In 1910, when Evelyn Wrench founded the Royal Over-Seas League, King George V was on the throne, the British Empire seemed invincible and for most people international travel was a new and exciting opportunity. One hundred years later, the world and Britain’s place in it has been transformed almost beyond recognition. Yet the League has weathered all these changes and now enters its second century with a renewed sense of energy and purpose. How has the ROSL developed since 1910 and responded to the fundamental shift from Empire into Commonwealth? What are the enduring aims and values, shared by all members of the League, which inform its activities? And how will it continue to evolve and find its place over the next hundred years?

This engaging and concise history of the first hundred years of the Royal Over-Seas League is lavishly illustrated with images from all aspects of the League’s life and full of lively anecdotes about the many distinguished figures who have played a part in its creation. From Cecil Rhodes and John Ruskin, sources of inspiration to Evelyn Wrench, to Lord Northcliffe, Lord Baden-Powell and Earl Mountbatten, amongst many others who have been active in the League’s development, the story also includes the many artists, musicians and writers who owe much to Royal Over-Seas League sponsorship of their early careers. A delightful commemoration of the rich history of the Royal Over-Seas League, it will inform and entertain anyone who is curious to find out more about this distinctive and important organisation.

Adele Smith has had a varied career in public relations and fund-raising. She was the Public Relations Director of the Royal Over-Seas League and Editor of its quarterly journal Overseas for four years and has maintained a strong association with the League ever since. She was born in Northumberland and educated at the Universities of Leeds and Oxford.
About the author

Adele Smith has had a varied career in public relations and fund-raising. She was the Public Relations Director of the Royal Over-Seas League for four years and has maintained a strong association with the League ever since. She was born in Northumberland and educated at the Universities of Leeds and Oxford.
We sailed wherever ship could sail,
We founded many a mighty state,
Pray God our greatness may not fail
Through craven fears of being great

Alfred Lord Tennyson
# Contents

Acknowledgements  ix  
List of Illustrations  xi  
Foreword by HM The Queen  xiv  
Introduction by Stanley Martin, CVO (Chairman)  1

I Evelyn Wrench and the Founding of the Royal Over-Seas League  5  
First Welfare Project of the Over-Seas Club  17
The Overseas Aircraft Flotilla  18

II Development of the League  21  
Evelyn Wrench's Beniley  25
A Banquet at the Royal Albert Hall to Celebrate the Over-Seas League's 21st Birthday  27
The Allies Welcome Committee 1940–50  31

III The Royal Connection  42

IV Communications  49  
Portraits of Chairmen, Past and Present  74

V The Branches, Honorary Corresponding Secretaries and Reciprocal Clubs  76  
The Return of the Missing Picture  95
A Near Miss  95
Concert at Lancaster House  96
A history of this kind must necessarily be a collaborative effort. I am most grateful to all the past and present members and staff of the Royal Over-Seas League and fellow organisations who have given their time and help so generously. I am particularly indebted to Robert Newell, who has guided and overseen the whole enterprise, and to Stanley Martin, Roderick Lakin and Margaret Adrian-Vallance for their essential contributions, and to Fatima Vaníček, Samantha Whitaker and Polly Hynd for their constant help.

Two people have lent their personal archives, which have been invaluable. I am a grateful to the late Geoffrey Allen for his research papers and drawings about the Park Place buildings, and to Robin Noakes for lending the diaries and letters left to his family by his father, Philip Noakes.

I thank Viscount Norwich for permission to quote from Lady Diana Cooper’s memoirs The Rainbow Comes and Goes (London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1958) and Anne de Courcy for her recollections of her great uncle, Evelyn Wrench. Finally, I acknowledge the great help I have received from my editor, Liz Friend-Smith of I.B.Tauris, who made the entire process an enjoyable learning-curve.
Black and white illustrations

Portrait of HM The Queen by ROSL prizewinner Christian Furr.  
Cecil Rhodes.  
Alfred Harmsworth, Lord Northcliffe.  
Evelyn Wrench in his office at Over-Seas House.  
Nurses at the RFC Hospital, 1915.  
RFC pilots recuperating at the hospital.  
Certificate awarded to children in 1915 who supported fund-raising.  
Queen Alexandra with RFC pilots of the Over-Seas aeroplanes.  
An aeroplane donated by Over-Seas Club members.  
The Prince of Wales with Lady des Voeux and Sir Ernest Birch.  
Evelyn Wrench with Bentley.  
Banquet at the Royal Albert Hall.  
New design for the membership certificate in 1934.  
The wedding of Sir Evelyn Wrench and Lady des Voeux.  
Adm. Sir John Cunningham and Adm. Earl Mountbatten.  
HRH the Princess Royal with distinguished guests.  
Viscount Wavell with a Soviet soldier.  
Philip Crawshaw with Twentieth-Century Group delegates.  
Earl Mountbatten shows the League's new Royal Charter.  
Over-Seas House and the old Park Place buildings.  
Inter-Club reception for younger members.  
ROSL members' tea, House of Commons Terrace.  
King George V and Queen Mary visit Over-Seas House.  
The then Duchess of York at the Over-Seas League garden party.  
The then Duke of York signing the League Silver Jubilee Book.  
King George and Queen Elizabeth talk to servicewomen.  
HM The Queen on the 80th anniversary of the League.
The Royal Over-Seas League

Robert Newell with the Earl of Wessex in Kenya. 47

"From a woman's standpoint", Jan. 1926 (an extract). 52

Perrier advertisement from Overseas, Aug. 1917. 55

Viyella Shirts advertisement from Overseas, Aug. 1928. 56

Henlys advertisement from Overseas, Jan. 1935. 57

Cartoons from Overseas, Sep. 1926. 58

A cartoon from Overseas, Jun. 1934. 59

The Over-Seas Club Tree from Overseas, Jun. 1934. 61

The cover of Overseas in Nov. 1956. 63

Eric Rice's map of his journeys in 1934. 66

A cartoon from Overseas, Jun. 1934. 69

The cover of Overseas in Nov. 1956. 70

Phil Noakes' invitation from the Viceroy. 72

Philip Noakes rides in a rickshaw during his Far Eastern tour. 73

A recent portrait of Sir Colin Imray, Chairman 2000-5. 75

Letters of appreciation received by New Zealand branches, courtesy of Lyn IYWne, New Zealand Director. 79

ROSL's branches worldwide at the 50th anniversary. 82

The Honorary Corresponding Secretaries world conference in 1934. 91

Singapore Cricket Club. 93

Royal Automobile Club, Victoria, Melbourne. 94

Map of Park Place, St James's. 100

Designs for the exterior and interior of Rutland House. 102

An early design for the Gatehouse in Arlington Street. 102

The destruction of part of Rutland House, 1935. 105

Design for the 1937 wing. 106

Plan of the improved bedrooms on the fourth floor. 107

Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, from Princes Street. 110

Princess Alexandra visiting the Edinburgh Club in 1985. 111

Mr Stanley Martin welcomes Princess Alexandra at the re-opening of the concert hall at Over-Seas House. 114

Lady Pamela Mountbatten, Richard Bonynge and Harriet Cohen. 116

Jacqueline du Pré, winner of the First Prize in 1961. 116

Joan Davies, Audrey Strange and Barry Douglas. 117

Roderick Lakin receiving a Herald Angel award. 118

Princess Alexandra signing the visitors' book at Over-Seas House, London, with Sir David Scott. 120

The First Prize medal in the ROSL Annual Music Competition. 120

Singaporean harpsichordist and pianist Melvyn Tan. 121

Lucy Crowe, soprano. 122

Artist Jane Walker working on her portrait of Sir Lawrence Byford. 123

A ceramic trophy by Stephen Dixon. 124

Clara Bohitile MP (Namibia). 132

List of Illustrations

ROSL bursary recipient Belinda Awases carries one of the renovated chairs. 134

Elias Araeb with his class at Rakutuka Primary in the Omaheke. 134

Colour plate section (between pp.80 and 81)

1. The View from Green Park, painted by J. Whitlock.
2. The ROSL Annual Scholars Exhibition on tour at the Edinburgh College of Art, 1994.
3. Portrait of the former League President Lord Grey of Naunton by Tai-Shan Schierenberg.
4. Sir Alan Bowness with artist Philip Davies.
5. Lauren Porter with Hunting Trophies.
7. Portrait of Mr Maneck Dalal by Christian Furr.
9. Lord Luce with Laura Lucas, the Gold Medal and First Prize winner, ROSL Annual Music Competition 2007, and Gavin Henderson.
11. BackBeat percussion ensemble (Simone Rebello and Damien Harron).
12. The refurbished Princess Alexandra Hall with ROSL prizewinners Gemma Rvesfield and Simon Lepper.
16. View of Edinburgh Castle from the windows of 100 Princes Street. (© Alan Chalmers)
19. A learner on the way to the ROSL supported Katora Primary School, Namibia.
20. Margaret Adrian-Vallance and Dick Chamberlain with donated books.
21. ROSL bursary recipient Cwisa Cwì with pupils and teachers at Denlui School in the Nyae Nyae.
22. Some recent, colourful examples of the jackets of Overseas magazine.
The Royal Over-Seas League was founded by Sir Evelyn Wrench in 1910, the year that my grandfather, King George V, came to the throne. Within six years, he had granted his patronage to the young society and I am delighted to have followed him and my father, King George VI, in being Patron of the League.

On its fiftieth anniversary in 1960, I was happy to approve the title ‘Royal’ and I have appreciated meeting its members, from the United Kingdom and the overseas Commonwealth, on many occasions during my reign.

On its centenary in 2010, I wish the Royal Over-Seas League and all its members every success for the future.
In the foreword to this book, HM The Queen refers to the patronage accorded by successive monarchs to the Royal Over-Seas League almost from its inception. Under that regal umbrella, much has been achieved over the last century.

The League has never realised the rather extravagant dream of its founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench, to be an imperial society of a million members. The imagination of the young 23-year-old when he sketched out his ideas in 1906 on the trans-Canadian train *The Imperial* (or *The Canadian* when my wife and I did the same journey exactly 100 years later) proved to be beyond his capacity. Yet, as Robert Browning wrote, ‘Ah, but a man’s reach should exceed his grasp, or what’s a heaven for?’

The ‘heaven’ that the League has achieved in reality has brought meaningful activities and companionship to many, many thousands of members over the century, as well as decisive encouragement to thousands of young musicians and artists. It has always been, as Wrench consistently urged, ‘not a club, although membership includes the privileges and amenities of a club’.

I am still mildly irritated when friends sometimes enquire, ‘How is the club doing?’
The Royal Over-Seas League

Many such friends and others refer wistfully to the days when their parents or grandparents used the clubhouse whilst on their leave from such places as India, Malaya or Africa. The passing of Empire means that the League is no longer a home in London for members of the Indian and Colonial Civil Services, although a number of members of the modern Diplomatic Service still use it when in this country. That change from a dependent Empire to an independent Commonwealth is reflected in the composition of the Central Council of the League. Its members used to include many retired Indian and colonial governors; now a number of them are retired high commissioners and ambassadors.

The League has always justified the ‘Over-Seas’ in its title. The old dominion and colonial shields at Over-Seas House bear witness to that. In its early days, the League spread itself throughout the world, with branches or Corresponding Secretaries in many countries, both within the Empire and outside it. Gradually, it concentrated its activities on the countries of the emerging Commonwealth and today, apart from Britain, it has branches throughout Australia, New Zealand and much of Canada. Half of its 20,000 members live outside the Britain. The competitors in its music and art competitions come from all over the Commonwealth and its charitable work is concentrated on Namibia, formerly South West Africa. It stands, four-square, as a leading loyal society of the Commonwealth.

I shall not rehearse the manifold activities over the past century that are described so carefully by Adele Smith in this knowledgeable history. Many of you will be as surprised as the Director General and I were by much of what she has uncovered and recounted – and we thought we knew a lot about the League.

I feel privileged to have been Chairman of the League since 2005, especially in the period leading to the celebration of the centenary in 2010. I have been able to help in the many preparations for that celebration, the highlight of which will be a reception at St James’s Palace, graced with the presence of our Patron, HM The Queen.

No introduction by the Chairman would be complete without referring to the truly remarkable job done by Robert Newell in his 31 years of service to the League: 13 as General Manager and 18 as Director General. He has moulded the League, led its staff in raising the already high standards of service and maintained a remarkable rapport with members throughout the world. As is evident from this history, the League has been well served over the century by a number of officials, not least by a succession of chief executives. I naturally did not know the early ones but I have come to know Robert Newell very well since I joined the Central Council in 1982. The League is greatly in his debt.

The subtitle of this history is From Empire to Commonwealth, A History of the First 100 Years and I am sure that all who read it, whether members of the League or not, will understand the important role played by our society in that vital transition. Not many empires have been dissolved in such a relatively harmonious manner and multi-racial bodies like the League have contributed significantly to that process.

What of the future of the League? There is a tendency to think that every organisation must somehow be made ‘fit for the twenty-first century’ by marked change. We have grown up to think of history as being divided, somewhat artificially, into centuries. I do not believe in change purely for its own sake – ‘if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it’. So, while the League should continue to look for new ways of extending its work in pursuit of its basic aims – ‘supporting the Commonwealth through its own social, music, arts and welfare activities’ – it may well find that ‘more of the same’ will be a perfectly adequate objective. In any case, whatever they decide, our successors will have a very firm base on which to build during the second century of the League.

Stanley Martin, CVO
Chairman
Evelyn Wrench and the Founding of the Royal Over-Seas League

The Royal Over-Seas League was founded as the Over-Seas Club in 1910, at a time when the British Empire was the focus of unprecedented interest by politicians, churchmen, theorists and idealists of all kinds. The idea of Empire with its potential for the creation of an advanced multicultural society, benefiting its people both materially and spiritually, had become a dominant force in British life. Empire builders, statesmen and soldiers, such as Joseph Chamberlain, Cecil Rhodes, Dr Livingstone and General Gordon, were popular heroes.

Throughout the last two decades of the nineteenth century this interest had been building, spurred on by elements in the popular press, led by Alfred Harmsworth (Lord Northcliffe), and extending to novels and poetry, such as that of Alfred Lord Tennyson, Alfred Austin and William Henley, with particular emphasis on the excitement and adventure that the Empire seemed to offer. Periodicals for children such as Boy's Own Paper were full of these possibilities. The new Boy Scouts organisation and sport generally prepared a boy for an adventurous life with an imperial purpose. The Boer War with its attendant atrocities caused a more sceptical
mood to develop in the early 1900s, but by 1907 the imperialists were back in full force, with serious suggestions as to how the Empire could grow.

Books on Empire topics, such as *Colonial Nationalism* by Richard Jebb, and Normal Angell’s *The Great Illusion*, examining the future of the imperial idea, were best-sellers. This interest had led to the formation of many societies fostering Empire connections, such as the Royal Colonial Institute, the Victoria League, the Navy League and the Boy Scouts. In the Empire itself, the new countries were developing their independence and looking for ways in which they could assert their individuality without challenging their ties to the Mother Country. The first Imperial Conference was held in 1909. The question of Empire federation versus autonomy was a central theme in the years before the Great War, and politicians talked of the ‘Greater Britain’, seeing the Empire as integral in purpose.

At the same time, the nineteenth century had been remarkable for the growth of religious fervour and the intensity of theological dispute. Non-conformist church groups flourished, as did their missionary societies. The Oxford Movement, led by John Henry Newman, later Cardinal Newman, challenged the Church of England. Questions of doctrine existed alongside more practical expressions of Christianity, with a focus on the need to do good and to be of service to humanity at large. Earlier in the century Lord Shaftesbury had established the importance of philanthropy, and there was an increasing interest in the welfare, education and working conditions of the poor, illustrated by social studies exemplified by the work of Henry Mayhew. This interest led to pressure for legislation to provide universal elementary education, the abolition of child labour in mines and factories and better working conditions for women and children in particular. The belief that mankind could be made better by a combination of religion, practical help and service to others was held increasingly by educated people at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Against this background, John Evelyn Wrench, the founder of the Over-Seas Club, later the Royal Over-Seas League, was completely a man of his time. He was born in Ireland in 1882 into an Anglo-Irish family with aristocratic connections. His boyhood at Eton was marked by illness and injury but, despite this, he emerged as a remarkably lively, mercurial personality. Leaving Eton at 17 years old, undecided whether to become a missionary or a diplomat, he travelled extensively abroad, particularly in Germany where he studied the language. With his talent for seizing opportunities, he returned to England and set up his own postcard business, modelled on the ones he had seen in Germany. The great success of this teenage venture was short-lived due to too rapid over-expansion, but his entrepreneurial skills had been noticed by Lord Northcliffe, the newspaper proprietor whose assistant and protégé he became. He worked for Amalgamated Press for eight years, editing the Over-Seas *Daily Mail* amongst other papers.

The empire-builder Cecil Rhodes had been an idol of Wrench’s since boyhood, together with the whole idea of Empire brotherhood. The critical moment of Wrench’s life came in 1906, when, on a visit to Ottawa, he was staying with the Governor General, Lord Grey, a Rhodes Trustee. During his visit they discussed the future of the British Empire continually, and particularly the idea of forming a great non-partisan society to promote unity throughout the Empire. Lord Grey showed Wrench a document in which Cecil Rhodes set out his ideas for just such a society to extend the influence of the Empire. During the rest of his time in Canada, Wrench formulated the idea on which the Over-Seas Club (later the ROSL) would be based. He was 23 years old at the time.

