STOCKHOLMIA 2019 Exhibition Catalogues





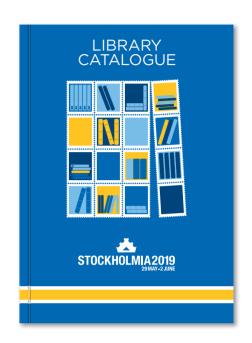


Presentation - 11 April 2019
The Royal Philatelic Society London



STOCKHOLMIA 2019 Exhibition Catalogues





"This is a monumental work, comprehensive and beautifully set out ... an outstanding piece of work, well done!"

Brian Trotter RDP FRPSL Chairman RPSL Publications Committee

Dear Fellows and Members, Philatelists and Friends

My grandmother introduced me to the hobby when I was four years old. My first visit to an international philatelic exhibition was when I was fourteen years old, to STOCKHOLMIA 1986. I still remember my excitement when I walked around the show. Of course it is an exaggeration to say, 33 years later, that I decided at that time to organise the next STOCKHOLMIA taking place in 2019, but it is with great pleasure that I welcome the philatelic world to STOCKHOLMIA 2019, the fourth international philatelic exhibition to take place in Stockholm.



The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) is the oldest philatelic society in the world, founded in 1869. Because the RPSL constantly reinvents itself, we have no doubt that the vitality of this society will sustain it well into the future. As such, the RPSL is the bedrock of worldwide philately. As part of the Society's willingness to experiment with new approaches, the RPSL has decided to hold its first major philatelic exhibition outside the United Kingdom to coincide with its 150th Anniversary. Fellows and Members of The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL), this event is a celebration for you as part of the family.

How it began and evolved with the vision for the Exhibition Catalogues

I am most honoured to see the wonderful exhibition catalogues in two comprehensive volumes. It is a long time since any philatelic exhibition has published material as extensively as STOCKHOLMIA 2019 has. Publications are an integral part of our hobby. Over the years I have perceived a decline in the quality of the two most important mementos (medals and catalogues) of philatelic exhibitions. I am primarily thinking of the quality of exhibition medals, and the decline in the quality of the exhibition catalogues. This mindset has been embodied in the vision for the whole exhibition.

The vision for STOCKHOLMIA 2019 is to develop and improve the existing standards of philatelic events worldwide. STOCKHOLMIA 2019 may in the future be recognised as a new milestone for competitive philately carried out in the form of an exhibition.



It is thanks to André Schneider, the Marketing Manager of The Global Philatelic Network, with his design concepts for the bulletins and exhibition catalogues, that our publications are so attractive, and this will ensure that they will be admired as mementos in the future.

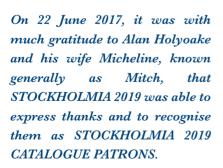




Addressing the exhibition catalogues, the vision means in practice that the STOCKHOLMIA 2019 publications aim to be among the artefacts that will be recognised as significant for the future of our hobby.

To achieve my vision with the exhibition catalogue, I needed a sponsor – a patron – who would be willing to take on the commitment to financially support the project, and I found not only one, but two, Micheline and Alan Holyoake. Since the inception of philately as a hobby, philatelic publications, handbooks and catalogues have provided important records for future reference and study. Today, part of the philatelic hobby also involves collecting the literature which exists for the many various collecting areas. In the current development of the philatelic hobby, research and study are key drivers to collecting.

On the international philatelic scene, Alan Holyoake RDP FRPSL of the United Kingdom is well known for his comprehensive philatelic studies of classic Great Britain philately and postal history. His various collections have been recognised with Grand Prix National as well as Grand Prix International medals, and many other awards. When reaching their final form, Alan has published his collections in outstanding format as handbooks. These publications are not only records of Alan's achievements as a collector; they also provide a valuable reference for current and future philatelic research. Together with Alan's interests and research on his own collections, he has generally supported philatelic research and the digitisation of philatelic data and reference sources.





