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## The Earl of Crawford K.T. (1847 - 1913)



Fig. 11 - Crawford Medal. See p22.

## A Short Biographical Sketch

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The Earl of Crawford in robes as the Deputy High Steward for Scotland

# The Earl of Crawford, K.T. (1847 - 1913)

## A Short Biographical Sketch

Ron Negus FRPSL

### Introduction

As the facing photograph shows, the Earl of Crawford was a man of immense physical presence. He is pictured in the robes he wore as Deputy High Steward for Scotland when he walked in the Coronation processions of both King Edward VII and King George V. An idea of his own height can be gained from the fact that the staff of office that he is holding is seven feet long. When he was driven home from these events he recalled that he had to have this staff protruding out of the window of his car!

The Earl of Crawford was born on 28 July 1847 at St Germain-en-Laye in France, and baptised, James Ludovic, in the Episcopal chapel there. He was the first child of Lord Lindsay, the 25th Earl, and became heir to the title. Subsequently, his mother bore six more children, all girls. The House of Lindsay played a significant part in Scottish and English history and many of its members were conspicuous by wealth, power and high offices of State from the 12th century onwards. On the 500th anniversary of the creation of the Earldom, in 1898, Queen Victoria and the then Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) both sent him letters of congratulation. In 1891 the Earl had been appointed a Knight of the Thistle, the Scottish order of chivalry in the gift of the Sovereign.

In adult life, the Earl became noted as a bibliophile and a man of science, whose achievements embraced an enormous range of activities, which included being a philatelist of great renown and President of our Society.

### Haigh Hall

Ludovic and his six sisters were brought up in the family home at Haigh Hall, Wigan, but spent parts of each year at the Lindsay Scottish residences at Dunecht House, Aberdeenshire, and Balcarres, Fife. As a child, Ludovic was generally known by the nickname 'Udo', but after he succeeded to the title everyone, including his wife, always called him 'Crawford'.

The village of Haigh, on the north-eastern perimeter of Wigan, is dominated by its Hall.



Fig. 1 - Haigh Hall today

The estate and its families have long been a part of the town's story. A hall at Haigh can be traced back to the mid 12th century, although the present Hall (Fig. 1) was not built until 1830.

The owners from the late 14th century onwards exploited an underground source of wealth at Haigh: cannel. This is a type of coal that burnt brightly and without smoke – valuable characteristics in an age of rushlights and candles. Later, cannel became fashionable as a

decorative stone; all kinds of objects, from candlesticks to salt cellars were carved out of it, even the toilet seats at Haigh Hall were made from it.

The Hall was once the home of Sir William Bradshaigh, whose wealth was created from the family involvement in iron and coal. In 1770, Haigh Hall passed through marriage to the Earls of Crawford and Balcarres. They rebuilt the present mansion, developed the cannel industry and set up an ironworks. They formed the Wigan Coal & Iron Company, which at one time was the world's largest limited company. At the time of his death, Ludovic's father owned three quarters of the shares in the Company, and these were inherited by his son.

The Hall and its grounds were bought in 1947 by Wigan Corporation, and now make up one of the region's beautiful country parks. Set in 250 acres of park and woodland, with magnificent views to the Welsh hills, Haigh Hall is currently the site of two golf courses, a conference centre and has a number of function suites. The courses are named the Crawford (nine holes) and the Balcarres (18 holes). The latter, opened in 2002, is of championship quality, and together they remind visitors of the Lindsay family association with Haigh Hall.

### **His Father's Influence**

Ludovic's father, the 25th Earl, was generally known as Lord Lindsay. He was the greatest bibliophile of his day, and was more concerned with the inside of his books than with the outside. An author himself, he wrote works on a mixed bag of topics ranging from German ballads to Etruscan inscriptions, and including a significant account of the history of the Lindsay clan. This latter volume marked him as a leading genealogist of his time.

As a book collector, his object was to obtain the earliest, and the best, edition of each work. In the course of doing this, he raised Bernard Quaritch, his main agent, from a stall in Covent Garden in the 1850s to a position of a bookseller of European eminence. Their relationship, which was continued by his son, led to the Lindsay collection at his English seat in Haigh Hall becoming one of the finest libraries in private hands. Referred to as the *Bibliotheca Lindesiana*, the collection was greatly extended by Ludovic, who had inherited his father's love of literature.

Lord Lindsay himself died in Italy in December 1880. His body was returned to Scotland and was interred in the newly erected crypt beneath the chapel in the Lindsay ancestral home at Dunecht, Aberdeenshire. A sensation followed his death, when it was discovered that the body had been stolen from the mausoleum. Despite intensive searches by the local police, it was seven months before it was found, in a wood close to the original burial site. The remains were re-interred at Haigh Hall. Those responsible for the crime were not brought to justice until July 1882 following a confession by one of the eye witnesses of the desecration. He was imprisoned for five years.

Thus, his son's succession to the title as 26th Earl of Crawford and 9th Earl of Balacarres had a turbulent beginning. Although the 26th Earl was the premier Earl of Scotland, he also bore the additional titles of Lord Balniel, in the Scottish peerage, and Lord Wigan, in the peerage of the United Kingdom.

### **Early Life**

Ludovic followed the family tradition by going to Eton, but was not a successful scholar at that establishment. In 1863, aged 15, he broke his leg and was taken away from Eton and transferred to a small private school in Cookham, Berkshire. In January 1864 his mother remarked in a family letter that his new tutor had reported "(Ludovic) is remarkably intelligent and has a very unusual degree of aptitude for anything that takes his fancy."

During these early years, he displayed a great passion for studying astronomy and this deep interest remained with him when he moved to Trinity College, Cambridge in the autumn of 1865.

Whilst at Cambridge, Ludovic also became a Freemason. In later life, he became a very prominent Mason and rose to the position of Right Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master of West Aberdeen. He passed through 31 degrees in the craft rituals, which took him close to the highest Masonic office. He was elected Master of the local Lodge in Wigan on the occasion of its 100th anniversary year in 1886.

After leaving University, Ludovic entered the Army and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Grenadier guards in 1868. He was required to serve for a minimum of one year, and he was based at the Tower of London. He is reported as having spent much of this period in London buying paintings. At his father's request, he extended his service for a further twelve months, and finally gave up Army life in the middle of 1870.

Lord Crawford was married a week before his 22nd birthday at St George's in Hanover Square, London. His bride, Emily Bootle-Wilbraham, was the grand-daughter of Baron Skelmersdale. Like his father Ludovic had seven children but, in his case, the first born was a daughter, Evelyn, in 1870, followed by six sons between 1871 and 1879. The family lived in various addresses in London's West End, and finally settled at 2 Cavendish Square, a fashionable area just behind Oxford Street.

His eldest son was named David and took the title, Lord Balcarres, as heir to the earldom. He was born at Dunecht in October 1871 and always known in the family as 'Bal'. After graduation from Oxford, he entered politics as MP for Chorley, Lancashire and gradually moved up the Conservative hierarchy in parliament

## Politics

Ludovic's own career in politics began in 1874, when he contested the Wigan seat on behalf of the Conservatives. A majority elected him from the five candidates who stood at that election. He made a noteworthy entrance to the House of Commons and is on record as having been the only member to have made his maiden speech at 8 o'clock in the morning. This was in 1876, when the rules governing Parliamentary debates were different from today and Crawford had been present for 40 hours awaiting his turn to be called.

Although occupied with many other affairs, he served the constituency diligently for the next six years, and was returned again, having topped the poll, in the 1880 contest. In that same year he had to resign his seat, following his father's death, and took his place in the House of Lords. He was not particularly active in the upper House and only took part when the subject under review affected Wigan.

