

This is not the revelation of a conspiracy theory whereby some people have deliberately hidden information from philatelists to deprive them of it. Rather, it is the story of those people with the best of intentions, protecting historical information so well that no one knows where to find it or that it even exists.

Take the National Postal Museum at the Smithsonian Institution for example. Some few years ago I was reading an article by Fred. J. Melville (Figure 1) in which he was trying to reconstruct the list of participants at the foundation meeting of the Philatelic Society, London, (now the Royal Philatelic Society London) in 1869¹. A major player at this event was William Dudley Atlee, an early London stamp dealer, who tabled the motion to found the society and following its foundation became its first secretary.

Atlee was a very interesting, if misguided, man. After establishing himself as a stamp dealer in London and publishing a short-lived magazine, *W.D. Atlee's Stamp Circular*



Figure 1. Frederick John Melville (1882-1940).



Figure 2. William Dudley Atlee (1848-c. 1891).

from 1865-66 in eight numbers, he worked for Stafford Smith & Smith of Bath for a short time before moving to Birmingham and working for Edward Loins Pemberton. He was caught embezzling money and Pemberton made him sign an agreement to refrain from philatelic business in the future, before dismissing him. In 1877, he was found to be embezzling from his employer the Moseley Skating Rink Company and was prosecuted and sent to prison.

In spite of his importance and notoriety within philately, there was no known photograph of Atlee. However, in his article, Melville mentioned that he had two photographs of Atlee from about 1872. Following Melville's death in 1940, his library, notes and files were purchased by a group of

American stamp collectors and presented to the Library of Congress². Some books were retained but the duplicates and miscellaneous materials were passed on to the Smithsonian Institution Libraries and from there to the National Postal Museum.

At the time, I was aware that Chris King was collecting photographs of philatelists for the Royal Philatelic Society London and that he had contacts within the Smithsonian and the National Postal Museum (NPM). I therefore advised him of the article and suggested that he use his contacts and try to get a photograph of Atlee from their Melville files³. Once Chris made contact with the NPM, he was told that they would need to employ someone to search the files for the photograph and he was asked whether he was willing to pay for this? He said yes, and I offered to chip in some funds and the search took place. In any event, no money changed hands. I presume that they just needed reassurance that we were serious researchers.

This effort confirmed that the Melville archives were a cornucopia of records about the National Philatelic Society together with many other things relating to the history of philately, as several other photographs of early philatelists were sent to Chris together with that of Atlee (Figure 2).

One of the major problems with archives comes when the parent organization runs out of space. Private organizations are particularly vulnerable in this respect and the Royal Philatelic Society London has suffered this problem almost since the beginning. When I joined the library as a volunteer in the late 1990s I was able to see

H L'Estrange Ewen (file)	UK dealers - H. L'Estrange Ewen correspondence (United Kingdom, 1897-1912)	PTRADE-UKDEALERS-600028
H. L'Estrange Ewen papers (file)	UK dealers - H. L'Estrange Ewen - Papers, assorted (United Kingdom, 1908-1960)	PTRADE-UKDEALERS-600029

Figure 3. The two entries for Ewen in the Royal's Archives Inventory of 2014.

the problem first-hand. Boxes of donated (by me!) but unsorted library material were stacked almost to the ceiling halfway along a basement corridor leading to an emergency exit and remained untouched for years. It was only when a health and safety audit was carried out and drew attention to the problem, that the boxes were removed and sorted.

During the War years there was a ready-made solution to the problem of lack of space. With the toll taken on its merchant ships by enemy submarines, Britain could only import essential war materials and food. Accordingly, the government regularly appealed for paper salvage that could be recycled into usable forms. It was therefore an easy decision that any paper that was not essential to the everyday running of the Royal could be sent for salvage, thereby helping the war effort and freeing valuable space.

The council minutes for the period list several occasions when permission to send paper for salvage was requested. The paper involved included old auction catalogs, periodicals, back-numbers of *The London Philatelist*, and any other unwanted papers and obsolete record books.

Even during my time as a volunteer, librarians gave away or sold the whole section of the library on general philately – obviously too basic for the advanced philatelists who formed the Royal's membership. Similarly, all of the – generally free – booklets given by countries to popularize

HERBERT L'ESTRANGE EWEN & EWEN'S COLONIAL STAMP MARKET

File N° 600028/600029

Herbert L'Estrange Ewen was born on the 6th July 1876 and died on the 1st October 1912 at the age of 36.

It is clear from the local directories that Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market continued to be located in Palace Square until 1929. It then appears to have been relocated to Bracknell. I have not been able to get any more details. Certainly Ewen's *Weekly* reports Col. Deane's death in 1915 as one of the directors of the company. Probably the company continued to be run by the family.



Herbert L'Estrange Ewen

(From: *The Philatelic Journal of America*, November 1912, Volume 23, Issue 5, p.23.)

A couple of points of interest, in the first section, 1897, it would appear that the Ewen's mother married Mr. Gregory, as I have seen her somewhere referred as Mrs. Gregory.

In the railway section 1943, Margaret Ewen had married Lt. Col. Arthur Frederick Deare in 1903. The Col. died in 1915, aged 53 and would not have been serving overseas. In 1921 she married Clement Hilton Williams, who died in 1963.

In the Railway section, maybe it should be noted that Cecil died on 1 April 1949, after a long illness. Hence the sole remaining Ewen sibling was Margaret, who dealt with the remainders of the railway collection.

Best regards,
Michael Peach.

This file of correspondence was donated to the Royal, by Norman Williams in about 1999. (The *London Philatelist*, April 1999, Volume 108, pp.79-83.) It comprised four folders and from the correspondence therein, was evidently loaned to Norman Williams in January 1960 by Ewen's sister, Margaret for the purpose of research.

Most of the material appears to have been collected by Cecil L'Estrange Ewen and following his death, must have passed to his sister, Mrs. Margaret Williams.

It is worth noting that the British Library holds at least one of Ewen's correspondence copy books, that was at one time in Cecil's hands, covering the period 3rd October 1898 to 21st November 1898.

The four original folders consisted of:

1. Correspondence from Herbert to Cecil about the business. (1897-1912)
2. Correspondence almost exclusively from and to Herbert's sister Margaret and brother Cecil concerning the disposal of Ewen's remaining collections – particularly his Railway Stamps. (1911-1958)
3. Various lists and particulars about the Railway Stamps. (Mostly undated)
4. Miscellaneous correspondence mostly 1938 to 1960 with two earlier letters.

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Figure 4. The first page of the author's write-up for Ewen.

their new stamp issues were given away to the National Philatelic Society.

Earlier, editions of books were routinely discarded where a more recent edition was acquired. A similar pruning was suggested for obsolete stamp catalogs, but fortunately not acted upon. The pressure on library space has reduced due to the Royal's recent move to new premises, but has probably not gone away, given the acquisition a couple of year ago of the library of the National Philatelic Society.

As a library volunteer I naturally had access to restricted areas of the library, rare and valuable books for example, and surprisingly, also to the archives, where I could pursue my private research. During

one such session, archivist Bill Hedley asked me if I would consider helping in the archives and suggested that I write up the correspondence files.

On being shown a very small collection of files, I expressed amazement that they were incredibly meager, given the nearly 150 years of the Royal's existence. Bill explained that some former archivists considered these files to be of little more value than as a source of signatures of famous philatelists. It was not hard to imagine just what valuable information had been sent for salvage over the years.

I profess no originality in the belief that those holding historical documents in their archives have a duty to publicize their holdings as well as make them available on request. For example, the American Philatelic Society provided an inventory of the archives it holds in the *Philatelic Literature Review* over the years 2011 to at least 2013⁴. These inventories covered only the material relating to the American Philatelic Society, although I am certain that its holdings are much wider than that.

Inventories are fine as far as they go, but they do not go far enough to really be helpful. They tell the user that something is held but generally do not indicate what it is or even its extent.

The Royal's archivists also produced an inventory of its holdings (my copy, printed out and bound into a book, is dated 2014) but, once again, this gave no indication as to what is present under each entry. As an

Envelope 1

Correspondence

Business Matters

All of this correspondence is addressed to Herbert's brother Cecil. The pleasantries and personal items have been ignored and only things of philatelic importance are mentioned. In order to compare the cash figures quoted with today's values, they must be multiplied by 100 or so.

1897

18th September

He provides his accounts for the week ending 18th September, showing that he made a profit of £5.5s.7¹/₂d. He also shows the profit for the previous four weeks.

24th October

He provides a statement of the net value of his business from 1893 to October 1897 (Assets & Liabilities) which show that the net value has increased from £20 to £586. A loss of £132.10s.4d due to [Tomas] Coelho – a well-known fraudster – is noted.

