



THE PRESIDENT

Membership Newsletters 2017-2019

Patrick Maselis RDP FRPSL



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Final President's e-mail from Frank Walton

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Doesn't time fly? It seems only yesterday that I was at No. 41 receiving with some trepidation the President's insignia ... But tomorrow it is my privilege to pass it on to Patrick Maselis RDP FRPSL for him to take over the presidency for two years.

The past 24 months have been a wonderful experience meeting so many fellows and members from all over the world. Whilst the RPSL Dinner in New York in 2016 and the President's Dinner at Lord's Cricket Ground earlier this year were undoubtedly most memorable events, to my mind the highlights were simply the fortnightly meetings at No. 41.

All of the guest speakers did a marvellous job in both educating and entertaining those present - not forgetting of course the hundreds of members from all over the world who have watched the 5 pm papers online. My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who gave a display.

The Society cannot function without the volunteers who give their energy and expertise to ensure the smooth running of the RPSL, whether it be as Officers, Council members, Library volunteers, Experts etc etc - everyone's support has been most appreciated. My final 'thank you' goes to our professional staff - quite simply without them the Society would not survive!

The 148th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held tomorrow, and I hope as many of you as possible will

come along and welcome Patrick as our new President. There will be an update provided on the sale of No. 41 - which has now almost finalised - and some news on possible new locations. Additionally, David Beech MBE FRPSL and James Bendon FRPSL will be receiving the Tapling and Crawford Medal respectively.

At 3.50pm tomorrow, Richard Stock FRPSL and Jonas Hällström RDP FRPSL will be providing a short update on the plans for the Society's 150th Anniversary celebrations.

Finally, pre-orders of the second edition of the book *British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations 1840 to UPU* by Jane and Michael Moubray have been very strong. Time is running out on the pre-publication members' offer - so don't miss out. An unbound sample copy will be available for members to look at during the day in the Large Library. To recap, the price of the book will be £75 retail, but £68 to RPSL members. Any RPSL member purchasing the book prior to 31 July 2017 will get a further £8 discount, paying £60. To order a copy at the pre-publication members' price either order online from the website or contact the office at No. 41. Kindly note that you must be logged on as a member to be able to take advantage of this special offer. After you have logged on, follow Home > Publications > Buy Books.

Best wishes,

Frank Walton RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Traditions are important and should be cherished, especially in the UK. That's why I will try to step in Frank Walton's footprints and send you an e-mail with the latest news, once or twice a month. You are all cordially invited to the next meeting on 27 July. It will be a one o'clock meeting, with displays on a wide range of topics by the members of the RPSL library volunteers, who refer to themselves as "The Monday Club". As it is a summer meeting, the usual "jackets and ties" will not be required, so "summer plumage" will be acceptable.

There is also news about the building. As announced at the AGM, 41 Devonshire Place is sold and we are considering different options for a new building. News about the building will be published regularly on our website on the Members' Home page under the heading "The Society's Premises". Since this is such an important matter, it will be updated very often.

Another important issue is the communication channels of the Society with its Members and with the outside world. Frank Walton will take this under his wing. Anyone who has any suggestions about this topic can contact Frank directly by e-mail: waltonf@rpsl.org.uk

I wish you a very pleasant summer.

Best Wishes,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

The summer meeting on 27 July was very successful, thanks to the members of the Monday Club, our library volunteers. Regarding the building, we are currently looking into three new possible premises. The latest news can be found on the Members' Home page on the website under the heading "The Society's Premises".

Those among you who have not yet ordered Jane and Michael Moubray's book 'British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations 1840 to UPU' should do it TODAY, because the reduced pre-publication price of £60 is only valid until tomorrow.

Finally, a small reminder about the sesquicentennial Members' Collections book. All members can contribute one or more pages of their collections at £70 per page. Just follow the link and then submit the pages of your collection that you would like to be published in this book. The book will be a permanent and representative record of how and what RPSL members collected in 2019.

Our next meeting will be on 14 September at 1 pm, featuring material relating to British Guiana and Barbados from Her Majesty the Queen's Philatelic Collection.

Best Regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

In Europe, August is the holiday month 'par excellence' (to use a proper English expression), so I hope you have enjoyed a holiday. Some of you might wonder why I am sending a newsletter if there is hardly any news. At the moment, there is not even anything to report regarding our search for a new building. However, I will be away for the first 12 days of September, with little or no access to e-mail or the Internet, tracking the Eastern Lowland Gorillas in the Congo. As our next meeting will be on 14 September, it is probably better that I send you this message before I leave.

The only real news is that from next year onwards there will be a bonus for Members who pay their subscription fees before 31st March. Every year, up to 300 members wait until they receive a third reminder and a phone call from the regional representative, before they renew their subscription. This is a heavy burden for our staff and representatives, and a substantial cost for the Society. We hope that with this bonus system, fewer Members will wait until the last moment to pay their fees.

I would also like to remind you that the Society is very active on Social Media. For Facebook fans, please use these links: <https://www.facebook.com/royalphilsoclondon> for the Society itself or <https://www.facebook.com/musphilhistory> for the Museum of Philatelic History. Those who prefer Twitter should surf to [@The_RPSL](https://twitter.com/the_rpsl)

Unfortunately, unlike some other Presidents (over the pond), the President of the RPSL does not have a personal Twitter account.

The latest society publication, Bahamas Stamps and Postal Stationery to 1970 by Peter Fernbank FRPSL, will be available for collection from No 41 on Thursday 14th September at £36 per copy to Members and £40 to non-Members, excluding postage. By arrangement copies can be collected at STAMPEX. Please contact the office to arrange this. It will be available to order on the RPSL website from Wednesday 6th September.

We also currently have a few copies left of British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations 1840 to UPU by Jane and Michael Moubray. Please phone the office to reserve your copy at £68 per copy to Members and £75 to non-Members, excluding postage.

Museum Events at RPSL

Running for a third year, the Museum is taking part in Heritage Open Days and Silver Sunday by offering 'Behind the scenes' tours of the building and the Museum. Heritage Open Days tours are planned for Friday 8th September 11 am - 12.30 pm, Friday 8th September 2 pm - 3.30 pm and on Sunday 10th September 10.45 am - 12.45 pm. Silver Sunday tours are taking place on Sunday 1st October, 11 am - 2 pm. We are already receiving bookings for the tours but please help to spread the word amongst your families and friends.

Our next meeting will be on 14 September at 1 pm, featuring material relating to the West Indies (specifically the Bahamas, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands) from Her Majesty the Queen's Philatelic Collection. This is a logical continuation of last year's British Guiana and Barbados. Please remember that this meeting is for Members and Fellows only.

I hope to meet many of you in London on 14 September, if the gorillas do not eat me (they are vegans, so there is little danger).

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

On 14 September, Fellows and Members from fifteen countries and from five continents admired the exceptional material from Her Majesty The Queen's Philatelic Collection (a selection from The Bahamas, Jamaica and The Cayman Islands). It was once more a very successful opening of the philatelic season.

Next Thursday 28 September, at 5 pm, Jean Voruz will highlight an interesting aspect of the postal history of Geneva: the transition from the Cantonal to the Federal Post.

Regarding our new home, we are looking at a very attractive (and probably affordable) building in the City. The address cannot be disclosed yet because we have signed a confidentiality agreement. Our experts (Gerald Eve) are now checking the technical quality of the building. If all seems fine, we will make an initial offer.

Finally, may I remind all Members that the Fellowship Committee will be meeting soon. If you wish to nominate someone for Fellowship because of his/her services to the Society or to Philately in general, then please download the nomination form in attachment. When completed the form should be mailed to the Society by regular mail or by e-mail to adminmanager@rpsl.org.uk.

Hope to see many of you this Thursday.

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

On 28 September almost 90 Fellows, Members and Guests attended the 5 pm presentation by Jean Voruz. He also showed us from 1 pm onwards some top items from his exceptional collection. We were deeply impressed by the rarity and the quality of the displayed items and by his in-depth knowledge of the most complicated period in the postal history of Geneva. I would like to add that I have rarely seen a collection that is so well mounted.

We are still looking at a very promising building in the City, of which we cannot give further details yet because of the confidentiality agreement we had to sign. The technical surveys were very satisfactory. We are still waiting for the written report. As soon as we have it, we will ask our consultants from Gerald Eve to prepare an initial non-binding offer.

May I remind you once more about the sesquicentennial Members' Collections book? All members can contribute one or more pages of their collections at £70 per page. Just follow the link and then submit the pages of your collection that you would like to be published in this book. The book will be a permanent and representative record of how and what RPSL members collected in 2019.