One of his last appearances in the Lords was in December 1908 when he spoke against the proposals contained in the Coal Mines Regulation Act. Known as the 'Eight Hours Bill', this latter piece of legislation was concerned with miners' working hours, and was the first time that they had been regulated.

## Scientific pursuits

At the early age of 30, Ludovic was elected to the prestigious position of a Fellow of the Royal Society. The citation supporting his application read:

*"(He) has privately organised and himself taken the principal part in important Astronomical Expeditions: 1. an Expedition to the South of Spain for the Observation of the Total Solar Eclipse of December 22, 1870; 2. an extensive, and perhaps the most completely fitted, expedition for the observation of the Transit of Venus in 1874 at Mauritius, thereby taking a very prominent part in the observation of the phenomenon.*

*Has established at Dunecht a large Astronomical observatory fitted with instruments of the first class, and which is maintained in activity with numerous staff; has issued*

*therefrom two volumes entitled 'Dunecht Observatory Publications', in the second of which the Juno Observations at Mauritius are published and reduced, and the sun's parallax worked out. Is the author of papers on 'Photographic Irradiation' and other subjects read before the Royal Astronomical Society. Distinguished as a Astronomer."*

Whilst all stamp collectors have Lord Crawford to thank for the magnificent gift of his philatelic library to the nation, as described later, all astronomers are equally appreciative of another Crawford Library, which is to be found in the Royal Observatory of Edinburgh. This latter collection contains some 15,000 books, pamphlets and manuscripts dating from the thirteenth to the end of the nineteenth century.

The Earl brought the collection together from his own family library, the library of Charles Babbage and purchases of rare books from book sales throughout Europe. It contains first editions of all major works in the history of astronomy and related fields. It is recognised as a rich resource for scholars, historians of science and bibliographers, and is visited by researchers from all over the world.

The complete mathematical library formed by Babbage was also strong on astronomical works. Crawford bought it outright after Babbage's death in October 1871 shortly before it was to be offered for public auction. He took it to a laboratory he had leased in Greek Street, London, and undertook the job of cataloguing it. Ludovic was encouraged by his father to complete the task in the hope that it would stimulate a greater awareness in bibliography in his son. Although he did a great deal of work on the catalogue, it was actually finished by others at the Royal Observatory and was published, by authority of Her Majesty's Government in 1890.

Originally, the Royal Observatory was situated on Calton Hill in Edinburgh. The smoke pollution from the growing network of steam railways, however, made the site increasingly unsuitable. At the same time, lack of funds gave rise to calls for the closure of the building. Ludovic was horrified by the thought of closure and offered his collection of books and astronomical instruments on the strict condition that a new Observatory was built to house them. He made this presentation to the Observatory in 1888.

Construction of the new building, located three miles south of the centre of Edinburgh on Blackford Hill, began in 1892. It was opened by the Earl of Crawford in 1896, and has had new buildings added from time to time since then. Latest addition was in 1981 when a visitor centre was opened. The Royal Observatory remains an international centre of astronomical research.

In the same year as he became a Fellow of the Royal Society, 1878, he was made President of the Royal Astronomical Society – a post he held for two consecutive years. His use of photography to provide records of his astronomical observations led to a greater awareness of that subject as well, and he served later as President of the Royal Photographic Society from 1897 to 1900.

Much of his work in both these fields required the construction of specialised equipment and the Earl had a considerable mechanical skill, which he used to advantage in making many instruments to his own specification. He demonstrated a particular interest in the development of electrical engineering and acted as chief British commissioner at the electrical exhibition in Paris in 1881.

### **Yachting**

The Earl of Crawford was also an enthusiastic yachtsman, who made many of his yachting cruises distinctly scientific. During his lifetime, he owned four different yachts: the first, named *Venus* was so called in recognition of the trip made to Cadiz in 1870. The others, *Consuello* and *Wanderer*, were larger vessels, but the crowning glory was the steam yacht *Valhalla*, bought in 1901. This magnificent vessel (Fig. 2) had a displacement of 1,700 tons and needed a crew of 65 to man her. The *Valhalla* was used by the Earl from 1901 to 1909.

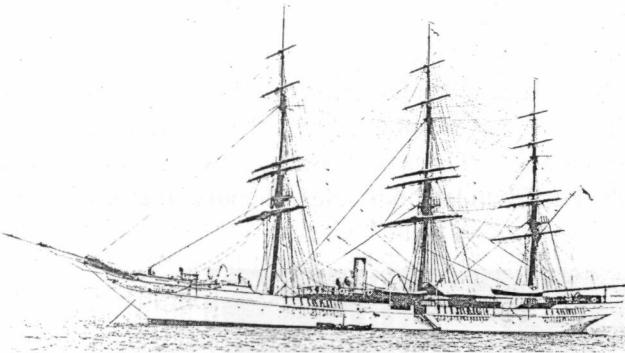


Fig. 2 - m.v. *Valhalla*

He spent most winters aboard his yachts, sailing to wherever the climate was sunny and warm. Crawford explained these annual journeys, once, by saying:

*"It has been my lot to live in close communication with two inseparable hangers-on, the one rheumatism, the other asthma. I found relief by going to sea, provided it was towards the sunny south. The cold damp of a home winter I have not faced for 15 years."*

On some voyages, he was accompanied by scientists who studied the flora and fauna of remote islands across the globe. Resulting from these trips, the Earl was able to bring back many rare specimens which he donated to the Royal Zoological Society and the British Museum.

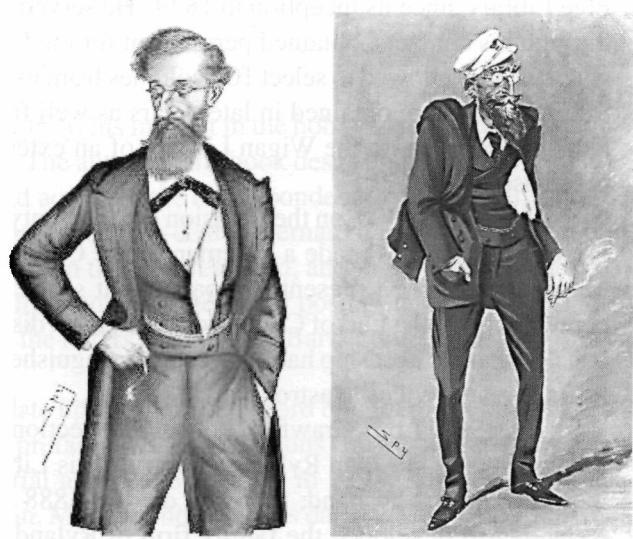
At the beginning of 1906, the Earl dropped anchor at Tristan da Cunha on 17 January. Bad weather prevented him landing on the island, but the local chief, Andrea Repetto, accompanied by 11 islanders rowed out to meet Crawford on board the *Valhalla*. The Earl was able to give the party stores and mail. Among these letters was a special message from King Edward VII to the whole population of Tristan who numbered 80 persons at that time.

He had been elected a member of the exclusive Royal Yacht Squadron in 1874, and his membership was one reason that led afterwards to his close friendship with the Prince of Wales (later, King George V), who was a keen sailor who had served as Commodore. His acceptance in Royal circles had been demonstrated when he lent the *Valhalla* to King Edward VII for a personal cruise.

His deep attachment to yachting was shown by a notable sailing achievement which occurred in 1905. In that year, Kaiser Wilhelm II, seeking to prove German maritime superiority, challenged the world to a no holds barred ocean race without handicaps or time allowances. Ten of the wealthiest men in Britain and America took up the challenge, including the Earl of Crawford, sailing in *Valhalla*. The yachts left New Jersey in the Spring of 1905 and raced across the Atlantic, with popular interest maintained through reports in the daily newspapers. At the end of the race, on reaching Lizard Point in Cornwall, the Earl was placed third.