31st October

He provides a balance sheet for October showing a net profit of £60.9s.3¹/₂d for the month. A breakdown of his profit by week is included. His gross profit is 50%, 40% of which is expenses and 20% goes to him. He asks whether their mother is going to marry Mr. G. and comments that it seems like a joke.

1898

12th July

The first page of this letter is missing. He provides the accounts for the two half years: July to December 1897 and January to June 1898, showing a total profit of £273.15s.2¹/₂d. He breaks down both his expenses and private expenditure.

23rd September

Mostly family matters but mentions that his business in railway stamps is growing.

24th November

The debt to Chapman is discussed. It dated from 1894 when Ewen bought the latter's stock for £280.

1899

25th February

He provides four-monthly accounts from September 1897 to the end of 1898 showing that his business has fallen markedly, which he attributes to his reducing debt and not purchasing new stock. Since he is now virtually free of debt, he is buying liberally now. An attached Report for the Year Ending 31st August 1898 announces a 45% Dividend.

1st July

He provides half-yearly accounts from July 1897 to June 1899 showing the increased profit resulting from his fresh stock. A breakdown of his railway stamp business is provided together with his thoughts about moving into selling Colonial stamps. He notes that the business was established in May 1890 with a capital of £30 of which £13 was in cash.

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Figure 5. The author's write-up of the first page of Ewen's correspondence.

example, in point, take the entry in the 2014 inventory for Herbert L'Estrange Ewen, a notable British dealer who popularized the collecting of British line-engraved stamps with plate numbers as well as railway stamps and was a pioneer in the provision of a new issues service to collectors.

Figure 3 shows the full extent of Ewen's two entries in the inventory. However, when I had written about his correspondence and papers, it covered 20 pages. To provide context for readers, I included a photograph and some brief notes about Ewen and his company, Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market (Figure 4). The first page of Ewen's correspondence follows as an example of what should be done (Figure 5).

From information I found while working on the Royal's correspondence I was able to write the article relating how the Royal Philatelic Society London received its full set of the extremely rare periodical, *The Stamp Collector's Record* by Samuel Allan Taylor, which was published in the *Philatelic Literature Review*⁵.

Similarly, when approached for biographical information about the Wilson family of stamp dealers – Alexander Henry Wilson and William Thomas Wilson — by a non-philatelist descendant who was writing a book about them, I could send him the relevant pages from my write-up of the correspondence. He could then apply for and receive scans of whatever interested him from the Royal's archives.

It is instructive to reflect on the fact that while the Royal Philatelic Society archives list of 2014 covered 390 pages, my write-up of the correspondence files held in the archives at that date comprises 488 pages and is not quite finished. I must admit that I added a photograph and a few biographical notes about each person or dealer, which added to the bulk of the volume but only in a small way.

In talking recently to the previous director of the archives, I was surprised to hear that it still holds some untouched boxes of material, just described as “Boxes” in the current inventory; a little less than useful I think.

References & Notes

1. Melville, Fred J. *The Pioneers. Jubilee of the Royal Philatelic Society, The Postage Stamp* vol. 21, no. 10 (April 1919): 206-207.
2. Kimble, Ralph A. “Editor's Column: Melville Library,” *The American Philatelist* vol. 53, no. 9 (June 1940): 593.
3. Melville's private papers, comprising 120 4-inch-thick (100mm) box files, which were kept untouched in a storeroom at the National Postal Museum. Unfortunately, staff claimed that there was no way that they could de-accession them. (Private communication with Col. Edward [Ted] Halliday, a long-time helper at the National Philatelic Society Library, following his visit to the museum to look at the Melville records.)
4. Zirkle, Robin [and Tara Murray]: “APS Archives,” *Philatelic Literature Review*, Pre-1900s., 2011,

Volume 60, pp. 216-217; 1900-1919., pp.307-312; 1920s., 2012, Volume 61, pp. 34-41; 1930s., pp. 122-131; 1940s., pp. 213-219; 1950s., pp. 306-310 & 1960s., 2013, Volume 62, pp. 20-25.

5. Birch, Brian J. “The Origin of the Royal Philatelic Society London's set of *The Stamp Collector's Record*,” *Philatelic Literature Review* vol 71, no. 2 (2nd Quarter 2022): 119-128.

References of Interest to Philatelic Bibliophiles in a Selection of the Council Minutes of the Royal Philatelic Society London

Introduction

I am one of a rare breed of philatelists who does not collect stamps or postal history. Rather, I collect the literature of philately together with bibliographies, indexes and biographical information about philatelists and dealers.

Among my books and the vastly larger collection in the library of the Royal Philatelic Society London, I found a number of bookplates and quite naturally I began to collect bookplates belonging to philatelists, dealers, philatelic organizations and postal undertakings. Among the books in the library of the Royal, I found several with bookplates belonging to either Thomas William Hall or Robert Blake Yardley. These were both former presidents of the Royal who bequeathed their respective libraries to the Royal's library.

In order to honor the donors, the Royal commissioned special bookplates for each of them (see the figures under Hall and Yardley below).

While writing up these bookplates in my collection, it occurred to me that the Royal's archives might contain some useful information. I already had some information from the correspondence files, however, the most complete record of the Royal's activities reside in the council minutes. The archives holds a complete set of Minute Books of every council meeting from 1876 to date. Tragically, the Minute Book covering the period from the Royal's foun-

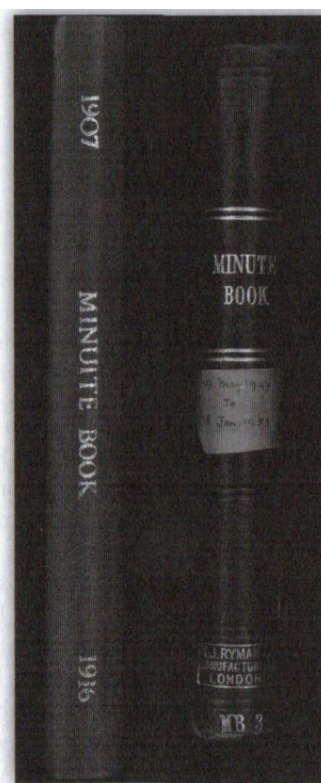


Figure 6. Minute Book, 1907-1916.

Figure 7. Minute Book, 1949-1953.

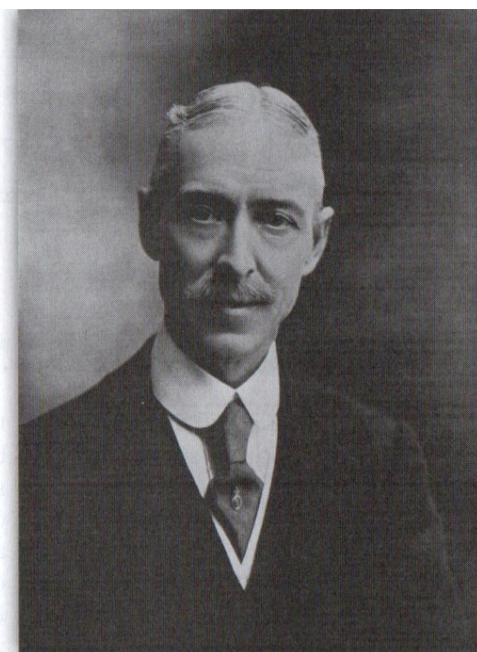


Figure 8. Sir Edward Denny Bacon (1860-1938).

I have presented the notes I made below.

Interestingly, I have recently been advised that the minutes of all of the Royal's annual general meetings have been typed up and are about to be published in book form in a very small edition of 100 copies; definitely a step in the right direction.

Key to the Council Minutes Accessed

Fortunately, the more-modern Minute Books were commercially produced and have numbered pages. The bibliographic details are given before each extract in the following format: Date of the council meeting, page numbers. Where the books' pages are not numbered, I only give the date of the council meeting. In reality, the minutes of the meetings are not so long as to make this problematic.

Figures 6 and 7 show typical Minute Books, the earlier one having a modern binding.

Most of the entries are about specific people so the majority of my extracts are in their name order, not according to the date of the council meetings. Three general headings are given after the biographical entries.

ation in 1869 to 1875 disappeared when then-Secretary Paul G.F. Furse was shipped to West Africa by the ministry of defense to protect the Empire. Nevertheless, a continuous record of well over 100 years of philately is quite outstanding.

Reading through the Minute Books covering the dates of the Hall and Yardley bequests, I quickly located the required entries. However, I also came across other information of interest to me as a bibliophile. Thus, my targeted quest for specific information soon extended into both earlier and later Minute Books.