Wrench later wrote:

I left Ottawa on August 15 1906 by the train *Imperial Limited* for Winnipeg – a two day journey – and my first afternoon in the train was spent in putting down in black and white the aims and objectives of an Imperial Society such as I longed to found.
The Royal Over-Seas League

This morning Lord Grey gave me the most interesting document to look at which it has ever been my good fortune to read. It was the statement which Cecil Rhodes wrote in the year 1875, when but 22 years old, on the South African veldt ... 'It often strikes a man to enquire what is the chief good in life. To one the thought comes that it is a happy marriage, to another great wealth, and as each seizes on his idea, for that he more or less works for the rest of his existence. To myself, thinking over the same question the wish came to me to render myself useful to my country.'

Surely at no time in the history of the British Empire has an equal opportunity presented itself to the practical imperialist ...

In the first place, why cannot we twentieth-century British citizens put into practice the germs of the idea as it appeared to Cecil Rhodes on the South African veldt 31 years ago? There are at the present time too many organisations and leagues — take, for instance, the Royal Colonial Institute, the Victoria League, the Daughters of the Empire, the Empire League, the Empire Day Movement, the Navy League, the British-Made Goods League, and so on ad infinitum. What is wanted is one great Central Organisation ...

The Germans, with that wonderful power of plodding, have built up a Navy League of 978,000 members, and, be it remembered, to a league which is only a copy of our own.

If we set ourselves to get a membership of 1,000,000, I believe we could do it, provided, of course, we received Royal approval, and the various societies sank their petty interests. An organisation such as I suggest — whose object would be to further the British Empire, British institutions and British liberty in every manner, would, I believe, become a tremendous power to be reckoned with ...

A poor and unknown man has built the Salvation Army to its present position in some 30 years with influence, the power of the press behind him and money — we can obtain even greater results.4

On his return to London, Wrench worked to promote these ideas with the support (financial and otherwise) of his employer, Lord Northcliffe. At first the combination of their talents — Wrench's vision and idealism and Northcliffe's pragmatic business sense — worked harmoniously. The older man had been a father figure to Evelyn Wrench and promoted him to an important place in his newspaper empire. It was natural for Wrench to outline his vision to his chief but their interpretations of the uses to which this could be put were widely different. It was inconceivable to Northcliffe that the career path he offered could be put aside for some purely idealistic concern. When he gave support to launch the venture in
the shape of the use of an office in Carmelite House, his HQ, and the publication of articles in the Daily Mail he was also intent on increasing circulation in the readership. Later, Evelyn Wrench reflected:

In starting the Over-Seas Club while I was editor of the Overseas Daily Mail I was sowing seeds of future trouble. I was thinking solely of the welfare of the Empire. I never for a moment thought that the new movement might have a dual purpose, that of serving the Empire but also of getting circulation for the Overseas Daily Mail. I was quite willing for Northcliffe and the Daily Mail to get indirect prestige as backers of the new scheme. But the Over-Seas Club was something sacred to me.

The ‘sacred’ nature of Wrench’s vision for the Club is demonstrated in ‘The Creed of an Imperialist’, which he often quoted in his publications. Part of it reads:

I believe in our glorious Empire of Free Peoples,
In the sacredness of our mission,
In the unselfishness of our aims.
I believe in our great past
And in a greater future,
In the emptiness of riches
And the dignity of labour.

This strongly romantic side to Wrench’s nature fortunately was counterbalanced by his practical working experience. Eight years spent in the hard graft of the newspaper world, involving marketing, financial affairs and networking, had helped to give him the skills needed for the successful establishment of the new enterprise.

The Launch of the Over-Seas Club

By 1910, Wrench felt that the moment had come officially to launch the new organisation. The first public meeting of the Over-Seas Club was held at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London EC on Tuesday, 27 June 1911, the week following the coronation of King George V. Over 300 members were present from all parts of the world. Great enthusiasm was shown and the future structure of the movement was discussed. Evelyn Wrench was in the Chair and among those present were Lord Northcliffe, Sir Harry Brittain, the Premier of Alberta and representatives of 62 Empire groups and interests. Initially, Wrench had planned to make membership free and just charge a shilling for the badge. It soon became apparent that this was widely believed to be a circulation gambit by Lord Northcliffe’s newspapers and Wrench was forced to consider both a membership fee and his whole association with the newspapers and their proprietor.
By 1912, Wrench felt he could no longer combine his journalism with his mission and resigned from the Daily Mail. However, the association with Northcliffe continued for many years on a personal level, with Northcliffe designated as Founder and President of the Over-Seas Club — inviting misunderstandings both public and private as to his real role in the Club's foundation.

The same year, accompanied by his sister Winifride, Wrench undertook a 17-month, 64,000-mile tour of the Empire, which he called his 'Empire Crusade'. During this tour, entirely self-financed, he visited over 100 Club centres in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa and Rhodesia. The creation of so many branches and Honorary Corresponding Secretaries in the two years since the launch of the organisation was a remarkable achievement, and proved the popularity of the whole idea of 'Empire Brotherhood'. Public meetings were held in nearly all the important cities in the self-governing dominions. Numerous branches of the Club were formed and contacts made to secure the connections essential for its future. Evelyn Wrench himself dated the real beginning of the club from this tour.

On his return to London, Wrench found that misunderstandings still existed over the Over-Seas Club's association with the Northcliffe press, and he recognised the need to put the whole project on a proper footing. The administration to do this was accordingly established. Richard Jebb, the author of Colonial Nationalism and a respected authority on Empire affairs, became the first Chairman of the Over-Seas Club, and a Central Council was appointed to which Evelyn Wrench, as Secretary, was responsible. The Council was composed of many distinguished people with Empire connections, and some important vice presidents were created. Enough money was quickly raised from generous donors to rent the first premises of four rooms at General Buildings, the Aldwych, opened by the Lord Mayor on Empire Day, 1914. An annual membership fee of 2s. 6d. was agreed. All this was achieved prior to the outbreak of war in August 1914.

Evelyn Wrench took an active part in the war, becoming a Major in the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and working incidentally for two further newspaper proprietors in turn, in their wartime posts at the Air Board (Lord Rothermere) and the Ministry of Information (Lord Beaverbrook). Simultaneously, Wrench's work with the Over-Seas Club intensified. The Club magazine, edited by Wrench himself, was created in December 1915 and immediately became a critical arm of consolidation for members throughout the world. The tremendous fund-raising campaigns he organised among members during this period — including raising more than £1 million for comforts for the troops, providing 350 aircraft and supporting hospitals for Flying Corps Officers at the cost of £30,000 a year — proved just how strong the Empire ties had become. The Club was further strengthened by amalgamation with the Patriotic League of Britons Over-Seas in 1918, thus becoming the Over-Seas League. For his work in raising funds for the war effort, Wrench received the CMG in 1917.
This is to certify

that William Gould

has helped to bring happiness on Christmas Day to our brave sailors and soldiers, who are fighting for honour, freedom & justice.

Certificate awarded to children in Christmas 1915 who supported the Over-Seas Club fund-raising for the troops.
When asked to describe the organisation he had created, Evelyn Wrench liked to quote Lord Baden Powell's description: 'The Over-Seas League is for grown-ups, and Boy Scouts for the growing-ups', or, more simply, 'Scouts are for boys, the Over-Seas League is for grown-ups'. At the end of the war, Evelyn Wrench envisaged that the huge numerical success of the Scouting movement worldwide would be repeated in the Over-Seas League.

In 1918 Evelyn Wrench also founded the English Speaking Union, a new organisation to promote friendship between the Empire and the USA, believing that close cooperation between the two great English-speaking powers would be important in the post-war period.

By 1922, Evelyn Wrench had joined the Board of the periodical the Spectator and he bought a controlling interest in the paper, serving as Editor from 1925-32. He later sold his interest to Ian Gilmour MP, but he remained Chairman of the Board for the rest of his life. Travel writer Peter Fleming was working for the Spectator at the time and recorded his impression of Evelyn Wrench as being 'benignly handsome, outwardly naive, with a high-pitched voice and a rather fluttery manner ... behind his gentle façade ... lay a streak of canny toughness'.

Wrench always believed in the Empire as a free and equal association of peoples, non-racist and democratic. An early proponent of self-government for all colonies, he claimed that his first Empire tour in 1912 had made him see all future UK-Empire questions through Empire eyes. He also learnt from his work during the first war, recruiting in the large impoverished cities of Great Britain, how bad conditions were for the majority of people, and his desire to give them a better chance in the Empire later led to more controversial projects in the post-war period. His energy and idealism had given the League its character and success: 'What others have dreamed, you have done.' His practical organisational skills drove it forward.

First Welfare Project of the Over-Seas Club: Sir Frederick Truby King and the Babies of the Empire

A crusade for the health of women and children for the honour of the Empire, under the auspices of the Over-Seas Club.

Launched in 1917, and described by Evelyn Wrench as 'the first important piece of social work with which we identified ourselves', this crusade had its origins in the first world tour undertaken by Evelyn Wrench and his sister Winifride in 1912. They arrived in New Zealand with introductions to leading New Zealand politicians and influential people, including the Premier W. F. Massey and Dr Truby King, a famous medical pioneer, whose work with children was of particular interest to Winifride Wrench since she intended to make a career in infant welfare on her return to England.

Truby King had originally been in charge of a large government hospital for mental diseases in Ottagao, which had the benefit of an adjoining 1,000-acre farm. He began to study the animals and apply his theories of rearing young animals in as natural an environment as possible with proper ventilation and natural food. The marked improvement in their health, weight and resistance to disease gave him the idea of launching a parallel project to introduce a more natural environment for human infants, together with a sensible education for their mothers in child-rearing. Supported by Lady Plunket, the wife of the Governor General, in 1907 Truby King founded the Plunket Society for the Promotion of the Health of Women and Children, where the first Plunket nurse was trained and appointed to teach mothers healthier methods of child-rearing. There was an immediate and positive response to this initiative. At that time the infant mortality rate in New Zealand was 2,000 per 25,000 babies. As a result of Dr King's work, within five years this had been halved. His fame spread rapidly.

On her return from the world tour Winifride Wrench resumed her work with child welfare and with Lady Plunket, now resident in England, formed the ambition of inviting Truby King to England to launch a similar crusade to the one which had been so successful in
New Zealand. Despite the war, late in 1917 this project was realised, sponsored by the Over-Seas Club. The New Zealand Government agreed to lend the services of Dr King to the Club for a six-month period to launch 'The Babies of the Empire Training Centre' in Tre­bour Road, London. Financial support came from the members of the Club worldwide. Public opinion at this stage of a war notable for terrible loss of life was ready to support an effort to save and improve the lives of a new generation. Medical opinion, too, had been carefully cultivated to support the plan by eminent doctors such as Lord Dawson of Penn. A committee was formed to oversee the new movement, with medical direction passing to St Thomas' Hospital. In 1925 Cromwell House in Highgate was bought to house the newly named 'Mothercare and Training Centre', and Winifride Wrench's interest in the project continued.

The purposes of the project were to prepare women mentally and physically for childbirth; to encourage breast feeding and natural health and hygiene; to acquire and disseminate information on all matters relating to the health of women and children via demonstrations, lectures, books and articles and particularly through the training of qualified nurses to undertake these tasks. Dr King defined his approach to the whole welfare project as 'common sense, scientifically applied'.

The Overseas Aircraft Flotilla

In the autumn of 1914 Evelyn Wrench considered the part that the Over-Seas Club could play in supporting the war effort. He decided to organise an 'Overseas Aircraft Flotilla' by asking members in each part of the Empire to subscribe for an aeroplane to be presented to the RFC, and named after the district which provided it. Although he recalled that he had never seen an aircraft of any sort during his 64,000-mile tour of the Empire, he recognised their future importance in the war, and the way in which, for a comparatively small sum, Over-Seas Club members in each district could make a personal contribution to the war effort. He wrote to the Army Council in January 1915 asking for permission to start the project, which was immediately granted.
The Royal Over-Seas League

The two aeroplanes used by the RFC at this time were the 100 HP Gnome, Vickers Gun Bi-plane, complete with gun, costing £2,250, and the 70 HP Renault BE ZC, costing £1,500. Within four months, six aircraft had been presented, prompting letters of appreciation from the King and Lord Kitchener. Acting on the publicity this provided, Evelyn Wrench had 100,000 leaflets printed for distribution throughout the Empire. The enormous response that followed (£100,000 in the first year) continued throughout the war, with some areas contributing through the fund and others directly. The Patriotic League of Britons Overseas, later to be amalgamated with the Over-Seas Club, had meanwhile sponsored 50 seaplanes and aeroplanes independently.

Altogether, as a result of the propaganda initiated by Evelyn Wrench, some 350 aeroplanes had been presented by 1918, 172 directly at a cost of £278,250, named for their district (Victoria, Nova Scotia, Hong Kong) or more creatively (The Springbok, A Devil Bird from Ceylon). If the original machines were destroyed the RFC arranged for others to be named after them, continuing the link. Queen Alexandra was the very active patron of the fund, visiting the Flying Corps pilots in training with the Over-Seas Club planes.

The Over-Seas League had emerged from the Great War with its imperial connections greatly strengthened. The immense fund-raising efforts organised so admirably by Evelyn Wrench and Lady des Voeux, his cousin and Director of Correspondence, had drawn attention to the League from many important quarters, and internally the support of the overseas and home branches had shown that the ideals of the original club could be practically fulfilled in a way unimaginable before 1914.

Nevertheless, the post-war period was a difficult time financially, and it is much to the credit of the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas and the Over-Seas Club that, by 1922, the character of the combined organisations had emerged successfully. With the granting of the Royal Charter in that year, the objectives of the Over-Seas League were established. Principal amongst these were:

- to draw together in the bond of comradeship British citizens throughout the world;
- to render individual service to the British Commonwealth of Nations;
The Royal Over-Seas League

- to maintain the power of the British Commonwealth of Nations and to hold to its best traditions; and
- to help one another.

An organisation with such ideals was bound to be democratic in practice. Despite the insistence in all early magazines that the League was ‘not a club’ but a worldwide League of Friendship, once premises were established in St James’s the unusual character of the membership must have been striking in the heart of London’s club land. From the beginning no distinction was made on grounds of race, creed or gender among the membership. At that time a club in St James’s that welcomed women on an equal footing was unique and did much to determine the future independent character of the League.

The President and Central Council appointed Lady des Voeux, Director of Correspondence, to be Controller, effectively in charge of all administration at Over-Seas House, an honorary post that she held for over 20 years. Evelyn Wrench himself combined the roles of Executive Director with the editorship of the journal. As usual he was constantly making new contacts and alliances for the League. A formidable list of Vice Presidents was established, including the Duke of Devonshire, the Rt Hon. David Lloyd George, the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, the Rt Hon. Winston Churchill, Lord Leverhulme, Viscount Milner and Lord Baden Powell. A new Travelling Secretary and the greatly enlarged magazine both helped to maintain the momentum of the war years. Membership stood at 27,000 at this time. There were many branches and 800 Honorary Corresponding Secretaries around the world. The immediate target for membership was 50,000.

Expansion of the Club Premises

To match these ambitions the Club had to expand physically. The first premises of four rooms in the Aldwych were quickly outgrown. By 1916, at the height of the First World War, it was decided that, as a fitting tribute to the contribution made by the Empire to the war effort, a building fund should be launched. A new building would serve as a permanent War Memorial. Although the main fund-raising efforts were devoted to comforts for the troops, hospitals and aircraft, the idea was established and the War Memorial Fund began. In 1919, talks about a possible amalgamation with another Empire Society, the Royal Commonwealth, and the purchase of a building adjoining their premises in Northumberland Avenue, failed. The search for suitable premises became urgent.

In 1921, appropriately enough on Empire Day, Evelyn Wrench visited Vernon House in Park Place, St James’s, SW1, for the first
The Royal Over-Seas League

time. Put on the market by Lady Hillingdon for £45,000, the house was bought by the League with money from the building fund. A tablet by the doorway of the new Over-Seas House confirmed this as the League's War Memorial. Over the next few years the lease of number 3 and the freeholds of 4 and 5 Park Place were added to provide offices and a Club House with a bar and bedrooms for male members. By 1934, when space was again becoming a problem, Rutland House next door was bought from the Dowager Duchess of Rutland, with the necessary £73,000 purchase price again being raised by an appeal to the membership. The addition of the Westminster Wing in 1937 completed the nucleus of buildings referred to by Evelyn Wrench as his 'Empire Centre'. The increased space in the newly acquired buildings provided not only better facilities, bedrooms and dining rooms but also conference rooms and an Empire newspaper room.

Evelyn Wrench's paternalistic presence decided the League's development. During the 1920s and 1930s he divided his time mainly between the Over-Seas League and the English Speaking Union, both of which prospered. His diaries reveal the extraordinary amount of work, travel, speeches and connections he undertook. He had great charm and skill in organisation. Some of his ideas failed to prosper, for instance, an attempt to found an Irish Unity League during the First World War, and later an All People's Association to promote Anglo-German understanding in the 1930s. However, he always remained open to new ideas and concepts and was adept at finding ways to implement them.