### The Cartoonist's View

In the period from 1869 to 1914, the magazine *Vanity Fair* published a full page caricature of a prominent person each week. These were drawn by various artists, but the most famous was Sir Leslie Ward who signed his satirical prints with the pseudonym "Spy". Lord Crawford was the subject chosen by Spy on two occasions. He was drawn firstly in May 1878 when he was MP for Wigan (Fig. 3), and drawn again in 1908. This latter drawing (Fig. 4) showed him wearing a yachting cap at a rakish angle and holding a cigarette. A copy of it is displayed at 41 Devonshire Place.



Figs 3 & 4 - Spy cartoons from 1878 and 1908

## The Main Library at Haigh

The huge library that had been built up by his father, and enhanced by Ludovic, was housed at Haigh Hall (except for the philatelic holdings). It was maintained by a team of librarians, but purchasing decisions were made by Crawford himself. The task of finding new acquisitions was left largely to Bernard Quaritch, although the Earl attended book sales whenever they contained items of significant interest.



Fig. 5 - In the library at Haigh Hall

When he was in England, Ludovic spent many hours at Haigh and took a very close interest in the cataloguing of the vast holdings. The shop at Haigh Hall now sells a picture of the Earl at work in the library there (Fig.5).

Crawford was not a reclusive bibliophile, and was always anxious to promote an interest in books amongst others less fortunate than himself. He had been a supporter of the local Wigan Free Library since its inception in 1879. He served as Chairman of the Library Committee, and, through his contacts, obtained permission for the Librarian to visit the British Museum in 1890 where he was allowed to select 100 volumes from its duplicate holdings to add to the Wigan stock. Similar gifts were obtained in later years as well from this same source. The Earl also made a personal donation to the Wigan Library of an extensive holding of his own material related to Freemasonry.

In August 1900, on the occasion of the twenty-first anniversary of the Wigan Free Library, James Ludovic was made a Freeman of the County Borough of Wigan. At the ceremony, the Mayor and Council presented a parchment scroll on which was inscribed the resolution that conferred upon the Earl of Crawford "the highest distinction which it is their privilege to bestow". It stated that his Lordship had long been distinguished and honoured from a national point of view for his great services to astronomical science.

In 1901, Lord Crawford sold his collection of Western, Near Eastern and Far Eastern manuscripts to the John Rylands Library. This Library had been founded by Mrs Rylands as a memorial to her husband, who had died in 1888 leaving a fortune of over £2 million. John Rylands had developed the family firm of Rylands and Sons into one of the largest and most profitable cotton manufacturing concerns in Britain. As well as being a philanthropist, he was

interested in theology and in books in general, and amassed a sizeable private book collection.

Mrs Rylands commissioned a building, in the neo-Gothic style, in a prominent part of Manchester, and this was completed in 1900. Her original intention had been to create a primarily theological library, but by buying the Earl of Crawford's material plus some other large collections, that included early printings by Caxton and Gutenberg, it became a centre for scholarly research. In 1972, the Library merged with the Library of Manchester University, to become the third largest academic library in the United Kingdom.

The National Library of Scotland, in Edinburgh, is the current repository of the famous *Bibliotheca Lindesiana* formerly held in Haigh Hall. Two of the sections were deposited there in the mid-1970s, and the remainder of the other printed collections were transferred from the John Rylands University Library in Manchester in 1988. Work on cataloguing the total of about 45,000 items that made up the holdings is still in progress. The current Earl of Crawford is Chairman of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland.

The wide scope of the various sections indicates how diligent Ludovic and his father were in building up their library. Many of the items are unique, and both father and son were always anxious to purchase the best quality editions in any particular field. The National Library collection of Crawford material contains the following sections:

- a. Borghese Collection (8,000 documents on the Papal States, printed 1550-1700).
- b. Church briefs (600 items, 1755-1827, containing Royal licences issued on matters concerning the building of new churches).
- c. English Ballads (over 1,400 ballads, in English, from the 17th and 18th centuries).
- d. English Newspapers (3,000 copies of 'newsbook' issues of the Civil War period).
- e. English Tracts (about 11,700 pamphlets ranging in date from 1587 to 1912).
- f. French Revolutionary, and Napoleonic Tracts (more than 15,000 documents, including holdings of revolutionary journals and newspapers of the period).
- g. Indulgences – a small group of important religious documents, 1497-1517).
- h. Miscellaneous Broadsides (some 2,200 items dating from 1505 to 1897).
- i. Reformation and Lutheran Tracts (about 1,500 pamphlet tracts, published between 1511 and 1598, including many with illustrative woodcuts on the title pages).
- j. Royal Proclamations (English, Scottish and Irish proclamations made up of 2,850 documents dated between 1603 and 1910).
- k. The Grands et Petits Voyages of Theodore de Bry (A complete set of 192 volumes of this work, published with extensive illustrations in Germany, between 1590 and 1644, by the Belgian engraver Theodore de Bry and members of his family).

### **The Return to Philately**

Although he had collected stamps as a schoolboy, his interest in the hobby waned because of the many other interests claiming his attention. The author of the book describing the growth of the *Bibliotheca Lindesiana*, Nicolas Barker, had access to the correspondence of the family and he quotes from a letter written by Lord Lindsay to the book-dealer, Bernard Quaritch. It was dated 12 March 1861, when Ludovic would have been thirteen years old, and in it his father thanked Quaritch for "his kind contribution to their little boy's collection of postage stamps". After this note, there is no other mention of stamps in the letters recorded by Barker until more than thirty years later.

There is a slight confusion over the date upon which Crawford bought the collection that stirred his interest in philately again. In his preface to Bacon's famous *Crawford Catalogue*, the Earl mentions that he purchased the material at a Sotheby's sale in 1898. However, Barker records a letter from Crawford to his librarian, Mr Edmond, which is dated 2 May 1899. In it the Earl said he had been to a book sale the previous day and bought some Arabic and Greek manuscripts for the main Library. The letter ends with the words "...I bought the Chard postage

stamps (for £73)."

The stamps had come from the estate of Lt John Chard VC, who was awarded his medal for commanding the British contingent at the battle of Rorke's Drift in the Zulu War in 1879. Chard served in other overseas campaigns after his time in South Africa, but eventually was invalided out of the Army on medical grounds. He died of cancer of the tongue in 1897 at the early age of only 49.

Sir Edward Bacon stated in his obituary notice in the Journal of the Philatelic Literature Society:

*"Lord Crawford's connection with Philately commenced in 1899 and the story, as he told me, of the way in which it came about was this. He happened one day, that year, to be attending a sale of books in London, and during his presence in the room a "fat" album, containing a number of stamps came up for disposal. He had been a collector when a boy at Eton, and his curiosity was aroused at the sight of the album, which he instantly determined to purchase."*

On many of his long trips he worked on his stamp collections aboard the yachts. He would buy stamps before he sailed to form the nucleus of a country of interest, and upon his return had made notes about each specimen that could be copied into his albums. One set of four notebooks, used by the Earl whilst studying some South Australian issues during a voyage made in 1904, is now contained in our Archives at the Society.

