or free from fault in presentation'.

True to his intention to make a collection that would be retained in Britain, **Waddleton** had hoped that his books might go to his old college, which had already made him an Honorary Fellow for services to the patent profession. But the magnitude of his holdings, which ultimately numbered

more than 27,000 volumes, would have been hard for Emmanuel College to administer and thus the Waddleton Collection was endowed to Emmanuel and through them to the university library.

The collection was garnered primarily to be of use to all who wished to investigate colour printing, and to that end he was eventually to design a website, *bookartworld*, that would more easily give international access to his holdings in the university library. At a grand ceremony in 2003, he was appointed Companion of the University's Guild of Benefactors by the Chancellor, the **Duke of Edinburgh**. He continued collecting until frailty brought him to a nursing home in the Chilterns.

His wife predeceased him. He is survived by two daughters and a son.

[Ed.: This obituary of **Norman Waddleton**, former President of CIPA, appeared in *The Times* on March 29, 2008; it was written by his son David whose copyright it is and who gave this *Journal* kind permission to reproduce it. The picture shows him in his Companion (see pomp).]

The Patenting Paradox

by **Arnaud Gasnier** published by Eburon Academic Publishers 272pp, ISBN 978 90 5972 230 0

This is a book by a Dutch European patent attorney who is also an academic. The paradox of the title is that although patent filings world-wide have increased explosively over the past 20 years important inventions are still not being patented and companies do not benefit sufficiently from the patents which they do obtain. In support of the latter proposition he cites an EU Commission Report EC2005a and offers statistics showing that only a minor proportion of patents are actually exploited, the position being worse in Europe than in the US or Japan. He demonstrates an awareness that "unused" patents can have a deterrent effect on competition, but if it is true that in Europe out of every 100 patents only 30 are exploited, it does suggest that something is seriously wrong. A disproportionate portfolio of 'defensive' patents will burden anybody's IP budget and will be bleeding away cash resources better spent elsewhere.

He attributes the problem to lack of attention and knowledge on the part of decision makers and his solution is a game in which participants create and use patents in a simulated commercial world. The preface of the book

claims that **Dr. Gasnier** has a European Patent Application but the number is wrong and neither could I find it through *espace*. Perhaps it has not yet been published. Never mind, the best presentation is at www.patenting-paradox.com which explains succinctly (in good English) what it is all about and how to contact **Dr. Gasnier**.

I recommend the website rather than the book, the latter being based on a doctoral thesis and written in rather peculiar English. It is a pity that money spent on excellent and amusing illustrations was not used for improved editing of the text which is prolix, ponderous and repetitive.

I can see that participation in the game might enhance decision-making and above all it would improve and disseminate awareness and understanding of the system. A patent attorney demonstrating the game to his or her client's workforce would reach a wider audience and achieve improved communication and understanding of his function. It would also,

probably, be great fun for all concerned.

Peter Lambert