Thanks to Mitch's and Alan's support, I as Exhibition Manager have set an aim for the exhibition catalogue volumes:



The STOCKHOLMIA 2019 Exhibition Catalogues aim, in the future, to be extensively admired as milestone catalogues made for a philatelic event, and sought after by bibliophiles and collectors generally. They should be desirable and hard to find, as nobody who has them in their library wants to part with them.

As inspiration for the STOCKHOLMIA 2019 Exhibition Catalogue, Exhibition Manager and Catalogue Editor-In-Chief Jonas Hällström has used the Andy Warhol Moderna Muséet Exhibition Catalogue of 1968. Warhol's 1968 catalogue was a milestone of modern art. It is much soughtafter by collectors, is rarely available, and when offered is not cheap to buy. The First Edition Andy Warhol Moderna Muséet Exhibition Catalogue of 1968 is profusely illustrated with full-page black and white photographs. Warhol's Moderna Muséet Catalogue is a fine example of the catalogueas-artist's-book, a form that ostensibly began with the Dadaists and surrealists, and was produced with some of the roughest reproductions ever seen, which are entirely appropriate, and supplemented by a long section of factory snapshots by Billy Name. The genre was revitalised by the Pop movement, and by Warhol in particular, which demonstrates his position as a latter-day Dadaist. The Moderna Museet publication especially had a great influence upon Japanese photography in the late 1960s and 1970s, particularly the photo-books of the "Provoke Era" (Parr and Badger, Vol. II). Published by Moderna Muséet, Sweden, in 1968 as an exhibition catalogue for the "Andy Warhol" exhibition at the Moderna Muséet in Stockholm, February - March, 1968.



With the vision, the inspiration from Warhol, and Mitch and Alan Holyoake's commitment as Patrons as driving forces, I needed to find the key abilities for the further development, namely expertise in philatelic publishing and literature design. I knew that there are not many such candidates at the level requested for this project, but I knew one: Wolfgang Maassen RDP FRPSL. To a straightforward question to Wolfgang, he immediately responded positively and has since been whole-heartedly committed to the project from beginning to end.

A Brief Summary of Volume I

The first article in Volume I, by Christopher G. Harman RDP Hon. FRPSL, presents the history and legends about our Society's Patrons. The article explains why our Society has gained its international status and prestige, and why we all are so proud to be members of such a prominent society as the RPSL.







Thanks to Wolfgang Maassen, appointed by me as currently the leading authority in the world of philatelic publishing and literature, and his passionate commitment to philatelic literature and bibliophily, we have two beautiful exhibition catalogue volumes. Along with his wife Claudia Maassen, and their publishing company Phil*Creativ, the publication of Volume I for the Exhibition, and Volume II for the Library, has been realised. In the set of two catalogues for STOCKHOLMIA 2019, Volume II is an achievement of Wolfgang himself, and is equally presented in this handout.



Christopher G. Harman is currently one of the most knowledgeable philatelists of the RPSL.

He has written two of the key articles for the STOCKHOLMIA 2019 publications. In Bulletin 2, he presented the key article on philatelic importance reflected through the history of philatelic exhibiting, and for Volume I he has prepared the article about the Society's Patrons.



Our hobby was born thanks to the world's first postage stamp, the PENNY BLACK. When you have read the article by Karl Louis FRPSL (Germany) about the United Kingdom on the eve of the postal reform of 1839–40, you will no longer hesitate to believe that our hobby derives from a time-critical event, changing the world. I dare to say that the introduction of uniform postal rates, domestically and internationally, changed the world, and Karl explains the first events.

STOCKHOLMIA 2019 offers an extensive variety in what is presented, researched and developed in a number of articles by the following authors: Ari Muhonen FRPSL (Finland), Brian Birch FRPSL (United Kingdom), Jon Aitchison FRPSL (United Kingdom), John Davies FRPSL (United Kingdom), Christer Brunström (Sweden), Kjell Nilson FRPSL (Sweden) and Wolfgang Maassen RDP FRPSL (Germany).