In the preface to the Crawford Catalogue, the Earl wrote that at the end of the Victorian reign:

*"Ill-health was driving me out of England for the winter months – and the book (ie the album he had bought) went with me on the yacht, and I have never repented the purchase. Since then I must have sailed nearly 100,000 miles about the world, and I have always taken on my travels some stamps for study and arrangement, thus providing myself with interesting and unfailing occupation."*

*"Not only this, but I learnt how widely spread over the face of the globe was the interest in the subject, and that the possession of a 'Stamp Album' was of itself an admirable letter of introduction or passport to the kindest welcome, always extended by the members of this great family, the one to the other."*

Approaches to the Earl from 'members of this great family' can be found in his philatelic correspondence now housed in our Society's archives. For example, Fred J. Melville, the energetic journalist and campaigner for philately, enlisted the aid of Crawford in July 1906. Melville had written saying that a popular Edwardian family magazine, called *The World & His Wife* was seeking an article about the Earl's collection, and asked permission for an interview on how he had developed his interest in stamp collecting. Melville went on to say:

*"In the United States, there is a National Stamp Committee, the work of which is to keep the interest in stamp collecting before the public in the general press, by means of topical and popular articles and paragraphs. There is no organised work of this kind here."*

This is typical of many of the letters that the Earl received. Other correspondents asked him if he would open exhibitions, become the President or Vice-President of some philatelic society, chair a stamp society dinner or perform similar tasks because he was such an important figure. Amongst the letters, also, were a reasonable number from individuals enquiring whether the Earl would like to purchase their 'unspecified' collections of rare and valuable stamps. Such is the price of fame!

## Tiffany Purchase

Whilst Quaritch looked after the Earl's interests in additions to the library at Haigh Hall, Chas J. Phillips, the Managing Director of Stanley Gibbons, acted as the Earl's main philatelic agent. At the beginning of 1901, Phillips was on a buying trip in the United States and was asked by Crawford to negotiate the purchase of the philatelic library that had been created by the leading American bibliophile of the time, John Kerr Tiffany.

Phillips made the visit and on 20 January 1901 wrote to the Earl from America. The following is an extract from that letter:

*My Lord,*

*I arranged my trip back from Southern California so that I might take in St. Louis and see Mr Dexter Tiffany, the only brother of the late John K. Tiffany, who formed the famous Library of Philatelic books.*

*Mr Tiffany died in March 1897 and before that time had expressed a wish that his Library should go to some Institution in the U.S. who would keep it complete – so far, no same Institution has been found, and Mr Dexter Tiffany tells me he would advise Mrs Tiffany to dispose of the collection if a really good price can be got.*

*It seems that in the past three years a number of people have been after the Library – notably, a Mr Hiram E. Deats, whom I know well personally and who is reputed to have the second best collection of these works on this Continent.*

*Mr Deats told Mr Tiffany (so he says) that such a lot of books would now cost \$8,000 to \$9,000 if they could be got, which I doubt.*

*In addition to the books, there is a Card Index which Mr Tiffany has spent several years on personally. It is a complete index under names of countries, stamps, etc, etc of every article in every book in the Library, and is the most complete work of its kind in the world. They value this – I think justly – very highly, and it would be a grand thing to have such a list and Library in London in your hands.*

*The Library contains about 909 bound volumes and 136 unbound, and Mr Tiffany told me they would not consider any offer under \$10,000 (little over £2,000), and he would not bind himself that this would be accepted – as he would have to consult Mrs Tiffany, who is at Nice. In any case, the matter could not be settled until the end of the year as the books are locked up until Mrs Tiffany returns to St. Louis.*

*I tried a firm offer of £1,000 but he would not hear of it and I thought it best – there being no hurry – to go no further until I had communicated with you.*

By the time this letter reached London, Crawford had left for his winter cruise, and it was forwarded to Barbados, where the Earl collected it at the end of February. He was excited at the prospect of owning the Tiffany library, and immediately authorised Phillips to offer £2,000 for it. Phillips and Dexter Tiffany agreed this price and Mrs Tiffany gave her approval upon her return from France.

Finally, the Library was crated and ready for despatch. It was contained in 39 boxes that included both bound books and unbound publications. Using the American Express Co., the consignment travelled from St. Louis to New York by rail, from New York to Liverpool on the SS *Majestic*, and thence by rail to London. It arrived in Liverpool docks on 26 June 1901 and was delivered to the Earl at 2 Cavendish Square two days later.

The total price paid was £2,000, as shown on the receipt (Fig. 6). To this was added the 5% commission to Chas J. Phillips for the negotiations, plus carriage charges of £53 15s 1d. Phillips disputed the latter figure, charged separately by American Express and, as a result, he obtained a refund of £18 7s 9d from the carrier.

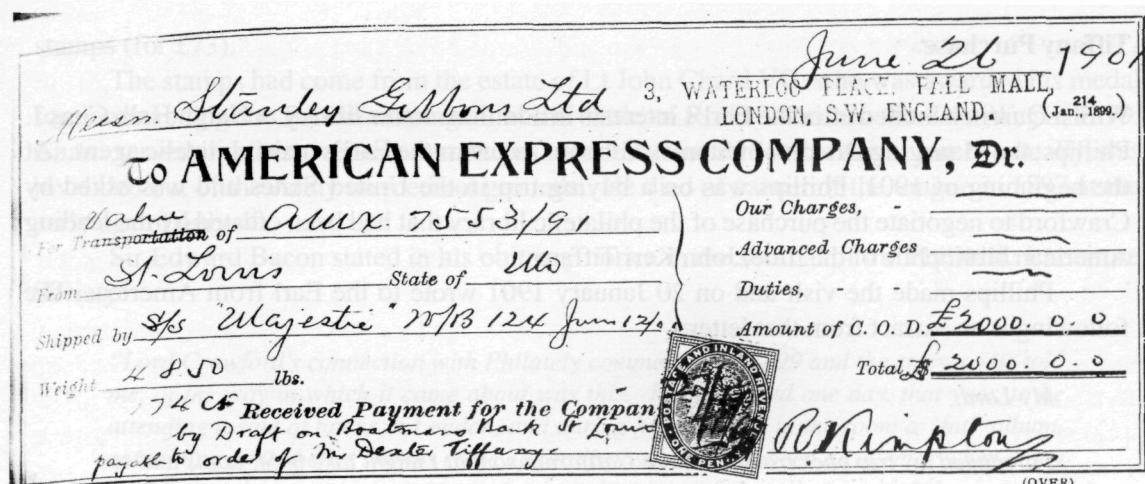


Fig. 6 - Tiffany sale receipt

### Other Stamp Purchases

In the obituary of the Earl, published in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* (Vol 21, February 1913, p33), Chas J. Phillips recalled some of the other major purchases he had concluded on Crawford's behalf. These included:

"...as good collections as I could make up of the stamps of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony, and these I delivered in July 1900, at the price of £1,250 the two; they would be worth more than double that sum now. Many smaller transactions then took place, and the next important one was in October 1900 when I sold him a grand collection of blocks of four in, I think, nine large volumes for £3,200.

The next large transaction with our firm was the sale of a collection of New South Wales stamps for £2,800, in September 1901, and in the October following we sold him a collection of Italy and the Italian States for £1,750.

In August 1902, I sold to Lord Crawford the collections of British East Africa and Zanzibar ..... these went for £1,750."

Thus, in about two years, the Earl had spent almost £10,000 just with Stanley Gibbons. At today's values this would be equivalent to more than £600,000. The correspondence in our Archives shows that Lord Crawford was also buying material from many other sources as well.

Amongst the many philatelic letters written to Lord Crawford is another penned on 5 September 1900 by Phillips, which has an amusing annotation from the Earl. It reads, in part:

"My Lord,

I have just come back from the Continent, where I have been to see the Stamp Exhibition in Paris .... The inverted San Marino came from a large specialised collection in Germany. I did not know they existed and have not catalogued them, but have taken a note to add them to my next edition and they must be, I think, very rare ...."

Crawford had added a pencil note against this paragraph that says "I have 8 already!" This is a good indication of the success the Earl had achieved, even at this early date after he began collecting stamps again, in securing notable holdings.

