

The Royal Philatelic Society London

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PRESS RELEASE

The Royal Philatelic Society London part of initiative with leading philatelic libraries

The Royal Philatelic Society London is pleased to announce the formation of a partnership with preeminent philatelic libraries around the world to provide a centralised gateway to the greatest philatelic research in existence. Founding partners in the initiative include the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum and Smithsonian Libraries, Washington, DC, USA, and the American Philatelic Research Library, Bellefonte, PA, USA, with The Royal Philatelic Society London, United Kingdom.

The goal of the project is to establish a single destination — a centralised gateway — by which philatelists around the world can search, locate and access philatelic research from partner libraries in real-time, from any computer. Searchable listings of books and publications, as well as resource locations and access, will soon be one click away, providing an invaluable resource to those doing philatelic research. Major pre-1923 publications, including *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine, Illustrated*, London, from 1865-1874, have been digitised and will be made available at no charge. Other resources considered proprietary by partnering libraries may also be accessed through membership programmes and other avenues via the centralised gateway, which is planned to launch in June.

'This is a fantastic programme that will benefit philatelists around the world', said Allen Kane, director of the Smithsonian Museum. 'I would like to thank Alan Holyoake [of The Royal Philatelic Society London] for proposing the concept and helping to make it become a reality.'

Other partners participating in the project include: Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, Denver, USA; Slusser Memorial Library, Postal History Foundation Library, Tucson, USA; The Collectors Club, New York, USA; Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library, Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, Toronto, Canada; Western Philatelic Library, Sunnyvale, USA.

Brian Trotter, President of The Royal Philatelic Society London, commented: ‘This Society is delighted to be one of the founding partners in this exciting initiative, creating a centralised information gateway that will prove an invaluable tool for all philatelists around the globe. This ambitious project has only become reality thanks to the inspiration and dedication of those who have turned the concept into reality.’

The Royal Philatelic Society London is the world’s oldest philatelic society, having been founded in 1869 as The Philatelic Society, London. Its library provides an unparalleled collection of philatelic literature to be found anywhere in the world. The full range of services available from the Society can be seen by visiting www.rpsl.org.uk.

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