Next Thursday, 12 October, DASV (Deutscher Altbriesammler Verein) will be our guest. If DASV does not ring a bell, they organize every year the famous Sindelfingen show. We hope to meet many of you from 1 pm onwards.

You will certainly NOT regret it!

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

On 12 October we had a most memorable and enjoyable visit from our German friends from DASV (Deutscher Altbriefsammler Verein, the German postal history society). There were so many overseas Members attending that day that we had to break with the traditional welcome and not call their names individually. The quality and diversity of the exhibits was simply stunning. The hard-cover handout also deserves a special mention.

Last Thursday our consultants (Gerald Eve) submitted a non-binding offer on a very attractive building in the City for which we cannot yet give further details because of a confidentiality agreement we had to sign. We hope our offer will be successful. Let's cross our fingers ...

May I also remind you once more about the sesquicentennial Members' Collections book? All members can contribute one or more pages of their collections at £70 per page. Just follow the link and then submit the pages of your collection that you would like to be published in this book. The book will be a permanent and representative record of how and what RPSL members collected in 2019.

On Thursday 26 October, the Belgian Congo Study Circle will be our guest. There might be some covers from Mr Stanley and/or Dr Livingstone "I presume".

I hope that not all of you will have left for Brazil, Sindelfingen, or Nordia in Denmark, and that we will be able to greet a large number of Fellows and Members in London.

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

On 26 October, almost 120 Fellows, Members and Guests came to see the exhibits from the Members of the Belgian Congo Study Circle. This was an unexpectedly high number, as there were so many other philatelic events scheduled that day. For the occasion, the Editors of 'Les Congolâtres' (a philatelic magazine published in French) issued an English version of their publication and all topics were related to both the UK and The Congo. Anyone who would like a copy can send an e-mail to me.

There is no further news on the new building. I have a feeling that we are pretty close, but my British friends urge me not to sell the skin before we've shot the bear. Fortunately for us (unfortunately for the bear), it is hunting season now in the UK.

On Thursday 9 November, at 5 pm Guillermo Gallegos will introduce us to the Postal History of El Salvador. As far as I know, it is the first time in the history of the Royal that a meeting will be entirely devoted to the philately of El Salvador. Amigos, please come to London! Caramba !

Best Regards - Muy atentamente

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

On 9 November, a new chapter in the history of the Royal was opened. For the first time ever, we had a speaker who introduced us to the philately of El Salvador. We thank Don Guillermo Gallegos and his family for coming all the way to London from El Salvador and Mexico. Those who missed the presentation can still enjoy it on our website.

Regarding the new building, on 8 November Council signed all the required documents to buy a building in the City of London. The ball is now entirely in the hands of the sellers. We expect to close this deal before the end of the year.

May I also draw you attention to the fact that the Royal **NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** for our stand at Spring Stampex 2018 (14 to 17 February) at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London. The event is open as follows: Wednesday 14 February, from 11.00 to 7 pm (stand to be set up from 9.00); Thursday and Friday 15 and 16 February, from 10.00 to 6 pm; Saturday 17 February, from 10.00 to 5 pm (stand to be packed away by 6pm). Mark Bailey will be dividing the days into 1-hour or 2-hours slots, and needs a team of volunteers to cover all the slots. Any member who wishes to volunteer for any number of the slots should send him an email (itchairman@rpsl.org.uk) or they can contact him via the Administration office. Please do it as soon as possible but before 15 December if possible.

The next meeting will be a very special one. Dr Alan Huggins RDP Hon. FRPSL will enthrall us with his unique collection of GB embossed stamps 1841-1973. (These stamps have extremely large margins and are sometimes called postal stationery as well.) Please come to London on 23 November for one of the highlights of the philatelic season.

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last Thursday, almost 150 Fellows, Members and Guests came to the Royal to admire Alan Huggin's exhibits. His collection is simply stunning. I wonder if there is still any other collector of Postal Stationery in the UK, because it looks like Alan owns it all.

No news on the new building. We still haven't exchanged contracts, but we are now **VERY** close to a deal.

For **STOCKHOLMIA** there is some excellent news. We now have 99 Patrons and Supporters. Five months before the closing date, we also have many more applications to exhibit than we expected. The only fly in the Swedish ointment is that so far, very few UK Members have submitted applications to exhibit or became sponsors. Jonas Hällström, the Exhibition Manager, is very worried, but I explained to him why he shouldn't be concerned. Seen through the eyes of the Swedes, UK Members **ALWAYS** seem late to react, but this is an error of perception. Scandinavians always forget that London is in a different time zone, one hour **BEHIND** Stockholm. Anyway, any Member (UK and others) who would like to exhibit or to become a Supporter or a Sponsor can surf to the website (www.stockholmia2019.se) or contact Jonas directly (jonas@stockholmia2019.se). Please don't wait too long, the closing date for applications is 30 April 2018.

The next meeting on 7 December, the so called 'Christmas Meeting', will be full of surprises. At 5 pm Dane Garrod will give a presentation with the mysterious title 'Your very loving Madeline'. If you do not know what this is about - nor do I - then please come to the Royal on 7 December. There, Dane will explain it to you. It won't be the only event that day though. At 4 pm another surprise is scheduled involving two Members. I have no more details about it yet. I hope to see you in London on 7 December.

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Members are informed with regret that Maurice Flack FRPSL passed away unexpectedly on 10th December 2017 at the age of 67. In 2007 Maurice joined the Royal and was awarded Fellowship of the Society in 2012 in recognition of his great contribution in the administrative field. Members throughout the world who have visited No 41 in the past few years will have probably been greeted by him at the door, made to feel at home and plied with coffee and chocolate biscuits. Maurice was virtually the permanent “Welcome Host” not just for formal meetings but for every other day he was there. He always had a welcome smile and was avid in his efforts to get visitors to join the society.

Maurice was awarded the prestigious London Medal in 2016 an award which gave him considerable and justifiable pride. Without his work the Society will be much poorer in its perception from members and visitors alike and he will be greatly missed especially by our Staff. His funeral will be held at 11.00 am on Friday 19th January at Medway Crematorium, Kent. It is requested that members should indicate their intention to attend by informing the office at No 41. for catering purposes.

At the request of his family donations in Maurice’s memory may be made to the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

First of all, I wish you a very Happy New Year 2018. This year, I hope to meet as many of you as possible at 41 Devonshire Place - yes, we are still here - or at regional meetings in the UK or overseas.

On 11 January Maurice Hadida showed us his unique collection of the Postal History of Morocco (1852-1925). It was about time to put Morocco in the spotlight, because the previous Moroccan display by James Bendon was exactly 30 years ago. James reminded us of this, and to prove he was right he showed us the plaquette he got in 1988. 130 Fellows and Members of a dozen nationalities attended this successful meeting. Even a Belgian was spotted.

Another important piece of news is that on January 10th our deputy librarian, Nancy Bryan, graduated as Master of Arts in Library and Information Services Management. I would like to congratulate Nancy!

Regarding our new home, we received a first indication of the refurbishment costs. If we want to make all required changes at once before we move in, we will have to raise a very substantial amount of money. A fund raising campaign will be launched shortly. We will need a lot of help and lots of ideas. Anyone who would like to help us is more than welcome of course and can contact me directly.

The next meeting will be a 1 pm on 25 January when Members of the Russian Academy will show us their collections. We expect at least 15 Members and Guests straight from Moscow and they promised us to bring not only their collections, but also a healthy supply of 'philatelic vodka'. If you don't know what this means, or if you get tired of Belgian beer, then you should come to the Royal on 25 January. Attending the meeting on line won't help this time!

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

January 24th and 25th are days to remember for the Society. On 24th January, Council awarded Honorary Fellowship to Chris King, the driving force behind our new building project. Thank you once more Chris for ALL the work you have been doing for us. The next day, our Russian visitors surprised the RPSL with two exceptional presents.

The RPSL received the Fabergé Medal of the Russian Academy of Philately, and its President became a Member of the Order of the Russian Peace Foundation. More information on both medals will soon be available on our website. (We are still trying to read the explanation we received ... in Russian ...). We thank our Russian friends sincerely for this unforgettable day. 15 Members and Guests flew in from Moscow just for the occasion, with nearly 150 Members and Guests attending the meeting. Really a day to remember.

The President's dinner will be on Wednesday 12 September at 7 pm at the Banqueting House in Whitehall. Why there? It's very simple: it is a unique combination of Britain and Flanders. The ceiling of this truly British monument is decorated with paintings by Peter Paul Rubens. The dinner will be priced very modestly in order to enable ALL Members to attend. This is VERY important to me.