## The Fraenkel Library

In 1908, it was announced that the Earl had bought the complete library of Heinrich Fraenkel, the noted German bibliophile who had died the previous year. Fraenkel was the librarian of the Berliner Philatelisten-Klub, but was also a collector of philatelic literature in his own right. He had started his own library in 1884 and had added to it by purchasing the large holdings of a well-known Austrian collector, Sigmund Friedl, that contained a large number of the older philatelic works.

The strength of the Fraenkel holdings was in European literature, particularly in German books, but a number of very rare works from Great Britain and the United States were included. By a strange coincidence, when crated for despatch to London, the library occupied 39 large packing cases – exactly the same number as had been needed to transport the Tiffany library to Cavendish Square. In addition to philatelic publications, the library contained a large number of works on postal history as well as collections of articles on stamp collecting from non-philatelic magazines.

In April 1908, Edward Denny Bacon was able to announce at a meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society that the Earl of Crawford, who was abroad at the time, had agreed that after all the items he required for his own library had been selected from the Fraenkel purchase, it was his intention to present the whole of the remaining portion to the Society.

Bacon went on to say “No donation approaching this, either in value or importance, has ever been received, and it will be the means of raising the Library of the Society at a bound to one of the first rank. Everybody interested in philatelic literature will applaud this generous act of the Earl of Crawford, and be glad to learn that the Library is not to be dispersed to the four corners of the globe.”

## The Crawford Catalogue

After the Tiffany purchase had been completed in 1901, Lord Crawford employed Edward Denny Bacon as curator for the collection. Bacon worked at 2 Cavendish Square on sorting the material, adding bookplates where appropriate (Fig. 7), and preparing a master listing of the holdings. This resulted in the appearance in 1911 of *Bibliotheca Lindesiana, vol. VII, A Bibliography of the Writings General, Special and Periodical forming the Literature of Philately*, published by the Aberdeen University Press, for private circulation only.

However, in the *Philatelic Record* (Vol 33, April 1911, p71) the following important announcement appeared:

*“Lord Crawford (has given) to the Philatelic Literature Society the rights of publication of a special edition (of his catalogue) for general issue, and the Society has printed three hundred copies for its members. This generous gift is duly appreciated and philatelists are under a debt of gratitude to Lord Crawford for placing the work within the reach of the general public.”*

There followed a short description of the history of the collection outlining the original purchase of the Tiffany library, and the subsequent addition of the Fraenkel material. It went on to say:

*“Mr Tiffany died in 1897, and the collection was left untouched until purchased by Lord*



PHILATELIC SECTION.

Fig. 7 - Bookplate

*Crawford. As it naturally ceased with the original owner's death its present owner decided to bring it down to the present date and to make the collection as complete and of as wide a scope as possible."*

This latter reference is to Bacon's efforts in ensuring completeness for the 1897-1910 period. He employed Stanley Gibbons Ltd to act as his source for obtaining stamp journals for inclusion in the Library. When any were overdue, particularly the smaller overseas journals, Bacon would send his 'list of missing' to the Strand office of Gibbons, and expected letters to be sent immediately to the negligent editor or publisher.

The note in the *Philatelic Record* continued:

*"Mr Bacon gives some idea of the present vast collection, stating that of a series of miscellaneous journals and pamphlets bound together, the number in the original Tiffany library of 72 volumes has now increased to 283 volumes, and the Crawford library of philatelic literature is by far the largest collection extant. For this reason the Catalogue has special pretensions: it really forms a philatelic bibliography, and as such will rank in literature."*

*The work itself appears at an appropriate time, for it is fifty years since the first piece of philatelic literature appeared, and its pages are the most striking witness to a specialist literature, probably indeed unique, certainly so in the annals of collecting. The examination of the geographical list of periodicals alone astounds one with the number of journals devoted to philately which have appeared, and though most of these enjoyed but a very fleeting existence this is made up for by the diversity of the places of publication, for practically every civilised country can lay claim to one or more. In this list the United States comes easily first, with 26 columns, against Great Britain, 10 columns, Germany, 8 columns, France, 3½ columns, of from 30 to 35 entries to each column. .... Catalogue making is an art apart; the number of persons capable of such a work as this is very few, but Mr Bacon has performed it with great judgment, while it is doubtful if anyone could have been found who would have bestowed such evidence of fostering care as marks this volume, which is a credit not only to philatelic literature, but to English bibliography."*

Of the three hundred copies of this work that were published, a third were reserved for members of the Philatelic Literature Society. The remaining two hundred were placed on sale to the general public at two guineas each.

After completing the 1911 bibliography, Bacon continued his work, producing a *Supplement* in 1926 that was also published by the Philatelic Literature Society, and an *Addenda* that appeared as a supplement to the March 1938 issue of the *London Philatelist*.

### **Holdings in the British Library**

The whole Crawford philatelic library is now housed in the British Library and is accessible to researchers with authorisation. In 1985, a major conservation programme was started since many of the books in the collection were in a poor state. Part of this programme was to microfilm all the books, and this is now completed. Many of the most fragile volumes have also been repaired or rebound, and this work is ongoing.

The Earl had added the following codicil to his will handing over his extensive philatelic literature collection to the nation.

*"During the last few years I have given much attention to the formation of a collection of books and papers dealing with or treating on philately, and, as I consider this collection of philatelic literature to be the most complete in the world, I am anxious that it should*

*remain intact, and that it shall be of the greatest use for reference. I have learnt from my son, Lord Balcarres, that this subject has little or no interest to him in so far as the general library is concerned. It is therefore my intention to present this collection shortly to the Trustees of the British Museum, but retaining the use and custody of the same during my lifetime, thus ensuring the keeping up and growth of the collection to the latest date.*

*These books are kept in my house, 2 Cavendish Square, and can easily be identified by means of the special catalogue compiled by my friend Mr E.D. Bacon, and printed as one of the volumes of the general catalogue of the Bibliotheca Lindesiana, being known as the 'Philatelic Section' thereof. Should this my intention not have been carried out before my death I now formally bequeath the collection to the Trustees of the British Museum."*

After his death, the books were removed to the Museum in March 1913. All the volumes, however small, were impressed with a metal handstamp (Fig. 8). This showed a circle, beneath a coronet, in which were the words 'Bequeathed – by James – Earl of Crawford – K.T. – 1913'. The impression was made with yellow ink that signifies 'donations' in the Museum internal colour code. An accession stamp with the words 'British Museum' and the date was also added to each book.

One unusual document in the Crawford Library is a painting by Adolph Reinheimer that shows the first recorded public display of postage stamps. This took place in 1852 when the Vandermaelen Museum in Brussels mounted contemporary stamps from various countries in a picture frame, and exhibited it amongst the other items within their general collection of curiosities from around the world. It is claimed that this particular exhibit fascinated the famous Belgian collector, J.B. Moens so much that it may have been the reason for his becoming a stamp dealer.

Reinheimer had remembered seeing it as a schoolboy. He painted this stamp exhibit, in its museum surroundings, from memory in 1906 and showed it in the International Philatelic Exhibition in that year, in frame 254. After the exhibition closed he presented the painting to the Earl of Crawford who added it to his library.

In 1991, an American publisher, the Printer's Stone Ltd, in association with the British Library, brought Bacon's three earlier publications together in a new volume that cites some 4,500 works. The master used for this new book was the personal copy of the original bibliography owned by Bacon, annotated in his hand, with shelfmarks added by another. These shelfmarks made the work of the utmost importance and permitted, for the first time, easy identification of specific items whether for use in the British Library Reading Rooms or for reference citation.

This publication, titled *Catalogue of the Crawford Library of Philatelic Literature at the British Library* was printed, on archival paper, in a limited edition of 500 copies and sold for £115 per copy. It retained the Earl's introduction, describing the development of his collection and Bacon's Preface detailing the use of his bibliography. A new preface, by Senior Vice-President David Beech, curator of Philatelic Collections at the British Library, brought these historical and technical matters up to date.