The RPSL will undertake many activities during the exhibition. The whole level 3 of the venue is allocated to the Society and its activities. This is presented in a series of articles by the following authors: Patrick Maselis RDP FRPSL (Belgium), Chris King RDP Hon. FRPSL (United Kingdom), Brian Trotter RDP FRPSL (United Kingdom), Juliet Turk (Museum Curator of the RPSL) and Alan Huggins MBE RDP Hon. FRPSL (United Kingdom).







Mårten Sundberg has prepared the key article in Volume I, the one about the Society and its current activities. Mårten is a professional journalist, philatelist and bibliophile. The key article in this volume is the one prepared by Mårten Sundberg FRPSL (Åland Islands). Mårten's article reflects the Society of today, and was prepared so that at the next major anniversary of the Society (in 50 years' time), readers of this catalogue will find Mårten's article and perceive the current context of the RPSL and its current everyday life. They will seek answers and find the answers in the article. Here and now, Mårten, your article is not only good, it has a personal approach, is professionally prepared, detailed and reflective – certainly it fulfils all of its originally defined purposes.

The displays at STOCKHOLMIA 2019 are comprehensive. More than 2,000 frames are filled with the most important philatelic exhibits of our time. There are no words to fully describe in detail the care, love and passion that Jan Berg FRPSL (Sweden) as the Commissioner General has put into the preparations. No other person than Jan would have managed to work directly with so many exhibitors. Jan has been co-working with Bengt Bengtsson (Sweden) as Deputy Commissioner General, and the final display and presentation of all the participating exhibits from all over the world is, thanks to them, richly presented and partly illustrated to enhance its high standard.



The international jury was assembled by its President of choice, Lars Engelbrecht (Denmark) RDP FRPSL. The jury have set high standards their work, which is clearly presented in Lars' own statement in Volume I.

All the activities of the exhibition are taking place in Stockholm, the beautiful city and capital of Sweden. Swedish postal history began here





in Stockholm, and many of its key milestones are of course connected with its postal history. The leading postal history scholar, and collector, of Stockholm is Göran Heijtz (Sweden). Göran has prepared a competent and selective article on Stockholm postal history, presented in the concluding part of this volume. You will certainly enjoy reading Göran's article, and you will be encouraged to collect much of what Swedish postal history has offered over hundreds of years. His beautiful items and their portrayal in the best available condition will speak for themselves.





I have the privilege to conclude the presentation of Volume I by mentioning the article prepared by myself together with Tomas Bjäringer RDP Hon. FRPSL (Sweden). The article is about a key stamp for every stamp collector aiming for a complete collection of Sweden, namely the 20/TRETIO Öre Error of 1879.

There is much more to say about the catalogues, but all the words are published in the two comprehensive volumes, only to remind you to:

Buy Them - Read Them - Keep Them

Jonas Hällström RDP FRPSL Exhibition Manager and Editor-in-Chief of Volume I





STOCKHOLMIA Catalogue Volume 2

The Library Catalogue

From the authors' point of view, it is probably the first and only time that an International Philatelic Exhibition has provided the opportunity to create such a work and also the necessary means to do it. From the beginning – Jonas Hällström RDP FRPSL and I had the first contact on 15 November 2015! – it was clear that this exhibition would also be a literary milestone in honour of The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL), which celebrates its 150th anniversary this year.

So what could have been more obvious than to devote an additional catalogue to the very subject to which the London society has felt so committed since it was founded? Not only as a publisher of literature written by its members, and as publisher of the well-known society journal *The London Philatelist*, but also to represent the authors with its own Publications Committee, which for more than a hundred years has been concerned with the quality and standard of its own publications. Thus the content of this second catalogue was predetermined: the literature of the RPSL and perhaps also the published works for which the RPSL has awarded its own Crawford Medal for literature since 1920.



At a management team meeting, the project for a special library catalogue of RPSL literature was finally approved.