Just a small reminder for those who will be at Stampex: there will be a Sesquicentenary STOCKHOLMIA reception on Friday 16 February at 12.00 noon. All Members are welcome. It will be hosted by The Global Philatelic Network.

Council has decided to set up a 'Youth Programme' for Young Philatelists from all over the world during Autumn Stampex. Young philatelists with high potential (aged between 18 and 35 years) will be invited to London to visit the RPSL, the British Library, the British Postal Museum, Stampex itself and to attend the President's dinner. Anyone who knows of any young philatelists we could invite is kindly asked to contact John Davies - davies1890@btinternet.com.

Finally, the next meeting on February 8th will be my own 1 pm presentation on Belgian Philately. I collect everything (much to the despair of my wife who will unhappily confirm this) and will try to demonstrate this. I will bring parts of my collections of Air Mails, Revenues, Postage Dues and Railway Stamps. I will of course show my main collection too (the Medallion Issue). For those who like more modern material there will be modern Booklets and Coil Stamps. If you like Postal History, come and discover 'Neutral Moresnet' or have a look at a handwritten cover from Queen Victoria addressed to her 'Good Friend and Cousin King Leopold'. After the display, a cocktail will be offered with Belgian finger food. Hope to see you in London on February 8th.

Best Regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

I cannot find the right words to thank you for making my own display at 41 Devonshire such an unforgettable experience. So many of you were there, and I have never received so many e-mails of encouragement from those who could not attend. **THANK YOU SO MUCH !!!**

This week, I hope to meet many of you at Stampex and if you happen to be there on Friday, please come to the Sesquicentenary STOCKHOLMIA reception at 12.00 noon. All Members are welcome. It will be hosted by The Global Philatelic Network.

May I also send you a last reminder for the sesquicentennial Members' Collections book? All members can contribute one or more pages of their collections at £70 per page. Just follow the link and then submit the pages of your collection that you would like to be published in this book. The book will be a permanent and representative record of how and what RPSL members collected in 2019.

Next Thursday (15 February, 1 pm) we welcome the East Africa Study Circle at the Royal. After Belgium, another exotic display. East Africa has a fascinating (postal) history, not to mention the stamps. Hope to meet you there.

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last week was a very busy one in London. We had a stand at Stampex (my sincerest thanks to all volunteers who manned the stand), the Sesquicentenary STOCKHOLMIA reception was a full house and last but not least over 200 (!) Fellows, Members and Guests from 14 countries attended the meeting of the East Africa Study Circle last Thursday. The exhibits were simply stunning and world class. The only drawback was the lack of space and the need to move to larger premises has rarely been felt so acutely.

The next meeting will be this Thursday 22nd February at 5 pm. Dr Harald Lang will come and explain to us all the details of the Austro-Hungarian Issue of 1867, or as he calls it, the Austro-Hungarian Compromise.

Another important piece of news is that there will be a RPSL buffet dinner at the World Stamp Championship Israel 2018. It will be held on 29 May at 7.30 pm at Restaurant Terasa, S.A. Nachon 6, Jerusalem. The participation fee will be 60 GBP per person. If you wish to participate please send an e-mail to gaille@maselis.be.

Looking forward to meeting you next Thursday.

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

I am very pleased (and a little emotional too) to introduce our new home to you today.

We have acquired a rare freehold in the City of London and intend to move there in June 2019. The building has always been a club and is presently occupied by the London Capital Club which will be vacating the premises on 31st July 2018.

The building consists of five storeys above ground level and two basement levels. While it's approximately 20% bigger than Devonshire Place, it is in fact a lot more spacious because the rooms are better laid out, so that there are fewer wasted spaces, and the most important difference is the ... LIFT. Since it is almost next door to Bank Underground Station, it is within easy reach for everyone.

Although the practical aspects like the size of the rooms and the accessibility are important features, and were the major reasons to sell 41 Devonshire Place, we nevertheless loved our previous home because of its character and charming Georgian atmosphere. Moving to a new home without a similar 'heart and soul' was inconceivable. I am therefore more than happy that our new home is also a listed building with a truly British (late Victorian) atmosphere. I have no doubt it will cast the same spell on you as did 41 Devonshire Place.

To learn more of our new premises, please have a look at the images in the attachment or go to www.rpsl.org.uk/abchurch.asp.

So, we have magnificent plans. What we'd like most of all would be to completely refurbish 'Our New Home' before our move. That way we won't have to think about the building or building-related issues at all for the coming years. Then we can just concentrate on philately. Unfortunately, we don't currently have the means to carry out all the necessary changes at once. We are still lacking 2 million pounds and must therefore set up a major new fundraising campaign, '*Tomorrow's Royal*'. You will hear more about this shortly, but if you'd like to respond before then, please contact our Hon. Sec., Peter Cockburn via HonSec@rpsl.org.uk, who will be the Chairman of this campaign.

Having the privilege to bring this wonderful news to you today, is one of my happiest moments ever!

I hope you all share my enthusiasm for 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW!

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

On 22 February Dr Harald Lang gave a most interesting presentation of the 1867 Austro-Hungarian issue. He also showed 12 frames of his wonderful collection. I take pity on anyone else collecting this issue, because Dr Lang seems to own all the major rarities of these stamps.

The next meeting will be on 22 March at 1 pm. We will welcome Vittorio Morani and his 'Postal History of Tuscany' collection. Mr Morani has probably the best collection ever formed on this topic. Come to London on 22 March. You won't be disappointed.

May I also draw your attention to a new initiative, the Devonshire Cup one frame competition in July? Alan Holyoake is the driving force behind it. In attachment you can find more information about this competition and the entry form. If you need more information, please contact Jason Webber adminmanager@rpsl.org.uk.

I'm sorry for the exceptionally long gap between two meetings but there is a very serious reason for this. Believe it or not, but we ran out of beer and chocolate ... I hope you will understand that in such tragic circumstances the only decision I could take was to postpone the next meeting until new supplies were delivered. RPSL Members do not live by tea and biscuits alone ... See you in London on 22 March.

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

On 22 March about 120 Fellows, Members and Guests admired Vittorio Morani's unrivaled (and probably the best ever) Tuscany Postal History collection. The exceptional quality of the handout should be mentioned as well. It was also an excellent moment for Hon. Sec. Peter Cockburn to practice his Italian that had started to become a bit rusty.

The next meeting is on 5 April at 5 pm. Bryan Kearsley will let us discover the Seahorses. For those overseas Members who are unfamiliar with GB stamp issues, and might therefore think that we will turn 41 Devonshire Place into an aquarium for this meeting, I would like to point out that the Seahorses are very famous GB stamps issued during the reign of King George V.

Yesterday the invitations for the President's dinner were posted. You can expect them in your mailbox in the next few days.

Another very important event is the auction of the Dr. Paul Ramsay Collection of Hand Painted Envelopes, to be sold for the benefit of The RPSL at Spink in London on May 9 at 10 am. We are extremely grateful for Dr. Ramsay's generosity. This auction is the official start of the fundraising campaign for the new building called 'Tomorrow's Royal'. I hope to meet many of you in London on 5 April.

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

With last Thursday's presentation about the world-famous 'Seahorses' - in my opinion one of the most beautiful series of postage stamps ever - the RPSL once more put a genuinely British subject in the spotlight. Bryan Kearsley treated us to an enthralling and highly entertaining presentation. You can find it online.

The 'Vote of Thanks' was given by Richard Berry, because Richard was attending his 150th meeting of the RPSL. In fact, he has not missed a single meeting since he became a Member.

At our next meeting on 19th April, at 1.00 pm, the Members from the South West Region will be our guests of honour.

Juliet Turk, our Museum Curator has asked me to circulate a survey for members to complete (see attachment). The aim is to ensure that we give members what they want to see. A number of copies of the survey will also be available in the Main Library. May I kindly ask you to fill it out and to send it back to Juliet's e-mail address: museumarchives@rpsl.org.uk?

I would also like to say a big thank you to everyone who has spontaneously made a contribution to our fundraising campaign for the new building, 'Tomorrow's Royal'.

We have already raised £150,000 – and to think that the campaign doesn't even start officially until 8th and 9th May with the auction at Spink of Dr Paul Ramsay's Collection of Hand Painted Envelopes, to be auctioned on behalf of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

By now, all of you should have received by regular mail the invitation for the President's Dinner on 12 September. If you haven't, please send me a message and I'll send you one by email. One way of buying the tickets for this event is through the online shop (available of course just to members).

