

# The Royal Philatelic Society London

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Philatelic Research now much easier**

The launch of the Global Philatelic Library website ([www.globalphilateliclibrary.org](http://www.globalphilateliclibrary.org)), a centralised information gateway to the world's greatest philatelic research, has been announced by the founding partners, including The Royal Philatelic Society London, The National Postal Museum and Smithsonian Libraries in Washington, DC, and The American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, Pa.

It was 125 years ago that an idea for a Joint Index of Philatelic Literature was put forward, but on February 15, 1888 the President of the American Philatelic Association, John K. Tiffany, wrote to Edward Denny Bacon, Secretary of the (now 'Royal') Philatelic Society London, stating, '... I consider the project as utterly impossible of any practical execution ...': the project has become a reality.

This ambitious project has happened thanks to the inspiration and dedication of the founding partners. The website establishes a single destination – a responsive centralised gateway – by which philatelists around the world can search, locate and access philatelic research from partner libraries instantly, from any computer. Searchable listings of books and publications, as well as resource locations and access, are now instantly available, providing invaluable resources for those undertaking philatelic research. It provides:

- \* A world-class collection of printed, electronic and other media;
- \* Access and support for beginners, hobbyists, specialists, writers and postal historians;
- \* International collaboration and co-operation with philatelic libraries and museums around the world;
- \* An Anthology of fascinating, informative and sometimes even scandalous articles written throughout the past century about philately and some of the people involved in its history.

'A large part of the philatelic information I have acquired was discovered incidentally while searching for something else,' said Thomas Lera, Winton M. Blount Research Chair at the National Postal Museum. 'I hope other philatelists, scholars and researchers will push open the doors of the new global philatelic library to find the answers to their questions and uncover new ones in the process as well.'

Other contributing philatelic research libraries include the National Philatelic Society (UK), The Collectors Club in New York (USA), Greene Foundation (Canada), Oslo Filatelistklubb Bibliotek (Norway), Philatelistische Bibliothek Hamburg (Germany), Postal History Foundation (USA), Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library (US) and Western Philatelic Library (USA).

The Chairman of the FIP Literature Commission, Tony Virvilis, added, 'The Global Philatelic Library is an excellent idea which I fully support.'

The Royal Philatelic Society London is proud to be playing such an active and vital role in this initiative, its own library being the most significant and comprehensive in the world. The full range of services available from the Society can be seen by visiting [www.rpsl.org.uk](http://www.rpsl.org.uk).

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