Copies of the original and the 1991 version are available for reference in the Library at 41 Devonshire Place.

## Disposals

In March 1912, the philatelic press announced that Mr W. H. Peckitt, the well-known London dealer, had purchased all the Earl's stamp collections, except for the Great Britain and the United



Fig. 8 - British Library stamp

States sections. There were a number of reasons for this sale. Crawford was becoming heavily involved with his study and cataloguing of his newly formed Napoleonic literature collection, and this left him less time to devote to his stamps. His health was declining, at this time, and he had recently had to make considerable cash injections to the Wigan Coal & Iron Co, where losses had been mounting.

By the time of this sale, the Earl had been acquiring collections from various sources for almost a decade, and so Mr Peckitt's stock was greatly enhanced with examples from many British Colonies. The *London Philatelist* (Vol 21, March 1912, p71) devoted a special article to a description of some of the items that Crawford had sold.

This article listed material, including rarities, from British Bechuanaland, British Central and East Africa, British Guiana, Cape of Good Hope, Mafeking, New South Wales, Orange Free State, St. Lucia, St. Helena, St. Vincent, South Australia, Straits Settlements, Transvaal, Western Australia, Mexico, Peru and Zanzibar.

Special mention was made of the Indian and Italian sections. The former was said to be 'a remarkably strong collection'. It included 'twelve entire uncut sheets of the half-anna and one-anna from the first issue, denoting the different transfers and dates of printing'. Amongst other unique, or very rare, items was a complete uncut sheet of the half-anna red, and blocks and strips of the other values. The famous 4 anna inverted head variety from the 1854 issue was also included.

The Italian collection, which occupied 20 albums, included all the defunct Italian States represented in varieties, mint and used, plus entires. Special mention was made of the material included from Naples, Tuscany, Sicily, Parma and Modena. The Sicilian items were noted specifically as being in uncut sheets of all values.

In almost every country, the collections included essays, die proofs and colour trials making them particularly attractive to specialists. The price paid by Peckitt was reported to be £25,000 – which would be more than £150,000 in today's values.

### Great Britain Collection

The punitive death duties levied on the Lindsay estates following the Earl's death led to his son reluctantly selling the marvellous Great Britain collection formed by Crawford. This also occupied twenty albums, and was sold privately to Mr R.B. Sparrow in December 1913. The purchase price was not disclosed, but was said to be 'the largest sum ever paid for a single specialised country'. Many of the members of the Royal had already had the privilege of seeing some of this material when Crawford gave the inaugural meetings of the season at his London home.

The albums included a large accumulation of proofs and essays, and Mr Sparrow incorporated these in his own collection. Large numbers of items from the remainder of the collection were sold and are now widely dispersed. Some of the real rarities are believed to have been purchased by King George V to be added to the Royal Collection.

The article in the *London Philatelist* (Vol 23, January 1914, p7) described many of the better pieces, as follows:

".... specimens of every existing abnormal Plate number – a marvellous record; part sheets – 175 specimens of the 1d. black, and 168 specimens of the 2d. blue of 1840 without white lines; almost a complete sheet – 219 specimens of the 1d. black with V.R. in the upper angles; a superb lot of the 4d. Small and Middle Garter watermarks, including a block of 17 of the former; a superlative range of the octagonals in pairs, blocks, etc.; all the high values of the De La Rue issues in numerous examples, with many blocks; complete panes of very many of the surface printed stamps; the 10d. with watermark Four Flowers, used; the 3d. with the "secret" dot, and, in fact, specimens of every known variety. The Telegraph and Departmental surcharge stamps are also magnificent."

Mr Sparrow subsequently issued a statement that he had purchased the Earl's GB collection on his own behalf, and said that a rumour going around that it had been bought on behalf of a syndicate of British specialists was false.

## US Collection

The other large holding retained by the Earl after he sold his other collections to Mr Peckitt was his United States material. He had been interested in the material from this country since he started collecting again, and had bought many important accumulations from across the Atlantic. In 1903, he was able to mount a magnificent display of his US collection for members of the Society, and the *London Philatelist* (Vol 12, November 1903, p264) reported the meeting thus:

*"....The Earl – though a philatelist of but relatively short standing – viewing Philately from a standpoint different from that of the average modern collector, has demonstrated beyond cavil that in the formation of a highly specialised and scientifically arranged collection, the historical portion must not be ignored. Lord Crawford has, therefore, included in his collection everything that in any way refers to the origin, development, and manufacture of the postage stamp, from the earliest original pen or pencil sketch down to the Plate proof of the finished article immediately prior to its issue to the public.*

*(At a recent meeting of the Society, the Vice-President showed)...a collection that in its richness, its entirety, its research, and its historical interest far surpassed anything that has ever been shown in this country or, doubtless, in any other.*

*The object lesson of this superb display is, clearly, that to make a scientific and really complete collection of postage stamps, not only the issues themselves, but all that relates to their inception, development and supercession is really requisite. It is obviously impossible, within our limits, to give an adequate description of the collection, which, irrespective of the non-issued varieties, included every possible shade, varieties and blocks in almost every case – the condition of the stamps, whether as to centring or aught else, leaving practically nothing to be desired.*

*The two great Divisions are, 'Stamps handled by the Public', being Carriers, Postmasters, and General Issues to date, in volumes 1-23; and 'Stamps only handled by Officials' being Official Seals, Registered, Dead Letter, Postage Due, Newspapers and Periodicals, Departmentals, in volumes 24-41.*

*The full scheme of the arrangement of the collection is as follows, for which we are indebted to the notes kindly supplied by the Vice-President.*

- a. Original design
- b. Die Proof – state of the plate, finally approved (usually in black)
- c. Die Proofs submitted for colour
- d. Artist's Proof, signed in chosen colour
- e. Plate Proof, on India paper, often in various colours
- f. Plate Proof, on card, in colour
- g. The issued stamp
- h. Reprints of reissues or special printings"

Lord Crawford took his American collection across the Atlantic in 1905 and showed it in April that year to the Collectors Club in New York. John Luff, noted US expert, President of the Scott Publishing organisation and Vice-President of the Collectors Club, wrote about the event:

*"The collection contains such curious things as sheets of plain paper with impressions from the grille roller, trial impressions of devices similar to the adopted grille, chemical papers, double papers, cut die stamps and cancellation devices which destroyed the stamps by cutting machines, acids and even explosions.*

*One interesting thing was piled upon another until it became bewildering, plus the array of rarities and ‘mint’ copies with something to arouse the envy of any collector. At various times I spent fully ten hours on board the Valhalla looking over the collection, and saw less than half of it. I am sorry for the many who tried to absorb it all. They must have acquired philatelic indigestion.”*

Much of the essay material acquired by Lord Crawford originated from Henry G. Mandel. He was an official of the American Bank Note Company in the late 1800s and was said to have had a proofing press in his office. He also had access to all of the dies that the Company owned.

After the Earl’s death, the American section of his collection was sold to John A. Kleemann of the Nassau Stamp Company, New York. It was subsequently sold off by this dealer in small lots until 1941, when the balance was auctioned by Harmer, Rooke & Co. in a series of seven sales. The unsolds from these auctions were finally purchased by Eugene Costales, an American philatelist, and, since then, they have passed to other collectors.

One other aspect of Lord Crawford’s interest in American material was the research he undertook into the United States Patent Office to discover items associated with the postage stamps of that country. This added a further historical perspective to his vast collection. The Earl presented the results of his findings in a series of articles in the *London Philatelist* (commencing in Vol 19, July 1910, p157) entitled “Abstracts from the Specifications of Patents connected with Postage and Revenue Stamps, granted by the United States Patent Office from 1863 to 1898.”

