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**Gift of the Fraenkel Library by the Earl of
Crawford to the Royal Philatelic Society.**



AT the meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of April 2nd, Mr. E. D. Bacon announced on behalf of Lord Crawford, the Vice-President of the Society, that his lordship, who had purchased the Fraenkel Collection of philatelic literature, after selecting the relatively few works required by himself, had presented the remainder of the library to the Royal Philatelic Society. It need hardly be stated that this announcement was received with the greatest gratification by all present, and the Earl of Crawford may be assured of the deepest appreciation and gratitude of all his brother members for such a munificent donation.

In order to duly appraise the importance of Lord Crawford's liberality, we must glance at the formation of this library, and in so doing we cannot follow a better guide than Mr. E. D. Bacon, who, in No. 2 of *The Journal of the Philatelic Literature Society*, published on April 15th, gives the following information. We may add that Mr. Bacon has an intimate acquaintance with both Lord Crawford's and the late Herr Amtsrichter Fraenkel's libraries, and that philatelic literature possesses no better judge.

"The collection was started about 1884 by the late Herr Amtsrichter a. D. Heinrich Fraenkel, of Berlin, and from that period until almost up to the day of his death he was indefatigable in his efforts to add to it every publication that had the remotest bearing upon Philately. Some years after he had commenced the collection he purchased the philatelic library of Mr. Sigmund Friedl, of Vienna, a collection which had been made from early philatelic times and contained a number of the older publications. With the purchase of Mr. Friedl's volumes the Fraenkel Library acquired a prominent position, and it has since then been universally recognized as one of the finest and most complete collections of philatelic works that has ever been brought together. To give some idea of the magnitude of the library it may be stated that when sent over to this country it filled thirty-nine large cases, curiously enough the

exact number that the Tiffany Library occupied when it was forwarded to London. It must, however, be remembered that, as in the latter instance, the cases contained a large quantity of duplicates. The library is naturally strongest in German publications, which are very complete, and contain certain numbers of journals that are unique, and there are even duplicates of some of the rarest numbers and sets of journals. The literature of the other continental countries is also exceptionally strong, and there are but few lacunæ of any importance. The weakest portion consists of the early journals of Great Britain and the United States, although even here there are copies of some of the great rarities. In addition to philatelic publications the library contains a large number of works on postal history as well as collections of articles on stamp collecting in non-philatelic journals. Herr Fraenkel, besides collecting himself, was librarian of the Berliner Philatelisten-Club from the end of 1890 until the end of 1901, and possessed a wide and varied knowledge of philatelic literature, especially of the publications of his Fatherland. As far back as the year 1894 he published his *Chronologische Tabelle der deutschen philatelistischen Zeitschriften*, 1863-1893, and this still forms one of the most useful reference lists of German journals."

Mr. Bacon, at the meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society, announced on behalf of the Earl of Crawford, who is at present away from England yachting in the East, that after all the desiderata he required for his own collection had been taken out of the Fraenkel Library, it was his intention to present the whole of the remaining portion to the Society. "No donation approaching this," writes Mr. Bacon in the forenamed journal, "either in value or importance, has ever been received by the Royal Philatelic Society, and it will be the means of raising the library of the Society at a bound to one of the first rank."

It will be seen, therefore, that this gift is of the first magnitude and importance, and that its acquisition will place the library of the Royal Philatelic Society in the forefront of those of all similar societies. Lord Crawford's gift is as judicious as it is munificent, for nothing could be better calculated to maintain and enhance the reputation of the Royal Philatelic Society than the possession of a really fine library. Nor is it the first instance of the great interest taken in the Society's affairs by its Vice-President.

The members of the Royal Society cannot be too grateful to Lord Crawford for his noble gift, which will afford enjoyment and instruction to the present and future races of Philatelists. We are convinced that the Vice-President could not have made a more graceful or appropriate gift, and that he has endeared his name to the members of the Royal Philatelic Society for all time to come. We trust that on Lord Crawford's return some practical way may be devised of demonstrating to him our full appreciation of his great services to Philately.

