

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

From the Honorary Secretary to the Board of Election

PRESS RELEASE: 26th July 2010: NEW RDPs SIGN ROLL IN LEAMINGTON SPA

Dear Editor

Please find below our press release following the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in Leamington Spa, in Great Britain on 23rd July 2010.

There are three sections.

A short text followed by group photographs of the Signatories, the first being those signing in 2010 with their sponsors, and the second a group photograph of Signatories attending the Ceremony.

Six texts with pictures for each of the new signatories

An historical background piece concerning the origin of the Roll.

Please feel free to use as much of it as you wish.

600 dpi tifs are available for all of the photographs included. These are lettered A through to T

For further information, including higher resolution photographs, contact Christopher King FRPSL. Phone +44 (0) 20 8346 1366, Email chris.king@postalhistory.net.

Please say which photographs you would prefer to use, and distinguish them by using the letter at the beginning of the caption.

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists

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PRESS RELEASE: 26th July 2010: NEW RDPs SIGN ROLL IN LEAMINGTON SPA

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was established in 1921 by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain with the approval of His Majesty King George V who was the first Signatory. An invitation to sign the Roll is regarded as the world's pre-eminent philatelic honour.

352 philatelists from 40 countries have achieved this distinction over the past 89 years. There are at present 77 Signatories from 25 countries; Great Britain, 15; United States of America, 12; France, Germany, and Italy, 5; Sweden and Switzerland, 4; Belgium, 3; Australia, Canada, Finland, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore and Thailand, 2; and Austria, Brazil, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Israel, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, and Spain, 1 each.

The Signing Ceremony took place on Friday 23rd July at Leamington Spa Town Hall during the 2010 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain with more than 100 philatelists and guests in the Victorian hall including Cllr. Robert Cunliffe, the Town Mayor. The new Signatories were each introduced by a previous Signatory before signing the Roll and 22 Signatories were present at the Ceremony.



A: In the Front; the new Signatories; Wade E Saadi (USA); Dr Hugo Goeggel (Switzerland and Colombia); Cornelis (Kees) Adema (Netherlands and USA) Dr Giancarlo Morolli (Italy); Brian Trotter (Great Britain) and Dr Wolf Hess (Germany).

The Sponsoring RDPs in the second row, Robert Odenweller (USA); Alan Huggins (Great Britain); Kurt Kimmel (Switzerland); Gunnar Dahlvig (Sweden); Francis Kiddle (Great Britain), and Jussi Tuori (Finland).



B: RDPs from the back left: John Sussex (Great Britain); Alberto Bolaffi (Italy); Chris Harman (Great Britain); Jane Moubray (Great Britain); Ted Proud (Great Britain); Tomas Bjäringer (Sweden); Knud Mohr (Denmark); George Barker (Great Britain); Patrick Pearson (Great Britain), Chairman of the Board of Election; Robert Odenweller (USA); Alan Huggins (Great Britain); Kurt Kimmel (Switzerland); Gunnar Dahlvig (Sweden); Francis Kiddle (Great Britain) and Jussi Tuori (Finland).

In the front, the new Signatories, Wade E Saadi (USA), Dr Hugo Goeggel (Switzerland and Colombia), Cornelis (Kees) Adema (Netherlands and USA) Dr Giancarlo Morolli (Italy), Brian Trotter (Great Britain), and Dr Wolf Hess (Germany)

Kees Adema



C: Kees Adema (Netherlands and USA) signing the Roll accompanied by its Keeper, Christopher King.



D: Kees Adema (Netherlands and USA) receiving his plaque and certificate accompanied by his Sponsor, Kurt Kimmel of Switzerland, and Christopher King, Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Cornelis Adema

1940

Netherlands

Dutch-born Kees Adema resides in the USA and his collections and writings are principally devoted to Dutch postal history. His first book, *The First Postage Dues, Holland's 3S Markings 1667-1811*, is considered the definitive study of early Dutch markings. The first Volume in a trilogy, *Netherlands Mail in Times of Turmoil 1568-1839*, appeared in February 2010. Volume 2 is scheduled for publication late 2010. Kees has contributed some two dozen original articles to *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, *Notities* (Netherlands Academy for Philately), and other respected publications.

His exhibits have received ten large gold awards, two qualified for the FIP Championship Class. He won the Golden Posthorn in Sindelfingen (2000), the Grand Prix in the Master Class at Naposta 2005. He displayed in the Court of Honour at Amphilex (2002).

He has received various awards for his writings and research: in The Netherlands the prestigious Professor van der Willigen Award (2003) and the Edwin Koenig Medal (2006) awarded every five years. In Germany he received the Professor Dr Carlrichard Bruhl Award (2003) and in the USA the 2009 Luff Award.

