



JAMES.
EARL OF CRAWFORD.
KT. FRS. ETC.
1910.

THE
London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. XXII.

FEBRUARY, 1913.

No. 254.

The Death of the Earl of Crawford.



TERRIBLE blow has fallen on the Royal Philatelic Society in the death of its honoured President, the Earl of Crawford, nor has such a grievous loss been sustained since the decease of Mr. Tapling, nearly twenty-two years since. It may be said that in both cases there were the same sad features that must so vividly bring home the loss to every Fellow of the Society. Possessed of ample means, great philatelic ability and industry, actuated by the most broad-minded spirit in making their collections—for the benefit of others as well as themselves—munificent in their donations to the philatelic public, and constant in courtesy and attendance at the meetings of the Society, both Lord Crawford and Mr. Tap-

ling may be stated to have fully realized in every respect the ideal leadership of a philatelic society. There have been, of course, other and illustrious names borne upon the rolls of the premier society as leaders, but in the case of Lord Crawford, as in that of Mr. Tapling, it is the close personal contact and intimate association with all members—rudely severed—that renders the loss so poignant to everybody.

The state of health of the President of the Royal Philatelic Society had caused much anxiety to his friends during the past two or three years, and, as was only too evident, he could only fulfil the duties of his busy life with pain and difficulty. His lordship, however, was fortunately spared a lengthened illness at the last, as he was able to attend a meeting the day preceding his death, which took place—from a failure of the heart—at 2 Cavendish Square, on January 31st.

Beyond his great scientific abilities Lord Crawford was also a born collector, and it is therefore not surprising to find that he turned in his later years to Philately. We believe that the occasion of this was the chance purchase of a collection of stamps at Messrs. Sotheby's a few months before his joining the Royal Philatelic Society, on May 11th, 1900. Lord Crawford was subsequently elected to the office of Vice-President on June 10th, 1904,

and on the death of His Majesty King Edward VII, was elected President, on May 16th, 1910. During the whole of his thirteen years' membership, Lord Crawford was a constant and regular attendant at the meetings, allowing neither indifferent health latterly nor other engagements to interfere with his loyal service to the Society. An able chairman, courteous and kindly to every one, Lord Crawford left nothing to be desired as President of the meetings of the Society. His influence for good upon Philately has been immense, and will endure for all time. It is palpable that by his action and example he raised the whole tone of the pursuit, and that he distinctly left it upon a higher scientific basis than he found it.

In the arrangement of his magnificent collections Lord Crawford struck a new note, his stamps being copiously annotated with explanatory notes of everything connected with the production of the design and its subsequent development, with the incorporation of all essays, proof colour trials, and original drawings and prints connected with the several issues. His collections thus became historical epitomes of the stamps from their conception to their supersession, and comprised—with their magnificent luxury of issued varieties—specialized collections that for scientific study and completeness have been the admiration of the whole philatelic world. As is well known, Lord Crawford had recently disposed of a large portion of his stamps, but his two vast collections of the issues of Great Britain and the United States form a fitting memento of his broad historical system of collection, and will serve as examples to all collectors of the most scientific and comprehensive exposition of Philately. It is much to be hoped that these two princely collections, probably extending to a hundred volumes, may be preserved intact, as they are practically complete, even to the greatest rarities, and could never be duplicated.

Lord Crawford's services to philatelic literature are too well known to require more than mere mention, but the same wish—that the superb collection of books may never be dispersed—must be the hope of us all. The wonderful catalogue of this library, compiled by Mr. E. D. Bacon and produced at great expense, will also remain as a permanent record of the great services rendered to philatelic literature by Lord Crawford. Not only did the deceased Earl permit the Philatelic Literature Society to print off an edition of this invaluable work of reference for the benefit of collectors, but he donated to the Royal Philatelic Society all the duplicate books that he had accumulated in the purchase of the Fraenkel and other libraries. Thanks to this munificent donation the library of the London Society is richer than that of any similar body in the world.