Last but not least, I can heartily recommend the latest book (or rather the 'Magnum Opus') of Kees Adema and Jeffrey Groeneveld: 'The Paper Trail: World War II in Holland and its Colonies as Seen through Mail and Documents'. Members can purchase the book for £63 plus postage. You can order it online.

See you on 19th April, to welcome the South West Region and ... to celebrate our 149th anniversary!

Best regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last Thursday, despite the tropical weather, about 120 Fellows, Members and Guests came to London to enjoy the very attractive displays from the Members of the South West Region. The focus was on 'fun' displays, featuring unusual items and themes, but certainly no less fascinating as a result. However, the philatelic gems were not the only treat. After the meeting, Bob Medland surprised us with the ideal refreshment on a sunny summer day: perfectly cooled Somerset cider.

I would like to remind you once more of the sale, on behalf of the RPSL, of the Dr Ramsay Collection of Hand Painted Envelopes on 8 and 9 May. This is the official start of *Tomorrow's Royal*, the fundraising campaign for our new building.

I also need to remind you that the deadline for applications for participation at STOCKHOLMIA 2019, the International Celebration of the Society's 150th Anniversary, is 30 April. (Next Monday!) All Fellows and Members are cordially invited to apply.

The next meeting will be on May 3rd at 1 pm. James Podger will guide us to the Cayman Islands. I hope to meet many of you in London.

Best regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last Thursday we all enjoyed a 'Caribbean Afternoon' at the Royal. James Podger's superb collection introduced us in the best possible way to the Cayman Islands. The London weather was almost subtropical, and all visitors were able to quench their thirst with a Planter's Punch. At the next meeting (17 May at 1 pm) we will travel to the Mediterranean. We are very honoured that His Serene Highness Prince Albert of Monaco has agreed to bring the best parts of his philatelic collection to London.

Further news is that PHILATELIC LITERATURE will play a prominent role at STOCKHOLMIA 2019. All Members who have written or published a book or who would like to give a lecture on a subject related to philatelic literature are kindly requested to read the invitation letter in attachment and to contact Wolfgang Maassen: W.Maassen@philcreativ.de.

For those Members who would like to visit 15 ABCHURCH LANE our new building, we have organized guided tours on the next four meeting days at 11h30 am. The first visit is on 17 May, then, 31 May, 14 June and 28 June. If you want to join one of these tours, please contact Bart Willekens at TomorrowsRoyal@rpsl.org.uk.

Finally, I would like to remind all visitors to the WORLD STAMP SHOW ISRAEL 2018 that the RPSL is hosting a dinner on 29 May at 7.30 pm at the Restaurant Terasa, S. A. Nachan 6, Jerusalem 904305. The participation fee will be 60 GBP per person.

If you wish to participate, please send an e-mail to gaelle@maselis.be.

I hope to meet many of you in London soon, either on 17 May, or even sooner on 8/9 May, this week, at SPINK for the auction of DR PAUL RAMSAY'S COLLECTION OF HAND PAINTED ENVELOPES, so generously given to launch officially our fund-raising campaign Tomorrow's Royal.

Best regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last Thursday we had the privilege to welcome in London the collection of HSH Prince Albert of Monaco. Most visitors had expected a traditional stamp collection, but were surprised to discover a very strong postal history collection with the emphasis on Monaco and the Napoleonic Wars. Since the late 19th century, almost all the Princes of Monaco have been keen philatelists and have built an impressive collection.

The other excellent news is that our fund raising campaign 'Tomorrow's Royal' has started very well. Dr Paul Ramsay's collection of hand painted envelopes was sold for 167,000 GBP, almost twice the estimated value. We would like to thank Dr Ramsay once more for his great generosity.

There is also news from STOCKHOLMIA 2019. We have received applications for 2,200 frames, although only 2,000 frames will fit in the Stockholm Waterfront Congress Centre. Since there is not enough time left to extend the Congress Centre with an extra wing, we will see what we can do to maximize the number of frames. If you intend to visit STOCKHOLMIA 2019, then please do not wait much longer to book your trip because the Stockholm Marathon is scheduled on the same weekend as the exhibition.

The next meeting will be on 31 May at 1 pm. We will welcome Polar philatelists from all over the world with wonderful collections paying tribute to the bravest explorers. The icing on the cake will be a Polar reception with lots of Polar style re -'fresh'-ments. If you have always intended to come to London and never been able to, then 31 May is the ideal time to break the ice.

Best regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Members, Fellows & Guests,

Please find attached details for the President's Dinner, held on the 12th September 2018 at The Banqueting House, Whitehall, London.

With best regards

Jason Webber
Administration Manager

on behalf of

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

The Royal Philatelic Society London

41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY
 Web site: www.rpsl.org.uk



London, 17 May 2018

Dear Fellows, Members and Guests of the Royal Philatelic Society London,

I am extremely pleased and grateful that so many of you will be attending the President's Dinner. Tickets have sold much faster than we expected.

Because of the larger than expected number of guests we will have to amend the programme a little.

Please find below some modifications and some additional practical information:

- Reception will start at 7.00 pm (instead of 7.30 pm initially planned)
- Carriages will be at 11.00 pm (and not at 10.30 pm as initially planned).
- ACCESS: NOT via the Banqueting House, but via the neighbouring RUSI building (Royal United Services Institute) at 61 Whitehall, London SW1A 2 ET.
- Bags may have to be checked as a standard procedure, so bring as few bags (and other luggage) as possible.
- Unfortunately, due to the historic nature of the building, there are stairs (and no lift) into the Undercroft where the main reception will be held. However pre-dinner drinks and canapés will also be available in the Banqueting Hall itself which is accessible by lift.
- The recommended dress code is black tie with decorations.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR JOINING THE PRESIDENT'S DINNER!!

I am really looking forward to meeting you in London!

Best regards,

Patrick Maselis

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last Thursday nearly 150 Members and guests from almost a dozen countries came to visit the Polar Philately Exhibits. Almost a record. The need for a larger building was once more clearly felt ... All visitors were 'warmed up' by the exhibits of the coldest regions on earth. Personally I liked most the letters and documents from some of the world's bravest and most famous explorers and how these letters travelled. Postal History with two capital letters. Philately and History: two peas in a pod ...

As you all know, we will celebrate our 150th Anniversary in 2019. If you want to learn more about the different activities, then please attend Richard Stock's 15 minute presentation on Thursday 28th June at 4 pm. This will 'warm you up' for the AGM at 4.30 pm the same day.

For those of you who are interested in the world's first stamp, the George Truell Collection of Penny Blacks will be shown (for the first time ever) at the Wellcome Trust from 24 to 27 July 2018 at Gibbs Building, 215 Euston road, Kings Cross, London NW1 2BE. It will not be open to the public but RPSL Members are welcome. You need to register with Luxy Cunningham at the Wellcome Trust. More information can be found on the homepage of our website (you should log in first).

The next meeting will be on 14 June at 5 pm. Dr Tim O'Connor will be flying over from the US and give us a presentation with the intriguing title: 'Dr Franklin will address the Lords on the State of His Majesty's Post'. If you have no idea what this will be about, then I am afraid there is no other option than to come and listen to Dr O'Connor's presentation. See you on 14 June!

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last Thursday Tim O'Connor gave an amazing presentation of the Colonial American Postal History (1675-1783). The presentation itself and the material in the frames was simply stunning. Tim also gave us a scoop: he was the first person to wear the new uniform designed for RPSL Members (see attachment). Once we move to the City we should dress appropriately, so a new uniform was designed. For the Fellows the uniform will be slightly different, namely with a bearskin cap. The new uniform was inspected and approved by John Scott, the Chief Commoner of the City of London who gave the Vote of Thanks.

The next meeting will be the AGM on 28 June at 4.30 pm. After the AGM I'll offer a small present (I won't tell you what it is but it is dark brown and edible) to all Fellows, Members and Guests attending the AGM followed by a reception inspired by the theme 'Summer in the British Commonwealth'. So I'm afraid there will be neither French cheese nor Brussels sprouts.

Just before the AGM, at 4 pm, Richard Stock will explain briefly all activities planned to celebrate our 150th anniversary in 2019.

In the morning two visits to our new building will be organized, at 10.30 am and at 11.30 am. If you would like to join one of these visits then please contact Bart Willekens: TomorrowsRoyal@rpsl.org.uk.

Finally, on 12 July we will have the first ever **DEVONSHIRE BOWL ONE FRAME COMPETITION**. For any unresolved matters or inquiries, please contact Jason: adminmanager@rpsl.org.uk

Hope to see many of you on 28 June.

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

New RPSL Publication: *Perkins Bacon Great Britain Line-Engraved Postage Stamp Printing 1840-1846* by Alan Druce FRPSL.