Inevitably, life got in the way and in 2018 my wife and I moved to France and my ready access to the Royal ceased. In order that the information I located at that time is not lost and to show why more philatelists should be researching in these “secret” files,

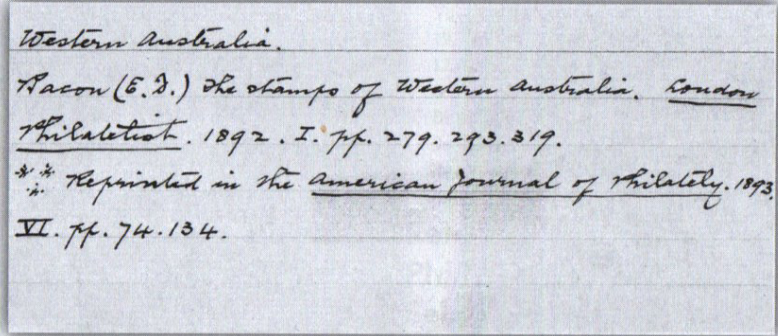


Figure 9. A typical slip from Bacon's index.

Generally, I have added a short commentary (marked with the section sign §) to the entries to clarify their significance.

The list of minute books covered is given in the table on page 41. Unfortunately, the range accessed is rather restricted, as the removal of the Royal to new premises followed by my move to France some years ago prevented my ready access to the archives.

Biographical Entries

Edward Denny Bacon (Figure 8) joined the [Royal] Philatelic Society, London in 1880 and remained a member for the next 58 years until his death. During that time, he occupied almost every office of the society, including that of president, from 1917 to 1923. He was elected the first president of the Philatelic Literature Society at the inaugural meeting and remained in that post until 1914, just after he had been appointed curator of the King's Philatelic Collections. He remained in that post until his death 24 years later.

December 13, 1923, p. 145

Bacon's paper on the stamps of the Straits Settlements was reprinted from *The London Philatelist* of 1923 in 30 copies, 22 of which Bacon presented to the Royal. One was placed in the Library and the others were sold for £1.05 each.

July 7, 1938, pp. 164-167

Bacon's son wrote stating that his late fa-

ther had expressed a wish that certain of his belongings should be given to the Royal, including "4 boxes of slips being contents of periodicals" and his philatelic medals and to the Expert Committee, his book of notes and photographs of stamps. The Royal accepted the offer. Dr. Emilio Diena wrote suggesting that it should publish, as a memorial to Sir Edward, a complete list of his writings. Shortly before his death, Bacon had completed such a list, which was in the possession of Percy de Worms. A subcommittee was appointed to consider the matter and report to the council.

§ The index was compiled on slips of paper, 7 inches wide by 3 inches deep (178mm by 75mm). Four purpose-built wooden storage boxes were required to hold the 8,000 or so slips. Many of the slips carried one or more additional, related references, usually subsequent editions, where articles were reprinted or correspondence about them, so that the index included well over 10,000 references to important articles selected by Bacon. Between 2001 and 2010, I transcribed the index onto computer for the Royal. A typical Bacon index slip is shown (Figure 9).

October 20, 1938, pp. 175-176

All of the items donated by Sir Edward Bacon had been collected. The report of the committee on the publication of a list of references to Bacon's writings, a decision on a memorial medal and awards would be taken at the next meeting.

April 13, 1939, pp. 221-222

Percy de Worms announced that he had purchased £50 worth of books for the Royal from the Sir Edward Bacon library, that had been purchased by F.H. Vallancey. However, the honorary treasurer refused to cover the cost without referring the matter to the Finance Committee. It was pointed out that the Finance Committee had only advisory powers rather than executive powers and therefore had no right of veto on any expenditure.

§ By 1893, Bacon's library had grown to such an extent that he could justify having 200 copies of his own bookplate produced (Figure 10) by Perkins, Bacon (printers of the Penny Black, the first ever national postage stamp) naturally. As befits a philatelist of his caliber, his library grew steadily over the years, reaching a total of about 3,000 volumes when it was sold to Francis Hugh Vallancey shortly after Bacon's death. Interestingly, very few of Bacon's books carried his bookplate. Accordingly, Vallancey had the bookplate reprinted and put one in each book.

§ Such was the importance of Bacon in the philatelic world that Vallancey had Norman Williams catalog the library and produced a special souvenir edition in 100 copies together with a separate price list. Both of these are bibliographic rarities. My copy is number 65 and is



Figure 10. Edward Denny Bacon's bookplate.

signed by F.H. Vallancey. Indeed, the title page (Figure 11) proclaims that Vallancey was the compiler. In fact, as stated earlier, the compiler was Normal Williams who, was justifiably annoyed by this slight. The cover of the price list is shown (Figure 12).

Frank Arthur Bellamy (Figure 13) is known to have spent most of his working life as an astronomer cataloging stars at the University of Oxford Observatory. In philately, he is best known for founding the Oxford Philatelic Society and

Years Covered	Council Meetings
1907-17	March 21, 1907 to January 18, 1917
1917-24	March 6, 1917 to July 3, 1924
1924-31	October 16, 1924 to February 12, 1931
1931-35	March 12, 1931 to May 23, 1935
1935-40	June 6, 1935 to January 11, 1940
1940-45	February 10, 1940 to March 8, 1945
1945-49	April 12, 1945 to May 5, 1949

guiding it throughout his life as well as supporting the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain for many years. He built up one of the largest (if not the largest ever) philatelic library in the UK.

Bellamy's rubber stamp (Figure 14) was applied to a wide variety of philatelic books and magazines which he accumulated over a lifetime of literature collecting. Such was the magnitude of his library that it is relatively common even today, for works bearing his library stamp to turn up.

He owned an interleaved copy of *The Catalogue of the Earl of Crawford's Library*, bound in half morocco in two volumes, in which he made voluminous manuscript additions based on his own library. (Stamp Lover, November 1940, Volume 33, Issue 6, p. 119.) This book is now in the American National Postal Museum Library at the Smithsonian Institution. (*Philatelic Literature Review*, 1st Quarter 2023, Volume 52, Issue 1, p. 15.)

July 11, 1925

Regarding correspondence in *The Times* about Bellamy offering to present his collection and library to Oxford University, the council authorized the president (T.W. Hall) and E.D. Bacon to send a letter to *The Times* recommending acceptance.

§ In any event, Oxford declined the gifts of his unrivalled library containing more than 200,000 publications and his collection of University College stamps. As a result, Bellamy published a pamphlet privately, criticizing the short-sighted action. The cover of the pamphlet is shown (Figure 15).

July 16, 1936, p. 67

Correspondence had been received from Miss Bellamy (Frank's niece) asking whether the Royal would consider

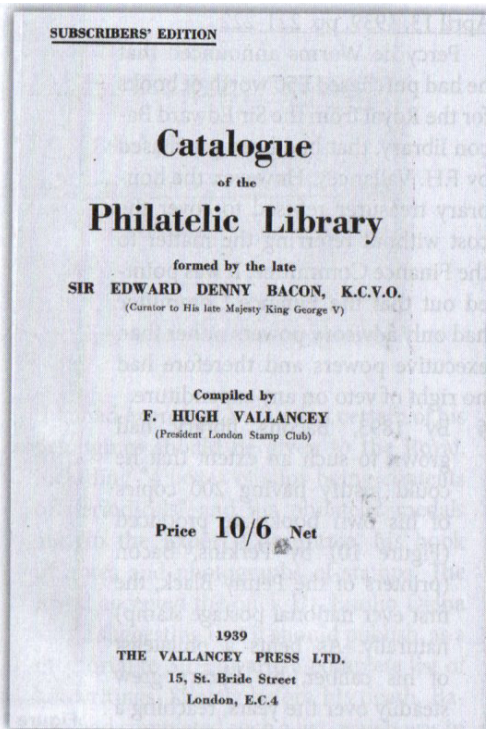


Figure 11. Title page of Bacon's *Catalogue of the Philatelic Library*.

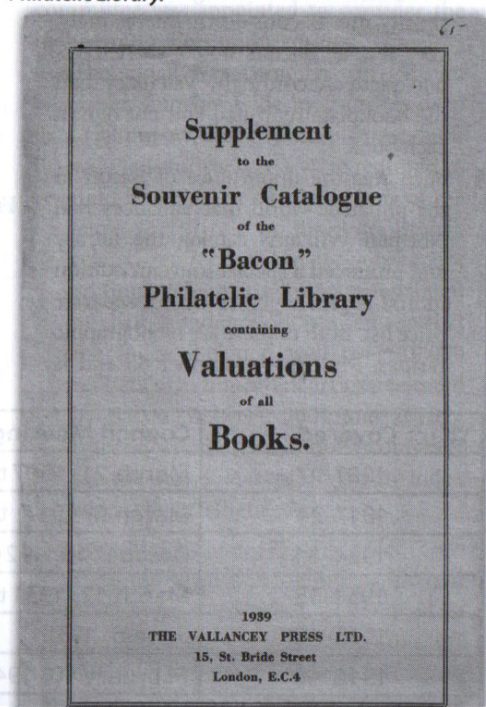


Figure 12. The price list version of Bacon's catalog.