### The Status of the Society

The Earl of Crawford joined the Philatelic Society London on 8 June 1900, and in June 1902 was elected Vice-President on the resignation of Mr M.P. Castle. From the first season in which he was appointed a Vice-President of the Society, the Earl invited members to his home at 2 Cavendish Square for the October meeting each year. These visits took place from 1902 to 1911 inclusive, except for 1903, and were greatly appreciated.

*In early November 1906, Crawford called a meeting at his home of the senior members of Council of the Philatelic Society to discuss the possibility of seeking the approval of the King to add the word “Royal” to the Society’s name. The Earl had originally suggested that at the same time, the name should be changed to the Royal Philatelic Institute, so that there would be no confusion with the Royal Photographic Society if the initials R.P.S. were quoted. However, Council preferred to maintain the original name, and suggested that using the initials R.Ph.S would overcome any possible confusion with the other body.*

The Earl wrote to HRH the Prince of Wales, then President of the Society, on 8 November explaining what had been discussed. By return, he received the following postcard, which said in the Prince’s own handwriting:

*My dear Lord Crawford,*

*Thanks for your letter of the 8th. Yes, I quite agree with the Council that it would be a pity if one lost our old designation &, therefore, I propose that we should be known in the future as “the Royal Philatelic Society of London”. I think one ought to retain London denoting where our headquarters are.*

*Believe me,*

*Very sincerely yours,*

*George*

John Tilleard, the Secretary, had already given Lord Crawford a note with main headings and brief details of significant facts about the Society’s history. Using these, Crawford composed the

following letter, which he sent to the Home Office on 9 November. He kept a handwritten copy of this submission, which is now in our Archives. The letter, addressed to the Home Secretary, said:

*I have the honour to request your favourable consideration of this application.*

*The Philatelic Society London, was founded as an unincorporated Society in 1869, and has been in active existence since that date. The Society is anxious to be permitted to make use of the prefix "Royal" in connection with its name, and would beg you, Sir, to lay the matter before H.M. the King, with the view of obtaining his gracious sanction.*

*In support of this application I may be permitted to point out*

- (1) *The Society was founded in 1869 by a body of gentlemen who were interested in philately, or study of and collection of postage stamps (see statutes attached).*
- (2) *That it is governed by a Council consisting of a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretaries and 9 members of Council, all of which are honorary appointments.*
- (3) *The membership is open to amateurs only - the "trade" being expressly excluded.*
- (4) *There are now upwards of 250 members, a number likely to be largely increased when the Society acquires a legal status.*
- (5) *Commencing in 1892, the Society has issued its own monthly periodical, forming now 15 large volumes. It has also printed monographs on the history of the stamps of Great Britain and her Colonies, which are considered to be the standard authority, and have received the favour of the various governments.*
- (6) *Considerable assistance has been rendered to the Department of Inland Revenue in the detection of forgery and fraud against the Post Office.*
- (7) *That it is considered as the "Premier" Society, and was founded some time earlier than any other similar Society in the world.*
- (8) *For the past 16 years the Society has been honoured by the Royal Family: H.R.H. the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha held the office of Hon. President from 1890 till his death in 1899. H.R.H. the Duke of York (now Prince of Wales) was Hon. Vice-President from 1893 until 1896, and since that date has acted as President of the Society.*

*With regard to philately in general, it has grown up with extraordinary vigour, and has now become an important subject of study. It is a pursuit followed by a large and increasing number in all classes of the community. A very considerable and important trade has grown up in connection with it, and many dealers have large capital embarked in the trade. The literature on the subject is very great and there are many hundreds of periodicals dealing with it.*

*Two International Exhibitions have been held in London under the auspices of the Society: one in 1896 and the other in May of the present year. The insurance of the stamps shown on that occasion amounted to over £400,000.*

*In the event of this application being favourably received, it is intended to apply for a Certificate of Incorporation of the Society under the Companies Act as an association not formed for profit, so as to gain a legal status.*

On the following day, a reply was received from the Home Office that read:

*My Lord,*

*I have received your letter of yesterday's date enclosing the application of the Philatelic Society of London for the grant of the prefix "Royal". The necessary steps shall be taken without delay and a further communication shall be made to you shortly.*

A little over two weeks later, Tilleard received official notification that the King had granted the request and the word "Royal" could be added to the Society name. The next issue of the *London Philatelist* reproduced the letter on its first page (Fig.9).

Prior to its appearance, the Editor, M.P. Castle had written to Past President Judge Philbrick, who was the senior member of the Society at that time. Castle wrote, on 8 December 1906:

*My dear Philbrick,*

*I am glad to be the bearer of tidings that, I feel sure, will rejoice your heart. On the invitation of Lord Crawford and with the support of the Prince of Wales, His Majesty has been pleased to give the London Society the prefix of "Royal" and we are now the 'Royal Philatelic Society, London' and can put F.R.P.S.L. after our names. It is proposed to limit the Fellows to 350 and to make associates. It will be an enormous help to Philately the world over and to my mind is one of the most gratifying events of my life. You, as an original member, and for nearly a quarter of a century Vice-President and President will, I am confident, share my feelings of pleasure that our dear old Society should have been so honoured after its 37 years of existence.*

*PS. We are all required to keep it all secret until the L.P. appears about 18th Dec.*

Lord Crawford had gone abroad for the winter and was at sea when the news came through. On reaching Italy, he sent a telegram (Fig.10) to the Society from Naples.

When King Edward VII died in May 1910, the Prince of Wales was President of the Society. His accession to the throne, as King George V, precluded him from continuing to hold that office, and his private secretary sent the following letter to the Society on 14 May:

*"With regard to the Royal Philatelic Society, His Majesty must now cease to act as President, but he will be its Patron, and desires that Lord Crawford should become President."*

### **His Death and After**

One of the duties that the Earl valued most highly was his work as a Trustee of the British Museum. He had accepted this post on 11 November 1885, and devoted much of his energy collecting specimens that were subsequently added to the Museum's holdings.

# THE *London Philatelist*:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. XV.

DECEMBER, 1906.

No. 180.

### The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

 **T**is with the greatest gratification that we are privileged to be the medium of the very important announcement contained in the letter following, emanating from the Board of Trade:—

WHITEHALL, 28 November, 1906.

SIR,—I am directed by the Secretary of State to acquaint you that the application of the Philatelic Society, London, for permission to use the prefix "Royal" in the name of their Society has been graciously acceded to by His Majesty, who has signified his pleasure that the Society be styled "The Royal Philatelic Society, London."

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY CUNYNGHAM.

THE HONORARY SECRETARY,

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON,

10 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

Fig. 9 - Letter confirming 'Royal'

C.M.-B.S. F.M.		POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS. FOR INWARD FOREIGN AND COLONIAL TELEGRAMS.		No. of Telegram. ....
				me handed in.
		LONDON FR NAPOLI SM 219 19:3 11/33 M =		Office Stamp.
Rec'd from		Service Instructions.	Sent or Sent out at	
<i>Dear Sirs</i>			To.....	
			By.....	
TO		CHAIRMAN ROYAL PHILATELIC SOC 4 SOUTHAMPTON ROW LONDON =		
		CONGRATULATIONS ON TITLE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL FELLOWS = CRAWFORD		
<p>If the accuracy of this Telegram be doubted, a part, or the whole, can be repeated under special conditions, particulars of which can be obtained on application at the office from which it was delivered.</p> <p>N.B.—This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.</p>				Charge to pay. <i>£ 0 s d.</i>
WIGAN AND SONS, LTD., PRINTERS, PETERLANE, LONDON, E.C. [59.]				

