Securing ISTEL's Future

Another productive day this week in the BMM Archives, processing the ISTEL Artefacts. Having collected 651 unique items with your help, our task is to divide them into three categories; Archive, Museum and Virtual, and for each item update our register with BMM required data and then re-package them in archive-friendly materials for long-term storage.

Archive items represent pieces of the company's history over the years and, so far, we have identified and processed 286 such items. Museum items reflect the culture and operation of the company such as promotional items, office equipment like pens, coasters and folders. We have 359 such items and they are next to be processed. The third category includes items from the first two categories but for which we only have a digital image. We have 225 such items. We then have nine items recorded which, for some unexplained reason, we have not yet located.

Interestingly, the Museum artefacts are recorded and held separately from the Archive items by the museum gallery curation staff. We have been briefly introduced to this group during our induction and we are looking forward to meeting them later in the project when we hope some of the ISTEL data and items can be put on display.

We are pleased to see as an organisation, that the separate groups work closely together as is evidenced by Dave's posts about the proposed "Hot Hatch" display. Another area where we hope we can involve more of you group-members is the "Oral Histories" team who are looking for first-hand memories of all aspects of British Motor Manufacturing history.

We have had a couple of interesting on-line sessions with John Leighfield and Chris Chiles talking with Keith Adams for his AROnline website and we hope we can persuade some of you to join similar sessions with the BMM team when they are organised.

As far as the archive are concerned, we are very pleased with the progress we are making. The BMM archivists are already talking about how we add this data to their Archive Management system. This will then give us the opportunity to associate images of each artefact with the data records.

So the objective to secure ISTEL's history for the future is progressing very well.

Dave & Derek