The management team of STOCKHOLMIA 2019 agreed to this project – also the plan for a special literature section at the exhibition – in March 2016 in Stockholm. At first it did not sound too difficult, not like a challenge.



However, the author had his first sense of foreboding when he set about compiling a comprehensive list of the titles in question, that is, all the titles that can be regarded as "literature of The Royal Philatelic Society London". Comparing the lists that already existed drew his attention to many differences. Quite a number of titles were missing; for others there were either no data, or data that differed. The author himself was hardly in a position to judge the countless differences, as he did not own two-thirds of all the titles in his library.

So what could be more natural than to spend a week at the home of the RPSL at Devonshire Place in London in February 2017, and take a closer look at the Society's literature in the library? A friendly fellow man had already prepared the tour to the extent that everything that was regarded as RPSL literature could be found in an attic room in five or six large plastic boxes. The fact that this stock was far from complete only emerged later. First of all, it was a matter of recording.

From today's point of view, it has to be admitted that it would have been very useful, from the beginning of this work, to define the exact criteria for everything that was to be researched, and in how much detail. It was obvious that — unlike previous lists of titles — additional bibliographic data (format, number of pages, perhaps the number of photo plates, types of binding, etc.) should be recorded. First and foremost, the catalogue to be produced was to describe the original works available at The ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON itself. And: these should all be clearly documented.

Freehand photography in a cold room with changing lighting conditions. In this way more than 1,500 photos were created!

This posed a second, even bigger problem. In today's digital age one expects excellent scans in high resolution, thus the best quality. Only one of



the numerous hurdles that could hardly be overcome was the actual state of preservation of many early publications from the first decades of the Society's history, which often hardly satisfied such demands. More than a few books were fragile, easily damaged, the paper browned or toned. One could not open them without destroying the binding, or at least disturbing it. Thus, scans were out of the question, especially as there was no special book scanner available, only a flatbed scanner.



The author opted for photographs. During his one-week stay, he took over 1,500 photos of book title pages and book contents – freely by hand in widely differing lighting conditions. In order to be able to identify them later, the photo sequence was strictly adhered to and all the files were later renamed according to a systematic plan. The result was – let's put it politely – "mixed". Just like a stamp lot that you can buy for a low price; some stamps are fine, some still quite passable, others however really bad, second rate. So what can be done?

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At the beginning there were over 100 pages of handwritten notes on the RPSL publications that were found in London.

Each title in the room at that time was individually described and recorded on a pad. Unfortunately at first only with the number of pages in the book's main contents, not with pre- and post-pages, with blank pages etc. The result was first of all a chronological file which, however, made the problem of defining what now belonged to the RPSL literature even clearer. This question had already been asked by other authors with much higher reputations, such as Roland King-Farlow. Do handouts, printed lectures, reprints of articles from *The London Philatelist*, exhibition catalogues etc. belong to the literature of the RPSL?

After much deliberation and several discussions, especially with Tomas Bjäringer RDP Hon FRPSL and Jonas Hällström RDP FRPSL, we decided to include all these publications, even those intended for the RPSL itself, in the list, but divided into different groups. For almost a year, the list was continually expanded, supplemented and corrected. Meanwhile it was obvious that a large number of photos had to be taken again, because one area was not good enough, while for other titles found in the meantime the photos were missing. Two visits to Stockholm to see the library of Tomas Bjäringer made this possible. Both Tomas and Jonas are expressly thanked



for their warm hospitality. Tomas has so many treasures in his library that have so far hardly been known, and without him this catalogue would not have been possible in such a comprehensive form.



Just a very small part of the valuable library of Tomas Bjäringer.

At the same time, work on the list of Crawford Prize winners continued. This part of the catalogue was simpler by far as such lists – except for the question of when the prize was first awarded – were available at the RPSL and on the Internet. But again this was without all the bibliographic information – and of course also without photos. One part was contributed by the author himself, another by Tomas Bjäringer, and almost everything else was lent by the Munich Philatelic Library.