Fig. 10 - Crawford's telegram

It was not surprising that he was attending a meeting of the Trustees on 30 January 1913, but entirely unexpected that he should suffer a major heart attack whilst there. He was immediately taken home to Cavendish Square, under medical supervision, but did not recover and died there the next day, at the age of 66. His wife, two of his sons and his daughter were present in his last hours, but his other three sons were abroad and could not be contacted in time.

On 4 February, the body of the Earl was buried in the family estate at Balcarres. It had been transferred from London, by overnight express, and thence by special train to the local station at Kilconquhar. From there, the coffin, covered by a Lindsay tartan plaid, was drawn on a wagon by a team of four horses to the chapel on the estate. This unroofed, seventeenth century building, houses the remains of several members of the Lindsay clan.

Simultaneously with the funeral of the late Earl of Crawford at Balcarres, a memorial service was held in the Chapel-Royal, St. James's Palace, London, by permission of the King. He was represented at the service by Lord Herschel. Amongst the large congregation were close family friends, members of many titled families, and representatives from many of the bodies of which the Earl had been a member. For the Royal Philatelic Society, the service was attended by Messrs. M.P. Castle, C.E. McNaughtan, R.B. Yardley and E.D. Bacon.

A memorial service was also held on the same day in Wigan Parish Church, attended by the Mayor and Corporation of the borough. A detachment of the 5th Battalion, Manchester Regiment, of which Lord Crawford had been honorary Colonel, headed the civic procession.

Lord Crawford's son, David Alexander Edward, who succeeded to the title was a senior Conservative politician and a Government Whip. He kept a journal and the entry he made on 21 March 1913, seven weeks after his father's death, is as follows:

*"For the first time in my life I made an effort to look at Father's philatelic collection. Hitherto I have never been interested in it as a subject, and as much of the collection and arrangement was conducted on board the yacht, I have not been au courant with its progress and development. One reason why Father was so fond of it was that within a*

*small compass it gave him endless opportunities for research and disposition during his long cruises.*

*Moreover given adequate means the collection was one which could be quickly matured – and in the course of ten years he not only acquired, but he arranged with astonishing skill and diligence, three great groups – the foreign, the USA, and the series of Great Britain. The foreign lot, odds and ends as he called it, was sold fifteen or eighteen months ago.*

*I have now skimmed through the remaining collections and I confess I am amazed at the patience and research shown on the one hand, and at the courage in buying displayed on the other. To most people philately represents the hobby of the schoolboy. To myself it was always looked upon – looked down upon perhaps – as a byway in collecting, something not very creditable to those who are raised in the higher pursuits of science, literature and art: in fact I never thought it quite worthy of Father's attainments.*

*This opinion I now revise. I do not think I could ever become an enthusiast, but an hour or two has revealed to me the charm of philately. But it is not only the stamps themselves which are remarkable, it is their arrangement – for the collection is annotated throughout in Father's neat manuscript, and in looking at a stamp the notes tell one its history and its peculiarities. The collection is itself unique, containing hundreds and thousands of specimens to be found nowhere else – but the historical analysis – the display of evolution shown page by page – this is what made Father the greatest philatelist of all time, and his system of arrangement has produced a revolution in the methods of collecting.*

*In short this is a great, almost a noble achievement, and in any case the best of its kind. It is a monument to Father's patience and industry – and I can only hope that the circumstances which oblige me to surrender it will allow it to be preserved intact."*

In his booklet on the history of the Expert Committee, Past President Ron Butler notes that they received from his son 'in memory of the great interest taken by his father in the work, a valuable microscope specially adapted for philatelic purposes.' This was a Zeiss instrument designed to take photographs of the enlarged image.

In 1914, it was decided to perpetuate the Earl's memory by awarding a medal annually bearing his name. No awards were made, however, until 1920 because of the intervention of the First World War.

The Crawford Medal (Fig. 11, see page 1) is silver-gilt and is awarded for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately published in book form during the two years preceding the award.

## Conclusion

Edward Denny Bacon, (later Sir Edward) knew the Earl as well as anybody, from his close collaboration with him on his collections and the Library Catalogue. In the obituary Bacon wrote for the *Journal of the Philatelic Literature Society* (Vol. 6, April 1913, p13) he included the following tribute:

*"Lord Crawford had a singular striking personality and great charm of manner, and he was courtesy personified. It was his nature to help others to gain true knowledge, and I never knew him to refuse any reasonable application made to him. He was regarded with admiration and esteem by all who came in contact with him.*

*The world is poorer by the death of such a noble character, and to Philately his loss is grievous beyond words. No man was ever a more enthusiastic collector or did more to raise philately to the dignity of a science, for he has placed the pursuit on an altogether higher plane than that it occupied when he became associated with it. From the position he occupied he wielded a rare influence and prestige for the good of philately,*

*and he exercised a remarkably sound judgment on all matters affecting the welfare of the pursuit.*

*For philatelic literature he has done, if possible, even more than for stamp collecting, and in allowing the Philatelic Literature Society to publish an edition of the Catalogue of his philatelic books he has conferred an inestimable boon on collectors. To crown all that he has done for philately, he has left his magnificent library of philatelic works to the British Museum, where it will always be accessible to collectors. This munificent bequest forms a fitting adjunct to the Tapling Collection of stamps now in the Museum and will, humanly speaking, remain a monument to him for all time."*

In its issue of 15 February 1913, the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* referred in its obituary notice to the Lord Crawford's position as 'Premier Earl of Scotland'. It included the words:

*"Whatever his position may have been in social precedence, the late Earl will always be remembered among stamp collectors as the Premier Earl of Philately".*

An apt phrase that sums up one notable interest of a very remarkable man.

### **Acknowledgements**

My thanks to David Beech FRPSL for providing help with the British Library information, for useful comments on the draft manuscript and for permission to reproduce Fig. 8, and to Brian Birch FRPSL for supplying Fig. 5.

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### Newspapers and Periodicals

In addition to those publications specifically referenced in the text, the following were also consulted:

- The Times* (of London) newspaper [1 Feb 1913];  
*Wigan Examiner* [8 Feb 1913];  
*The Scotsman* [5 Feb 1913];  
*British Philatelic Bulletin* [Jul.1996, p348];  
*British Philatelist* [Mar 1913, p1];  
*Essay Proof Journal* [No 123, 1974, p121];  
*Journal of the Philatelic Literature Society* [Apr 1908, p13; Apr 1913, p24];  
*London Philatelist* [Dec 1906, p288; Mar 1912, p51]; Feb 1913, p25];  
*Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* [20 Feb 1913, p34];  
*Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* [10 May 1913, p64].

### Internet

Information was found, or checked, from the following sites. [Note: the prefix http://www. is normally needed before the site addresses quoted below]:

- APS Hall of Fame [west.net/~dviolini/apshof/hof1941.htm];  
Bibliotheca Lindesiana [gslis.utexas.edu/~landc/bookplates/18\_3\_Lindesiana.htm];  
Clan Lindsay history [clanlindsay.com];  
Haigh Hall [lancstowns.co.uk/wigantowns.htm];  
John Rylands Library [manchester2002-uk.com/celebs/philanthropy2.html];  
Lord Lindsay body snatching [law.utexas.edu/lpop/etext/roughead/dunecht.htm];  
Lt. John Chard [rorkesdriftvc.com/vc/chard.htm];  
Mining legislation [xrefer.com/entry/362893];  
National Library of Scotland [nls.ac.uk/print\_collect/list.cfm?letter=C];  
Royal Society [royalsoc.ac.uk];  
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Royal Yacht Squadron [rys.org.uk/hist1.html];  
Tristan-da-Cunha [btinternat.com/~sa\_sa/tristan\_da\_cunha/annals\_20.html];  
USA collections [jameslee.com];  
Vanity Fair [strictlystores.com/storesites/thevanityfairprintcompany].