

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

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PRESS RELEASE



STOCKHOLMIA 2019

29 MAY - 2 JUNE

**THE INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION
OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON**

The Founding Fathers of the 'Royal'

STOCKHOLMIA 2019 will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL). The exhibition will take place in Stockholm, Sweden.

On each day of the exhibition, one of the Founding Fathers of the RPSL will be celebrated starting with Sir Daniel Cooper (1821-1892) on Vernissage Day (28 May 2019). After a long career in business in New South Wales, Sir Daniel returned to England where he began a stamp collection in 1862. When the Society was formed on 10 April 1869, Sir Daniel became its first President. He also presented the very first paper titled *Earliest Sydney Stamps and Proofs of the Sydney Views*. He was also the first collector to show the famous Hawaiian 'missionaries' in England. In 1877, he sold his collection to Philipp von Ferrari for £3,000.

The second day (29 May) is devoted to James Ludovic Lindsay, Earl of Crawford (1847-1913). He began a serious collection of stamps in 1899 working closely with Stanley Gibbons Limited. He enjoyed adding artist's drawings, essays and proofs to illustrate the development of a stamp issue. The Earl sought the King's permission to use the word Royal in the Society's name in 1906. He also assembled a huge philatelic library which was later bequeathed to the British Library.

On the third day (30 May), the focus is on Frederick Adolphus Philbrick (1835-1910). He began collecting stamps in the late 1850s and it was Philbrick who proposed the formation of the Society in 1869. He served as the Society's second President opening his home for meetings. In 1883, he instituted the tradition of having an annual dinner. In 1882, his extensive worldwide collection was sold to Ferrari for £8,000.

Dr Charles William Viner (1812-1908) will be particularly remembered on 31 May. He started collecting stamps in 1859 and compiled some of the earliest catalogue listings. He frequently sent off as much as £5 to postmasters all over the world asking them to mail him the latest issues. In the 1860s, he edited a number of philatelic magazines. It was Viner who proposed that the Society should publish monographs on the stamps of all countries.

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Thomas Keay Tapling (1855-1891) is still widely remembered today as he bequeathed his enormous collection to the British Library where parts of it are available for inspection. He studied law but had to take over the very profitable family business in 1882. From then on, he was a wealthy man and had enough free time to indulge in his stamp hobby. In 1890, he chaired the committee that organised the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the postage stamp. Tapling will be celebrated on 1 June 2019.

On the last day of the exhibition, Marcellus Purnell Castle (1849-1917) will be in the limelight. He hardly ever missed a Society meeting for the last 40 years of his life. In January 1892, Castle produced the first issue of *The London Philatelist*, the magazine that he then edited until his death in 1917.

It is only fitting to remember all these pioneers when the RPSL is now celebrating its sesquicentennial.

PostNord, the Danish-Swedish Postal Service, will be using seven different commemorative handstamps during the exhibition. The designs are the work of Bengt Bengtsson FRPSL who over the years has designed more than 50 handstamps for mostly philatelic events in Sweden. More information about the designs and pictures of the handstamps can be found at the website.

More information about the exhibition and other related activities can be obtained at the website: www.stockholmia2019.se.

Suitable illustrations including the handstamps can be downloaded from www.stockholmia.2019.se/information.html#images_photos.

For additional information contact

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