The Earl of Crawford was also undoubtedly by his great position as peer and scientist largely instrumental in securing for the former Philatelic Society of London the prefix of Royal, and the fact of his Presidency must have exercised a beneficial influence upon His Majesty the King and his advisers in granting this honoured distinction to Philately as represented by its oldest Society.

In this necessarily brief *résumé* of Lord Crawford's philatelic life it can thus be clearly shown that despite the relatively few years of his connection with stamp collecting, his influence, personality, and example have been

evidenced in a truly remarkable extent. He undoubtedly contributed in a great degree to raise Philately to its present state of prosperity, and it is certain that so long as the pursuit shall endure, so long will the name of the Earl of Crawford remain as one of its greatest and most honoured leaders. The Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society lose a great President and a noble friend, whose memory will always be held in grateful and affectionate remembrance.

The Earl of Crawford was widely known as a man of the greatest and most varied scientific attainments. A brief record hereof follows, partly culled from the leading journals and "Debrett," which may be said to reveal a marvellous record of the deceased Earl's activity.

James Ludovic Lindsay was the 26th Earl of Crawford (premier Earl of Scotland) and ninth Earl of Balcarres, and possessor of the additional titles Lord Lindsay of Balcarres, and Lord Balniel, all in the peerage of Scotland, and Lord Wigan in the peerage of the United Kingdom. He was born on July 28th, 1847, at St. Germain-en-Laye, France, and was the son of the 25th Earl, whom he succeeded in 1880.

Lord Crawford was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he devoted himself to astronomy, and soon won distinction. In 1870 he went to Cadiz to observe the eclipse of the sun, and in 1874 he visited Mauritius to observe the transit of Venus. By this time he had, with his father, already built at Dunecht, Aberdeenshire, an observatory, which together with its equipment and valuable library of mathematical and astronomical works he presented to the nation. These were installed in 1888 in the new Royal Observatory on Blackford Hill, Edinburgh. Lord Crawford was President of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1878 and 1879, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1878. He had much mechanical knowledge and skill, and his name is associated with a notable heliometer, which was made for his Mauritius expedition and afterwards passed into the custody of Sir David Gill at the Cape, and then ultimately to Edinburgh.

Further, Lord Crawford will be recollected as a yachtsman and the owner of the steam yacht *Valhalla*, in which he made a long and memorable voyage, from November, 1905, to May, 1906. During these months he visited South America, South Africa, Ceylon, and the island of Madagascar, and he carried the mails to the remote island of Tristan da Cunha. The voyage was not merely undertaken for pleasure; Lord Crawford made it a scientific expedition, and took with him, as he had done on a previous voyage, a trained ornithologist; and as a result thirty-four birds, representing sixteen species—some of which were great rarities—were presented to the Zoological Society. Lord Crawford had purchased the *Valhalla*, a magnificent full-rigged ship, from Captain Laycock in 1901; but he had been a yachtsman for years, having been elected a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron as early as 1874. He raced the *Valhalla* in an ocean match from New York to the Lizard in 1905, and won the third prize; and other yachts which he owned were the *Venus* and the *Consuelo*.

Lord Crawford had further devoted much time to the study of Photography, had been a President of the Royal Photographic Society, and had

also extensively studied Electricity and Engineering. He was also the author of numerous articles of a scientific nature, those on philatelic subjects being in the *London Philatelist*, and it is a sad coincidence that an article therein written by Mr. E. D. Bacon upon the subject of the United States proofs in his collection should have commenced almost on the day of his death. Lord Crawford had been engaged for the past two years upon a voluminous biography of the Napoleonic times based upon an immense collection of letters and manuscripts, the early publication of which he had contemplated.

The University of Edinburgh conferred on him the degree of LL.D. in 1882, and he was a Fellow of the Royal Society. In 1883 his lordship was also appointed honorary associate of the Prussian Academy of Sciences.