Kees belongs to numerous philatelic organisations including the European and Netherlands Academies for Philately and the Royal Philatelic Society London. He served as President of the American Society for Netherlands Philately from 1997-2006, as Governor of The Collectors Club, was USA National Commissioner at EFIRO 2008 and is again for Jo'burg 2010.

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Hugo Goeggel



E: Hugo Goeggel (Switzerland and Colombia) signing the Roll accompanied by its Keeper, Christopher King.



F: Hugo Goeggel (Switzerland and Colombia) receiving his plaque and certificate accompanied by his Sponsor, Alan Huggins of Great Britain and Christopher King, Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Dr Hugo Goeggel

1936

Switzerland

Born in Ecuador of Swiss parents, Dr Goeggel is the leading philatelic expert in Colombia and Latin America having exhibited both classic issues and airmails with distinction. His exhibits include a gold medal for 'Colombia: Pre-adhesive', large gold medals for, 'Classic Ecuador: the first issue 1865/72', and 'Colombia, Colonial Postal History'.

'Classic Colombia - The First four Issues 1859-1862', 'Colombia - Development of air mail (1919-1928)' and 'Classic Brazil - The First Issue of 1843' are now exhibited in the Championship Class. The second part of the Colombian Airmail "The Golden Age of Scadta" (1923 -28) has won gold medals at continental exhibitions.

He has written detailed studies of the plate characteristics and papers of Colombia's early issues, and further papers are in the course of publication.

Hugo Goeggel has also served in a number of important positions, notably as President of the Inter-American Philatelic Federation from 1997-2008 and as President of the Colombian Philatelic Federation, for which he is currently serving a second term. He also organised and sponsored the Inter-American Philatelic Exhibition at Bogota in 2007. He has served as an international juror on a number of occasions since 1988, most recently in St Petersburg 2007 and China 2009.

Dr Goeggel was a member of the Swiss national rowing team and participated in the Rome Olympics of 1960.

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Wolf Hess



G: Wolf Hess (Germany) signing the Roll accompanied by his sponsor, Jussi Tuori and the Keeper of the Roll, Christopher King.



H: Wolf Hess (Germany) receiving his plaque and certificate accompanied by his Sponsor, Jussi Tuori of Finland and Christopher King, Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Dr Wolf Hess

1945

Germany

Wolf Hess will be well known to international exhibitors. He has served at a number of FIP sponsored international exhibitions and is a team leader for the postal history class. He has served as Jury President and Secretary at national exhibitions. He has also participated as exhibitor having formed gold medal exhibits in the traditional, postal history, postal stationery and thematic classes, a remarkably wide range of disciplines. These include large gold medals, the Grand Prix Thematique for his exhibit 'Fight against Tuberculosis' at HAFNIA 2001, as well as the European Championship 2006 in the thematic class and an International Grand Prix award at the SOFIA 2009 for 'Postal History of the Grand Duchy Finland up to UPU'.

He has supported national philately acting as Chairman of the VPhA in the German Federation (BDPh), an organisation representing 40 societies working in the postal history and thematic fields. He is also the representative for the one frame class for the BDPh. He has led a number of seminars and workshops in postal history, thematic and one frame exhibits at national and international level.

Wolf has done research in the thematic and postal history fields and also written two books *Postgeschichte London, Part 1: Allgemeine Staatspost - inlandpost bis zum 10 Januar 1840- London postal history from 10 January 1840*, and part 2: *Die Ortspost 1680-1840 London pre-stamp cancellations* (1994) besides many articles on various subjects on thematic and postal history.

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Giancarlo Morolli



I: Giancarlo Morolli (Italy) signing the Roll accompanied by its Keeper, Christopher King.



J: Giancarlo Morolli (Italy) receiving his plaque and certificate accompanied by his Sponsor, Gunnar Dahlvig of Sweden and Christopher King,, Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Dr Giancarlo Morolli

1939

Italy

The name of Giancarlo Morolli and thematic philately are almost synonymous; he has provided leadership in the development of the subject as member, and from 1977-2004, as President of the FIP Thematic Commission, achieving universal acceptance of the concept of thematic philately. For this he was awarded the FIP Medal of Service in 2004. Specifically he lectured worldwide at over 50 thematic seminars, and was co-author of *Thematic Bibliography* published by the American Philatelic Research Library. He was a pioneer in studying and proposing computer applications in philately, presenting these as early as the Philatelic Congress in Madrid in 1984.

In addition to the thematic commission Giancarlo has served in a number of senior positions, he is currently Vice President of the AIJP, a director of FEPA, and national representative for Italy to the Royal Philatelic Society London. In the exhibition field he has served as a juror internationally since 1972 and was President of the Jury at Genova '92, Italia '98 and Italia 2009, playing a key role in the organisation of these exhibitions. For his services he has received a number of awards, most recently the FEPA 2006 Medal for exceptional service to organised philately.