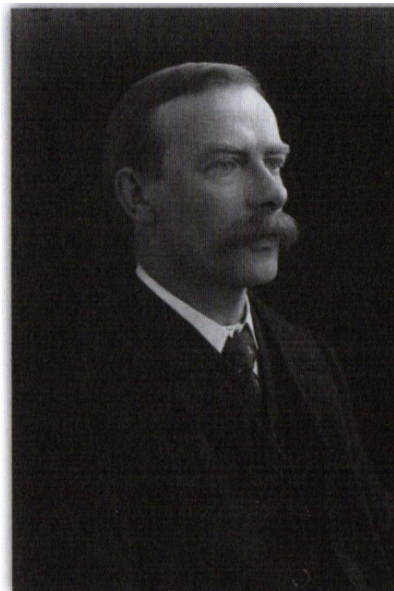


Figure 13. Frank Arthur Bellamy (1863-1936).

acquiring her late uncle's library. De Worms reported that he had travelled to Oxford and viewed a portion of the library and concluded that 90 percent was already in the Royal's library and therefore useless. Also, the whole library was in a chaotic state and so he advised against the purchase. Miss Bellamy was to be informed that as it stood the Royal could not consider making an offer, but if a catalog was available it would consider the matter.

§ The library was acquired by Albert H. Harris of Harris Publications. It was later sold to Francis H. Vallancey, after his premises and stock of publications had been bombed-out during World War II. This was following the death of Albert Harris and Harris Publications' subsequent change of its marketing strategy – stocking only current literature. Bellamy's collection of University College stamps was purchased by Charles Nissen. See under Herbert Rooke Oldfield for details of Bellamy's index.

Marcellus Purnell Castle (Figure 16) entered business as a brewer and over

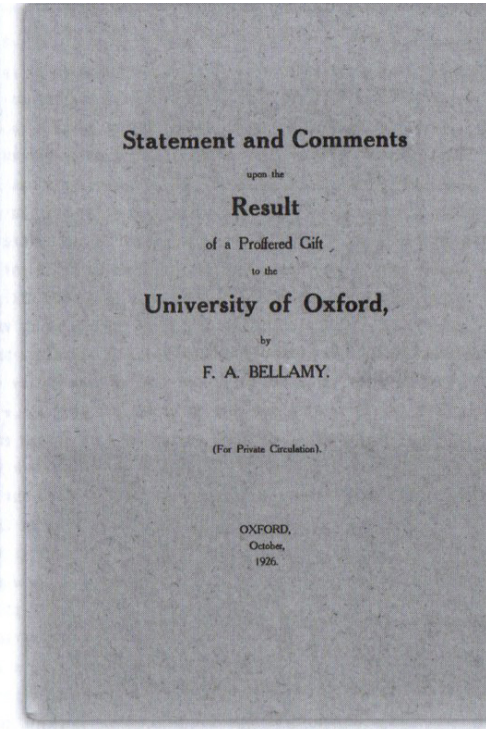


Figure 15. Bellamy's criticism of the University of Oxford.

the years built up the Albion Brewery of Brighton into a major brewing group. The death of his wife in 1878 led to him taking up stamp collecting seriously to fill his lonely evenings. A decade and a half later in 1892, he sold the brewery and its 35 public houses and took up philately more or less full time. Having joined the [Royal] Philatelic Society, London in 1879, he attended most of the society's meetings and was the mainstay of the society in the 30 years leading up to his death. He founded *The London Philatelist* in January 1892 and edited, and even published, it on behalf of the Royal until his death in 1917.

May 17, 1917, pp. 1-2

In Castle's will, he bequeathed to the Royal Philatelic Society, London his philatelic library and a legacy of £100, free of duty.

§ Castle never used a bookplate so in the absence of a dedication, Castle's books

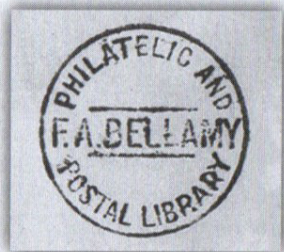


Figure 14. Bellamy's library stamp.



Figure 16. Marcellus Purnell Castle (1849-1917).

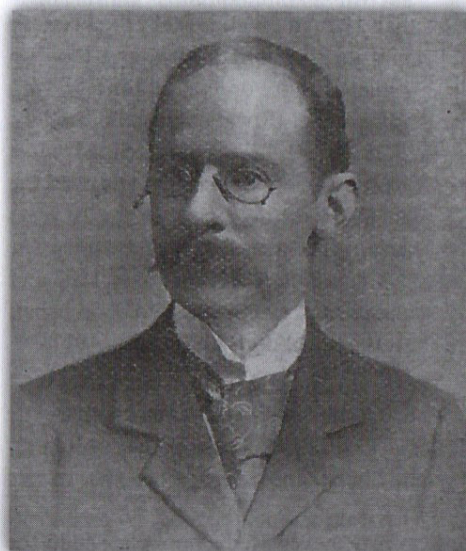


Figure 17. Anthony Buck Creeke Jr. (1860-1932).

cannot be identified in the library today. His £100 bequest would be worth some £8,600 (\$11,000) today.

§ His main claim to philatelic fame was the publication with his friend Hastings Elwin Wright of *A History of the Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles* in 1899, although Wright had died three years earlier. Writing the book gave him access to Somerset House and the Board of Inland Revenue and through the contacts he made there he purchased mint official stamps not available to the public. The outcome of this was that those involved were prosecuted and **Anthony Buck Creeke Jr.** (Figure 17) was sentenced to six months in prison in 1903. A solicitor by profession, Creeke was immediately disbarred from practicing law, although he was reinstated in 1913. From about 1915 until his death, Creeke spent his dinner hours and any other time he could spare at the British Museum indexing every English language periodical in the Crawford Library.

May 4, 1933, p. 129

The Philatelic Club of Los Angeles inquired as to whether the index compiled by A.B. Creeke was to be published.

June 1, 1933, pp. 133-135.

The manuscript index was held by Charles Nissen who had sent samples to the Royal for inspection and advised that Mrs. Creeke wanted 50 guineas for it. A committee – consisting of Capt. Crawford, I.J. Simons, K. Catherill and P. de Worms – was formed to look fully into the question.

§ A guinea was an old-fashioned coin worth 1 pound and 1 shilling. 50 guineas or £52.10.0, is worth about £4,750 (\$6,060) today.

July 13, 1933, pp. 143-144

The report of the sub-committee on the Creeke index was read and it was agreed that the Royal could neither pub-

lish it nor pay £52, 10s. to purchase it.

October 5, 1933, p. 148

It is reported that the decision of the Committee on the Creeke index had been forwarded to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Philatelic Congress to determine whether it was interested in acquiring and publishing it.

November 2, 1933, pp. 153-154

The executive committee of the Philatelic Congress advised the Royal that it could not publish the index. The society decided that Mr. Nissen and the Los Angeles Society be notified of this decision and it be suggested that these two parties communicate directly with each other if desired.

November 5, 1936, pp. 76-77

Colonel Wood reported that 600 journals had been indexed and that about a third of the index was possibly of value to the society. A letter from Mr. Nissen in response, suggested that an offer for the absolute copyright of the sum of 20 guineas be made for the index, with no undertaking to publish the work. This payment being in recognition of Creeke's work.

December 3, 1936, p. 80

In reply to the Royal's letter, Mr. Nissen reported that Mrs. Creeke had accepted the offer and conditions. A note was to be placed in *The London Philatelist* in this respect.

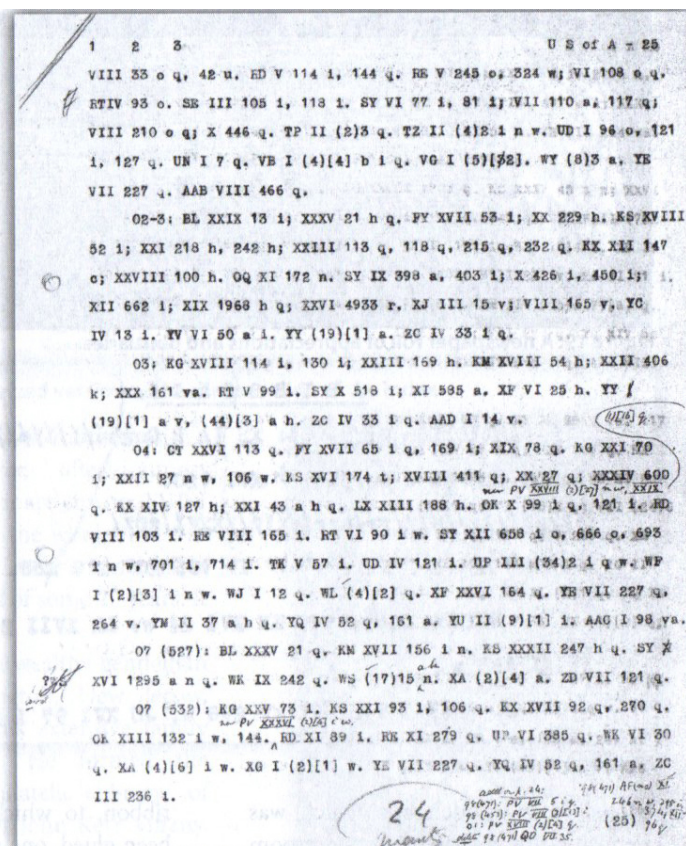


Figure 18. A page from the Creeke Index covering U.S. stamps, 1902-1907.