From the first the League was to be an organisation with a double purpose - welcoming travellers to the UK, making them feel at home and solving their problems, but also sending advice, information and, in some cases, people out to the Empire. The administration in the 1920s and 1930s was organised to reflect all these needs.

Evelyn Wrench's Bentley

In 1927 one of the oldest League members, Stuart Elliott, wrote to the Chairman of the Central Council, Sir Ernest Birch, suggesting that a presentation should be made to Evelyn Wrench to recognise all his great work on behalf of the Empire. The Chairman accordingly contacted all members of the League through the magazine, with the help of Lady des Voeux, in July 1927. He wrote, 'With so large a membership as ours I hope that it will be easy to present Mr Wrench with a motor car. Donations need not be large...'

An article in Overseas earlier in the year by Evelyn Wrench himself asking the question 'What is my new car to be?' may have suggested the appropriate nature of the gift. The Chairman was quite right to be optimistic: 1,600 members subscribed and a 4.5 litre Bentley was bought and presented, resplendent in black and red.
A Banquet at the Royal Albert Hall to Celebrate the Over-Seas League's 21st Birthday

On 2 July 1931 a banquet was held for League members at the Royal Albert Hall to mark the 21 years since the foundation of the Over-Seas League. Most of the lower tiers and boxes were filled and approximately 1,000 members out of a total of 45,000 attended. As a special distinction, HRH Edward, Prince of Wales, Vice-Patron, attended and proposed the health of the League.

Philip Snowden, Secretary of State for the Dominions proposed the Loyal Toast.

Music on appropriate Dominion themes was performed by the band of the Royal Horse Guards (the Blues) with an organ solo of 'Homage to the Father', and pipe music was provided by the Gaelic Society Pipers for the London Scottish Reel Team.

When Evelyn Wrench wrote a treatise in 1935 describing the 'Empire Centre' and its purposes, an information/over-seas service bureau, travel bureau, trade intelligence, Empire fellowship, British National Union, migration bureau and reception centre providing help with accommodation were all flourishing. The needs of two of Evelyn Wrench's many initiatives with other societies were mentioned specifically: the alliance with the Red Cross, dating from 1914, a detachment described as 'one of the best in London', and, more controversially to modern thinking, the Empire migration and 'Back to the Land Scheme'. The migration initiatives had begun after the war to help discharged servicemen wanting to start a new life in Canada. They developed in idealistic fashion in this period to help poor children to have a new life in the Empire under the auspices of the New Zealand Government, the YMCA and the Fairbridge Society, or in Great Britain with the Back to the Land Scheme, which helped teenagers to find jobs on British farms.
The Over-Seas League is a non-party society formed to promote the unity of British subjects in all parts of the World.

**ITS FOUR CHIEF OBJECTS ARE:**

1. To draw together in the bond of comradeship British subjects the world over.
2. To render individual service to the Empire.
3. To maintain the power of the Empire and to hold to its best traditions.
4. To help one another.

**MEMBERS' CREED**

Believing the British Empire to stand for justice, freedom, order and good government, we pledge ourselves, as citizens of the British Commonwealth of Nations, to maintain the heritage handed down to us by our fathers.

THIS IS TO WITNESS THAT was duly enrolled as a member of the Over-Seas League in on 19

World Headquarters Vernon House London S. W. 1

Secretary

Many League branches raised funds enthusiastically to support children in these projects, believing that in a period of depression at home a much better future could be found for them in the Empire. However good the intentions, and fortunate as the outcome was for many, the system relied on the absolute integrity of the people involved in its administration, and it seems completely unacceptable to us today that the fate of children's lives should have been decided in this way. The alliance with one or other organisation involved continued until the 1950s when League sponsorship and practical help for families wishing to emigrate to Australia took its place.

Connections with other projects proved much happier. The ROSL had a long association with the excellent Ranfurly Library Service, allowing for the dispatch of much needed books to the overseas Commonwealth. Similarly, after the Second World War all members of Voluntary Service Overseas were entitled to honorary membership of the League for one year.

Over-Seas House was widely used by members for entertainment, meetings and to establish societies, many of which survive today. The Discussion Circle, London Group, and music and educational initiatives such as debating competitions, all reflected the interests of the League. A tradition began of giving temporary membership to visiting groups from overseas such as cadets and students, and private hospitality was always offered by home members. Chairmen's lunches, Lady des Voeux's receptions and visits to events of the season, including House of Commons teas, were popular. Voluntary hostesses were on duty daily to provide practical information and help to visiting members.

Evelyn Wrench, knighted in 1932, married his widowed cousin, Lady des Voeux in 1937, cementing a partnership that had already given him great support in his enterprises, particularly at the ROSL. He had admired her and depended on her judgement since childhood. Indeed, he remained close to all his family, particularly to his mother and his powerful sister Winifride. She had accompanied him on his tours abroad and played a part in developing membership of the League, particularly in Scotland.
The wedding of Sir Evelyn Wrench and Lady des Voeux in 1937.

In 1940 Sir Evelyn and Lady Wrench embarked on a tour of North America, Singapore and India, becoming stranded in India as the events of the war caught up with them. Sir Evelyn quickly familiarised himself with the situation and was appointed by the Viceroy to the post of American Relations Officer with the government of India. He subsequently wrote a book about this period of his life called *Immortal Years*. Necessarily his association with the League became more remote, with the day-to-day control passing to others. Wrench received many honours including the KCMG on the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the ROSL. He devoted his later life to writing biographies, notably one of Lord Milner, as well as his memoirs. He died in 1966.

The Second World War saw the League become a centre for hospitality for servicemen of all ranks and nationalities. As in 1914, funds were raised on a large scale to provide comforts, tobacco and gifts for the troops, but now there was a large building to offer constant hospitality, all organised by the powerful Allies Welcome Committee (1940–50) under the chairmanship of Sir Jocelyn Lucas.

The Allies Welcome Committee 1940–50

The first Canadian troops coming to Britain to fight in the war arrived on 11 December 1939. The various Empire societies began immediately to organise hospitality for them and for the large number of Empire servicemen who followed. It was soon realised that no similar provision had been made for the great influx of allied forces from occupied nations – French, Dutch, Belgian, Norwegian, Polish and Czech – who, together with their exiled governments, found refuge in the UK.

At the Over-Seas League, Sir Jocelyn Lucas, MC, was already Head of Hospitality. This remarkable man, MP for Portsmouth South from 1939 to 1966, combined his activities with the Club with parliamentary duties and arduous part-time work as an auxiliary fireman. Since the rules of the Over-Seas Club originally precluded raising money for anything but Commonwealth causes, he realised the need to form an independent Allies Welcome Committee to extend hospitality to all troops regardless of race, nationality, rank or gender. As Chairman, backed by an influential committee, he raised money to support hospitality not only from members but also from wealthy individuals and large businesses. The Committee started its work in 1940, soon after Dunkirk. The first dinner was given in August of that year for the Free French Officers and members of the French government who had escaped to London. This was followed by a weekly luncheon for each ally and Dominion in turn, and for the American Eagle Squadron.

Despite wartime shortages, bombings and the diminished staff at Over-Seas House, and with meals sometimes cooked over oil stoves when air raids cut off gas supplies, from the first these lunches were a great success, enabling guests to meet their British opposite numbers. Photographs of these events were forbidden in case of enemy reprisals on relatives who remained in occupied Europe.

With the lunches established, the Committee began a series of receptions to bring the Allied Forces themselves together. They were held on the first Tuesday of every month throughout the war, regardless of air raids, V1s or V2s. Quite quickly the numbers
attending rose to several hundred, beyond the capacity of Overseas House, and the receptions had to be transferred to the Dorchester Hotel.

Two of these occasions were particularly memorable. The first was held by chance on D-Day when the guest of honour was Mr Winant, the American ambassador. The French generals Le Clerc and Koenig were also present. The second time was during the week of the Victory Parade when representatives from every detachment taking part were invited.

The Committee entertained nearly every war leader present in London at that time, with General de Gaulle being one of the first. Royal guests included HRMs the Kings of Greece and Yugoslavia, the Crown Prince of Norway, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, the Princess Royal, the Duchess of Kent and the Duke of Gloucester. Guests also included heads of the British forces such as Lord Fraser and Sir John Cunningham from the Navy, Field Marshals Lord Alexander, Sir William Slim, Lord Wilson and Viscount Wavell from the Army, and Lords Trenchard, Tedder and Portal from the Air Force.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Cunningham and Admiral Earl Mountbatten of Burma, with Indian guests.

HRH the Princess Royal with, left to right:
Lt JWK Champ, of Geelong, Victoria, Australia, Lt JG Rawson, of Victoria, Australia, and Lt G Bolding, of Morewell, Victoria, Australia.

Viscount Wavell with a Soviet soldier.
Much hospitality was less formal. Parties of all kinds were popular, from fork lunches and tea parties and broadcasts to dances held several times a week, which drew large crowds. Sir Jocelyn Lucas estimated that on average 3,000 servicemen and women passed through Over-Seas House each week. A dedicated group of volunteers ran all the activities. Out in the rest of the UK the League’s branches were also very active, particularly in Liverpool, Ulster, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Cardiff, where large groups of servicemen were made welcome both at the club’s premises and in private homes. Private hospitality indeed was extensive, especially at Christmas time, and this tremendous effort by League members was paralleled by fund-raising activities to provide comfort for the troops abroad and help at home for sufferers of the effects of war.

In 1950, with the war safely over, the Committee was wound up. Sir Jocelyn, who had also been Chairman of the returned Prisoner of War Advice Committee, wrote: 'The term Allies infers war. We wish to remember old friends but to forget past differences and we feel therefore, that the time has come to cease our activities.' The officers of the Committee in May 1950 were: President – Rt Hon. Anthony Eden MP; Vice Presidents Marie Marchioness of Willingdon and the Countess Mountbatten of Burma; and Founder and Chairman Sir Jocelyn Lucas.

All this despite wartime shortages and severe bomb damage to Vernon House in April 1941, when a direct hit burnt out rooms on the upper floors, destroying bedrooms, offices and most of the archives. In the difficult period after the war, the overseas members sent parcels of clothing and food to help distressed Londoners.

With Evelyn Wrench working in India during this period, the Assistant Secretary, Eric Rice, assumed responsibility as Secretary. His long service with the League (he had only had one other job) was typical of the careers of many of the staff who gave years of loyal service. Eric Rice finally retired in 1946. He was succeeded by Air Vice-Marshal Malcolm Henderson, as Director General.

Philip Crawshaw, another long-serving and well-loved member of staff, became Secretary General in 1956 and, from 1959 to 1979, Director General. This was a difficult period for the League, but nevertheless Over-Seas House continued to host many groups of visitors and events. Particularly prominent at this time was the Twentieth-Century Group for young members, founded by Florence Norden in 1936, suspended during the war and returning successfully after 1946 with up to 3,000 members at one time, under the patronage of Princess Alexandra and the Hon. Angus Ogilvy. The group organised wide-ranging activities both at home and abroad, and an annual conference of members worldwide was held at Over-Seas House between 1951 and 1962. This was also a period of much activity in the fields of the arts and education, with many...
The Royal Over-Seas League

Earl Mountbatten shows the League's new Royal Charter with the help of Bluemantle Pursuivant of the College of Arms.

student visitors. Regular broadcasts by the BBC of programmes from St Andrew's Hall included the People and Politics series. The League's Golden Jubilee in 1960 was celebrated with a visit by The Queen and the granting of the official title 'Royal', together with a coat of arms. In 1962 membership reached 50,933, of which 9,000 were life members. Following the death of Sir Evelyn Wrench in 1966, a memorial fund to sponsor music and art was launched in his memory.

The period of high inflation that followed found the Loyal Societies of the Commonwealth -- the Royal Commonwealth Society, the Victoria League, the Royal Over-Seas League and the English Speaking Union -- in financial difficulties. Currency regulations in some Commonwealth countries made payment for membership difficult, and indeed membership generally declined. Not for the first time, the idea of a merger between organisations with so many shared interests appeared attractive. A committee under Sir Anthony Burney, the chairman of Debenhams, was set up in 1980 to examine the possibilities. The initial proposal was to try to combine the first three societies on one site (the English Speaking Union having made progress independently). One idea, that all premises should be sold and the money used to establish a large Commonwealth Centre in London, proved to be impossibly expensive. An alternative idea, that the three societies should combine on either the RCS site in Northumberland Avenue or on the ROSL site in Park Place, turned out to be equally difficult. No one site could provide the requisite bedroom and office accommodation and there were further difficulties relating to individual status and debts. After protracted negotiations no satisfactory solution could be found. In the event all the Loyal Societies resolved their difficulties and continued to operate independently.

In the case of the ROSL a turning point in the League's affairs was reached in the early 1980s when the Central Council, under the direction of Lord Grey of Naunton and Sir David Scott and with a new Director General, Captain John Rumble RN (rtd), and a new and enterprising General Manager, Robert Newell, transformed the League's fortunes by selling property in Park Place. The sum raised cancelled the League's debts and enabled a complete renovation of the premises to take place.

In a period when clubs in London were amalgamating or closing, the ROSL was able to compete with hotels and professional premises whilst maintaining the strong Commonwealth connections so essential to its character. A greater emphasis on conference use and the creation of corporate membership made the ROSL popular with people who had not considered club membership...
before. The membership records themselves were overhauled and computerised, which gave a more accurate picture of the subscription base. The active exchange with reciprocal clubs throughout the world continued and after 1998 the Central Council voted to extend membership to non-Commonwealth citizens.

The traditional societies continue to meet at Over-Seas House and the Discussion Group, formally the Discussion Circle, meets regularly. The group has maintained a very high profile over the years with meetings open to all members and their guests and a programme of excellent speakers. The London Group with its own membership combines monthly meetings with visits to places of interest throughout the year. In addition there is a full events programme organised by the Public Relations Department with limited
The Royal Over-Seas League

tickets for events such as Wimbledon and Trooping the Colour. A long tradition of teas at the House of Commons has been kindly hosted by Members of Parliament, and recently at the House of Lords, by the President of the ROSL, Lord Luce. There is a welcome renewal and regeneration of the Younger Members Group as the Inter-Club Group combining with younger members from other clubs to offer balls, drinks parties and visits, much like the Twentieth-Century Group in its heyday. ROSL ARTS continues to attract particular interest both in the UK and overseas.

In addition to the ROSL's own societies, some groups have used the Club for regular meetings for many years, making it in fact their home. A good example of this is the Cricket Society, founded independently in 1945 as the Cricket Statistical Society, which first used the old League premises in 3 Park Place to house their cricket library in what was the Men's Reading Room, and to hold meetings there. When these premises were demolished the library and their meetings transferred to Over-Seas House, with handsome bookcases being built to house the library on the second and third floors of the Westminster Wing. Some Cricket Society members are members of the League and all regard Over-Seas House as their base.

The League has the satisfaction of knowing that professional standards have been achieved and maintained at the Club over many decades without the loss of the personal element so distinctive to the ROSL – a difficult balance critical to its success.

---

One of Evelyn Wrench's most significant early achievements was securing the patronage of the King for the newly established Over-Seas Club. Within six years of its foundation, in 1916, King George V had agreed to become patron and he continued in this role until his death in 1936. This was more than a nominal interest; records show an active exchange of letters with the Palace, particularly between 1916 and 1918 when the King's private secretary wrote frequently to congratulate the Club on its wartime fund-raising efforts to provide aeroplanes and comforts for the troops. Indeed, the King started the Over-Seas Club's fifth war fund ('They've Remembered Us') with a personal gift of £25.

Royal patronage, once established, has continued under every subsequent monarch: Edward VIII (1936), George VI (1936–52) and Queen Elizabeth II (1952 to the present day). In addition there was an early tradition of other members of the royal family becoming vice-patrons and, later, presidents of the ROSL. Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, Queen Victoria's youngest son, was a vice-patron from 1916 to 1942 and Edward, Prince of Wales, was also a vice-patron from 1922 until his accession in 1936. All four of
George V's surviving sons were involved with the League in the 1920s and 1930s; Albert, Duke of York, was a very active president from 1922 and George, Duke of Kent, followed his brother in this role. Henry, Duke of Gloucester, was a vice-patron from 1942 to 1974. It is unimaginable today, in an era of intense royal engagements, that so many members of the royal family should be involved simultaneously with one organisation.

The granting of a Royal Charter to the League in 1922 was of course an important step in establishing the connection. In the early years, royal visits to Over-Seas House were invariably made to mark advances in the League’s life, usually the opening of further premises on the site in Park Place.

These ceremonial occasions, though important, were perhaps not as significant as the visit of King George and Queen Mary in 1922 to mark their appreciation of the active role the League had played in raising more than £1 million (approximately £50 million in today’s terms) towards the war effort between 1914 and 1918. A similar visit after the Second World War by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, took place on 28 May 1946. Hundreds of Commonwealth servicemen and women gathered in St Andrew’s Hall to welcome the royal party who paid tribute to the part played by the whole Empire in the war effort. Early in the war, in 1940, Queen Elizabeth had made a visit to meet many of the servicemen who had been evacuated from Dunkirk. Other members of the royal family were frequent visitors during the Second World War joining Allied Forces invited to receptions at the club.

The League did not become officially ‘Royal’ until 1960 when, to mark the 50th anniversary, The Queen graciously conferred the designation and made a visit, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh. It was appropriate that Sir Evelyn Wrench lived to see the title given to the organisation to which he had devoted so much of his life. The Queen also came to Over-Seas House on the League’s 60th anniversary in 1970 and again in 1980 and 1990.
The Royal Over-Seas League

King George VI (as Duke of York) signing the League Silver Jubilee Book.