He has also written prolifically on thematic themes and has been a contributor to a number of publications, including the *Enciclopedia del Francobollo* (1969) and the *Enciclopedia della Scienza* (2005). A specialist of the radio communications theme, he has co-authored two books and a number of articles with special emphasis on postal documents related to radio.

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Wade Saadi



K: Wade Saadi (USA) signing the Roll accompanied by his sponsor, Bob Odenweller and the Keeper of the Roll, Christopher King.



L: Wade Saadi (USA) receiving his plaquette and certificate accompanied by his Sponsor, Robert Odenweller of the USA and Christopher King, Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Wade Edgar Saadi

1949

USA

Wade Saadi has formed and exhibited a number of major studies of US classics. He obtained a gold medal for his study of 'US issues from 1851 to 1868' at the St Petersburg exhibition in 2007 and has also exhibited a study of varieties of the 1847 issue at Pacific 1997. In 2003 he presented the Sir Daniel Cooper lecture to the Royal Philatelic Society London on the first issues of the United States.

Based on the research in his collections Wade has contributed a number of papers on specific aspects of US classic stamps and for 13 years has been the 1847 issue Section Editor of *The Chronicle*. He also wrote a three part article for the *American Philatelist* to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the 1847 issue and was awarded the Chase Cup by the US Philatelic Classics Society.

A consummate administrator, Wade has contributed very significantly in national organisations in the United States, he has recently been re-elected President of the American Philatelic Society, is Vice Chairman of the Council of Philatelists of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, is President of the US Philatelic Classics Society, and was President of the Collector's Club 2005-2008. He is also President of the Organising Committee for the World Stamp Show - New York 2016.

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Brian Trotter



M Brian Trotter (Great Britain) signing the Roll accompanied by its Keeper, Christopher King.



N: Brian Trotter (Great Britain) receiving his plaque and certificate accompanied by his Sponsor, Francis Kiddle of Great Britain and Christopher King, Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Brian John Trotter

1943

Great Britain

Brian Trotter currently will be familiar to British philatelists as the indefatigable Chairman of the London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition committee, which he has chaired since 2004. He has also served as Chairman of the British Philatelic Trust since 2006.

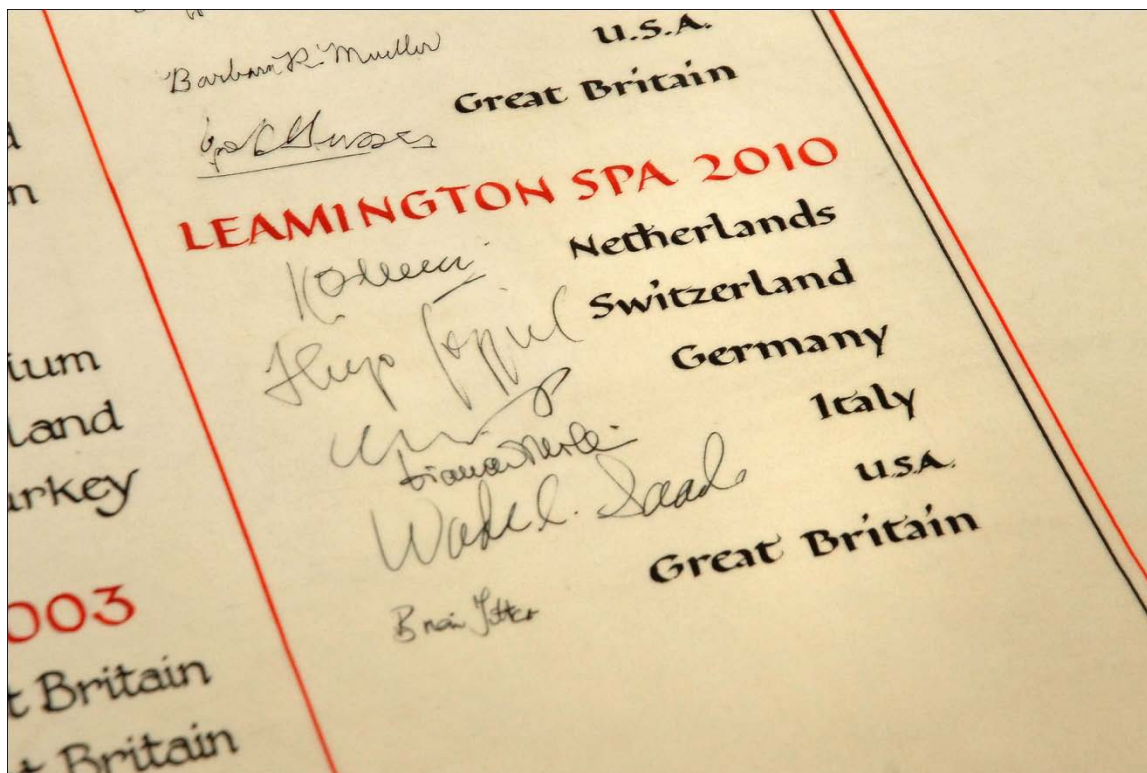
He is a specialist in the stamps of Southern Africa and has formed and exhibited a number of collections, notably obtaining large gold medals for 'The Revenue stamps of South Africa', 'The revenue stamps of Southern Rhodesia', and 'The King's Head postal stationery of South Africa'. He has also written extensively on these issues, notably *The Edwardian Stamps of the South African Colonies* published in 2004 covering all postage and revenue issues.