After five years of meticulous research in archives, this definitive book is now ready for publication. As well as the Perkins Bacon Records and the Postal Museum, many hours have been spent looking at primary sources in the British Library, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the National Archives at Kew. The information gleaned has been meticulously analysed and the full story told in more detail than ever before. The work is in two hard-bound volumes, each of 624 pages. It is Volume 2 that will be heavily used by aficionados of GB Line-Engraved stamps as it contains tables that define precisely how many sheets were printed from which plate by which printer on which day. These volumes give philatelists a previously un-published level of detail of the first six years of stamp production.

The books will be printed over the summer, and it is anticipated that they will be available for the first meeting of the new season. The normal retail price of this two-volume book will be £125, however a special price reduction is available to anyone who orders by 23 July 2018. The price before that date is £112 to non-members and £99 to RPSL members. From 24 July 2018, the members' price will be £112.

A special limited edition leather bound version is being offered. This has a fixed price of £300 per two-book set. See the website for more details.

If ordering from overseas, please carefully read the information on delivery costs that are provided on the website.

To order your copy of this new book, please go to **Buy Books** on the **RPSL** website. Don't forget to log on to receive your members' discount!

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last Thursday the AGM went smoothly. In fact, it went as smoothly as the football game that took place on the same evening between England and another team of which I forgot the name. The most important news from the AGM is that we have three new Officers. Richard Berry has been elected Hon. Sec, Simon Richards as Hon. Treasurer and Robin Tapper as a Member of Council. I would like to sincerely congratulate the new Officers and at the same time thank their predecessors Peter Cockburn, Nigel Gooch and Bill Hedley very very much for all they have done for the Society.

The next meeting will be a 1 pm on 12 July. We will have the first ever DEVONSHIRE BOWL ONE FRAME COMPETITION. I would like to thank Alan Holyoake very much for having initiated this and for having donated the Bowl to the Society. The competition is now 'sold out'. 55 Members will be participating.

I would also like to invite you to the final Temporary Exhibition at the Society in August. The exhibition, 'Highlights of No.41 Devonshire Place' is being developed by our Museum and Archives team with the help of U3A volunteers and will run from August to November 2018. This will be the last Temporary Exhibition in No. 41 before the move. As parts of the exhibition will be taken to our international exhibition in Stockholm in 2019, Juliet Turk would like to get your feedback on the display as well.

The launch will be on Tuesday 31st July 2018 and if you would like to attend the launch then please contact Juliet.

Hope to see you on 12 July for the Devonshire Bowl One Frame competition.

Best Regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

The first Devonshire Bowl One Frame Competition was an overwhelming success. We had over 60 applications, but unfortunately only 54 Members could actually compete as we couldn't fit more than 27 frames into our meeting room. The quality and the variety of the exhibits were superb. My most sincere congratulations to the winner Richard Hobbs who won the Devonshire Bowl and to the runner-up, Vice-President Peter Cockburn, who won the Devonshire Plate. Last but not least, I would like to thank Alan Holyoake sincerely for taking the initiative of holding a one frame competition and for donating the trophies.

The important news about the new building is that the Planning Application has now been submitted.

There is also VERY important news from Jan Berg, Commissioner General of STOCKHOLMIA 2019. **ALL MEMBERS WHO APPLIED ARE GUARANTEED TO EXHIBIT**, but members with applications for several full frame exhibits (5-8 frames) might only have one of the full frame exhibits accepted. This means that all applicants can proceed with travel arrangements and other reservations. Final details will be sent individually to all exhibitors by the 31st of August (or even earlier if possible). Some interesting numbers: - more than 300 philatelic displays (2,022 frames) and 138 literature entries have been accepted - 368 Fellows and Members of the Society from 44 different countries will participate

The next meeting will be on 13 September at 1 pm. We will once again have the honour of opening the new philatelic season with an exhibition from The Philatelic Collection of our Patron Her Majesty The Queen. This year the theme will be 'King George V' and this will be the last arranged by Michael Sefi.

To the Members living in the Northern Hemisphere I wish you happy summer holidays and to those living below the Equator I wish you a mild winter. (If you happen to live right on the Equator, then I wish you both).

Best regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

The new season at the Royal is about to start. As you already know, the first meeting is scheduled on 13 September at 1 pm. We will once again have the honour of opening the new philatelic season with an exhibition from The Philatelic Collection of our Patron Her Majesty The Queen. This year the theme will be 'King George V' and this will be the last arranged by Michael Sefi.

We are also looking for more members to join the Welcome Host team. If you would like to join or simply for more information please contact David Alford.

All members are also cordially invited to visit our booth at Autumn Stampex from 12 to 15 September.

Hope to meet many of you in London soon.

Best regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

The new season at the Royal started very successfully. A record 249 Members attended the exhibition of stunning 'King George V' items from the Royal Philatelic Collection. It was the last exhibition arranged by Michael Sefi as Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection. The record attendance was, in my opinion, a tribute to Michael by Members. We are indeed very grateful for all he has done for philately in general and the RPSL in particular.

I would also like to sincerely thank the volunteers who manned our stand at Stampex, and the 461 Members and guests who attended the President's dinner.

May I also remind our Members that you will be able to sell rarities (or an entire collection in one lot) at STOCKHOLMIA in unparalleled conditions for both the RPSL and the sellers. Sellers get HUGE discounts on the sellers' commission and on top of this, the RPSL will get a 5% 'anniversary bonus'. If you want to sell a collection lot by lot, there is a solution too. A few top items would then be sold in Stockholm and the rest can be auctioned in Zürich at Corinphila Inter-national ten days after STOCKHOLMIA. The RPSL will still get a 5% bonus on everything, but, for the lots sold in Zürich, there will be no discount anymore for the sellers. However, in all adverts for the Rarities Auction, the collections sold afterwards in Zürich will also be included.

Last but not least, we are looking for a new webmaster. Our current webmaster Fred Hoadley is looking for someone to succeed him. Ideally, the webmaster should preferably live in the UK (living elsewhere could also be OK though), have skills in preparing and editing web pages, and needs to be generally IT-literate, a competent speaker of English, and be able to manipulate files using the various image and document editing programs. If you are interested, please contact Mark Bailey: itchairman@rpsl.org.uk.

Our next meeting will be a 1 pm on 4 October, a display of Chile, Haiti, Nicaragua and Paraguay, by John Shaw, Glen Stafford and Ray Todd. Ray Todd will be travelling all the way from Australia! After the meeting, a Latin American reception WITH AUSTRALIAN WINES will be offered to all.

Hope to meet many of you on 4 October.

Best regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström, Dear Fellows and Members,

More than 100 Members and Guests attended the meeting last Thursday and admired some wonderful collections of Haiti, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Chile. I would like to once more thank the exhibitors John Shaw, Ray Todd and Glen Stafford. One of the Members attending was John Scott, who has been officially appointed as Michael Sefi's successor as Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection. Congratulations John!

There is also important news from Tomorrow's Royal. This week we will start sending the brochures and donation forms by mail to all the Members. The timing of this mailing was carefully planned, to take place just before the start of the renovation works at 15 Abchurch Lane. I would like to sincerely thank all Members who have already made donations. I would however like to ask all other Members (who can afford it) to consider a donation now and not to wait for the future, because we have to pay the invoices now ... Please find more information attached.

In the previous newsletter I mentioned the rarities auction in STOCKHOLMIA, which will be on more than exceptional terms for both vendors and the RPSL. I was a little unclear though. The 5% anniversary bonus will NOT be charged to sellers, but entirely contributed by the auctioneers. Moreover, whether you offer rarities for sale in Stockholm or collections 10 days later in Zürich, the same huge discounts on the sellers commission will be applied. For more information please contact Karl Louis (louis@corinphila.ch).

Last but not least, I would like to recommend the RPSL's latest publication: 'King George V Definitive, Profile Head and Seahorse Stamps Overprinted for NAURU' by Robert C. Stein FRPSL. It is incredible how much information the author has been able to gather on this issue.

The next meeting will be on 18 October at 5 pm. David Leathart invites us to see his display 'Walking in the Queen Victoria Specimen Footsteps of Marcus Samuel'. If you don't know what this is about, then you will certainly have to come to London!

I hope to see many of you on the 18th of October.

Best regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last Thursday the buzz word at the Royal was 'Specimens'. David Leathart gave us a most interesting presentation on Queen Victoria Specimen stamps and over a 100 members and guests attended. In the audience there were also some rare Specimens, among whom two from Belgium.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that one of the benefits of membership of the RPSL is the right to submit stamps to the Expert Committee at fees lower than those payable by non-members, including two opinions each year free (subject to £15 per item handling charge; see website for full details). The final Expert Committee meeting of 2018 will be on 28 November. Please ensure that any 2018 member "frees" are submitted in time for this meeting (preferably at least one week before the meeting day). Your contact is Lucy Caulfield: experts@rpsl.limited.

