

## **1851 Royal Commission Alumni Association**

Dear 1851 Award winner,

I am happy to tell you that the Alumni web site is now live at [www.1851alumni.org.uk](http://www.1851alumni.org.uk). On it you will find details of all 1851 major award winners who have returned completed questionnaires. Thank you all for responding so positively.

I am glad to say that our response level is now well over 30% and replies are still coming in. Please check your entry on the web site and let us know if there are any amendments or changes needed. Necessarily, some of the longer entries have had to be condensed, because of limitations of space, but we have included as much detail as we can. Also, if you know any other alumni not yet on the site, please encourage them to respond.

We will gather up amendments and additions for the web site and put them in as a job lot about every 6 months (we can't do it more frequently as we don't have a regular web-master). So please be patient if changes do not seem to get implemented straight away!

With best regards,

Malcolm Shirley  
Secretary to the Commission.

## **Alumni Association Newsletter – March 2003**

### **Record of Award Holders – Special Offer**

To celebrate the launch of the Alumni Association we are offering for a short period copies of the complete Record of Award Holders at a 50% reduction. You can now get a copy for only £15 (sterling cheque or money order) including postage & Packing. I am afraid that we don't have a facility for you to pay by credit card and cheques in other currencies attract a huge bank surcharge. I hope those of you who have already purchased the Record at the full price do not feel hard done by; perhaps the answer is to get another copy for a friend!

### **Recent 1851 Awards**

You may be interested to know that as well as our core programmes of Research and Industrial Fellowships and Design Studentships, the Commission also continues to give Special Grants to individuals, organisations or projects which are considered particularly consistent with the aims of the Commission. In 2002 grants of differing sizes were given, among others, to:

Foundation for Science & Technology  
Ann Sutton Foundation  
Dereham Neatherd High School  
Textile Conservation Centre  
Ramsay Memorial Fellowship  
Forum for the Future  
Industrial Trust  
Greenpower  
Alex Moulton Foundation  
Royal Geographical Society  
Sir John Soane's Museum

This I hope gives a flavour of the range of organisations and projects which the Commission supports. As our fellowships and studentships are granted during the course of the year I will include details in future newsletters.

### **The Royal Commissioners**

The Commission remains fortunate to have Commissioners of the highest distinction as guardian's of Prince Albert's legacy. For the past 38 years Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh has been its President, continuing an almost unbroken line of Royal patronage. The current Commissioners are from a wide range of backgrounds, including business, engineering, academia and finance.

### The 1851 Great Exhibition

Despite taking place 152 years ago, there is evidence everywhere of the Great Exhibition, not least in the Victoria & Albert Museum, where there is a section devoted to the Exhibition in the newly opened British Gallery. Abroad, too, evidence can be found. In Vienna, in the Imperial Apartments in the Hofberg Palace in the centre of the city can be found a 69-piece Minton porcelain dessert service, part of a complete service displayed at the Great Exhibition. Queen Victoria so liked the Council Medal-winning service that she bought it and presented over half of it to Emperor Franz-Joseph of Austria. Decorated by Joseph Bankcroft, it comprises elaborate dishes and centre-pieces, as well as many plates, including one bearing the central motif '1851' and small painted images of the exhibition itself.

The Commission would be grateful for any other stories of exhibits, many of which found their way to all corners of the world.

### The Commission's archive

Some of you may already know about the AIM 25 web site, which describes mainly academic archive collections within the greater London area. The Commission's archive is described in some detail, should any alumni be interested in finding out more. Its address is [www.aim25.ac.uk](http://www.aim25.ac.uk).

### Publications linked to the Commission

Listed here are a few books about - or by - former 1851 Royal Commission award holders.

1. 'The Neutron and the Bomb'. Andrew Brown, OUP, 1997  
(Biography of Sir James Chadwick, Nobel Laureate 1935. 1851 Science Research Scholar).
2. 'Schonland: Scientist and Soldier'. Dr. Brian Austin, published 2001 - publisher not known. ISBN: 07503 05010  
(Biography of Sir Basil Schonland, Director AERE, Harwell 1958-60. 1851 Overseas Scholar).
3. 'Test of Greatness'. The building of the British bomb. Brian Cathcart. Published c.1994.  
(In effect a biography of Sir William Penney, Rector of Imperial College 1967-73 etc. 1851 Research Fellow).
4. 'The Eureka Moment'. 100 key scientific discoveries of the 20th Century.  
Dr. Rupert Lee, British Library publication, 2002.  
(Rupert Lee was an 1851 Research Fellow and is now a science librarian at the British Library).
5. A new biography (title unknown) of Ernest Rutherford, published about 3-4 years ago. Written by Dr. John Campbell, physics senior lecturer at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.  
(Ernest Rutherford was an 1851 Science Research Scholar and Nobel Laureate).

### Books about the Commission and those involved.

1. 'The Crystal Palace and the Great Exhibition'. Hermione Hobhouse.
2. 'The Great Exhibition of 1851: a Nation on Display'. Jeffrey Anerbach. Yale U.P. 1999
3. 'The Great Exhibition'. John Davis. Sutton Publishing Ltd. ?1999
4. 'The World for a Shilling' - how the Great Exhibition shaped a nation. Michael Leapman. Headline, 2001.
5. 'The Great Exhibitor' (Henry Cole). Bonython and Burton. V&A publication. April 2003.

Books on both lists - with the exception of 'Eureka Moment' and the Henry Cole biography - were written with the extensive use of the 1851 archive.