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth talk to servicewomen during their visit to the League in 1946.

Other members of the royal family have played a significant part in the life of the League. Princess Alexandra, cousin of The Queen, has been a vice-patron of the ROSL for more than 25 years. Initially connected with the 20th Century (Young Members) Group, her very active interest in the Music Competition has continued over the years, both in attendance at the final concert and in encouraging young musicians, on occasion giving the prizes, and also enabling concerts to take place at St James's Palace under her patronage.

Earl Mountbatten of Burma, the last royal member to be president (1942–79), was much involved in League events both at home and abroad, particularly during and immediately after the war when Countess Mountbatten joined him in hosting occasions for Commonwealth and Allied troops. Lord Mountbatten became Grand President in 1959. His daughter, now Countess Mountbatten, a vice-president, has continued this interest, opening the most recent extensions to the west wing in 1987 and 2004.
The Royal Over-Seas League

HM The Queen at Over-Seas House to mark the 80th anniversary of the League in 1990.

The Director General, Robert Newell, with the Earl of Wessex at a celebration to mark The Queen's Golden Jubilee in Kenya in 2002 at the Nairobi Club.
The Royal Over-Seas League

Visits to Over-Seas House are, of course, the most obvious sign of the royal connection. However, from the 1920s onwards many League events have taken place throughout the Commonwealth which have had the distinction of a royal presence. In 1923 alone the Duke and Duchess of York attended a League garden party in the Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, and later in the year the Prince of Wales attended a Dominion banquet at the Ritz Hotel organised by the ROSL. Recent years have seen many visits by The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and their family to Commonwealth countries where League members were invited to be present at welcoming receptions. The League receives recognition for the connection in other ways - through regular invitations to Royal Garden Parties for members, and the privilege of attending Promenade Concerts in The Queen's box, for example.

Perhaps, more importantly, to mark the connection in a modern and relevant way, the ROSL is now accredited as an official Civil Society Organisation of the Commonwealth. This means that since 1991 a League representative has frequently been present at Commonwealth meetings where the heads of government assemble after an opening ceremony by The Queen. Sir Evelyn Wrench would have recognised this involvement with the widest possible aspects of the Commonwealth as a great achievement and proof that the ROSL is constant in its ideals and practical in their application.

Communications

Overseas Magazine

It was not surprising that Evelyn Wrench, trained as a newspaper man, was determined to establish a journal for the new society as soon as possible. Despite the difficulties and paper shortages of wartime Britain he launched Overseas, a monthly magazine for members, edited by himself, in December 1915. Early contributors included George Bernard Shaw, A.A. Milne and Harry Lauder. King George V, the Prince of Wales and the Prime Ministers H.H. Asquith and Lloyd George were among the many distinguished and busy people who sent personal messages to the magazine, acknowledging the great contribution made by members of the Over-Seas Club to the war effort.

Evelyn Wrench's view of what the magazine could achieve was ambitious from the beginning: 'My vision of Overseas was a journal dedicated to the highest ideals, which would ultimately earn for itself a unique place in the literature of the Empire.' He later claimed it was 'The Foundation on which our edifice rests'.

The first edition of Overseas comprised 32 pages including eight pages of advertising, taken only from British firms. There was a
strict embargo on advertisements for alcohol. With a cover by the popular artist Macdonald Gill, its identity was established quickly. The cost of the first four years of production (£1,000 a year) was paid for by Alec Cochrane, an American and early Wrench supporter. The magazine was intended to be a ‘non-political’, positive arm of Empire, to offset German propaganda. The Empire War Aims were set out and social questions discussed ranged from housing, slums and public ownership of the drink trade to garden cities and the decimal system. A special ‘Khaki’ supplement was provided for the troops monthly and an armistice special issue reflected how London welcomed the peace.

In 1922 there was a great increase in the length of the journal. Regular features now included Evelyn Wrench’s monthly newsletter, which was extensive and rambling, covering topics of the moment, political situations at home and overseas, details of his travels and general philosophy. There were reviews of new books and London theatre productions, ‘Sport at home and overseas’ (including football results!), a motoring column and a series ‘Why I went overseas and what happened to me’, as well as articles on every imaginable Empire topic. Large numbers of photographs enlivened the text.

Overseas was used as the main tool in the League’s many fund-raising efforts, starting from the earliest editions. Articles exhorting members to greater efforts and the publication of lists of contributors’ names and gifts encouraged fund-raising in wartime and beyond. The detailed accounts printed for the campaign to buy Rutland House took up pages of the journal, for example, but were remarkably effective.

As early as 1917 a special column for female readers was established, with the Editor noting, ‘we have now such a large number of women members that we feel they will appreciate a monthly letter’. This was ‘From a woman’s standpoint’, written anonymously under the nom de plume ‘Wayfarer’. The variety of information and comment was extensive, with one of the first articles in 1917 featuring ‘The most interesting post held by a woman in England’.

This was Lloyd George’s (the Prime Minister’s) Secretary, ‘Fair and attractive, 26-year-old Frances Stevenson’, who went on to play a more influential role in his life, eventually becoming the second Lady Lloyd George.

New jobs for women were featured frequently—including women preachers, police officers and munitions workers during the Second World War—as was, of course, the whole issue of girls’ education. The journal made a consistent attempt, begun in 1917 and continuing until at least 1945, to relate women to the modern world.

Health and exercise featured, too, with articles such as ‘Exercises for women who do their own housework’ and ‘The future of the figure from the health and beauty point of view’ reflecting the increasing awareness of health issues in the 1930s. The League’s connection with the Mothercare and Training Centre, established by Dr Trudy King and Winifride Wrench (see Chapter I), continued with a Mothercraft Column with advice for mothers from Miss Liddiard, the director.

Advertising grew rapidly, with an emphasis on charities: Dr Barnado’s, the National Children’s Adoption Association and Ladies in Reduced Circumstances, plus practical suggestions for overseas visitors concerning car hire, hotels and other services. From the 1930s onwards health charities were more prominent, with cancer and tuberculosis charities advertising regularly, whilst simultaneously cigarettes such as Craven A., Balkan Sobranie and Rothmans were advertised monthly. There were also many personal advertisements. After 1945, reduced space severely limited the advertising copy, and there was a shift in emphasis towards travel overseas, reflecting a move from the UK to wider horizons rather than the other way round. Charities and private services continued to feature.

The more pronounced political character of the earlier magazines is exemplified in the regular Cartoons of the Month, reprinted from other publications, sometimes foreign. Other domestic cartoons also featured.

Continued on page 60.
NEW YEAR THOUGHTS
Another Christmas has come and gone and December, the
greatest selling and giving month of the year, has passed
on its way, and January and a new year lies stretched out
before us.

We are tempted to let speculation run riot in our minds.
What secrets does 1926 hold within its breast? What joys,
what sorrows for you and me, for our country and for
the world? At any rate, there is a greater spirit of good­
will abroad than there has been since the outbreak of the
World War, and we can only hope and pray that, as the
weeks and months pass, the spirit of the Locarno Pact will
enter more deeply into the lives of us all, and that, indeed,
would mean a happy New Year to the majority of dwell­
ers in the Western World ... As each year passes, we are
slowly, painfully slowly, becoming a healthier race. For
another, we are slowly, again painfully slowly, becoming
a more humane people.

We treat our prisoners far better than we did, even
twenty-five years ago. Before long the same progress will
be found in our treatment of the inmates of our lunatic
asylums.

And women, who in the last resort are the supreme
civilisers of the world, they too will be surer of them­selves sure of their task of asserting Life as triumphant
always and everywhere over form and mechanism ... it
is for women to be awake in all these matters, and to lead
man as she never has done, through love to those higher

heights that lie far off on the horizon, of which we catch
but a glimpse to-day.

SHOPPING INTELLIGENTLY
Allow your thoughts to ponder for one minute on what
the world would be like without women, even it some
means could be found of propagating the race without
them. Most of the trade of the world would come to a
standstill ... Women keep the world going in more ways
than one, and if they are the supreme civilisers they are
also the greatest shoppers and buyers of the world.

To a large extent it rests with us which industries we
choose to encourage and which we choose to ignore. Hith­
erto we have been curiously unintelligent in our shopping.
Too often we have bought as cheaply as we could, without
asking ourselves any of the questions that as citizens we
are bound to ask. We have taken little or no trouble to in­
form ourselves where such or such an article is made, or
under what conditions it was made; and if it happens to be
very cheap we are pleased with our 'wonderful bargain',
quite forgetting that it is pretty sure to be produced under
sweated conditions and probably in a foreign country. In
defence of this attitude of mind, we must remember that
even the saving of one penny a day is a matter of impor­
tance in thousands of British homes. There are others who
would certainly consider it desirable to save a shilling a
day, if possible. On the one hand we do want to buy Brit­
ish goods, at a fair price; on the other, we must try and buy
as cheaply as we can.

We come to a third category of people - not in the ma­
jority at present - who are seriously concerned at the state
of British trade and who are anxious, even at a sacrifice
to themselves, to buy in the home market. This is not al­
ways as easy as it sounds. I tried to buy some Canadian
tinned salmon recently, 'at any rate', I said, 'it must be Em­
pire salmon'. The grocer's boy said he was very sorry but
they only stocked tinned salmon from Newfoundland!
I pointed out that if he had been to Wembley he would have known that Newfoundland was part of the Empire, and fondly hope that he will be better informed on the next occasion. Again, I asked my housekeeper one morning to get me some Empire tinned fruit. I said as she left, 'Remember, I don’t want American tinned goods.' She returned in triumph with California peaches; again I pointed out that California did not acknowledge the Union Jack, and next time I shall have Australian fruit on the table.

WHERE WE FAIL

If every Member of the Over-Seas League and their friends would buy Empire food, English chocolate, matches, tooth paste, tobacco, stockings and hundreds of other things, we should very soon help to bring back prosperity to our country and to our Empire. What a fine New Year’s resolution that would be for us all! But there is another point not to be overlooked. If we are to wake up our manufacturers, we must continue to buy foreign goods when they are better made and more beautiful than our own.

The lessons of the Paris Exhibition of Decorative Arts have been almost entirely lost by us as a people. One of the organisers of the British Section predicts that because ‘the tremendous wave has been swept across Europe, from Poland to Denmark, and from Sweden to the shores of the Mediterranean, has passed these islands by’, the wave that is of modern feeling in decorative art in two years’ time 90 per cent of the shops of the world will be filled with goods of foreign manufacture, and not with British. We shall have been left far behind in the race. It is well that we should buy British goods: but it is not well that we should lower our standard and buy the productions of our own country if they are vulgar in design and poor in feeling, when we might buy something of foreign manufacture that is beautiful, both in design and workmanship.

The great representative of France against Apollinaris and other German Waters.

The battle cry of the Allies
A fight to a finish in War and Trade.

Address of Springs:—
Cie de la Source Perrier,
Les Bouillans, Vergèze (Gard) France.
London Offices:— 45-47, Wigmore Street, W.

Perrier advertisement from Overseas, Aug. 1917, back page.
Prices ruling in Great Britain

Tunic Shirts - 16/6
Tennis Shirts - 18/
Pyjamas - 29/6

Always see name "Viyella" on woven tab sewn in garment.

FROM FIRST-CLASS SHIRTMAKERS AND OUTFITTERS.

All over the world "Viyella" Shirts are covering the shoulders that are bearing the burden of Empire.

The Briton abroad—to whom chills and colds, arising from changes of temperature, are often a very dangerous business—welcomes the unique protective qualities of "Viyella" fine twill flannel.

He appreciates, too, the easy fit and sturdy strength of these soft, fine-textured Shirts from Home.

For all the freedom they give for his more active life—"Viyella" Shirts are thoroughly in accord with that British tradition of trim, well-groomed appearance under all circumstances and at all times.

Even primitive native washing methods cannot spoil their rich, "fresh-from-the-shirtmaker's" appearance.

"Viyella" Tennis Socks—made from the same yarn as the famous flannel—are equally satisfactory. From 2/6 per pair.

If any difficulty in obtaining, please write for address of suitable retailer to

Wm. Hollin & Co. Ltd. (suppliers to Flannel trade),
741 Viyella House,
Old Change, Cheapside,

"Viyella" Shirts (Regd.)
unshrinkable fine twill flannel

BRITISH AND GUARANTEED.

Even if you're on the other side of the world, you can be sure of a fine leave car.

The world's a small place, but England is a big island—when you're home only for a few fleeting months. Then, a really reliable car from Henlys, England's greatest leave-car experts, will double the pleasure of your leave and halve the expense of getting about. Henlys offer you the finest selection of cars, New and Used, and the greatest facilities. Write them now for booklet and full particulars of the advantages offered, including combined hire-purchase and re-purchase terms. Or, when you arrive in London call at one of Henlys' showrooms.

HENLYS

Phone: Grosvenor 2271. And at Manchester, Bristol, Bournemouth.


Henlys advertisement from Overseas, Jan. 1935, p ix.
The Month's Cartoons

FROM THE AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW.

"Is everybody in this country 100 per cent. American, mother?"
"Why, of course not, child. Somebody has to do the work."

From New York Life.

THE PILOT WHO WOULDN'T BE DROPPED.
(With acknowledgments to Punch.)
From the London Daily Express.

MARS, THE EVER VORACIOUS.
From Il 420 (Florence).

HITLER—IN THE FRENCH LOOKING-GLASS.
From Maygarzag (Budapest).

Cartoons from Overseas, Sep. 1926, p.91.
The Royal Over-Seas League

During the 1920s and 1930s the magazine combined details of League activities at home and abroad, advertisements, contact addresses and photographs with a similar interest in wider political and social issues, creating an excellent record of the period from a ‘Middle England’ point of view. There were well-known and sometimes controversial contributors, but Evelyn Wrench, as editor, kept the balance with professional skill. In this he was helped by the assistant editor, Eric Chaplin, who worked for the magazine for 17 years. There was a constant record of numbers of members in every edition, in the early years illustrated by the ‘Over-Seas Club Tree’. Evelyn Wrench’s passion for figures even extended at one point to recording the number of meals served in the Buttery each month. However dazzling the published figures, it is nevertheless sometimes difficult to be certain of their accuracy.

Early on, Wrench had aimed at a reading public of 450,000 from a circulation of 23,000–30,000 members. He always had in mind the part that Overseas could play, not only in providing entertainment and practical contact, but in spreading the word of the Empire brotherhood. A quotation from John Ruskin, ‘imperialism synonymous with social service’, was a favourite maxim of Evelyn Wrench. Ruskin’s ideas were a source of inspiration to him.

Evelyn Wrench gave up the editorship of Overseas of necessity during the 1939–45 war. He was succeeded first by Eric Chaplin and then by two professional editors, Tom Iremonger, MP (retired in 1982) and Elwyn Hartley Edwards. The wartime magazine continued to appear monthly in reduced form and whilst recording the immense range of activity at Over-Seas House and the fund-raising initiatives (Field Forces Hampers, the Tobacco Fund and the like) it still looked at larger issues, for example in the regular feature ‘The month in the Empire’ and other articles of interest such as ‘Boy miners in training at New Court Colliery in Coalville’. Visits of eminent people to the headquarters, such as the Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell, were also recorded.

The Membership Tree has added five more ripened fruits to its branches, thanks to the enrolment of 473 further new Members, whose names appear in this number. Thus 1,046 new Members have been enrolled since the 25th Birthday campaign was first announced, one-tenth of the total of 10,000 which we hope to reach in celebration of the 25th birthday of the League, August 27th, 1935.

There are now 14 months left in which to enrol 9,000 new Members. About 650 new Members each month will be required. Can we do it?

Junior Members, who enrol for the sum of 5s, before the age of 18, are not, of course, included in our figures, though we are happy to announce that over 70 have joined during the past two months.

Please help us to darken at least six new fruits in the July number.

| Total required | 10,000 |
| Two months enrolment | 1,046 |
| Balance required | 8,954 |

The Over-Seas Club Tree demonstrated the growth of membership month by month, from Overseas, Jun. 1934, p. 18.
The Royal Over-Seas League

After the war, the magazine still retained its Macdonald Gill cover. Serious articles such as ‘Australia in the atomic age’, ‘Empire into Commonwealth’ and ‘The coal crisis’ reflected the mood and concerns of the post-war world. With the retirement of Evelyn Wrench, the magazine became less personal, his monthly letter becoming first ‘This month’s events’, subsequently the ‘Chairman’s message’ and later the ‘Director General’s monthly message’. The magazine continued to attract distinguished contributors during this period.

By the 1950s the cost of sending the magazine to all members became a problem and members in this period were asked to request a copy. Further economies later in the decade saw the magazine appearing bi-monthly and, later, quarterly.

In 1951 Tom Iremonger introduced a variation for the cover. The trademark Macdonald Gill artwork disappeared to be replaced by tasteful photographs of Commonwealth scenes. Serious articles about the Commonwealth, and themed editorials on countries such as Scotland, Ulster, Pakistan and Australia, made the slimmer magazine more formal and professional.

Further cutbacks followed in the 1960s, with the introduction of a newspaper format, a loss of general articles and advertising and a decline in appearance. The Chairman’s message was an important feature and the usual reports on Branch and League activities kept contact alive. Home members were asked to pay 5s. a year to receive the magazine, so difficult was the League’s financial position at this time.