On 9 November at 5 pm you are kindly invited to the Stuart Rossiter lecture given by Immediate Past President, Frank Walton RDP FRPSL. The subject will be "Should Aero-philately be a subset of Postal History?" The format of the meeting is the same as one of the Royal's 5pm displays, also followed by wine and nibbles. Please note that free admission is only by non-transferable ticket on application to Rex Dixon FRPSL at rex@btinternet.com.

From now on we will try to put all the hand-outs for the one o'clock displays online one week in advance. Since the next meeting will be my own one o'clock display on 'Belgians Overseas' on 8 November, this new measure could already prove its usefulness. Those among you who think that the activities of 'Belgians abroad' are limited to one person only, namely a bald middle-aged man with glasses suffering from a little overweight and travelling to the UK from time to time, are kindly requested to read the hand-out before the meeting. After the meeting dinner will be offered at the Orrery Restaurant to the Members attending, provided they book a seat with Nick Martin: ppa@rpsl.org.uk. We will apply the rule 'first come, first served'.

Hope to meet many of you on 8 November!

Best regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

I am so grateful that almost 150 Members and Guests came to London yesterday for my own display about 'Belgians overseas'. Thank you SO much!!! Visitors were very impressed by the size of the Belgian possessions overseas until they realized that I had calculated all measures in square inches.

The Tomorrow's Royal team would like to thank VERY MUCH all 47 Members who have made donations so far. Your overwhelming enthusiasm (47 Members is 1,8 % of the Membership) was not really beyond our wildest expectations.

I am also very pleased to announce that Council has unanimously nominated Mike J Y Roberts (from Ilkey of all places) as the next Vice-President. Congratulations Mike!

To get a better understanding of our Members' interests and collections, Lucy Caulfield has drafted a questionnaire (in attachment). If you don't like questionnaires then simply ignore this. We will only use the gathered information to improve our services to Members. There is no hidden agenda. You can return the questionnaire to Lucy Caulfield: experts@rpsl.limited.

The next meeting is a 1 pm on 15 November, a group display by the ArGe Deutsche Besetzung im 1. Weltkrieg. It is our way to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. At 6 pm a British-German standing dinner will be offered to all who are attending. Those who expect sausages on the menu will probably not be disappointed.

Looking forward to meeting many of you on November 15th.

Best regards or 'Mit freundlichem Gruss'

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last Thursday 125 Members and Guests attended the group display by the Pacific Islands Study Circle. Rarely have we learnt so much in one day. Besides the philatelic discoveries - many exceptional items were exhibited - it was also a welcome refresher of our geographic knowledge. Some of us discovered that Washington Island is not situated in the middle of the Potomac River, and others were surprised that the mail from Palmyra Island was not written on cuneiform tablets. For me the biggest surprise was the mail from Clipperton Atoll. I would never have imagined that three or more frames could be filled with material from an atoll with a permanent population of only three (according to the latest census one Laysan albatross and two Blue-footed boobies).

I am very pleased to report that Neil Ritchie will be the new Webmaster of the RPSL. Fred Hoadley will step down in June, and I would like to thank Fred sincerely for the wonderful job he has done. I would also like to thank Neil for accepting this very important duty.

The next meeting will be a 5 o'clock on 6 December. John Walker will give a most interesting presentation on '*Confederate use of Patriotic Covers during the Civil War 1861-1865*'.

Looking forward to meeting many of you on December 6th, the last meeting of 2018.

Best regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last Thursday 115 Fellows, Members and Patriots attended John Walker's splendid presentation on the Patriotic Covers of the Confederate States. The beauty and attractiveness of the covers was in very sharp contrast to the often sad and dramatic contents of the letters themselves ...

After the meeting it was time for an early Christmas celebration. Last year, when I rehearsed Christmas carols dressed as a Santa Claus, I was told that it is fine to celebrate Christmas at the Royal, but non-presidential looking clothes and too much emphasis on religion should be avoided. So this year I looked for a presidential looking and not too religious Christmas dress. I am not sure though that my reindeer outfit was the right thing to wear ...

There is excellent news from our Museum! We received an additional grant from 'The National Manuscripts Conservation Trust'. The grant is for £3,700 to finish the conservation of the Perkins Bacon delivery books and allow them to be digitised and put on display at Abchurch. So altogether we've received £8,700 for this project! Congratulations to Juliet Turk for obtaining this grant.

I was also reminded that we are looking for more volunteers to write book reviews for The London Philatelist. We welcome both experienced and novice reviewers so if you are new to reviewing then you will be guided through the process. For further information please contact Dr Gwynne Harries at bookreviews@rpsl.org.uk.

The next meeting will be a 1 pm on 10 January: Displays by Members of the Essex Philatelic Associations. Hope to meet many Members and Guests from Essex and beyond then!

I would like to wish all of you a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year, the year of our Sesquicentenary AND the year of the move to the new building!

Best regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

First of all I wish all of you a very happy New Year ! It will be one of the most exciting (and challenging) years in the history of our Society. We celebrate our Sesquicentenary and we move to a new building. So far so good. The extensive works in the new building are on schedule and we haven't run out of money thanks to the generosity of more than 100 Members.

We are looking for volunteers to staff our stand at Spring Stampex 2019, running from Wednesday 13th February until Saturday 16th February at the Business Design Centre in Islington. Mark Bailey will be dividing the days into 1-hour or 2-hours slots, and needs volunteers to cover all the slots. Any member who wishes to volunteer for any number of the slots can send him an email (itchairman@rpsl.org.uk) or can contact him via the Administration office. Please do this as soon as possible.

The only other news I have is that I would like to move the Finland display by Count Gustaf Douglas from 28 February to 7 March. On 28 February, as initially scheduled, I have to be in Bishkek, the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic, as you all know of course. I have been appointed Honorary Consul of the Kyrgyz Republic for Belgium and will get my papers that day.

I haven't changed the date yet, because I am sincerely worried about our Scandinavian Members who might already have bought tickets and booked hotel rooms. I would like to ask anyone for whom this possible change of date would have financial consequences to contact me as soon as possible.

The next meeting will be a 1 pm this Thursday (10 January): displays by Members of the Essex Philatelic Associations. At 6 pm a standing dinner with products from Essex will be offered to all Members (and Guests) attending.

I hope to meet many Fellows and Members on this first meeting of 2019.

Best regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last Thursday almost 140 Members and Guests attended the first meeting of 2019. We thank the Members of the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies for having shown us great collections on the most diverse topics and countries. It was a day filled with philatelic joy and friendship.

Important news is that the meeting of the 28th February will NOT be rescheduled. Too many overseas Members have already booked flights and hotels.

As you all know, the year 2019 will be full of sesqui-centennial events. Please do not forget to book in time for the important activities.

A major event in our 150th Anniversary celebrations, the 'Foundation Day' Luncheon at Stationers' Hall, is only three months away and tickets may be booked via the home page of the RPSL website www.rpsl.org.uk. Click on the link 'Luncheon Ticket' to take you to the page in the shop to buy tickets.

Also for STOCKHOLMIA, please don't wait any longer to book plane tickets, accommodation and the Arlanda Express train from the airport to the City Centre. Many of the special deals will expire in February. You will have to pay a lot more if you wait any longer. Please book on line at www.stockholmia2019.se or contact the Exhibition Manager jonas@stockholmia2019.se.

The next meeting will be this Thursday 17 January at 5 pm:
“Jamestown 1907” by Roger Brody.

I hope to meet many Fellows and Members in London this
Thursday!

Best regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last week 100 Members and Guests attended Roger Brody's excellent presentation on "The Jamestown 1907 Issue". Roger is a gifted speaker and his collection is top level. Again a philatelic day I won't easily forget!

Truly ROYAL news from Stockholm this week. His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden (and Patron of Stockholmia) will inaugurate the STOCKHOLMIA 2019 exhibition on 29 May 2019. The ceremony will take place in the auditorium at the Waterfront Congress Centre. The inauguration ceremony is open to the public. He also opened the successful STOCKHOLMIA exhibitions in 1974 and 1986.

Work in the new building is still on schedule. The most important news is from the old building though. The new owners of 41 Devonshire Place have decided to sell the building again and probably for less than what they paid us for it ...