§ This note was published as: "The Creeke philatelic library index," *The London Philatelist*, December 1936, Volume 45, p. 290.

March, 18, 1940, pp. 18-19

A letter was received from Mrs. Creeke asking whether her late husband's index was going to be published. If not, she desired to dispose of it to someone who would publish it. The honorary secretary informed the council that the Royal had purchased the absolute copyright for 20 guineas and the index was in the possession of the society. A letter to this effect was sent to Mrs. Creeke.

§ In 1936, having failed to find a publisher, the index was sold by Creeke's widow to the Royal Philatelic Society, London. Everything relating to the index was



Figure 23. Adelaide Lucy Fenton (1825-1897).

payment of £17-10-0 (£17.50). The offer was accepted.

§ When I was a volunteer in the Royal's library for 20 years or so, I found the copies of these two periodicals formerly belonging to Fenton freely available on the library's open book shelves. As the librarian of the day had no idea of their significance, I moved them to the archives for safekeeping. A few years later, during the then-librarian's clear-out of duplicate and unwanted books to ease the shortage of space, I found a huge pile of books destined to be sold to Burkhard Schneider, a German philatelic literature dealer. Among these I found a copy of Pemberton's *The Philatelic Journal* of 1872-75, which had evidently belonged to Fenton, judging from the copious notes written in her hand. I removed it from the pile and presented it to the archives. I am pleased to report that these three titles are still to be found in the Royal's archives. (My thanks are due to Lenka Cathersides for checking this for me.) The dedication page at the front of Fenton's bound copy of Volume

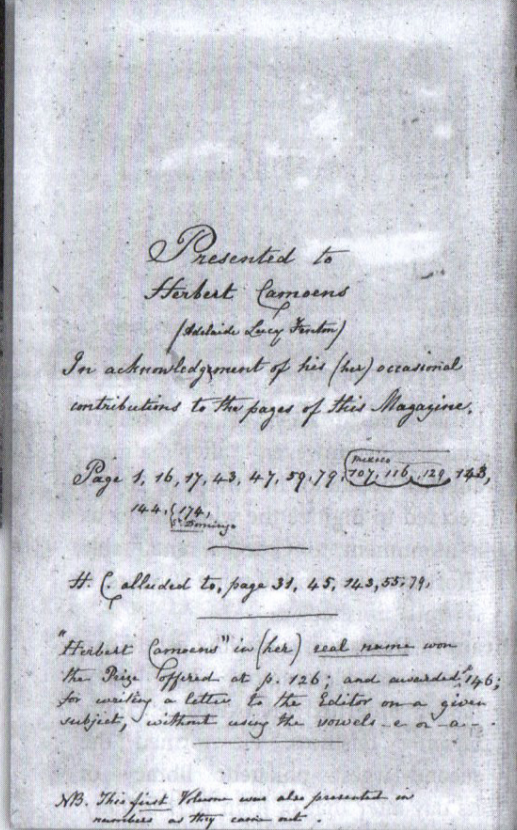


Figure 24. Dedication to Miss Fenton under her pseudonym Herbert Camoens.

1 of *The Philatelist* is shown in Figure 24. She used the pseudonym Herbert Camoens, as Camoens is the Anglicized rendering of the family name of Luís de Camões, the Portuguese poet. Apart from her love of his poetry, she used his name as it incorporates the name Moens, the pioneer Belgian dealer.

Judge Heinrich Fränkel (Figure 25) came to philately relatively late in life, in about 1886. However, he soon built up a formidable collection that he supported with an important library. When Sigmund Friedl closed and sold off his Friedl's Internationalen Postwerthzeichen Museum of Vienna in 1896, Fränkel purchased the library, which dated from the earliest days of philately. He was the librarian of the Berliner Philatelisten-Klub for

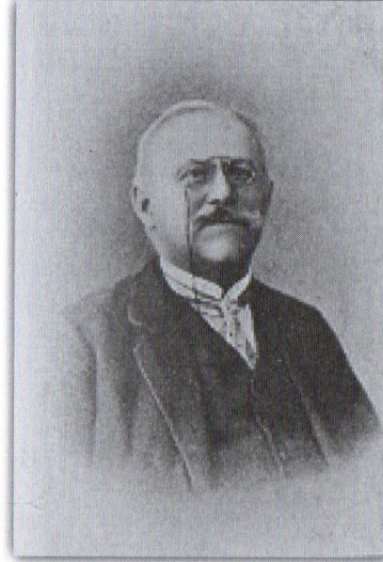


Figure 25. Judge Heinrich Fränkel (1853-1907).

more than 10 years, from 1890 to 1901, during which time he would have had the pick of the library's duplicates. His library was considered to be the second best in Germany after that of Judge Victor Suppanttschitsch.

April 2, 1908

Bacon reported that the Royal's vice president, the Earl of Crawford, having bought the Fraenkel library and removed those works required for his own library, had presented the remainder of the library to the Royal.

§ The book shown as Figure 26 is from the Royal's library and is typical of many early German books and periodicals it contains that can be traced back to the Friedl library with his small blue label in the upper left corner showing the volume number and the Ord.? number, and with Friedl's prominent sticker in the center.

§ The presence of some books in the Royal's library bearing the sticker of Friedl's Internationalen Postwerthzeichen Museum in Vienna would indicate that both libraries were purchased by Fränkel (Figure 27).

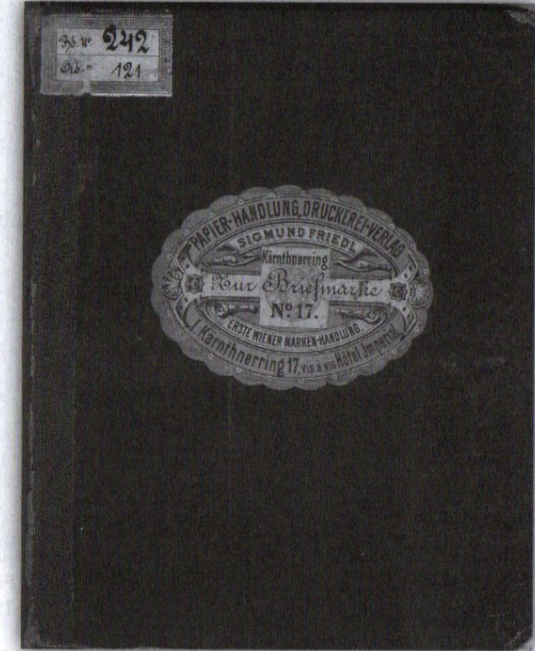


Figure 26. Book now in the Royal's library, from Sigmund Friedl's library.

A solicitor by training, Benjamin Goodfellow (Figure 28) spent 50 years as a practicing lawyer in Manchester, UK. His interest in stamp collecting was sparked by the gift of a letter that had not long before come out of Paris by balloon post during the siege (1870-72). Over the years, he formed many substantial collections, particularly of the British colonies. He joined the Royal in 1911 and in 1923 was an early signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

November 16, 1922, p. 121

Goodfellow's paper on the Indian Feudatory States was reprinted from *The London Philatelist*, in 50 copies, 30 of which Goodfellow presented to the Royal. One was placed in the library and the others sold.

A solicitor by profession, Thomas W. Hall joined the Royal Philatelic Society London in 1895. With his wide range of collections, he was soon invited to join the Expert Committee. Following the death of M.P. Castle in 1917, he took over as editor of *The London Philatelist*, a

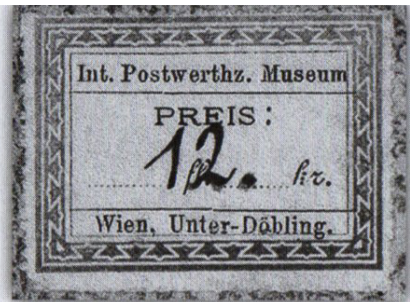


Figure 27. Label from Friedl's Internationalen Postwerthzeichen Museum library.

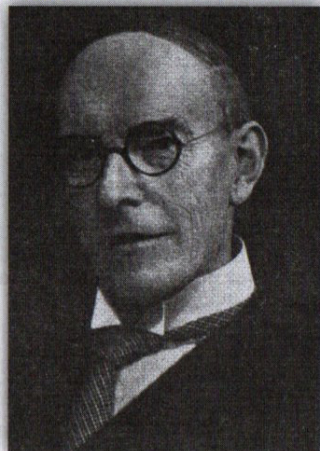


Figure 28. Benjamin Goodfellow 1864-1946.

post he retained until his death. He was president of the Royal from 1923 to 1929.

