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PRESS RELEASE

Royal Acquires Invaluable Archive

The Royal Philatelic Society London has acquired an invaluable archival resource from the late Edward B. Proud RDP.

Edward ('Ted') Proud was a prolific writer, researcher and collector who published a phenomenal 68 books covering the postal history of the British Colonies. This indispensable collection and source of information has now been generously transferred to The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL), where they will be made available online, cementing the incredible legacy and lifetime of dedication to the unique history of the postal service.

Ted Proud was a trustee of the International Postal Museum, which he tirelessly developed over many years with the late Professor John West RDP. Ted's son and surviving trustee, Christopher Proud, has, according to his family's wishes, now donated the entirety of the Museum to The Royal Philatelic Society London.

The International Postal Museum owned the copyright to Ted Proud's extensive philatelic works, including electronic editions of all his 68 books and hundreds of hard copies, as well as a fastidiously constructed online archive and the copyright of the philatelic publications of R. C. Alcock. Ted Proud's books will all be available to purchase on the RPSL website with all proceeds now going to The Royal Philatelic Society London.

The extensive online archive will be an incredibly important asset for the RPSL and will render a wealth of information accessible for the very first time. Much of this newly uncovered data from Colonial postal administrations was unpublished and will now be indexed and made accessible. This will enable a wealth of data to be shared and explored on the relaunched RPSL website in 2018.

Ted Proud was a remarkable man with an enormous enthusiasm for and expertise in postal history. In 2008 he was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists after a lifetime spent researching, dealing in stamps and procuring an encyclopaedic knowledge of philatelic matters. The International Postal Museum, Ted's many books, and his meticulously produced archives, are a testament to a life-enduring fascination with postal history, which can now be enjoyed by Ted's fellow enthusiasts and historians.

Edward Proud's family is keen for the transfer of this important archive to the RPSL to take place as a legacy for today's and future philatelists and as a testament to a lifetime's work and achievement in creating this archive.

Initially enquiries for books should be made to: adminmanager@rpsl.org.uk

(6 November 2017)