The next meeting will be on Thursday 7 February at 5 pm: "Boston Postal History to The War of Independence " by Mark Schwartz.

I hope to meet many of you in London on 7 February !

Best regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Yesterday 110 Members and Guests attended the extraordinary lecture of Mark Schwartz about the Postal History of Boston before the War of Independence. The material in the frames was once more simply overwhelming too ...

The most important news this week is that Council has approved 150 Life Memberships (for a one-off contribution of £3,000) on a first come first served basis. Further information is attached. Since the average life expectancy in 2025 will be 110 for men and 115 for women, everyone below 95 will greatly benefit from this offer.

As you all should know by now, we will celebrate our sesquicentennial anniversary on Wednesday 10 April with a Foundation Day Luncheon at Stationer's Hall (to buy your ticket please go to our website www.rpsl.org.uk) followed on 11 April by a display at 41 Devonshire Place from the collections of H.M. The Queen and the Past Presidents. For insurance reasons, if you would plan to bring your family or some guests to the display, we kindly ask you to inform the Administration Manager (adminmanager@rpsl.org.uk) by the 3rd of April.

The next meeting will be on Valentine's day 14 February at 1 pm. Simon Richards will show us his Dominica collection. The material will remain in the frames until 6.15 pm but the vote of thanks will be at 4 pm followed by a Caribbean reception downstairs. Hope to see many of you in London next week.

Best regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last Thursday we were overwhelmed by Simon Richard's stunning collection of Dominica. The attendance - roughly 160 (!) Members and Guests - almost outnumbered the total population of the island. Not bad at all for a country smaller than say Belgium.

You will also be delighted to hear that the first major event of our 150th Anniversary programme, the themed exhibition 'King George V - Our First Patron' was a great success. Our members worked extremely hard to produce magnificent exhibits and many from overseas were present to enjoy the exhibition. It was a credit to probably the best philatelic society in the world.

I would like to take this opportunity too to sincerely thank all the volunteers who manned our booth at Stampex. Without the help of so many volunteers the RPSL could simply not survive.

The next meeting will be a 1 pm on 28 February. Count Gustaf Douglas will show us his unique collection of Classic Finland. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend because I have to go unexpectedly to the Kyrgyz Republic. Richard Stock will preside over this meeting.

To compensate for my absence though, I will offer a (standing) Scandinavian dinner at the Royal to all Members and Guests attending. Have a few Aquavits and you probably won't notice (or regret) my absence any longer. For those who cannot attend, if you wish I'll send you a post card from Bishkek. If so, just reply to this message by sending me your name and full postal address.

Best regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

Last Thursday, Jonas Hällström gave a superb presentation on behalf of Count Douglas (who was sadly unable to attend) in front of a packed meeting room with no seats to spare. The handbook was probably the best ever produced for a 1 pm or 5 pm meeting. I would also like to thank Richard Stock for leading the meeting so well in my absence.

Meanwhile I was in the Kyrgyz Republic where I had a very fruitful meeting with the Head of the Stamp Division of the Kyrgyz Post, Mr Abdyllaev. The Kyrgyz Post will issue two stamps to commemorate the sesquicentenary of the RPSL. That's two more than the UK! I would also like to thank our Member Mr Sergei Garynov for arranging this meeting.

Regarding the sesquicentennial activities, a very important message. The announcement in the March LP was incorrect with regard to visitors attending the Past President's Displays on 11 April 2019. Fellows and Members may invite guests as visitors, but they must be registered in advance with the Administration and Facilities Manager as early as possible and by 5 April 2019 at the latest to enable their name badges to be prepared. If you would like to bring visitors on the 11 April, please read the full text at the bottom of this newsletter.

I would also like to once more invite all Members to attend the Foundation Day Luncheon at Stationers' Hall on the 10 April. To book, please follow this link. Please book as soon as possible.

Regarding the new building, a video was made in February 2019 showing a walk around 15 Abchurch Lane whilst the building contractors Ambit Moat are in the process of refurbishing and redecorating the premises. Thanks to the architects Tate Hindle for making this video. You may click on this link to watch the video.

Unfortunately, the move from Devonshire Place to Abchurch Lane will have a serious impact on our services to Members. On 15 March all access to library, museum and philatelic collections will cease. From 30 April onwards, the Society will be closed to Members, except on meeting days, and for Council and Committee meetings, activities associated with STOCKHOLMIA including hand in and hand back, the Expert Committee, and activities associated with packing and the move. Standing displays will cease.

Last but not least, all Members of the RPSL are invited to participate with postal history exhibits at Sindelfingen in October. Chris King is organising this with Alan Holyoake. Please note that this is an invitation to ALL Members and not only UK Members.

The next meeting is a 5 pm on 14 March, 'Eastern Rumelia and South Bulgaria 1876-1886' presented by William Tatham from California. I hope to meet many of you in London on 14 March.

Best regards

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström,

I sincerely hope you all enjoyed St Patrick's day yesterday. I certainly did!

Last Thursday, William Tatham came all the way from California to give a very interesting presentation about the stamp issues of Eastern Rumelia. For those Members who still don't know where this country is located, it is next to Western Rumelia.

There is also important news regarding the World Stamp Exhibition in Wuhan City (11 to 17 June). The local government would like to invite for one week up to 12 Fellows or Members of the Society. Wuhan City will cover all costs (hotel, food, etc...) except for the airline tickets. The offer is limited though to Members who are working for important companies or organisations, because the aim is to attract more investments to the Wuhan region. If you are interested, please contact Jack Zhang, a Member of the RPSL, as soon as possible: jackuk888@hotmail.com.

The next meeting is a 1 pm on 21 March, several displays by the Members of the Malay Study Group on a large variety of topics related to that very interesting part of the world.

Hope to see you in London next week!

Best regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström

Yesterday we welcomed the Royal Belgian Academy of Philately to 41 Devonshire Place. I promise to all non-Belgian Members that this was my last act of 'nepotism'. It was yet another very crowded meeting day, and the atmosphere was more convivial than ever.

I normally avoid the topic of fund raising in my newsletters but today is an exception. We have now raised over one million pounds and I would like to sincerely thank not only the many generous donors but also the Tomorrow's Royal team. There now remain only £1.5 million to go.

Due to the move, we will no longer be able to organise the Thursday meetings at 41 Devonshire place after 9 May. Georg Størmer's 'Norway 1855-1868' will be the last meeting in the old building. The meetings on 23 May and 6 June will be at St Paul's Roof Pavilion at the Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX, 4 minutes walk from Waterloo Station. The AGM will be at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) at 61 Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET.

Last but not least, next Wednesday 10 April the Society will celebrate its 150th Anniversary. The Foundation Day Luncheon at Stationers' Hall at 12 pm on Wednesday and the displays by Her Majesty The Queen and of Past Presidents' collections on Thursday will be most memorable events not to be missed.

On Thursday the events of the day will start at 10.00 am with book presentations (Fathers of Philately and the STOCKHOLMIA 2019 Exhibition Catalogues). The displays will open at 1.00pm. I would like to remind you that only Members (and Guests who have pre-registered) will be allowed to enter the building. At 3pm a Victorian tea ceremony will be offered to all visitors followed by a Victorian reception at 5.30 pm.

For those attending the Foundation Day Luncheon, tickets have not been mailed and they will be available at the entrance. The dress code is lounge suits. The location is Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4M 7DD.

Please come to London next week to celebrate our Sesquicentenary! It will be an unforgettable experience.

Best regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström

Last week we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the RPSL in style. On Wednesday 140 Members and Guests attended the Foundation Day Luncheon in Stationers' Hall, a truly unique building. On Thursday more than 200 Members and Guests from a dozen countries came to 41 Devonshire Place and enjoyed the Past Presidents' displays. Moreover, on 10 April the Croatian Post issued a post card with imprinted stamp (an official issue) and Julje Maras brought 200 of these to the Foundation Day Luncheon. Last but not least, three sesquicentennial books were resented to the public: "Fathers of Philately" by Brian Birch and the two STOCKHOLMIA exhibition catalogues. If you would like to buy the Fathers of Philately, please order on line here. To order the catalogues, please follow this link.

Many Members have already applied for Life Membership. If you intend to do it as well, please don't wait any longer. Further information is attached.

The next meeting is a 1 pm on 25 April. Bryant Korn will show us his collection, Postal stamps and Postal History of Liberia from 1820 to 1920". I hope to meet many of you in London that day.

Best regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström

Last Thursday more than 90 Members and Guest attended Bryant Korn's excellent Liberia display. The early stamp issues of Liberia are very attractive and I liked most the exceptional die proofs of these stamps.