In the early 1980s, the magazine became the responsibility of successive PR directors with external editorial and design help. The format only changed more radically when Pat Treasure, PR Director from 1988, gradually initiated more Commonwealth coverage, largely through the contacts she had made when attending the Commonwealth conference at Harare as League representative in 1991. With a bigger budget for articles and pictures, plus a new design format, Overseas became much more professional.
The Royal Over-Seas League

Pat Treasure became the full-time editor from 1994, and was able to concentrate on obtaining articles from Commonwealth journalists and League members with specific interests such as the Arts, which made the journal more focused. At the same time, particular aspects of the ROSL and Commonwealth life were realised in more face-to-face interviews, including some with artists and musicians. Vicky Baker continued the modernising process, changing the format where appropriate and experimenting with improved photography and layout. Miranda Moore has developed this style, rationalising the content to make it more accessible and returning to a more serious examination of Commonwealth and other problems, typical of the pre-war magazine. The modern Overseas is a readable publication covering the traditional topics in a professional way with excellent photographs and relevant and appealing articles.

The Travelling Secretary

When Evelyn Wrench returned from his 17-month tour of the Commonwealth in 1913, he was convinced that this exhausting undertaking had in fact been the true beginning of the Over-Seas movement and that the 1910 foundation had been a prelude to the real business. He realised that regular personal contact between the headquarters and the branches and Honorary Corresponding Secretaries was necessary to avoid misunderstandings, encourage membership and to keep the enthusiasm for the Empire project alive. The magazine Overseas already in prospect would be important but there could be no substitute for personal contact.

The First World War stopped the development of this idea temporarily, but by 1922, with the Over-Seas League well established, the need for a Travelling Secretary to revisit old branches and create new ones was of first importance. Eric Rice (who was associated with the Club from 1918 to 1946) was the first appointment. His links with the League developed during the 1920s and 1930s, not only as Travelling Secretary, almost perpetually on tour, but also being in charge of the Men's Annexe in Park Place. In this capacity he organised receptions and welcomed visitors, eventually becoming Assistant Secretary to Evelyn Wrench and, on Wrench's retirement, Secretary (i.e. Director General) of the Over-Seas League. The extent of his tours is remarkable by today's standards and would not have been possible without the generous hospitality offered by overseas members.

The tours were not confined to the Commonwealth, however. In 1931 Rice's tour took in Venice, Athens, Istanbul, Singapore, Cyprus, Beirut, Damascus, Jerusalem, Haiti, Jaffa and Cairo. More typically, in 1926 a tour of the Commonwealth and other countries worldwide lasted eight months and added 1,000 new members to the League. In the 1930s, his duties at Over-Seas House being demanding, an additional travelling Secretary, Lisle Carr, was appointed, to be followed by Philip Crawshaw, later Director General of the ROSL. Eric Rice had a monthly column in Overseas, 'A diary of a travelling secretary', which reflected his experiences and, more importantly, the number of new members these voyages had produced. Eric Rice noted that in his first ten years in the job — in his own words 'A task demanding Funds of humour, pertinacity and tact' and 'A cast iron constitution' — he had travelled 260,000 miles. He was awarded an OBE for his work in 1935.

Evelyn Wrench also travelled frequently throughout the Commonwealth, and Council members volunteered for special assignments when visiting branches abroad. The connections between the home and overseas branches of the League were thus regularly maintained.

After the Second World War changes in the costs associated with travelling and the development of better and newer forms of communication made the role of Travelling Secretary much less important. Once Philip Crawshaw became Director General he undertook Commonwealth tours himself, accompanied by his wife, and a Travelling Secretary was no longer needed. A video of their six-and-a-half-month tour in 1961 provides an excellent record of
Eric Rice's map of his journeys on the League's behalf in 1934.

the range of such visits and the amount of hospitality received. This practice was to be followed subsequently by later Director Generals, Chairmen and sometimes Council members with particular interest in Commonwealth countries. Increasingly, tours were extended worldwide once more, with the present Director General having travelled more widely than his more recent predecessors, making many more contacts. In the early years, however, the Traveling Secretary was the vital link between the League's headquarters and its overseas members.

In 1939, the mother of Eric Rice became ill unexpectedly, and he was unable to go ahead with his planned tour of India, Malaysia, Singapore and China. A young substitute was hastily engaged and, with minimal instructions, sent out on the P&O liner Strathallen to take Rice's place. This was Philip Noakes, a 23-year-old Cambridge graduate. Thanks to his diaries and records we have a remarkable insight into the whole project. A star at Cambridge, President of the Union, Noakes' only overseas experience at the time was a university debating tour of the USA, sponsored by the ROSL, during which he encountered much anti-war and anti-European feeling. In this sense, Philip Noakes was better prepared for this tough assignment than the average young man of his age. Nonetheless his letters show a lack of briefing that would have daunted a lesser man. (He had written earlier in desperation to Eric Rice, 'I feel about as knowledgeable as if I was being asked to convert Mars!')

Sped on his way by a telegram of support from Sir Evelyn and Lady Wrench, he spent his first days aboard organizing a cocktail party under the Captain's auspices to introduce the Over-Seas League to passengers. He records the 'need to be ruthless' and wasted no time in recruiting 50 new members. He was also constantly meeting existing members during the voyage, including a relative of Evelyn Wrench. He wrote to his fiancée, at home, 'Yes she is a relation of the Wrenches and has the same sort of face! She is a rather remote cousin and her family live in Delhi and were all roped in by Eric Rice three years ago!' Less happily, he comments on a fellow passenger, 'a rather horrid old man turns out to be a Life Member - tho' he courteously explained that he thought the Royal Empire Society much better!' Vivid impressions of people bring the voyage to life - including several Lords on board and a Maharajah who turned out to be a Life Member (Noakes signed up the rest of his entourage during the trip) and the hard-drinking English military returning to post 'who talk as if they owned India' - and all combine to convey his gradual growth in confidence and ability to cope with the situation.

Once the ship docked in Bombay, a Gurkha who was Eric Rice's usual bearer on his Indian visits arrived to welcome Philip Noakes and accompany him on his tour, making all domestic arrangements. He formed the charming habit of putting up the photograph of Noakes's fiancée, Moragh Dickson, at every stop, to make him feel at home. A pattern for the tour emerged; success entirely depended on the individual Honorary Corresponding Secretaries in the
various regions. A good organiser would have first-class introductions at the highest level, enabling Philip Noakes to organise meetings and receptions at prestigious locations including Government House. The prestige of the Over-Seas League on the sub-continent is clearly demonstrated. The Delhi meetings were some of the most successful despite the strong National Party movement for Indian independence, which made the attraction of membership of an Empire organisation more dubious. This success was largely due to the indefatigable HCS in Delhi, Colonel Webb-Johnson, described by Noakes as

... fearfully energetic. He knows everyone in Delhi and if I haven’t met them all, it won’t be his fault ... My party was amazing – Cabinet Ministers, Congressmen, a Judge or two, Mrs Sorarji Nehru, poet and politician, Colonels, majors, shop keepers, saris, beards and English ladies.

Later he said that in contrast to some of his experiences, ‘I have had here the sense that I am doing something real and worthwhile.’ The Viceroy agreed to become a vice-president of the League and Noakes made contact with many members of the National Assembly, including Pandit Nehru’s sisters:

The dinner with Nehru’s sisters and party was most pleasant but as someone said quite truly to me, the intelligent Indian has given up trying to make the English take him seriously and so does not take him seriously either.

On the other hand, Noakes had success with the British Establishment, enrolling His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, India (‘a dear old man’), as a Life Member. Throughout he reveals a mature perception of the political situation, privately noting that ‘The British Government have made an awful mess of India.’ Following his instincts, Philip Noakes altered the tone of his addresses, stressing the non-political character of the League and presenting it as ‘the largest and most democratic of all societies of the British Commonwealth’. His emphasis on ‘good feeling and mutual respect’ between the Commonwealth and Great Britain was very much in keeping with Evelyn Wrench’s own views and greatly increased support for and the popularity of the League in India, his press coverage in Indian newspapers being particularly impressive.

Noakes made the most of his old college contacts, Queensmen both Indian and English crop up regularly in his accounts, he wrote newspaper articles about the political situation in Europe and the Far East, broadcast for 12 minutes on All India Radio, and recorded that he left India with 250 new members (membership being everything to Evelyn Wrench, Philip Noakes had been set a target of gaining 100 new members a month). Noakes was summoned to Bombay to meet the Wrenches, who were en route to Australia. Sir Evelyn became seriously ill and eventually was obliged to return home. Philip Noakes records his impression of Evelyn Wrench as: ‘distinguished and courteous showing, despite his illness, a constant interest in ideas and plans’.

During this epic four months, Philip Noakes on his own initiative went on to Singapore, Malaya and the Far East, completing his League commission and only returning in July 1939 prior to the outbreak of war. He married his fiancée, Moragh Dickson, in January 1940 and went on to have a distinguished career both in the War and later in the Colonial Office, subsequently the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. After the war he maintained his connection with the ROSL as an influential and highly respected member of the Central Council.

Noakes’ letters provide an insight into the difficulties the Travelling Secretary could experience, which called for independence, judgement and innovation on his part. The support and generosity of overseas members, and particularly the HCSs, was also significant, as was the esteem in which the League was held generally. The Travelling Secretary provided the vital link between the headquarters and the Commonwealth, demonstrating ‘good feeling and mutual respect’.
One of the main objects of the Overseas League, which is a non-political organization of over 50,000 members, is to promote goodwill and respect between the peoples and communities and it recognizes no distinction of class or creed. The service given at home and overseas to its members, and the Overseas Journal, are already making this occasion a

The Overseas League Travelling Secretary in Singapore

Because of the importance of Singapore, making it an ideal centre for the work of the Overseas League, the travelling Secretary of the League, Mr. F. E. R. Noakes, arrived today by the "Kampura." He is going to spend a month here.

Mr. Noakes was twenty-three years old last February and so young, too. The Press has written about him as a person who is going to lead the fight for the League, which is a non-political organization of over 50,000 members, to promote goodwill among the peoples and communities and to recognize no distinction of class or creed. The service given at home and overseas to its members, and the Overseas Journal, are already making this occasion a
LUNCHEON PARTY.
Saturday, 25th February 1939.

Mr. Kitchin
Mrs. Betham
Mr. Bridgman
Mrs. Holmberg
THE VICEROY
The Lady Lilian Wemyss
The Hon. G. Hamilton-Russell
The Lady Doreen Hope
Captain Burns
Captain Gooch
The Lady Joan Hope
Mr. Noakes
The Lady Anne Hope
The Rt. Revd. The Bishop of Lahore
Miss Betham
Captain Chandos-Pole
Lieut. Southby, R.N.

The Marquess & Marchioness of Linlithgow request the pleasure of
Mr. P. Noakes
Company at Luncheon
on Saturday, the 25th February
at 1-10 o’clock.

An answer is requested to the
A.D.C. in charge of Invitations.

Philip Noakes’ invitation from the Viceroy with seating plan.

Philip Noakes rides in a rickshaw during his Far Eastern tour.
The Royal Over-Seas League

Portraits of Chairmen, Past and Present

When Robert Newell became Director General in 1991 he was able to put into practice his idea of commemorating all living (and future) Chairmen of the Royal Over-Seas League appropriately by commissioning their portraits to be painted by winners or scholars of the Art Competition. This has given the ROSL the advantage of some interesting portraits of distinguished people and at the same time has encouraged the young artists, none of whom had previously been known for their portraiture. Some have since made successful careers in the genre.

The first commission was the portrait of Lord Grey of Naunton, Chairman 1976–81, President 1981–93 and Grand President 1993–99, painted by Tai-Shan Schierenberg in 1990, who was the First Prize winner in the ROSL Art Competition. This portrait is now in the entrance hall of Over-Seas House. The same year the portraits of Mr Maneck Dalal and Sir Lawrence Byford were added, and that of Sir David Scott, who donated a portrait of himself, painted by a friend. Thus all three living Chairmen were celebrated simultaneously. The following portraits now hang in the corridor and on the front staircase at the League:

- Sir David Scott, 1981–6, by Rupert Shepherd
- Mr Maneck Dalal, 1986–9, by Christian Furr
- Sir Lawrence Byford, 1989–92, by Jane Walker
- Mr Peter McEntee, 1992–5, by Melissa Scott-Miller
- Sir Colin Imray, 2000–5, by Andrew Tift
- Mr Stanley Martin, 2005, by Nick Archer

In addition a portrait of The Queen to mark her 40th anniversary of accession hangs in the hall. Her Majesty was given a choice of the artists already represented and chose Christian Furr. This portrait was painted in 1995 and was unveiled by Lord Grey the Grand President. The recent portraits of Lady Barbirolli, OBE, the long-time Chairman of Adjudication of the Music Competition (1981–2002), is entitled Evelyn in Her Garden by Michael John Shaw, painted in 1995. The portrait of Lord Luce, President of the ROSL, painted by Bella Easton, completes this distinguished collection.
The Royal Over-Seas League

Rutland House next door in 1934, established the League in St James's. Although Rutland House with its cobbled yard and gatehouse was entered from Arlington Street, it was decided to keep the existing entrance to Over-Seas House and to join Vernon House and Rutland House internally for practical purposes. The addition in 1937 of the Westminster Wing, providing many bedrooms and two lecture halls, was made possible by the destruction of the ballroom of Rutland House and building over its courtyard - unthinkable today under listed building regulations.

Over-Seas House in London is thus essentially an amalgam of two historic houses of eighteenth-century origin plus a 1937 wing. The acquisition of these buildings and their development has provided the ROSL with a fascinating and distinguished building in a prime location in St James's with a garden overlooking Green Park.

St James's itself is one of the most prestigious areas of London. Like much of the so-called 'West End' and the City of Westminster, it was not developed as a fashionable district until after the restoration of King Charles II in 1660, and particularly after the Great Fire of London in 1666. Until that time aristocratic families had lived in or close to the City of London, often along the Strand, in large houses whose gardens stretched down to the River Thames. The move westwards to the rural parts of the ancient city of Westminster was a natural result of the devastation and rebuilding after the fire. The area around the Court at St James's Palace provided undeveloped land ready to be laid out in elegant streets and closes where courtiers could make their homes. The King, always a generous friend, had already granted large tracts of land to his favourites, with the Earl of Arlington, Henry Jermyn and Barbara Castlemaine among others receiving land on both sides of St James's Street.

Park Place was laid out in 1683. Old maps show the intense building spree that took place during the remainder of the century and beyond. Whilst at first occupied exclusively by the nobility such as Lord Clifford and the Countess of Tankeville, after the end of the century a mixture of the houses of the aristocracy and premises catering for their needs such as clubs, gambling dens and brothels existed side by side, as a list of early residents shows. One of the first such in Park Place was that of Mother Needham, a notorious brothel-keeper who kept a house of 'civility' on the site of the later Vernon House. Famously described by Hogarth as a 'handsome old Procuress' and mentioned by Pope in The Dunciad, she had a long tenure due to rich protectors and was only convicted of keeping a disorderly house in 1731. Her punishment - standing in the pillory 'over against Park Place' - was slightly mitigated when she was allowed to lie down on her face. However she was 'so severely pelted by the Mob, that her life was despaired of'. She died later the same year.

The eighteenth century also saw the celebrated Betty, Queen of the Apple-Women, who kept a fruit shop on the corner of St James's Street and Park Place. She is frequently mentioned in Horace Walpole's letters as a convivial woman who went to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens with parties to whom she supplied her hampers of fruit. More conventional residents were William Pitt and David Hume, and Charles James Fox, who lived in an apartment at 2 Park Place, convenient for Brook's Club next door where he could indulge his passion for gambling. Arlington Street, adjoining Park Place, quickly became popular with government ministers, including Sir Robert Walpole (1716-45).

What is considered Georgian architecture began to develop from 1714 when George I came to the throne. The district of St James's quickly demonstrated the new classical style in beautiful buildings whose main influence was that of Palladio (1508-80), the Italian architect. His buildings of light, space and proportion had been seen by many aristocrats on the Grand Tour. Books of his architectural drawings, made in the sixteenth century, were circulated in England two centuries later, showing how to relate everything in a house 'to the human Frame, creating simple splendour'. It was on these principles that James Gibbs created Rutland House for the Duchess of Norfolk between 1734 and 1740. It was the
The last London house he designed, a comparatively small building, of three floors overlooking Green Park. It was entered from Arlington Street via a Gatehouse (which can still be seen), an original feature which became fashionable making 'the buildings more retired and quiet' (according to the eighteenth-century Grub Street Journal). It was later the home of Lord North.

The house passed into the Rutland family after 1816. George IV's brother and heir Frederick, Duke of York, was a friend of the Duke and particularly the Duchess of Rutland. He spent much time in their home, now known as Rutland House. It was here that he died in his chair in what is now the cocktail lounge, pursued by his creditors to the last and with his new palace next to St. James's Palace (now Lancaster House) still being built down the road.

