

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

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9th June 2014

**Philatelic Literature announcement from the Royal Philatelic
Society London**

The Crawford Library Digitisation Project

Please find below a most exciting announcement from the British Library. As I'm sure you will be aware, the British Library holds a fabulous and almost complete collection of philatelic literature that was published prior to 1913.

You can readily check the titles held in the Crawford Library by visiting www.rpsl.org.uk/catalogue_search.asp and searching for 'Crawford'.

We would be grateful if you would reply to this email if any of the information is incorrect. We are still building up our literature contact database, so please forgive an errors.

With best wishes

Chris King
President

Frank Walton
Vice President

The Crawford Library Digitisation Project

The British Library's Philatelic Collections, with the support of funding from the British Philatelic Trust, is undertaking to digitise the Crawford Library of philatelic literature.

Bequeathed by James Ludovic Lindsay, 26th Earl of Crawford in 1913, the Crawford Library comprises of circa 4,500 volumes, (including books, periodicals, and catalogues). All languages and places of publication are represented, from 1860 until about 1913, it is undoubtedly the most important and comprehensive library in the world of philatelic literature from this period.

For preservation purposes in the 1990s the British Library prepared high-resolution microfilms of every page of every publication: this is approximately 900,000 pages! Trials have been conducted and these films are still in excellent condition and of sufficiently fine granularity to be converted into digital images and then successfully made searchable by optical character recognition techniques.

The Library is listed in the Catalogue of the Crawford Library of Philatelic Literature at the British Library, which was first published in 1911, and reprinted in 1991 with amendments and additions to the text, including where appropriate the British Library shelfmark.

Thanks to a generous grant by the British Philatelic Trust, this project can now move from being a feasibility study to reality. When the digitisation has been completed, this incredible resource will be made available online, there will be links directly to the digitized text so that researchers from around the world will be able to freely access and download the content. This will be available on both the British Library website and hosted by our partner in this part of the project, The Royal Philatelic Society London, via the Global Philatelic Library.

IMPORTANT COPYRIGHT NOTICE FOR RIGHTS HOLDERS

The British Library is inviting rights holders in works that may be included in the Crawford Library Digitisation to support the project. If rights holders prefer content not to appear, they are requested to communicate with the Library as early as possible, so that to any such works can be restricted to traditional access.

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