October 7, 1937, p. 118

After Thomas W. Hall (Figure 29) died, his son advised the Royal that his mother wished to present the philatelic library of her late husband to the Royal Philatelic Society London and that it be designated in some way to his memory. The president expressed the council's appreciation of this valuable gift and suggested that a suitably inscribed bookplate be placed in each book from this source.

November 4, 1937, p.123

The honorary secretary reported that Mrs. Hall was in favor of a bookplate being placed in each of his books chosen for the library.

December 2, 1937, pp.129-130

The honorary secretary reported that Messrs. Mussett had submitted a design

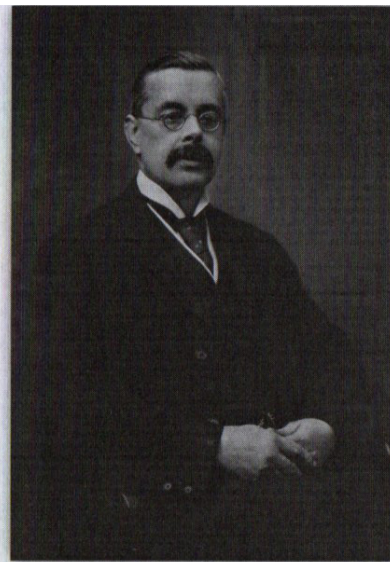


Figure 29 Thomas William Hall (1861-1937).

for a bookplate that had been approved by the president and librarian and afterwards by Mrs. Hall. It was in the process of being engraved at a cost of £4 12s. 6d (£4.63).

January 13, 1938, p.136

The honorary secretary reported that the Hall Library had been received and was in the process of being sorted. Engraving of the bookplate was in progress (Figure 30).

October 20, 1938, p.179

The honorary librarian asked for guidance as to the disposal of the duplicates from the Hall Library. It was proposed that they be disposed of to the best advantage of the society.

Known within philately as Roland King-Farlow (Figure 31), he was a chartered

accountant by profession. He joined the Royal in 1942 and became assistant librarian in 1945 and librarian the following year. During his time at the library he created a series of cumulative indexes to major philatelic periodicals that became models for future indexers. In the early 1960s he gave up philately to follow his other passion, motor racing. (See also under the Philatelic Literature Society for his index to its journal.)

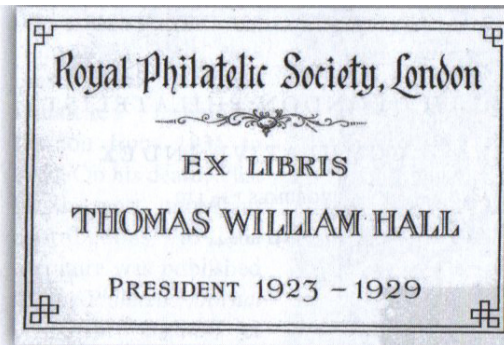


Figure 30. Thomas William Hall's presentation bookplate.

November 1, 1945, p. 24

King-Farlow reported that his cumulative index to the first 53 volumes of *The London Philatelist* was now being typed. When ready it would be passed to the editor in order to obtain an estimate for the cost of printing.

November 29, 1945, p. 28

A specimen proof of the index was shown and it was agreed that a copy would be presented to each member free of charge. The cost would be contributed to by the sum realized by the Hewitt bequest¹ and a sum to be determined, provided by the Expert Committee. It was decided that the copies provided to the members would be numbered², the members being informed that their copies were not to be offered for sale.

§ ^{*1} The Hewitt bequest to the Royal was made by A.J. Hewitt, of South Africa, in 1942. Hewitt had never been a member of the Royal and nothing was known about him or his death. The society's special representative in South Africa, J.W.K. Schofield, was written to ask him to deal with the bequest. After duties and the cost of selling the material, the Royal received £59 11s. (worth about £3,500, \$4,460, today). (See: the council minutes of May 13, 1942, p. 170 for details of the bequest.)

§ ^{*2} Interestingly, my copy of the bound index (Figure 32) carries the bookplate



Figure 31. Arthur Roland King-Farlow 1907-1974.

of Sydney Robert Turner (Figure 33), who joined the Royal in 1936 and continued to be a member until well after 1948. Since my copy is not numbered, this leads me to the view that the whole individual numbering project was abandoned.

January 3, 1946, p. 32

The Publications Committee suggested that 1,000 copies be printed - 800 bound in cloth at 3 shillings 8¼ pence each; 200 unbound at 2 shillings 5¼ pence each. A bound copy was to be given free of charge to every member on the membership roll at the date of publication.

William A.R. "Jex" Long (Figure 34)

was a prominent Scottish philatelist who began to index the periodicals he owned for his own use. However, when he realized how useful it was he extended it and had it published in 1906 for the benefit of other philatelists (Figure 35). He limited it to the most important British philatelic periodicals, although some of them were very difficult to obtain even then.

§ At the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in 1924, it was decided to bring Long's index up to date and established a committee of important philatelists in order to carry it to fruition. The completed index was published in 1925 and incorporated Long's index of 1906, continuing it to 1924. (Figure 36). It

also included English-language books from 1908 to 1924 to bring the Crawford Catalogue up to date. Unfortunately, Long did not survive to enjoy the updated index, as he drowned while swimming in a loch during a holiday in Scotland that same year.

A solicitor by profession, Herbert Rooke Oldfield joined the [Royal] Philatelic Society, London in 1893. He was soon appointed to the Council of the Royal and also became president of the International Philatelic Union. In 1917, he was appointed honorary secretary of the Royal, a post he retained until 1926.

December 5, 1907

Herbert Rooke Oldfield (Figure 37) wrote to ask whether the Royal would consider publishing a complete philatelic index and if so, offered his assistance. The society responded that owing to other work in hand it could not undertake the project and also informed him of the work already done by Bellamy.

§ From about 1894, Bellamy spent many years compiling an index to his great philatelic library. When he died, his library was offered to the Royal Philatelic Society London, but there was no mention of his index.

April 18, 1918, pp. 19-20

Honorary Secretary Oldfield reported that he had purchased from Glendining's auction of that same day, Lot 156 comprising a bound manuscript volume of *Table des Matieres* covering Volumes 1 to 38 (1863-1900) of Moens' *Timbre-Poste*. Also, he bought the manuscript of an unpublished supplementary General Index to the contents of the series. Both volumes were compiled by B.T.K. Smith (Figure 38) and were to be donated by Oldfield to the Royal's library.

THE LONDON PHILATELIST
CUMULATIVE INDEX

VOLUMES I TO LIII

1892 TO 1944

Compiled by R. KING-FARLOW

Published by the ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

1946

Figure 32. Title page of King-Farlow's index.

Abhishek Bhuwalka uncovers Bellamy's long-forgotten index on page 7 of this issue.

§ The Glendining auction referred to consisted of the library of Bertram Tapscott Knight Smith, the late president of the Philatelic Literature Society. Lot 156 also contained a full run of the periodical *Le Timbre-Poste* of 1863-1900, Volumes 1-38. Oldfield paid £11 for the Lot. I confirmed in 2011 that the Royal still held the *Table des Matieres* but not the General Index. *The Table des Matieres* was subsequently published by Editions du "Philatelite Belge" in Brussels, Belgium in 1926, with the permission of the Royal (Figure 38)

Robert Blake Yardley (Figure 39) was the great grandson of the founder of

the Yardley perfume company. He was president of the Royal Philatelic Society, London from 1931 to 1934. On his death, a list of his most important contributions to the literature was published in *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* of January/March 1943 together with his obituary.

September 22, 1921, p. 88

Yardley's paper on the Virgin Islands was reprinted from *The London Philatelist* in 25 copies, 21 of which Yardley presented to the Royal. One was placed in the library and the others sold for £1.05 each.

April 27, 1922, p. 106

Yardley's paper on Malta was reprinted from *The London Philatelist*, in 30 copies 20 of which Yardley presented to the Royal. One was placed in the library and the others sold for £1.05 each.

February 11, 1943, p. 152

Mrs. Yardley had written to say that it was her late husband's will that all his works, books and catalogs relating to postage stamps or philately, generally but not including volumes containing stamps, proofs and essays, be given to the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

May 13, 1943, p. 173

Mrs. Yardley had written to the Royal requesting permission to retain some of the books bequeathed by her late husband to the society. The council wanted to meet Mrs. Yardley's wishes and authorized Sir John Wilson to visit her and arrange matters.

June 10, 1943, p. 177

Sir John reported on his visit where he had viewed Yardley's library and returned with some books for the Royal's library. With regard to Mrs.