The eighth Duke of Rutland brought his family to live in Rutland House, 16 Arlington Street, in 1898. The best description of the house at the time comes from the memoirs of Lady Diana Cooper (née Manners) the youngest daughter of the family: "One of the most unspoilt eighteenth-century houses in London", it was "a huge house boasting electric light and two bathrooms". The front entrance was through the lodge on Arlington Street and across a cobbled court yard to the main door into a dark hall with the beautiful staircase beyond. Beneath the lodge were 'vast kitchens' and an underground passage by which tradesmen (and all meals) made the long journey to the basement of the main house. Here was the servants' hall and a large room (once the Ulster Room and now ROSL ARTS and PR departments) where the unplaced tomb of Haddon, Lady Diana's brother, sculpted by his mother, stood. Narrow back stairs, known as the Crinoline, went up three flights to the attics, which were reached by wooden stairs.

On the courtyard level was a 'Kent decorated dining room and a library' for the Duke, overlooking Green Park, with an outside staircase to a 'mangy garden'. The Duchess had a sitting room on the courtyard side. On the first floor was a 'vast ballroom' used as a studio, music and play room, facing the courtyard, and a 'gilded Drawing room', which together with the Duchess's bedroom and tiny bathroom (now a cupboard) faced the park. Above were more floors of bedrooms, nurseries and servants' rooms.
The house was used as a private hospital during the 1914–18 war. Later, after the Duke's death in 1928, the Duchess moved to the lodge, the house having been 'denuded by a sale' and was in the market waiting for 'some modern Croesus'. The modern Croesus in the form of the Over-Seas League bought the house from the Duchess in 1934. The transformation that took place to meet the League's needs is described by Lady Diana as having '[the] exquisite proportions half obliterated and totally deformed by the Over-Seas League, which has suppressed the William Kent decorations, torn up and roofed over the eighteenth-century courtyard and built a lot of new rooms'.

Although the ballroom was destroyed and much of the interior altered by the ROSL for its purposes, some outstanding features of Gibbs's work still remain, in particular the main staircase from the Central Lounge. This beautiful stair with a balustrade created of wrought iron, then a new building material, connects the two principal floors. The secondary staircase called the Crinoline is a hooped spindle stair, so shaped to allow women in hooped dresses to descend easily from the bedroom floors. The back stair also accommodated the letter carrier operated by a handle, which still survives, which brought letters from the upper floors down to be collected for the post by a uniformed page.

The three first-floor rooms of Rutland House, now known as the Wrench, Rutland and Bennet Clark rooms, contain some fine original work by William Kent in dadoes, carved fireplaces, windows and shutters. The large marble fireplace in the Rutland Room was carved by John Rysbrack, the well-known sculptor who worked frequently with James Gibbs.

Vernon House too had its origin in the eighteenth century, named after Admiral Edward Vernon (1684–1757) whose family lived there. He was the Admiral nicknamed Old Grog, after the shabby Grogram coat he wore habitually, whose prescription of a daily ration of 8oz of 80 per cent water and 20 per cent rum per man was adopted by the Navy to contain and reduce the terrible
The Royal Over-Seas League
drunkenness prevalent at the time. The house was entirely rebuilt in 1835 and again, after a fire, in 1905, by Lord Hillingdon who gutted the interior, refurbishing it in the lavish Edwardian style then fashionable. The panelled interiors of the Hall, the Vernon Staircase, Mountbatten Room and Hillingdon Drawing Room all demonstrate the decoration and style of the period.

The two houses combined have given the League beautiful rooms whose use has changed with the demands of the times. The Buttery, for example, originally the restaurant, became the main office until the 1980s, dealing with members and all related activities. The addition of the Westminster Wing in 1937 provided the two large halls, originally intended as a lecture hall and an Empire newspaper room and library, together with the necessary bedrooms. In 1935 Evelyn Wrench referred to the collection of six buildings on the site as 'an Empire Centre'. Funds for the decoration of the main halls came from an appeal to the members, being given appropriate acknowledgement in the chosen names, for example the Hall of India and Pakistan supported by Indian members (including a number of ruling princes) and the former St Andrew's Hall supported by some Scottish members. St Andrew’s Hall was renovated to concert standard in 2005 for music events and renamed Princess Alexandra Hall after a further appeal.

The bomb damage in the Second World War to Vernon House and the difficult time that followed led to the League leasing some accommodation locally. During the post-war period too the buildings in Park Place (number 3, freehold, numbers 4 and 5, on lease, and the Gatehouse, freehold) had deteriorated to a dangerous level, with a water-powered lift (with a porter inside) falling two floors, fortunately without serious injury. In 1980, when Peter de Savory established the St James’s Club opposite the Park Place buildings and offered to buy both leases and freehold, the Central Council, under Lord Grey, realised that the proceeds of the sale would provide for the complete renovation of Over-Seas House, and simultaneously cancel all the League’s outstanding debts.
The Royal Over-Seas League

The League was thus enabled to launch Project 1981 under the direction of a new general manager, Robert Newell, later director general. Not only was there to be a total renovation of the premises, but space had to be found to accommodate the facilities lost in the sale of Park Place – the Victoria bar, buttery, bedrooms, staff accommodation and the men’s reading and TV room. This ambitious project, transforming the interior of the building and the kitchen and essential services, was entirely successful and with the addition of extra bathrooms in both the Park and Westminster Wing brought the club facilities up to an unprecedented standard.

The need for more bedroom accommodation was satisfied in 1987 by the addition of a fifth floor on the Westminster Wing, to be followed by a sixth floor in 2003.

In 2004 the Central Council took the radical decision, on the advice of the Director-General, to outsource all food and beverage

Plan showing the location of the improved bedrooms on the fourth floor.
The Royal Over-Seas League
catering at Over-Seas House to Convex Leisure Ltd, due to a decline
in standards and surpluses. The result has been a significant reduc­
tion in overhead costs and an increase in revenue. Convex Leisure
has become an associate employer and part of the League family.

The task of maintaining a historic house in central London with
all the problems of piping, drainage and subsidence (due to new
tube line construction) that this has entailed, whilst creating the
most modern standards of comfort, has been accomplished under
the guidance of the former house architect Geoffrey Allen, and the
Director General.

Geoffrey Allen’s records of the state and use of the buildings
over the years are a fascinating account of the struggle between
conservation and innovation, and above all the need to keep the
premises open and working day-to-day whatever the circumstances.
Allen also made a study of the historic origins of the buildings,
which is invaluable.  

Like much else about the ROSL, Over-Seas House unifies past
and present in its architecture and facilities, in a harmonious
combination.

**Over-Seas House, 100 Princes Street, Edinburgh**

There has been an Over-Seas Club in Edinburgh for almost as long
as the one in St James’s, London. The first premises were estab­
lished in Charlotte Street in the New Town in 1927. Soon outgrown,
the League bought 100 Princes Street, a former hotel, in 1929. In
order to oversee the necessary renovations, and to initiate a drive
to increase membership and promote the club generally, Winifride
Wrench, Evelyn Wrench’s sister, spent a year in Edinburgh. Dur­
ing that time membership increased to 1,500 local members and
in 1930 the new club premises were opened by the Duke of York.
It was the first mixed club in the city and boasted 20 bedrooms, a
bar and restaurant and other club facilities. All the furnishings were
produced and made in Scotland.

Over-Seas House, London and Edinburgh, Architecture and History

The building, formerly the Windsor Hotel, a temperance establish­
ment, had been designed in 1879 by Robert Patterson, part of
the rash of Victorian building along Princes Street. Although not
particularly distinguished architecturally, 100 Princes Street occu­
pies a wonderful site, directly opposite Princes Street Gardens and
the Castle above.

This site was also of interest historically, with an earlier building
being occupied by Lady Clerk of Penicuik, a Jacobite hostess and
supporter, whose wearing of the White Cockade proclaimed her
loyalty to Prince Charles Edward. The house had been visited by
many members of the Scottish Enlightenment in the eighteenth
century and early nineteenth century.

From 1930 onwards the Club became a popular centre for Com­
monwealth visitors, with the prime ministers of Canada, Australia
and New Zealand all staying there in that year. Perhaps because
of the Scottish origins of so many Commonwealth members, the
League in Scotland developed rapidly. In 1933 there were 21 cen­
tres (branches) and Glasgow as well as Edinburgh had premises.
Throughout the 1920s and 1930s membership increased, reaching
6,206 in 1941. The Scottish clubs and branches were very active
during the Second World War, providing a great deal of hospitality
to overseas troops.

The Club has always been popular with visitors and Scottish
members, becoming particularly important after the closure of the
Glasgow premises in 1966. Rebuilding plans for the Edinburgh
Club began in 1972 as a result of an initiative by Boots the Chemist,
which bought part of the old building, demolishing it and occupy­
ing the ground floor of the new building while leasing the upper
floors back to the League to provide for a new much larger restau­
rant, bar and enhanced bedroom accommodation. The new wing
was opened by the Duke of Gloucester in 1975.

Since 1993 new arts and social programmes for members, plus
constant renovation and upgrading of facilities, have brought in
new groups and members. ‘Fringe’ drama groups had used the
rooms frequently during the Edinburgh Festival, but a decision by James Wilkie, Development Officer, Scotland, and Alan Chalmers, the Edinburgh Clubhouse Manager, and the ROSL Director of Arts Roderick Lakin, to move from drama to music has resulted in a programme of excellent concerts in the club during the Festival, to augment the regular 'Music with a View' concerts and arts lunches that attract many notable speakers. At the millennium Sir Kenneth Scott, James Wilkie and Alan Chalmers established a Commonwealth Week in the City, raising the League's profile. In the inaugural year of the Scottish Parliament a musical evening was held there with performances by young ROSL musicians, which has since become an annual feature. Membership in Scotland is around 1,000, with 650 Edinburgh and district members. There continues to be strong support for all activities from the Glasgow branch.
The Royal Over-Seas League

The Princess Alexandra Hall Project

On 25 January 2006 Princess Alexandra opened the newly refurbished concert hall at Over-Seas House, named in her honour as Vice Patron of the League since 1979.

This hall, part of the Westminster Wing, built in 1937 to complete Evelyn Wrench's 'Empire Centre' at Over-Seas House, had originally been designated the St Andrew's Hall, with funding coming partly from Scottish members of the League, designed together with the Hall of India on the floor above, for lectures, meetings, concerts and conferences. The St Andrew's Lecture Hall was the scene of the Opening Ceremony of the Empire Centre performed on 14 April 1937 by the Duke of Gloucester. To mark the occasion, the first all-Empire radio/telephone ceremony took place linking the audience in London with the Viceroy of India and the Governor-Generals of Canada from Ottawa, of Australia, from Melbourne, and of South Africa, from Pretoria. The link to the Governor-General of New Zealand failed. Sir Evelyn in his speech drew a parallel with the material benefits of the new telephone links and the idealistic good service and citizenship links provided by the ROSL to all members of the Empire.

After this splendid start, St Andrew's Hall continued to be used widely for all kinds of functions. In 1947 the League's Music Circle began a recital series there, under the banner of the Festival of Commonwealth Youth, which was the origin of the present Music Competition.

As the annual Music Festival (renamed the Competition in 1985) grew in importance, the final concert moved from Over-Seas House, first to the Wigmore Hall and then to The Queen Elizabeth Hall. However, all Music Competition auditions and many prize-winners recitals continued to be held at St Andrew's Hall. The hall was not designed originally as a concert auditorium, its limited stage being unable to accommodate a chamber music group and being suitable only for solo or duo performances. Additionally, the refurbishment of the room in the 1950s and 1960s with carpets and curtains deadened the acoustics considerably. The addition of a balcony and upper corridor spoilt the symmetry of the original design.

In 1999 the ROSL ARTS Sponsorship Committee was formed to raise money for a project to transform the hall, for which the prime function would be the performance of chamber music. A brief was drawn up and a number of architects were asked to submit plans. The brief specified the creation of a suitable stage, lighting and flexible seating as well as the technical facilities to allow for a variety of other uses such as conferences and receptions.

Avery Associate Architects, which had won significant awards for its work in transforming facilities at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), was chosen. They produced a design addressing all aspects of the brief as well as re-creating the elegant style of the original 1930s building. The balcony was removed, together with all extraneous furnishings. The main construction work began in July 2005 and was completed by the end of September when the hall was back in use. The rest of the work, the installation of the curved stage end wall and stage lighting and the upgrading of the foyer, was carried out between October 2005 and January 2006.

An appeal to meet the costs of the refurbishment was launched in 2002 to mark the 50th anniversary of the ROSL Music Competition. The target of £300,000 was met within three years, mainly from members of the League, a success parallel with the creation of the original hall and a tribute to members' recognition of the important part that music and the arts in general have played in the League's history and the greater role they will play in the future.
The Chairman, Mr Stanley Martin, welcomes Princess Alexandra at the concert, in January 2006, to mark the reopening of the concert hall at Over-Seas House, London, and its renaming as Princess Alexandra Hall in her honour.

Of all the many enterprises undertaken by the League from the 1920s onwards, the most enduring has been the promotion and fostering of the arts in the support given to young Commonwealth musicians, artists and writers. Initially music was the principal focus, but later a visual arts and literature programme was developed with great success, fulfilling the League's commitment to promote and unite in friendship young artists and musicians from the overseas Commonwealth and the UK.

Concerts had been held frequently in the early years but it was in 1947 that the very active Music Circle, founded by Jessica, Lady Forres, established a recital series at Over-Seas House under the banner of the Festival of Commonwealth Youth. This provided a showcase for outstanding young musicians from the UK and the overseas Commonwealth. The recitals took place in the Hall of India and Pakistan and St Andrew's Hall and many were broadcast live on the BBC World Service during the 1950s. The Festival became competitive in 1952, in response to the large number of young musicians eager to perform, with a first prize of £10. Joan Kemp Potter,
as the new music organiser, devised the selection process. As the Festival became established the next organiser, Patricia Stammers, successfully approached the Gulbenkian Foundation for support. Its grant of £100 for three years ensured the future of the competition.

Audrey Strange, a retired concert singer, became Director of Music in 1962, and under her professional expertise and dedicated leadership over the next 20 years the Festival grew in strength and stature. She was appointed MBE in 1983. In 1972 the final of the Music Festival moved to the Wigmore Hall, courtesy of the Arts Council, and in 1975, through the generosity of Harry Miller, moved to The Queen Elizabeth Hall where it has been held ever since (except for 2006). Myriam Ponsford, Audrey Strange’s assistant, succeeded her in 1982.

Since 1984 the Festival has been directed by Roderick Lakin, subsequently the League’s first Director of Arts, who has concentrated on expanding ROSL support of prize-winning
Over the past 50 years the scope and prestige of the Festival, renamed in 1985 the ROSL Annual Music Competition, has grown immeasurably. By 2010, awards for solo performers, accompanists and chamber ensembles totalled in excess of £55,000. ROSL ARTS also supports prizewinners by sponsoring concert appearances at major venues and festivals throughout the Commonwealth, and by providing promotional materials such as publicity photographs and CDs. A sum of £40,000 per annum is also given for scholarships to enable Commonwealth musicians to make study visits to the UK.

The League’s Vice Patron Princess Alexandra has been a loyal and active supporter of the competition since the 1960s. From the first, it has enjoyed the support of eminent musicians as adjudicators. These have included Dame Myra Hess, Sir Malcolm Sargent, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Sir Arnold Bax, Carl Dolmetsch and Leon Goossens. From 1960 to 1979, the chairman of adjudicators was the concert pianist and teacher Joan Davies, who was succeeded by Dame Eva Turner. From 1985 to 2002 the Chairman was Lady Barbierioli. Ian Partridge, Michael Gough Matthews and Gavin Henderson have succeeded her in this position.

Past ROSL prizewinners comprise an impressive group of musicians of the highest calibre who have established prominent careers in most areas of the music profession. Gold medallists include pianists Geoffrey Parsons (1953), John Lill (1963), Melvyn Tan (1976), Barry Douglas (1979), Piers Lane (1982) and Paul Lewis (1992); singers Jean Rigby (1981), Susan Chilcott (1986), Janice Watson (1987), Jonathan Lemalu (2000) and Lucy Crowe (2002); and cellists Jacqueline du Pré (1961) and Liwei Qin (1997). (See Appendix 13, pp.159–67 for a list of major prize and scholarship winners.)
The Royal Over-Seas League

Sir David Scott watches while Princess Alexandra, ROSL Vice-Patron, signs the visitors book on a visit to Over-Seas House, London, to celebrate the ROSL 75th anniversary.

The gold medal awarded for First Prize in the ROSL Annual Music Competition.

Singaporean harpsichordist and pianist Melvyn Tan in 1976, the year he won the ROSL Music Competition Gold Medal.
In 1984 the ROSL Annual Exhibition was started by the artist Carol Wyatt (ROSL Director of Arts 1984–6): her brief, to match the Music Competition in quality and scope, providing a showcase for young Commonwealth artists. This was the League’s first attempt at an exhibition of professional standard, building on earlier art exhibitions and competitions of a different type both at home and overseas. The new exhibition included up to 50 artists per year, and brought together work by young British artists such as Tracey Emin, Peter Howson and Tai-Shan Schierenberg, with their overseas Commonwealth contemporaries. Due to this annual exhibition, many overseas artists have been able to show their work in the UK for the first time.

In 2000, the ROSL Annual Exhibition was restructured as a group show for five Commonwealth artists, one each from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australasia/South Pacific and Europe. Each artist, selected in collaboration with national arts councils, major gallery directors and prominent visual arts institutions, is awarded a travel scholarship and a month-long studio residency in the UK or a Commonwealth country other than their country of origin.