The list resulting from these searches was also far from complete and correct. Thanks to Brian Trotter RDP FRPSL, who encouraged members of the Publications Committee to assist the author, James Podger FRPSL and John Jackson FRPSL in particular helped to correct this list thanks to their own holdings. And Tomas Bjäringer still found something new.

In September 2018 the first design of the literature catalogue was made. In the meantime the introductions and initial overviews had been written, and translated and/or corrected by Philip Robinson FRPSL. Hundreds of pages! STOCKHOLMIA 2019 owes him sincere thanks for his fast and tireless work.

One may have thought that most of the work had finally been done. Far from it! Because the first 160 pages of the catalogue gave a taste of it, but looking more closely it did not match reality. For it was only now that what







Example page of the literature catalogue showing the layout.



This is what many printout pages looked like when they came back from Tomas Bjäringer!

would have been desirable at the beginning of the work, that is, before it was written, became clear: the question of design standards. Word divisions were undesirable, paragraphs should now be designed to be further apart, certain spellings were preferred, also names were to be added and much more besides. A new form of typesetting followed weeks later and Tomas Bjäringer and Jonas Hällström spent time on complex corrections. They found, again and again, hundreds of necessary changes. From the point of view of the designers – and it remains to be hoped, also from the point of view of the readers – the effort was worth it.

In mid-October 2018, a final problem came to light. Jonas Hällström wanted – this was understandable – to have as complete a list as possible of all the handouts that were ever distributed at displays and meetings of RPSL members. If the author had believed that he had such a list, he was mistaken, because this was a list of all the displays that Frank Walton RDP FRPSL had once compiled, but there was no list of the associated handouts. Somewhat desperately a call for help went to the Publications Committee which, however, could also only refer to a fragmentary RPSL list on the Internet. However, this only covered a few years, so it was far from complete.

Jonas Hällström also solved this problem. He knew that Mårten Sundberg was collecting these handouts and within a few days his consent and support was given. But also with him the appetite grew with the eating, that is, Mårten wanted to revise, compare and supplement the list, and this continued until December 2018. The result was probably the most complete list of its kind to date, published for the first time in the Appendix to the Library catalogue.

Work on both catalogues continued until 18 February 2019. Claudia Maassen designed both catalogues on the basis of the preparatory work for Bulletin 1 and Bulletin 2 by André Schneider. A total of over 1,900 photos/scans were processed for both catalogues and the German company Mediaprint in Paderborn was commissioned to print them.

Of course, this so-called Library catalogue also offers much more. For example, an overview of the individual exhibits that Tomas Bjäringer is showing in the Court of Honour at STOCKHOLMIA 2019. It is also thanks to Jonas Hällström that this special exhibition of literature rarities by The Royal Philatelic Society London can be seen in 2019/2020 at various other events around the world – thus promoting The Royal Philatelic Society London over a longer period of time.

But the literature exhibitors who show their exhibits in Stockholm were also important to the organiser. Each exhibit was described in





detail in an exemplary manner, presented with an illustration and with all the necessary bibliographical information along with the source of supply. Jan Berg, the exhibition commissioner, was not only responsible for the first contacts here, but also for the subsequent proofreading, which was very extensive.

This catalogue thus became a kind of tribute to the literary work of The Royal Philatelic Society London, an appreciation of important authors, researchers and experts, to whom we can only pay our respects today. The catalogue itself is a particular example of what is possible when many experts and willing philatelists work together in an international network, across all national and linguistic boundaries.

A final note is permitted: no work, no author, is free from errors or infallible. In this respect, it is desirable that new findings be collected and recorded. These may be sent to the author at any time by email (w.maassen@philcreativ.de).

One final recommendation can only be that to collect the publications presented and described in this book, and to deal with them in more detail, is a delightful experience. Publications of The ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON should be in the reference library of every philatelist.





Examples of pages from the overview of the competitive exhibits shown in Stockholm and the handouts presented by Mårten Sundberg.