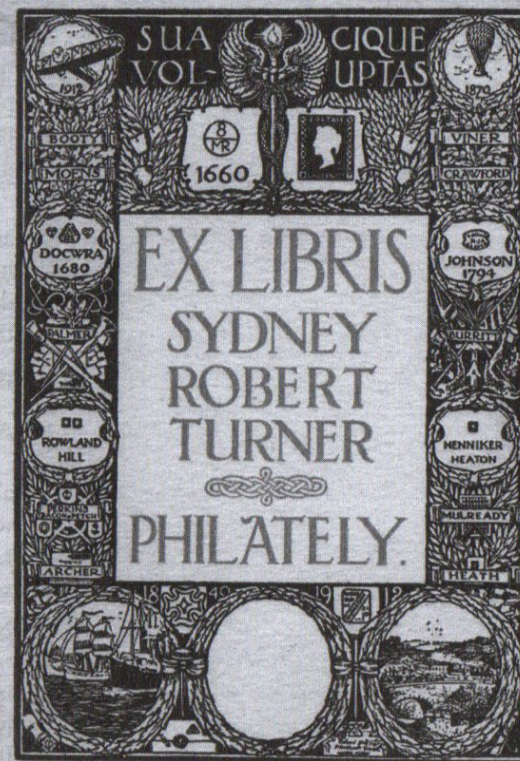


Figure 33. S. R. Turner's bookplate.

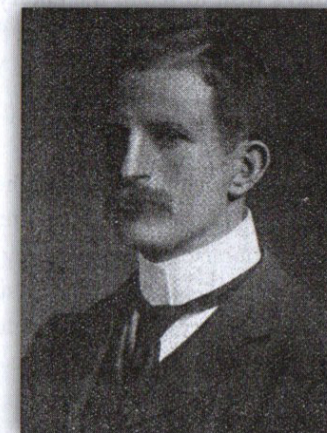


Figure 34. William A.R. "Jex" Long (1870-1925).

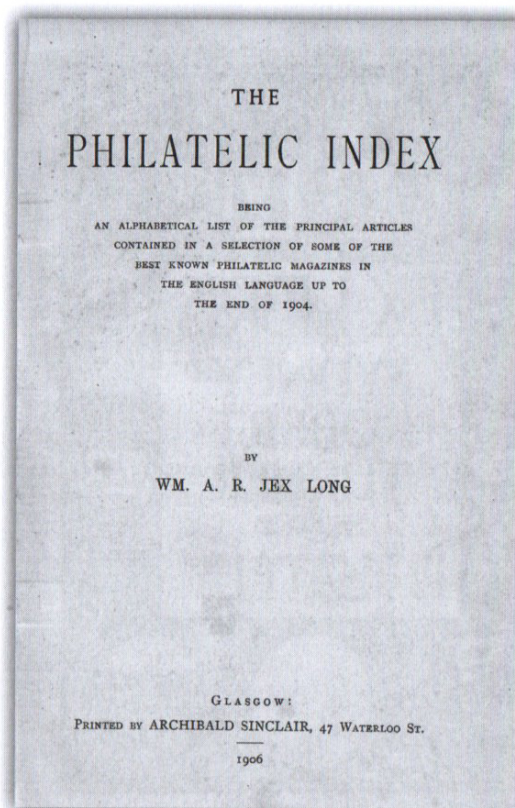


Figure 35. 1906 Index Title page.

Yardley's wish to retain the library for the time being, Sir John thought that the position should be clarified with Mrs. Yardley's solicitors.

October 14, 1943, pp. 181-182

The executors had replied to the Royal's communication regarding the retention of Yardley's library by Mrs. Yardley for the duration of the war. Sir John suggested that the honorary secretary write to the executors asking if Mrs. Yardley was satisfied with the conditions set down on July 21.

November 11, 1943, pp. 189-190

The honorary secretary reported the arrival of the books bequeathed by R.B. Yardley. § Similar to the Hall bequest, the Royal had a bookplate created (Figure 40) and applied one to each of Yardley's books added to the library.

January 11, 1944, p. 202

The honorary librarian reported that he was compiling a catalog of the Yardley library and was given permission to bind certain important periodicals.

February 10, 1944, pp.204-205

Following the receipt of the Hall and Yardley bequests, the society had a number of duplicates and the decision was taken to sell them to the members.

Philatelic Literature Society

April 4, 1929

A cheque for £59 0s. 11d (Equivalent to about £4,700, \$6,000 today) was received from the Philatelic Literature Society following its dissolution.

November 12, 1929

At the meeting where the funds in the hands of the Philatelic Literature Society were divided between the Royal Philatelic Society and the National Philatelic Society, the secretary of the International Philatelic

Union (IPU) raised an objection and subsequently sent a letter via its solicitor. Nevertheless, the funds were distributed as originally envisioned. To smooth matters over, the Royal offered to make an ex-gratia donation of spare books to the IPU Library. This was agreed by the IPU as being a suitable settlement.

November 11, 1948, p.218

An index to the journal of the Philatelic Literature Society had been compiled by R. King-Farlow and was being printed at his own expense. The Royal was credited as the publisher of the work.

§ The corrections to the Roman numerals on the front cover and on the title page were made on every copy I have seen, presumably by King-Farlow. The edition was 75 copies of which my copy is number 1. Having removed those copies he wanted for his library and for private

distribution, the remainder of the print run was donated to the Royal to be sold for its funds. The cover of the booklet is shown in Figure 41.

Library Matters

May 16, 1907

The librarian reported that a list of duplicates in the Royal's library had been prepared and asked for instructions about its circulation. He was instructed to inquire about the possibility of having it published in *The London Philatelist*.

January 7, 1909

Dr. Kalckhoff, of the Berlin Society, wrote in reference to duplicates from the Royal's library. The secretary was instructed to reply that certain papers promised to the Berlin Society would be sent as soon as they were available but also advised him that there was no obligation for the Royal to present the Berlin Society with the duplicates from the Fränkel Library.

January 21, 1909

Dr. Kalckhoff withdrew his complaint regarding the Fränkel Library.

February 21, 1918, p. 16

The Birmingham Philatelic Society wrote a letter which caused the council to request that L.W. Fulcher (librarian) report to the council regarding duplicates in the library.

March 21, 1918, p. 17

Fulcher was asked to provide the secretary with a list of duplicate pamphlets, magazines and journals, from which the Birmingham Philatelic Society could make a selection.

April 18, 1918, p. 19

Pressure of work had prevented the librarian from providing the list of duplicates but he hoped to do so before the next meeting.

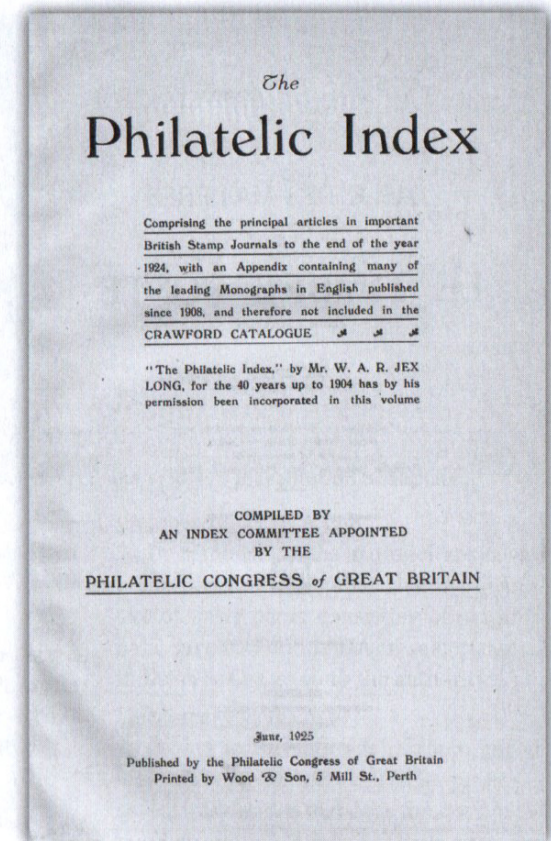


Figure 36. 1925 Index title page.

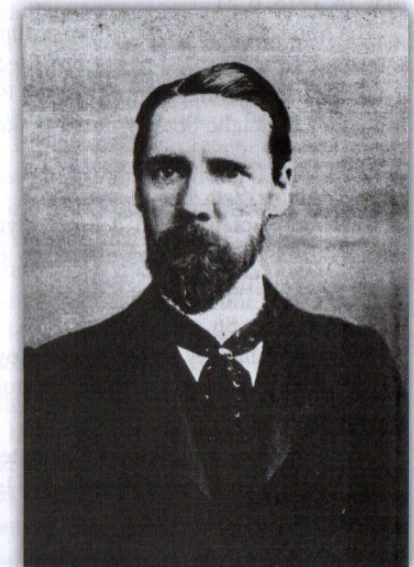


Figure 37. Herbert Rooke Oldfield (1859-1940).