Throughout the year ROSL ARTS organises solo exhibitions at Over-Seas House in both London and Edinburgh. ROSL ARTS also commissions work from young artists in ceramics and glass (used as prizes in the Music Competition), graphic designers and portrait artists. (A selective list of artists supported by ROSL ARTS is given in Appendix 14, pp.174–84.)

The third dimension to the arts programme is that of literature. A popular series of literary lectures and book events was established in 1982, originally in collaboration with the National Book League, with the energetic support of its then director Martyn Goff. Now organised entirely by ROSL ARTS, book events take place throughout the year at Over-Seas House, London, involving a wide range of writers, novelists, biographers, historians, poets and travel writers,
A ceramic trophy by Stephen Dixon created for the 1987 Music Competition.

including such authors as Margaret Atwood, Beryl Bainbridge, Penelope Fitzgerald, Doris Lessing and Ben Okri. The League was also a co-founder in 1987 with the Commonwealth Foundation and Book Trust of the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize. Since 2000 the League has supported the Caine Prize for African Literature, providing accommodation for shortlisted authors.

Roderick Lakin as Director of Arts is responsible for an ever-increasing programme of international events in the three spheres of music, arts and literature. To support this ambitious programme, the ‘Friends of ROSL ARTS’ was created in 1999 to encourage new support, develop audiences and foster the active involvement of arts donors with the League’s work. The ‘Friends’ programme, providing special events and privileges, including cultural trips, garden parties and priority bookings, is a positive point of this initiative.

With the impetus of an active sponsorship committee, under the chairmanship of Graham Lockwood, funds raised between 2002 and 2005 from donations, legacies, sponsorship and subscriptions to the ‘Friends’ contributed to the total refurbishment of what is now Princess Alexandra Hall.

The opening of the newly restored hall by the Princess in January 2006 was a landmark for ROSL ARTS. For over 50 years musicians had struggled during the early auditions of the ROSL Annual Music Competition with an unsuitable environment and unsympathetic acoustics in what was essentially a lecture hall. The Princess returned to the Hall in January 2009 as guest of honour at a dedication concert for a new Steinway concert grand piano, the funds for which were raised in just one year entirely from members’ donations, legacies and ‘Friends’ subscriptions.

Now the acoustics, layout and amenities of the Hall are, in the words of the Director of Arts, ‘worthy of the musicians it is our privilege to support’. The ROSL ARTS initiative unites young people worldwide in a shared endeavour in keeping with the idealistic ambition of the founder. It is a most progressive aspect of the life of the League.
Every organisation that survives to its centenary with vitality owes something to its founder. In the case of the Royal Overseas League this is particularly true, since Evelyn Wrench dominated more than 30 years of its early life. In the 70 subsequent years it has been the responsibility of others to carry forward his ideas and adapt them to contemporary life in a relevant way.

Evelyn Wrench's great-niece, the author Anne de Courcy, has summed up her impression of him as 'that rare thing, a practical idealist'. This unusual combination laid the foundation for the success of ROSL.

As the ROSL celebrates its centenary year, with the English Speaking Union not far behind, it is instructive to see how the idealistic concepts on which Evelyn Wrench's two creations were founded have shaped their development.

The ROSL, as we have seen, was to be an 'Empire Brotherhood' with a strong emphasis on educational projects, social welfare and support for music and the arts. The ESU in the early years aimed to bring together the two great English speaking peoples of the world, 'the British Empire and North America in democratic unity' with a similar emphasis on education and support for young people.

Education has indeed remained a cornerstone of both organisations, with a steady development of educational exchanges, scholarships and sponsorship within the ESU achieving its modern purpose 'to promote international understanding through the widening use of the English language throughout the world'. A similar emphasis within the League on sponsorship, particularly for young Commonwealth musicians, artists and writers, has fulfilled Evelyn Wrench's educational ideals for the ROSL. The League's goal of 'Empire Brotherhood' has been a constant feature working through the branches, the projects, and the triumphant survival of the League's two club houses as centres of hospitality and meeting places as complete today and infinitely more comfortable than the 'Empire Centre' of 1937.

None of this could have been achieved without the capacity to adapt to change over the years and the ability to find modern interpretations of the original ideals. This, in turn, has been dependent on the judgement and practical skills of the chairmen, councils, directors, staff and volunteers.

Like many organisations, in the first half of the twentieth century the ROSL exemplified a tradition of voluntary service which, while not unique, is more marked in Great Britain and the overseas Commonwealth than in many other countries. Evelyn Wrench herself and Lady des Voeux (later Lady Wrench) served the League in an honorary capacity. While there were always paid staff, the amount of voluntary work undertaken by thousands of members before and during the Second World War was an essential part of the League's success. The post-war world was very different, however. With time and the retirement of Evelyn Wrench, the slow change from voluntary to professional had begun. This coincided in the 1940s and 1950s with very difficult conditions worldwide, making the League's progress problematic.
The Royal Over-Seas League

Fortunately, Evelyn Wrench himself had established in 1912 the practical framework needed to underpin an organisation in the modern world. The chairman and Central Council to which the Secretary, later the Director-General, reported remained in place with additional committees where appropriate. The Central Council has always been composed of men and women with Commonwealth connections either by birth, or through service or business interests. Recent councils have reflected an increasingly wide range of backgrounds and experience. With the retirement of Evelyn Wrench, and the later ending of the tradition of Royal presidents, the role of the Chairman became more important, with the Director-General being a key position needing the necessary vision and skills to steer the League in new directions.

If adaptability to changing conditions has been an essential factor in the League’s success, an equally important aspect has been the retention of core values. This has been a matter of fine judgement for recent councils, and particularly for the Director-General as the interpreter of these values in practical terms.

Initially, Evelyn Wrench aimed at a worldwide membership of a million or at least 50,000 and the latter target was last narrowly achieved in the 1960s. Today it is recognised that numbers alone are not the benchmark. It is the quality and diversity of the League’s objectives that makes membership attractive. The extension of membership to corporate organisations and, latterly, to non-Commonwealth members, has given the ROSL a broad appeal. The excellent standards of facilities for conferences, receptions and occasions of all kinds mean that an enormous number of people have experience of the League today.

To some extent this has always been the case, but whereas before such experiences might have included coming up from boarding school to have tea with a travelling aunt, it is now far more likely to involve assisting at a concert, conference or competition with people of one’s own age and interests. In many respects the membership resembles a modern ‘friends’ organisation, happily exemplified at Over-Seas House by the contemporary ‘Friends of ROSL ARTS’.

The archives of the League and its branches are few – in part due to wartime damage but also perhaps because people have been too busy carrying out the League’s practical purposes rather than documenting them. However, the excellent bound editions of Overseas magazine record 94 years of ceaseless activity and the changing prospects and current preoccupations of the League’s members.

The ROSL has good reason to celebrate its centenary. The ideals of the founder, his years of dedication, the ability of those who succeeded him, and the enthusiasm and commitment of the membership have created a contemporary organisation with many interesting objectives. There may well be surprising new initiatives to come.
The difficulties facing isolates requiring support in kind. The first was the Sri Lanka/ROSL project to support eye care camps for tea plantation workers who lived in the 'lines', in single rooms often shared with poultry.

This came about through a chance meeting between Ashruff Aziz, Chairman of Sri Lanka's Aziz Foundation, which undertook tea plantation welfare work, and Margaret Adrian-Vallance, ROSL's new Director of PR, who had previously worked in development projects in several of the 44 member countries of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, including Sri Lanka.

Mr Aziz asked if ROSL would put out an appeal for prescription glasses that could be graded by the Colombo Eye Bank, and a team of nurses would then conduct eye tests and match spectacles to requirements. The Aziz Foundation would fund all transport costs including the travel of the PR Director to Sri Lanka to help raise awareness of these health care needs. The appeal that followed collected over 3,000 pairs of spectacles and these were boxed up and free-freighted out to the Colombo Eye Bank by Air Lanka. James Soh, Singapore Youth Award Chairman, then launched 'Operation Vision' and 2,200 more glasses were sent to eye camps in Badulla and Nawalapitiya. Not all were perfect matches but the Eye Bank and villagers considered their improved sight of great benefit.

The second wave of welfare projects also saw a happy liaison with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this time in Perth, Western Australia. Here, Award Coordinator Anna Dean, concerned about the difficulties facing isolated youngsters, sought ROSL help for a Youth in Business initiative including a leaflet and a small amount of funding for a wheelchair production centre employing young people. ROSL and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award were further linked when Mrs Dean became ROSL Branch Secretary in 1997.

Both these projects encouraged the start of an important new initiative in 1995. Supported by ROSL's Central Council, Margaret Adrian-Vallance, together with the HCS for Namibia, Dick Chamberlain, members of the Namibian government (Speaker Mose Tjitendero, Minister of Local Government Libertine Amathila and Deputy Minister of Basic Education Clara Bohitile), Air Namibia, the University of Namibia's Vice Chancellor Peter Katjavivi and three primary schools joined in a project to help San (Bushmen) and farm children to gain an education.

At this time Namibia (population only 2 million) faced many challenges. At independence from South Africa in 1990, the country chose English as the national language so most children had to learn this. Large areas were not on the national grid. Some former 'white-only' secondary schools had difficulty adjusting to post-apartheid Namibia. On the big commercial farms with drives of up to 23 miles long farm workers' children had little means of finding a school place, let alone a funding one.

Initially an appeal in Overseas for books and other items to be free-freighted out by Air Namibia had a great response: a Canberra group ingeniously got an oil tanker to deliver theirs into Walvis Bay; members like Enid Bates involved local schools; branches bought biros and crayons; Dorling Kindersley and writers donated books; inventor Trevor Baylis gave clockwork radios; Banqueting Manager Tony Hamner raised his stores for candles; and Mairi Radelcliffe found T-shirts and sweaters.

This then encouraged more substantial support, with ROSL member Paul Shipman becoming the first financial donor. Clara Bohitile and the Ministry of Education requested that money raised was used to support annual school bursaries covering fees, clothes, books, shoes, hostel accommodation and other necessities.

In 1996 ROSL funded the first nine bursaries for Bushmen and 'farm children' at three primary schools near the Kalahari - Hippo, Mokaleng and Gquina. All had the essential hostel accommodation needed for children from remote areas. As more funds were raised, ROSL was able to extend bursaries to secondary level and then to tertiary level - at Windhoek College of Education and the
The Royal Over-Seas League

Clara Bohitile MP (Namibia), formerly Deputy Minister of Basic Education and Culture.

University of Namibia (UNAM). By 2000 there were ROSL supported schools and individuals in the north, east and west of the country.

By 2007 a pleasing aspect was that several were back in their homelands teaching. One was Cwisa Cwi, the first Bushman to qualify as a teacher, who sometimes joined Margaret as adviser on her annual monitoring visits with Dick Chamberlain, UNAM's Language Director, or Walter Nel, Chief Inspector of Education. Cwisa enjoyed inspiring others and gaining public speaking experience: 'Not all Bushmen want to be just hunter gatherers,' he said. 'There are many ways of combining modern life with tradition. I will always be grateful to ROSL for helping me this way.'

Cwisa is now Principal of the five bush schools in the Nyae Nyae conservancy where his sister Katrina, also a former ROSL bursary recipient, is a Radio Tsumkwe broadcaster. Three of the first nine in the project, Elias Araeb, Ellie Velskoen and Jon Noodebe, are also teachers, as are later bursary recipients Kajandere Kaizondjou and Melissa Uses from Himba communities in the north.

Another of the project's highlights has been the progress of the isolated but dedicated Huigub Primary School near Tsumeb. For many years ROSL was the only major donor, funding items from floors to chair repair. In spite of poverty, floods, droughts, food shortages and meningitis, Huigub came fifth out of 237 schools for examination results in 2008. ROSL also donates to the isolated and stoical Katora Primary School in the Namib Desert, as well as supporting individual bursaries there.

The third school ROSL has supported over the years is the remarkable Hippo Primary near Gobabis, which also undertakes pastoral care of its former ROSL youngsters as they progress to secondary or tertiary level. Elrico Slinger, a former pupil, is one of three ROSL bursary recipients to be voted head boy or girl of their secondary school.

Students have remarked often on the importance to them of ROSL interest in their progress and consider this to have been as vital as the financial arm. Clara Bohitile's view of the project is that 'ROSL went that extra mile which is why these kids have succeeded. They fall out of the system because nobody cares. This project keeps them in.'

This welfare project is exactly the sort of scheme, true to the League's idea of providing practical service to the people of the Commonwealth which, established through the dedication of a few people and the sponsorship of many League members, has made a real difference in people's lives.
The Royal Over-Seas League and the Future

by the Director General

When I joined the League in October 1979 it lost, in that year, over £100,000 (well over a million pounds today) and the talk at Central Council meetings was about selling the London and Edinburgh premises. The plan was to buy an alternative club house but in the provinces. Well, here we are in 2010, still in the buildings purchased by our founder. Over-Seas House looks better than ever, having been expanded to provide members with accommodation and facilities of five-star standard. Restoration of the historic architecture has been accomplished alongside the installation of the latest technology. And the dire financial situation of the late 1970s, when the very future of the League was in peril, has been replaced by healthy finances in the second millennium.

At the time that the League appeared to be in trouble, so too did the Commonwealth. Its break-up seemed a definite possibility and was predicted by many pundits. The main cause for this pessimism was the row over Britain’s refusal to impose sanctions on South Africa during the worst abuses of the apartheid era. But, like the League, the Commonwealth has weathered the storms and is more
The Royal Over-Seas League

vibrant and meaningful today than ever under the leadership of its visionary secretary general, Kamalesh Sharma. The Royal Over-Seas League remains loyal to the Commonwealth's aims and ideals and is better placed than ever to help achieve them. Today, the future of the two organisations is assured, with membership of both continuing to expand.

So, what of the future of the League as it enters its second century and I come to the end of my time as its director general and my 30 years with the League? When I assumed the position as chief executive in 1991 I said that I would strive to lead the League into the twenty-first century on a sound financial footing whilst at the same time ensuring that its Royal Charter's aims were achieved and expanded. My principle objectives were to ensure a future with positive cash-flow, an excess of income over expenditure, increased events and activities for members, more overseas branches, an enlarged and more active cultural programme, and further development of the premises in London and Edinburgh. I am proud to say that these goals have been now achieved, with considerable support from my highly competent, enthusiastic and skilled colleagues. They, with my successor, will build on these foundations and work to further expand membership benefits and facilities, and to support the ever important ideals of Commonwealth.

The challenging issues facing the governments of the world and its peoples – rising energy and food costs; depletion of natural resources; population growth; climate change; and economic pressures, to mention just a few – will have a significant impact on the future of the League and they must be confronted with vision and courage. New markets for membership will need to be explored and means to increase revenue must be developed. Further funding of the League's charitable endeavours in the fields of culture and humanitarian projects must be found through donations and legacies. More will need to be done at the club houses to minimise our impact on the environment by reducing waste, recycling, improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions. The League itself will participate in the debate about how to tackle issues that threaten the stability of world communities through, amongst other things, debate in the quarterly journal Overseas and at Discussion Group meetings. We will need to play a more proactive role in world affairs, as was the case in the ROSL's early days under the leadership of Evelyn Wrench.

The League must continue to be relevant to the needs of its members in the changing and challenging years ahead and must seek new ways to attract younger members, who may be less emotionally attached to the Commonwealth but have more interest in international affairs. By expanding its cultural endeavours the League will be well positioned to explore Commonwealth issues and ideals with a younger audience and by so doing will help the younger generation, especially in those Commonwealth countries presently ruled by authoritarian and corrupt governments, to influence change and develop good governance in their homelands. The role the League has always played in fostering friendship and understanding amongst people of different races, religions and communities will be more important than ever in the years to come as differences in ethnicity, religion and ideology continue to cause discord amongst international communities.

Nevertheless, as well as such important ideals, which lie at the very heart of everything the League does, the pragmatic benefits that encourage people to join the League must never be neglected. The demand for quality bedroom accommodation has grown substantially over the past two decades and will continue to do so; therefore a means to provide more bedrooms must be identified. Over the next few years the League will need to look into acquiring additional buildings, with access to sports facilities, health spas and exercise centres, which will offer stylish and contemporary facilities suitable to take the League through this century and beyond.

As I step aside and hand the reins of leadership to my successor I look back upon the past 30 years with enormous pleasure. I have
The Royal Over-Seas League

made close friendships with many members throughout the world and with many colleagues. I have travelled extensively, both on behalf of the League as well as privately. I have witnessed the formation of new overseas branches; the strengthening finances of the organisation as a whole; improved club house facilities; the expansion of the arts programmes; and above all the ability of the League to adapt to ever-changing political and economic circumstances. I am confident that the sound foundations that are now established will ensure a prosperous and meaningful future for the Royal Over-Seas League as it embarks on its second hundred years.

