

# New Books

**The Classic Stamps of Denmark**, published 1992 by the Philatelic Foundation of Denmark. Color reproductions, 160 pages. \$100 postpaid from Robert Bechsgaard A/s, Jul. Thomsengade 7, 1974 Frederiksberg C, Denmark.

This book portrays in brilliant color the classic stamps of Denmark from 1851 to 1870. It uses a format of selected enlargements and a readable text to impart pearls of philatelic information not readily available in a catalogue or reference books. For some major rarities, it traces the ownership as well as the price appreciation of the item.

The editor has been discriminatingly selective in his choice of illustrations. Included are fascinating letters with mixed issue franking, frankings of several countries, and franking with multiples which only whet the appetite of the connoisseur.

The book offers much to many. To those for whom ownership of the stamps is an impossibility, it offers the opportunity to enjoy philatelic beauty through ownership of the book. To those interested in collecting this period of Danish philately, it offers areas available for further study. To the students of classic Denmark, it offers information not readily available elsewhere. And to the uninitiated it opens new vistas into the exciting and fascinating world of Danish philately.

A must for any Danish collector.

— Roger G. Schnell M.D.

**Catalogue of the Crawford Library of Philatelic Literature at the British Library**. Published by The Printer's Stone Limited, Box 30, Fishkill, New York 12524, in association with the British Library. Hardbound, 10½ x 14, offset on archival paper, front. + (i) + (462) [962 numbered half-page columns] + vi + 136 + 8 pages. \$225 postpaid from the publisher.

"The Crawford Library is without doubt the most complete collection of early philatelic literature in existence." So begins the preface to this new and revised edition of the most famous and most important philatelic bibliography ever written. This statement was true in 1911 when Sir Edward Denny Bacon prepared this magnum opus and, after eighty years, is as true today.

This revised edition includes not only the original 1911 catalogue, but also the scarce Supplement published in 1926 and the Addenda, originally printed in *The London Philatelist* in March 1938. All three are together in a handsome hardbound book printed on high quality paper. The reprint edition is a reproduction of Bacon's personal copy, which contains his handwritten notes and corrections, and the British Library shelfmarks. The new Preface states that having these shelfmarks will allow "easier access and better remote identification."

To the student of philatelic literature, no further explanation of this book is necessary. But to those not familiar with this great catalogue, a brief history is in order.

James Ludovic Lindsay — twenty-sixth Earl of Crawford, ninth Earl of Balcarres, scientist, collector, and bibliophile — became interested in philately in 1898. In 1902, he acquired the outstanding philatelic library of the late John K. Tiffany of St. Louis, Missouri. Tiffany, America's most respected and honored philatelist, had begun collecting philatelic literature in the early 1860s and had continued right up to his sudden death in 1897. Tiffany had sought every printed record of stamp collecting and had succeeded admirably, especially in U.S. publications. Thus the U.S. section of Crawford's library is particularly strong. Lord Crawford added other libraries and many individual items to Tiffany's library, forming an unequalled collection.

Crawford asked Edward Denny Bacon, one of the world's leading philatelists, to catalogue his philatelic library. This catalogue was issued in 1911 as *Bibliotheca Lindesiana Vol. VII: A Bibliography of the Writings, General, Special, and Periodical, Forming the Literature of Philately*, by the Aberdeen University Press. In this first edition, there is an introduction written by the Earl of Crawford and a preface by E.D. Bacon.

Two hundred copies were printed for private distribution. This is the edition reprinted in the present volume reviewed here.

Lord Crawford gave the Philatelic Literature Society all rights and facilities to publish a special edition for its members and for sale. This edition was issued in

1911 under the title *Catalogue of the Philatelic Library of the Earl of Crawford, K.T.* The introduction by Lord Crawford is omitted. But Bacon's preface is longer and different from the one in the first edition. Three hundred copies of this special edition were printed.

In this 1991 revised edition to the first edition, there is a preface by D.R. Beech of the British Library and a photograph of Lord Crawford. Lord Crawford's name is given as James Ludovic, rather than James Ludovic Lindsay, which is his name as given in Part I of the catalogue.

The Crawford Catalogue actually is more than just a listing of the Crawford Library. It attempts to list all the philatelic works known up to the year 1911. It lists all separate works (handbooks, catalogues, price lists, etc.) up to the end of 1908 and all journals to the end of 1906 with many additional listings through 1911.

Although I have owned a copy of the Crawford Catalogue for more than thirty years, I never before went through it line by line. I did so because I wanted to find where the items cited in the 1991 preface were listed. To my surprise, I could not find several of them.

Specifically, "a run of the early postal notices of China" is not in the listing. Neither are "literature and ephemera associated with the early Philatelic Congresses of Great Britain." In fact, the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is not listed anywhere at all, even though I have read that Lord Crawford was an active participant in these Congresses and received some unique ephemera. It is possible that some ephemera may appear in the volume "menu cards" listed in the Supplement. But where are the exhibition catalogues and proceedings?

Are there other items in the Crawford Library not listed in the Catalogues? Bacon seems to imply that in his preface. Does the British Library have a listing elsewhere of these uncatalogued items?

In the 1991 preface, the notebooks kept by Judge F.A. Philbrick, a noteworthy collector, are cited. These are listed under "Philbrick." Not listed under "Tiffany" are a set of eight scrapbooks found by him which include many interesting items of early U.S. philatelic history. They are listed under the titles "Postal History" and "Scrap Book," but Tiffany's name is not

given there.

Several interesting entries appear in the Crawford Catalogue which contain multiple listings. One of interest to U.S. students, listed under "American Banknote Company," consists of a scrapbook of specimens of engravings presented to the British Museum in 1869 by Mr. Goodall, vice president of ABNC. They are kept in the print room.

Under "Philatelic Societies," twelve volumes of yearbooks and publications of early stamp clubs are listed, including many from the United States. In the Supplement, "Cards" refers to a volume of early membership cards.

Other multiple volume listings of uncatalogued items appear under "Music," "Picture Postcards of Stamps," and "Postage Stamp Illustrations (Philbrick gift)." In the Supplement, under "Moschkau," a group of photographs from Dr. Otto C.A. Moschkau, a leading German philatelist and bibliophile, is listed.

Two appendixes are included at the end of the Crawford Catalogue which are of special interest to the student of philatelic history and literature. Appendix A gives a chronological list of philatelic journals by their country of origin. Appendix B is titled "The Principal Sources of Information for Philatelic Literature Collectors."

There are a few errors here and there in the text which do not detract one bit from the value and importance of this great book. For example, under "Akehurst (E.L.)," a price list by a Utica, New York, stamp dealer is recorded and the date 1862 is given. If the date were correct, it would be the earliest U.S. philatelic publication. But in fact the date of this price list cannot be earlier than 1864 because it lists stamps issued in that year.

The British Library should be commended highly for allowing The Printer's Stone Limited of Fishkill, New York, to reprint Bacon's own copy of this great work. — *Herbert A. Trenchard*

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# Puzzled?

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As an APS member you can obtain translations of philatelic-related material through the APS Translation Service. Almost anything philatelic can be translated: letters, cancellations, inscriptions on stamps, FDC cachets, etc. Translations of practically all major languages can be accomplished by the more than 120 members of the Translation Committee.

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