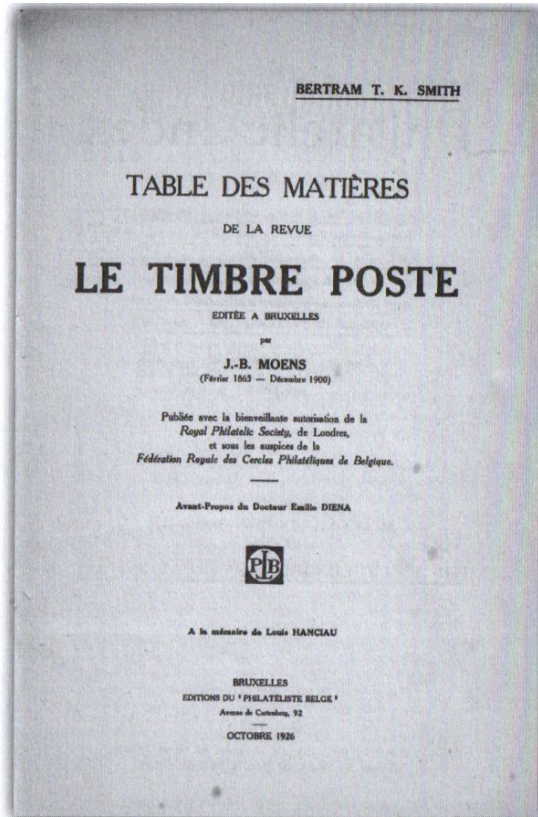


Figure 38. Title page of B.T.K. Smith's published index.

May 16, 1918, p. 21

The librarian reported that most duplicates had been disposed of but provided a list of those remaining from which the Birmingham Philatelic Society could make a selection.

October 16, 1919, p. 43

The library of the then defunct Plymouth Philatelic Society was offered to the Royal by Scott Tucker.

June 30, 1921, p. 86

F. Hugh Vallancey wrote to the Royal regarding the disposal of surplus literature.

September 22, 1921

The library of the Plymouth Philatelic Society was received from the society's late secretary, Mr. Tucker.

July 6, 1922, p. 113A

The librarian notified the council that the library duplicates had been disposed of

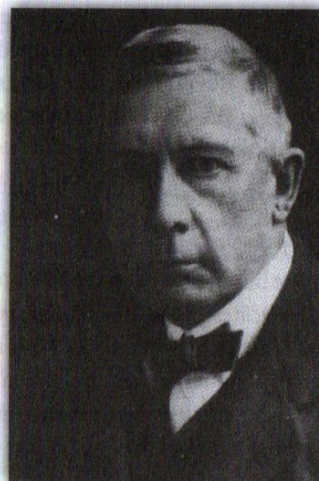


Figure 39. Robert Blake Yardley (1858-1942).

as follows: £127-16-9 (£127.84) sold to members; £27-0-0 sold to the trade.

January 17, 1924, p. 146

The librarian was authorized to make purchases at Harmer's sale of the Clark Library up to £35. Herbert Clark was a noted bibliophile who attempted to collect every piece of philatelic

literature ever published, along the same lines as the Earl of Crawford, but with much less success. His library was sold by H.R. Harmer in February 1924 following his bankruptcy. Such was the importance of his library that a booklet was published in Germany about the sale: Alexander Bungerz: *Die Versteigerung der Bibliothek von Herbert Clark*. [*The Sale of the Library of Herbert Clark*.], Philatelistische Bücherwurm, Berlin, Germany, 1924, 17 pp. A translation of the introductory and end texts is available from the present author as Philat. Trans. 474.

November 12, 1931, p. 42

W. Whitear(?) offered to present to the Royal a large number of bound volumes of auction catalogs. This offer was declined owing to the lack of space available to the library.

October 20, 1938, p. 179

The librarian required guidance as to the disposal of the duplicates from the T.W. Hall Library. It was decided that they be disposed of at the discretion of the librarian.

January 11, 1940, pp. 257-258

A quantity of library duplicates (from the Hall library?) were disposed of to Vallancey for £70 and 33 percent off any purchases from the Bacon Library.

April 8, 1943, p. 165

Mr. Adams reported that he had inspected the library that the City of London Philatelic Society had put to auction and that it contained no materials of interest to the Royal.

June 14, 1945, p. 14

King-Farlow was co-opted as assistant honorary librarian.

§ Toward the end of the Royal's time at 41 Devonshire Place, the library had colonized virtually every room in the building open to ordinary members. Room after room had its walls clad with bookshelves that were almost immediately filled. Figure 42 shows the shelves in a corner of the Council Room. Only the windows and doors avoided being shelved, although even the doorway on the near right can just be seen to have book shelves above it.

Salvage - Waste Paper

November 12, 1931, p. 42

The librarian requested permission to dispose of the vast accumulation of old auction catalogs stored in the basement. All of those relating to important sales had been removed to be retained. Permission was given for the unwanted catalogs to be destroyed.

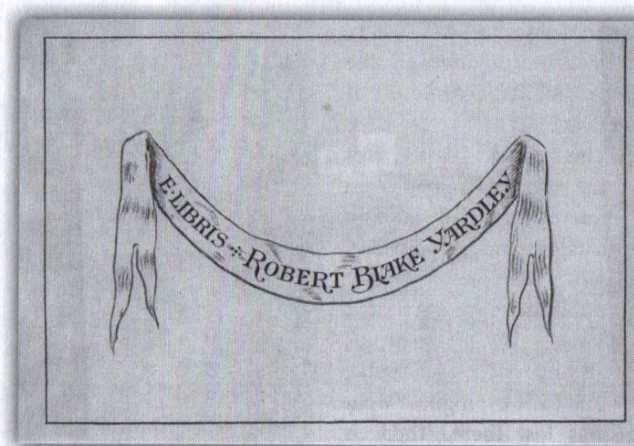


Figure 40. Robert Blake Yardley's presentation bookplate.

October 12, 1939, p. 248

In response to the national appeal for waste paper, it was agreed that the quantities of waste paper consisting of old journals, surplus Perkins Bacon material, etc., in the cellar be given to the authorities.

December 6, 1941, p. 97

Owing to the shortage of room and in view of the government's need for paper salvage it was decided to reduce the stock of old numbers of the LP to five complete sets and five extra numbers for all issues up to and including 1935; seven complete sets and 10 extra numbers of 1936 to 1938. All numbers from 1939 onwards were to be retained.

January 8, 1942, p. 101

The honorary secretary requested permission to hand over to the salvage authorities all correspondence prior to 1938 except for that relating to council and membership matters. The council agreed and added that all account books prior to 1934 also be handed over at the discretion of the treasurer.

January 11, 1944, p. 202

H.R. Holmes reported that the Royal had a quantity of periodicals of no value and was given permission to dispose of them for salvage.

October 9, 1947, p. 143

It was decided that the growing accumulation of papers, etc., that was not of

material use to the society and was occupying valuable space should be disposed of as salvage.

§ The descriptions of the “waste paper” are interesting: Old auction catalogs and old journals, for example – not duplicates, one should note. As for surplus Perkins Bacon material, one can’t even guess what was lost there. There is no doubt that the lack of space has, over the years, resulted in a substantial loss of valuable historical material.

§ The Royal has now been designated a society of record committed to maintaining such material and with formal museum status. Let us hope that such thoughtless destruction of historical records is a thing of the past.

RESOURCES

The portraits of William Dudley Atlee; Sir Edward Denny Bacon; Frank Arthur Bellamy; Marcellus Purnell Castle; Adelaide Lucy Fenton; Judge Heinrich Fränkel; Thomas William Hall; and Robert Blake Yardley came from the Royal’s photograph collection. The Minute Books were scanned for me by Lenka Cather-sides, the collections assistant at the Royal. The photograph of the library in the Council Room came from the latest history of the Royal by Charles Oppenheim: *A History of The Royal Philatelic Society London 1869-2019*, Royal Philatelic Society London, UK, 2019.

The biographical notes and the rest of the photographs came either directly from

The Journal of The Philatelic Literature Society

CUMULATIVE INDEX
VOLUMES I to ^{XI}XII, 1908-1918

Compiled by R. KING-FARLOW, F.R.P.S.L.
Hon. Librarian, The Royal Philatelic Society, London

The Royal Philatelic Society, London
1948

Figure 41. The cover of King-Farlow’s Index.



Figure 42. Book shelves in the Council Room.

my work or from the references found therein: Brian J. Birch: *Biographies of Philatelists and Dealers*. (Unpublished but an earlier edition is freely available on the Global Philatelic Library website: <http://globalphilateliclibrary.org>. and the latest digital version from me.)

The miscellaneous items came from my library and my bookplate collection.