As you probably know already, one million pounds has been donated to Tomorrow's Royal. This is excellent news of course and I thank once more everyone who has contributed. We now have to raise the next one and a half million pounds to finish the job. One way you can help is to become a Life Member. Limited numbers are still available until 150 have signed up or until 31st July 2019. The price is £3,000 or \$4,000. If you are interested in this offer, please send an e-mail to secretary@rpsl.org.uk.

Next meeting is a historical one. It will be our very last meeting ever at 41 Devonshire Place ... At 5 pm Georg Størmer will tell us everything about 'Norway 1855-1868' ... After that, we will have to say goodbye to 41 Devonshire Place ... Handkerchiefs (and even towels) will be available in ample supply ... We will also give away that day whatever is left in the fridge, mostly chocolate (surprise surprise) and beer.

I hope to meet many of you in London on 9 May. A very special day ...

Best regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström

Yesterday 115 members and guests attended Georg Størmer's fabulous 'Norway 1855-1868' presentation, after which we bade farewell to 41 Devonshire Place, the building in which we had so many great moments. Another milestone in the history of the Society.

Regarding the new building, for those among you who are considering donating stamps or other philatelic material to Tomorrow's Royal, I would like to remind you that there will be a Grand Auction for this Fund on Friday 8 November. For more information please send an e-mail to Peter Cockburn: TomorrowsRoyal@rpsl.org.uk

No 15 Abchurch Lane is rather a mouthful and all great buildings in the City of London have names, like The Shard, The Ned, Stationers' Hall. So, we would like to have a name for our new headquarters. We thought all members might be interested to use their imagination, and therefore if you wish to join in, please send your suggestion to name@rpsl.org.uk by 30th June 2019, and include your own name if you wish so that the "winner" can be announced in due course.

I would also like to remind you that all members of the RPSL have been kindly invited to exhibit at the International Stamp Fair in Sindelfingen (24 to 26 October 2019). The closing date is 31 May. If you are interested then please contact Chris King: chris.king@postalhistory.net.

The next meeting will be on 23 May at 5 pm. Freddy Khalastchy will tell us everything about 'The Baghdad Overprints and Events leading to their Issue'. The meeting will be at the Weston Pavilion (on the 5th floor) at the Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX, 4 minutes walk from Waterloo Station.

From 1 pm onwards we will offer a Mesopotamian coffee and tea service to all. At 5.45 pm a 'Thousand and One Nights' cocktail reception will be served on the top floor of the Southbank Centre (from where you have a unique view on St Paul's Cathedral). If you are considering travelling to London in the 'Thousand and One Nights' style, you can park your flying carpet on the roof of the Southbank Centre.

I hope to meet many of you in London on 23 May.

Best regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström

Yesterday almost 100 Members attended Freddy Khalastchy's excellent and most entertaining presentation about 'The Baghdad Overprints and Events leading to their Issue'. The most hilarious moment was when Freddy showed us a letter written 'under the date palms' in which the word 'date' had been removed from the text by censors because they had been instructed that all dates had to be removed from all correspondence. The presentation was at the Weston Pavilion, which is an exceptional venue: breathtaking views of London and a large open air terrace; ideal on a warm day like yesterday.

If you ever buy on Amazon, you will be pleased to know that the RPSL has signed up to Amazon Smile, this is Amazon's way of donating to charities. A portion of the money you spend will be donated to the RPSL if you log into the smiles part of Amazon. You need to go to smile.amazon.co.uk (or just add "smile." in front of your country's amazon web address, i.e. smile.amazon.de for Germany). You will be met with a screen that asks you to choose a charity. In the search box please type "Royal Philatelic Society", click on search, and you will find us. Another screen will then confirm your selection with a tick-box, please tick this as it makes sure that all future purchases donate to RPSL. After this procedure, whenever you purchase something on Amazon, they will make an automatic donation directly to the RPSL. If you have any questions or need assistance please email secretary@rpsl.org.uk

Next week many of us will be travelling to STOCKHOLMIA, where we will celebrate our Sesquicentenary in a truly unprecedented way. I would already like to thank our

Swedish Members for the incredible efforts they have made to prepare this 2,000 frame exhibition in the most impressive Waterfront Exhibition Centre in Stockholm. During STOCKHOLMIA there will be every day at 3 pm a RPSL Meeting Presentation in the main auditorium (identical to the 5 pm presentations in London). On 29 May Scott Trepel will introduce us to the Transcontinental Pony Express, on 30 May Henk Slabbinck will talk about the French Presence in India, on 31 May Eddie Bridges will tell us more about The Darmstadt Trials of the Union of South Africa and finally, on 1 June, John Barwis will give us an overview of the Maritime Mail Routes from Victoria (Australia).

The next meeting in London will be on 6 June at 5 pm. When Paolo Bianchi will present his collection of 'The Napoleonic Grande Armée'. The meeting will again be at the Weston Pavilion (on the 6th floor) at the Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX, 4 minutes walk from Waterloo Station. Our French friends should know that we didn't on purpose organize this Napoleonic presentation in the immediate vicinity of ... Waterloo station.

From 1 pm onwards we will offer a French coffee and tea service to all, with lots of 'mignardises'. At 5.45 pm a 'Napoleonic' cocktail reception will be served on the top floor of the Southbank Centre. Please do not expect Beef Wellington. I hope to meet many of you in Stockholm next week and in London on 6 June.

Best regards,

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Dear Lt Col Hällström

Dear Members of the RPSL,

Last Thursday almost 90 Members attended Paolo Bianchi's excellent presentation of Napoleon's 'Grande Armée', the last London meeting of the season 2018/2019. The reception afterwards was most enjoyable as was the catering, especially the St Helena Gin and the Peach (M)Elba. It was a symbolic end to my Presidency: Napoleon went to Belgium (Waterloo) and his 'term' was over and next week I will go to Belgium and my term will be over too.

One of the highlights of my Presidency was ... STOCKHOLMIA !!! It was the best stamp show I ever attended and probably the largest gathering of RPSL Members ever. My most sincere congratulations and gratitude to the exhibition manager Jonas Hällström and to all who contributed to the success of this show. For sure, no other Philatelic Society in the world than the RPSL could organize such an event for Members only !!!

Regarding donations to the RPSL via Amazon (see my previous Newsletter), I was told that purchases should always be made through smile.amazon (e.g. smile.amazon.co.uk for the UK). Purchasing through Amazon.com will not create a donation.

And to end my last Newsletter, I would like to thank all of you, dear Members, for the wonderful past two years. I enjoyed it very much and - more importantly - I hope you did as well. After two years though of (truly excellent) pies,

buns, scones, cookies and cakes, of driving on the left hand side, of putting my watch back and forward one hour twice a week, of enjoying life and adding pounds at the King's Head and the Greasy Spoon, of hiding myself in the vaults whenever Belgium played football against England, of failing to understand the political system and the role of the Guilds in The City or, even worse, of not understanding the rules of cricket, and last but not least of travelling to even the most remote corner of the UK (Bacton-on-Sea ?) I am looking forward to rediscover the simple life I enjoyed before.

I wish my successor Richard Stock already every success for his Presidency and hope to meet many of you at the AGM in London on 20 June at 4.30 pm at RUSI (Royal United Services Institute), 61 Whitehall, Westminster, London SW1A 2ET. It is next door to the Banqueting House. I have two special presents for the RPSL and of course, some chocolates (not from the Alps) and a 'thank you' reception for all Members who will attend the AGM.

See you next week!

Patrick V M J Maselis RDP FRPSL
President of The Royal Philatelic Society London









BANQUET 1ST JUNE STOCKHOLMIA 2019



Dear Patrick,

You say in your newsletter dated 13th June 2019, that it is your last message as President. In response to that, your final message, I want to extend our gratitude.

Words are powerful, they inspire us, and they launch us into action. They drive us to create the changes we want to see. Among many other things, your Presidency is characterised by words of that type, and you will be difficult to succeed, no matter of inspiration among your successors. The power words carry when worded just right, a sentence can become a source of power. Your words are of that type, which are extensions of your leadership.

Most of us were driven during your Presidency to create something we believe need to exist. That drive requires ingenuity, creativity, and above all leadership. Creating the culture of burnout is opposite to creating a culture of sustainable creativity. If your words (presented regularly in your newsletters to us over the two years' of your Presidency) addressing the memberships have created an evolving culture of creativity, we will see.

You now deserve to be disconnected for a while, recovering with your family and private business commitments. However, when you desire and are ready again, I am on your side when the next extension of your leadership needs to be executed.

Best wishes and **THANK YOU!**
Jonas Hällström RDP FRPSL