Brian has contributed significantly to organised philately. He served as Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society London and is currently President Elect. He chairs the ABPS Exhibition Committee and is an accredited FIP international judge, as well as an accredited national judge for both South Africa and the UK. He has received awards for his research, notably the Weinstein Medal for research by the Philatelic Congress of South Africa in 2004, the Lee Medal for the best five o'clock paper to the Royal Philatelic Society London in 2004 and The Royal Philatelic Society London Medal in 2010 for the refurbishment of its premises at 41 Devonshire Place, London.

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O: The RDP Placquette awarded to every Signatory



P: The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists 2010 Leamington Spa

The Creation of the Roll

Two people were instrumental in the creation of the Roll of Distinguished philatelists, although many more were involved in its birth and the selection of the first signatories.



Q: Percy Cooke Bishop 1869-1960

Percy Cooke Bishop lived from 1869-1960; he was the Honorary Secretary of The City of London Philatelic Club in its first year, 1893-4 at the age of 24.

In 1895, he was one of the committee of The Philatelic Society London which led to the Society for the suppression of speculative stamps and in 1896 he became a member of the Birmingham Philatelic Society. By 1912 he was contributing to philatelic bibliographies and by 1917 working as an editor to FH Vallancey as publisher.

On 30th October 1919, as a member of the London Stamp Club, which existed from 1919 to 1941, he proposed the institution of a "Philatelic Order of Merit".

Percy Bishop left the country for South Africa almost immediately after the 1921 Congress, and had nothing more to do with the Roll after he signed it in Harrogate that year, although he returned to Britain in 1939. A Percy C Bishop signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of Southern Africa in 1948, although I have not been able to check if it is the same person.



R: Francis Hugh Vallancey 1880-1950

Francis Hugh Vallancey was born in 1880 and died on 6th September 1950. He was a philatelic bibliographer and book dealer who lost his stock in the London Blitz of Spring 1941. In late 1919, as President of the London Stamp Club, and proprietor of Stamp Collecting, he presented Bishop's idea of an Order of Philatelic Merit to his readers.

There is an illustration of the proposed certificate for the OPM in Stamp Collecting of 13th December 1919. This order was intended to be given more importance than existing philatelic prizes and was from the beginning intended to have an international significance.

Between Vallancey the philatelic entrepreneur and Bishop the entrepreneurial philatelist, the idea that led to the Roll was publically launched.

On 18th March 1920, a jury of five published a list of twenty-five names who the jury selected from the ninety-one names proposed by the readers and British associations. To gain wider and official recognition, the London Stamp Club proposed that the 1920 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in Newcastle upon Tyne should decide the future of Bishop's idea.

A sub-committee of Congress was constituted to find a new name and to write the rules of the award, and at the 1921 Congress in Harrogate, the "Roll of Distinguished Philatelists" was created without any further discussion.

The subcommittee announced that King George V had agreed to his name appearing at the head of the printed parchment, twenty-four of those selected by the first jury and fifteen other philatelists were invited to sign the Roll on the last day of the Congress.

Anthony Buck Creeke was the only person listed in March 1920 not to sign the Roll. He was the author of the Creeke Index, which is a listing of the philatelic articles and reports appearing either in the English language press or in *Timbre Poste* up to the end of 1928.

Of the 39 original signatories, 22 were from the United Kingdom, 7 from the United States, 2 from Australia, and one each from Belgium, India, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa and Switzerland. These 39 were permitted to attend, vote and speak at Congress.

Starting in 1922, the selection of the signatories was annual but between the Congresses from 1941 and 1945

there were none.

At the sides of the Roll are listed the "Fathers of philately", the names of forty-two deceased philatelists are printed on the first page of the Roll.

One of these is Dr John Edward Gray FRS of Great Britain who was born on 12th February 1800 and died 7th March 1875. He prepared one of the first stamp catalogues in English in 1862. This is the furthest back that we can take the history of the Roll.



S: Dr John Edward Gray FRS 1800-1875

Today, and following the signing ceremony, there are 77 living signatories out of 352 who have signed the Roll, and two who were added posthumously in 1956. The signatory with the earliest year of birth is Louis Hanciau 1845-1924 of Belgium,



T: Louis Hanciau 1845-1924