In his early years Lord Crawford was an enthusiastic Freemason, and went through thirty-one degrees. He was a trustee of the British Museum, a Knight of the Thistle, having received the green ribbon in 1891, a Knight of the Grace of St. John of Jerusalem, and a Commander of the Legion of Honour; and he had received the Volunteer decoration, being honorary colonel commanding the 5th Manchester Regiment. As Deputy High Steward for Scotland he walked in the last two Coronation processions.

The Earl of Crawford was closely associated with Wigan, which he represented in the House of Commons from 1874 to 1880, and where he owned valuable property. His magnificent library was housed at Haigh Hall, Wigan, and he made many gifts of literary treasures to the Wigan free public library, of which he had been chairman ever since the institute was opened thirty-five years ago. For many years he was chairman of the Wigan Coal and Iron Company, and was president of the Wigan and District Chamber of Commerce. He was a trustee of the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Permanent Relief Society, and was president of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Such a record of varied activities and scientific achievement bears out the assertion that (with one possible exception) he was the greatest scientist in the peerage of this country.

Lord Crawford married, in 1869, Emily Florence, daughter of the late Colonel the Hon. Edward Bootle-Wilbraham, and leaves five sons and one daughter, to whom we tender on behalf of the Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society the most sincere sympathy in the great loss that they have sustained. His eldest son, David Alexander Edward Lindsay, Lord Balcarres, who succeeds to the title, was born in 1871, and was educated at Eton and Magdalen.

FUNERAL OF THE EARL OF CRAWFORD.

The funeral of the Earl of Crawford took place at the family burying-ground in Balcarres Castle grounds, Fife, which was attended by the members of the Lindsay family. A wreath with appropriate inscription from the Royal Philatelic Society was, with numerous others, deposited on the grave.

A memorial service was also held in Wigan Parish Church, where the late Earl's father lies buried in the family vault. The Mayor and Corporation of

Wigan, of which Lord Crawford was a Freeman, attended in state, and a detachment of the 5th Battalion Manchester Regiment, of which the late Earl was honorary colonel, headed the civic procession.

A memorial service was also held at the Chapel Royal, St. James's, at which Canon Edgar Sheppard, Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal, officiated.

The King was represented by Lord Herschell, and there were present the Duke and Duchess of Somerset, the Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos, the Marquess of Granby (representing the Duke of Rutland), the Marquess of Huntly, Mme. de Dominguez, the Earl of Rosebery, the Earl of Morley, and many other notable personages, including representatives of the many societies and institutions with which Lord Crawford was associated. The Royal Philatelic Society was represented by Messrs. M. P. Castle (Vice-President), C. E. McNaughtan, and R. B. Yardley, Mr. E. D. Bacon and Mr. W. H. Peckitt being also present.

British Guiana: The Issues of 1860-1875.

NOTE BY M. P. CASTLE.



THE articles referring to the above issues will be found in this Journal, Vol. XXI, 1912, on pages 88-95, 114-121, 136-138, and 164-168, and it may be remembered that I devoted some consideration to the question of the various transfers effected on the lithographic stone. Although I was able to make considerable progress in allocating the several "types"

as regards the lower values, I stated that the want of blocks in those above the 2 c. had prevented my surmises from being on the same safe footing. I have, however, now been able to secure the following unused blocks and by their aid to confirm some of my surmises and to correct some of the details of identification of the different "types." As there are probably other collectors working on concurrent lines with a view to the final settlement of the exact number of transfers of each value, I thought it advisable to correct without loss of time any points in my paper that might be of a misleading nature.

The blocks that I have lately acquired are as follows:—

Perf. 10½	4 c.	Block of 12.	Transfer 2.
" "	"	" 12.	" 3.
" 12½	6 c.	" 4.	" 1 (?).
" 10	8 c.	" 15.	" 1.
" 15	8 c.	" 8.	" 1.

The 4 c.

The 4 c., perf. 12½, is referred to specifically on page 119, wherein it is stated that Transfer 1 has apparently no distinguishing flaws, and that Transfer 2 has certain defects in each of the five stamps that constituted the