Robert Newell
Director-General, 1991—
1. The Royal Over-Seas League Timeline

1882  Birth of founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench
1887  First Colonial Conference of Empire Premiers held in London
1898  Empire Day introduced in Canadian schools by Clementina Trenholme on the last school day before 24 May, Queen Victoria's birthday
1901  Death of Queen Victoria
1904  Empire Day on 24 May instituted in the UK
1906  Evelyn Wrench's first vision of his 'Empire Brotherhood' during visit to Canada
1910  Over-Seas Club founded on 27 August by Evelyn Wrench
1911  First public meeting of the 300 members of the Club at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London EC, on 27 June, the week after the coronation of George V
1912-13  Evelyn Wrench and his sister Winifrede made a 64,000-mile tour of the Empire promoting the Club
1913  Over-Seas Club reorganised with Richard Jebb as the first Chairman and a committee to which Evelyn Wrench reports. Viscount Northcliffe elected President
1914  First premises rented in Aldwych, London

Outbreak of the First World War in August
1915  Fund-raising for aircraft, comforts for the troops and hospital support began in the Over-Seas Club worldwide and continued throughout the War
£978,326 raised by 1920
Overseas magazine created
1916  King George V became first royal patron
1917  Sir Frederick Truby King's 'Babies of the Empire' project began in UK sponsored by the Over-Seas Club
Evelyn Wrench made CMG for War Services

1918  First World War ended in November
Amalgamation with The Patriotic League of Britons Overseas, becoming Over-Seas League
1922  Vernon House, London SW1, bought as the League's war memorial to Empire troops, and its headquarters, opened by the Duke of York
League incorporated by Royal Charter, King George V and Queen Mary visited headquarters
Membership 32,506
1923  61-year lease of 3 Park Place acquired
1924  4 & 5 Park Place, London SW1, bought
1925  Edward, Prince of Wales opened Park Place premises
1927  First Edinburgh premises opened in North Charlotte Street
1930  Scottish headquarters at 100 Princes Street opened by the Duke of York
1,500 local members
1931  21st Birthday Banquet at the Royal Albert Hall
1932  Evelyn Wrench made Knight Bachelor
1933  Purchase of Rutland House, 16 Arlington Street, next door to Vernon House from Violet, Duchess of Rutland
Membership 44,555
1937  Empire Centre comprising existing buildings plus new Westminster Wing completed with funds raised entirely by members. Opened by the Duke of Gloucester
First all-radio telephone link from all parts of the Empire took place at a public function in St Andrew's Hall
Evelyn Wrench marries Lady des Voeux
1939  Outbreak of the Second World War in September
1940  Allies Welcome Committee founded and organised by Sir Jocelyn Lucas to give hospitality and support to all allied troops. Continued with great success until 1950
1940-1  Sir Evelyn and Lady Wrench touring abroad became stranded in India for the duration of the War. Eric Rice took over Evelyn Wrench's duties and subsequently his position as Secretary of the League for the duration of the war
1944 First Commonwealth Prime Ministers’ Conference held in London
1945 Allied Victory in Europe and Japan
Membership 58,261
1946 Air Vice-Marshall Malcolm Henderson became first Director General
King George VI, Queen Elizabeth, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret visited Over-Seas House, London
1947 The Music Circle established a recital series under the banner ‘Festival of Commonwealth Youth’
India and Pakistan gained independence within the Commonwealth
1952 The Festival of Commonwealth Youth became competitive. Early winners included Australian pianist Geoffrey Parsons (1953), British cellist Jacqueline du Pré (1961) and British pianist John Lill (1963)
1956 Philip Crawshaw became Secretary General and subsequently Director General
1958 Empire Day renamed Commonwealth Day, held on the second Monday in March and marked by a multi-faith service in Westminster Abbey
1959 Earl Mountbatten of Burma President of the League since 1942 becomes its first Grand President
1960 The League has ‘Royal’ title conferred by HM The Queen on its 50th anniversary
Arms granted
Sir Evelyn Wrench appointed KCMG
1962 50,000+ members
1966 Death of Sir Evelyn Wrench. Arts Scholarship Fund established in his memory
1967 Membership declines to 38,315
1971 First biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Singapore. Hosted since by different Commonwealth countries in rotation
1972 Final concert of Festival of Commonwealth Youth moved to London’s Wigmore Hall and subsequently to The Queen Elizabeth Hall in 1975

Appendices

1975 New wing of Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, opened by the Duke of Gloucester
1979 Captain John Rumble RN (ret’d) became Director General, Robert Newell appointed General Manager
1980 Burney Committee discusses amalgamation of the Loyal Societies of the Commonwealth – no agreement reached
1981 Sale of Park Place properties realises £815,000
1982 Project 81 launched to upgrade Over-Seas House, London
1984 ROSL Annual Exhibition for young Commonwealth artists (age limit 35) inaugurated
1985 Festival of Commonwealth Youth renamed ROSL Annual Music Competition
1987 Commonwealth Writers Prize founded by ROSL, Commonwealth Foundation and the Book Trust
1991 Robert Newell, former General Manager, is appointed Director General
1992 Concert of Music and Musicians of the Commonwealth held at Lancaster House, London, for HM The Queen to mark the 40th anniversary of her accession
1993 ROSL secured official recognition as a Commonwealth non-governmental organisation (NGO) and was represented for the first time at CHOGM in Cyprus
1995 Namibia Welfare and Educational initiative created
1998 ROSL affiliated membership extended to non-Commonwealth citizens
1999 Friends of ROSL ARTS established
2000 ROSL ARTS Commonwealth Visual Arts Travel Scholarships (up to five per annum) inaugurated. ROSL Annual Scholars exhibition replaces ROSL Annual Exhibition
Membership 21,039
The Royal Over-Seas League

2003
Sixth floor of bedrooms added to Westminster Wing opened by Countess Mountbatten of Burma

2006
Extensive refurbishment of St Andrew's Hall, Over-Seas House, as a concert room. Re-opened by HRH Princess Alexandra and renamed Princess Alexandra Hall in her honour

2009
History of ROSL written by Adele Smith published by I.B.Tauris

2010
ROSL celebrated its centenary. An appeal was launched to endow awards in excess of £50,000 annually in the ROSL Annual Music Competition.

The Queen and Princess Alexandra agree to attend a reception for members at St James's Palace

Service of Thanksgiving at St James's Church, Piccadilly. Many other celebratory events held at ROSL branches throughout the world

2. Patrons

1916–36
HM King George V

1936
HM King Edward VIII

1937–52
HM King George VI

1952–
HM Queen Elizabeth II

Appendices

3. Vice Patrons

1916–42
HRH The Duke of Connaught, KG, KT, KP, GCB, GCBI, GCMG, GCIE, GCVO, GBE

1920–36
HRH The Prince of Wales, KG, KT, KP, GCSI, GCMG, GCIE, GCVO, GBE, ISO, MC (later King Edward VIII and Duke of Windsor)

1942–74
HRH The Duke of Gloucester, KG, KT, KP, GCB, GCMG, GCVO

1946–52
HRH The Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, Lady of the Garter, CI (later Queen Elizabeth II)

1979–
HRH Princess Alexandra, KG, GCVO

4. Presidents

1916–22
Viscount Northcliffe

1922–36
HRH The Duke of York, KG, KT, KP, GCMG, GCVO (later King George VI)

1937–42
HRH The Duke of Kent, KG, KT, GCMG, GCVO

1942–59
Admiral of the Fleet, The Rt Hon. Earl Mountbatten of Burma, KG, GCB, OM, GCSI, GCIE, GCVO, DSO (Grand President 1959–79)

1962–81
Sir Angus Gillan, KBE, CMG

1981–93
Lord Grey of Naunton, GCMG, GCVO, OBE (Grand President 1993–9)

1998–2002
Sir David Scott, GCMG

2002–
The Rt Hon. Lord Luce, KG, GCVO, DL
5. Chairmen

1913–14  Mr Richard Jebb
1916–18  Mr William Bulkeley-Evans, CBE
1922–9   Sir Ernest Birch, KCMG
1929–33  Mr Alec Rea
1933–6   The Rt Hon. Sir John Tilley, GCMG, GCVO, CB
1936–41  The Rt Hon. Viscount Goschen, GCSI, GCIE, CB
1941     The Most Hon. the Marquess of Willingdon, PC, GCSI, GCMG, GCIE, GBE
1941–6   Marie, Marchioness of Willingdon, CI, GBE
1946–9   Sir Shenton Thomas, GCMG, OBE
1949–52  Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Longmore, GCB, DSO
1952–5   Sir Henry Craik, GCIE, KCSI
1955–62  Sir Angus Gillan, KBE, CMG
1962–8   Sir James Robertson, KT, GCMG, GCVO, KBE
1968–71  Admiral Sir David Luce, GCB, DSO, OBE
1971–6   Marshal of the RAF Lord Elworthy, KG, GCB, CBE, DSO, LVO, DFC, AFC
1976–81  Lord Grey of Naunton, GCMG, GCVO, OBE
1981–6   Sir David Scott, GCMG
1986–9   Mr Maneck Dalal, OBE
1989–92  Sir Lawrence Byford, CBE, QPM, DL
1992–5   Mr Peter McEntee, CMG, OBE
1995–2000 Sir Geoffrey Ellerton, CMG, MBE
2000–5   Sir Colin Imray, KBE, CMG
2005–9   Mr Stanley Martin, CVO
2009–    Sir Anthony Figgis, KCVO, CMG

6. Secretaries, Secretary-Generals and Director-Generals

1912–42   Sir Evelyn Wrench, KCMG
           Secretary
1942–6     Mr Eric Rice, OBE
           Secretary
1946–56    Air Vice Marshal Malcolm Henderson, CB, CIE, CBE,
           DSO
           Director-General
1956–9     Mr Philip Crawshaw, CBE
           Secretary-General
           later
1959–79    Director-General
1979–91    Captain John Rumble, RN (Rtd)
           Director General
1991–      Mr Robert Newell, LVO
           Director-General
7. Vice-Presidents
as at January 2010

Their Excellencies the Commonwealth Secretary-General and the
High Commissioners for Commonwealth countries in London
The Viscount Boyd of Merton
Dame Mary Bridges, DBE
Sir Lawrence Byford, CBE, QPM, DL
Mrs Yvonne Calver
The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster
The Rt Hon. the Baroness Chalker of Wallasey
Mr Colin Clark
Mr Maneck Dalal, OBE
The Dean of Westminster
Mr Martyn Goff, CBE
The Lady Gore-Booth
Mr Colin Imray, KBE, QPM
Mr Graham Lockwood
The Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales
Mr Stanley Martin, CVO
Mr Robert Matheson, CM, QC
The Countess Mountbatten of Burma, CBE, CD, JP, DL
Sir David Scott, GCMG
Sir Kenneth Scott, KCVO, CMG
Sir Donald Tebbit, GCMG
The Rt Hon. the Lord Woolf

8. Central Council
as at January 2010

Miss Fanah Amin
Mrs Marilyn Archbold* (Deputy Chairman)
Mr Graham Archer, CMG
Mrs Shirley Barr*
Mr Ralph Bauer
Mr Clive Carpenter
Sir Roger Carrick, KCMG, LVO
Mr Christie Cherian*
Nik Raof Daud
Mr Paul Dimond, CMG
Mr John Edwards, CMG*
Mrs Patricia Farrant
Sir Anthony Figgis, KCVO CMG* (Chairman)
Mr Simon Gimson
Ms Diana Gray
Mr Robert Gregor, MBE
Sir James Hodge, KCVO CMG
Mr David Jamieson
Mrs Beryl Keen
Mrs Anne de Lasta
The Rt Hon. Lord Luce, KG GCVO, DL (President)
Miss Sheila MacTaggart, LVO
Dr Edmund Marshall
Mr David Newman
Mr Ian Partridge, CBE
Mrs Doreen Regan*
Mrs Judith Steiner*
Mr Geoffrey Thompson, OBE
Mrs Pamela Voice
Mr Simon Ward, FCA* (Hon. Treasurer)

* Executive Committee
9. Senior Staff  
*as at January 2010*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Robert Newell LVO</td>
<td>Director-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Fatima Vanicek</td>
<td>Asst to the Director-General/Membership Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Roderick Lakin, MBE</td>
<td>Director of ARTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Margaret Adrian-Vallance</td>
<td>Director of Public Relations and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Rachid Mellah</td>
<td>Rooms Division Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Shakil Tayub</td>
<td>Director of Finance and Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Paul Streat</td>
<td>Maintenance Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Michael McCall</td>
<td>Head Hall Porter and Health and Safety Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Deisy Garcia</td>
<td>Head Housekeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Abdul Amrani</td>
<td>Purchasing Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Alan Chalmers</td>
<td>House Manager, ROSL Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr James Wilkie</td>
<td>Scottish Development Officer, ROSL Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr David Anderson</td>
<td>Chef de Cuisine, ROSL Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Lena Rose</td>
<td>Head Receptionist, ROSL Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr David Laurance</td>
<td>Catering Director, Convex Leisure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Tony Hammer</td>
<td>Conference and Banqueting Manager, Convex Leisure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Losine Khezour</td>
<td>Chef des Cuisine, Convex Leisure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. ROSL Branches  
*as at January 2010*

**UK**
- **BRANCH**
  - Bath
  - Bournemouth
  - Cheltenham
  - Edinburgh
  - Exeter
  - Glasgow
  - West Cornwall
  - West Sussex

**Overseas**
- **AUSTRALIAN BRANCH**
  - New South Wales
  - Queensland
  - South Australia
  - Tasmania
  - Victoria
  - Western Australia

- **CANADIAN CHAPTERS**
  - Alberta
  - British Columbia
  - Nova Scotia
  - Ontario

**UK**
- **CHAIRMEN**
  - Mrs June Jessop
  - Mr Christopher Bladen
  - Mr John Miller, MBE
  - Mr Robert Gregor, MBE
  - Mr Ewan MacLeod
  - Mr William Agnew
  - Mrs Margaret Knighton
  - Mrs Marilyn Archbold

**Overseas**
- **PRESIDENTS**
  - Mrs Lily Murray (Secretary)
  - Mrs Sharon Morgan (Chairman)
  - Mrs Marjorie Scriver (President)
  - Mr Robert Dick (Chairman)
  - Mr Jason Ronald, OAM (President and ROSL Chairman Australia)
  - Mr Jeffery Turner, MBE (Chairman)
  - Mrs Cynthia Cordery
  - Mrs Pamela Ducommun
  - Mrs Barbara Hughes QC
  - Ms Ishrani Jaikaran
11. Honorary Corresponding Secretaries

as at January 2010

There are HCSs in the following countries, states, counties and towns.

UK

England Essex, Manchester, Norfolk, Oxford
Scotland Aberdeen, Blaigowrie, Inverness, Moffat, Perth
Ireland Belfast, County Down
Wales Haverford West

Overseas

Arabian Gulf Doha, Qatar
Australia Adelaide, Kincumber, New South Wales, Perth, Queensland, Tasmania, Victoria, Viewmont
Bahrain Adliya, Manama
Belgium Wavre-la-Hutte
Bermuda Paget, Warwick
Botswana Gaborone
Brazil Rio de Janeiro
Canada Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario
China Beijing
Colombia Bogotá
Cyprus Nicosia
Egypt Cairo
France Loire Valley
Germany Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Köln/Düsseldorf, Malente-Benz
The Royal Over-Seas League

Ghana
Gibraltar
Hong Kong
Iceland
India
Italy
Kenya
Malta
Mauritius
Nigeria
New Zealand
Portugal
Saudi Arabia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Tanzania
Thailand
USA

Sekondi
Reykjavik
Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai, New Delhi, Pune
Florence, Milan
Malindi, Nairobi
Sliema, Valletta
Quatre Bournes
Kaduna
Hamilton, Auckland
Lisbon
Riyadh
Cape Town, Knysna, Pietermaritzburg
Malaga
Gothenburg
Dar es Salaam
Bangkok
Atlanta, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Seattle

12. Reciprocal Clubs
as at January 2010

Australia
Brisbane Polo Club, Brisbane, Queensland
Karrakatta Club Inc., Perth
New South Wales Masonic Club, Sydney, New South Wales
North Queensland Club, Townsville, Queensland
RACV City Club, Melbourne, Victoria
RACV Cobram Resort, Cobram, Victoria
RACV Healesville Resort, Healesville, Victoria
RACV Inverloch Resort, Victoria
Royal Automobile Club of Australia, Sydney, New South Wales
Tattersall's Club, Brisbane, Queensland
University House, Canberra

Brunei
Royal Brunei Yacht Club, Brunei Darussalam

Canada
Edmonton Petroleum Club and Golf and Country Club, Edmonton, Alberta
Glencoe Club, Calgary, Alberta
Halifax Club, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Mount Stephen Club, Montreal, Quebec
Ranchmen's Club, Calgary, Alberta
Royal Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, Ontario
Royal Glenora Club, Edmonton, Alberta
Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Victoria, British Columbia
Terminal City Club, Vancouver, British Columbia
University Club of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario
The Royal Over-Seas League

Canary Islands
British Club, Las Palmas

Channel Islands
Victoria Club, St Helier, Jersey

England
City University Club, London

Gibraltar
Royal Gibraltar Yacht Club, Gibraltar

Hong Kong
Hong Kong Cricket Club, Hong Kong

India
Bangalore Club, Bengaluru
Bengal Club Ltd, Kolkata
Bombay Gymkhana Club Ltd, Mumbai
Delhi Gymkhana Club, New Delhi
High Range Club, Kerala
India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
India International Centre, New Delhi
Jaisal Club, Rajasthan
Kodaikanal Golf Club, Tamil Nadu
Madras Gymkhana Club, Tamil Nadu
Mysore Sports Club, Mysore
Ootacamund Club, Tamil Nadu
Poona Club, Pune
Royal Bombay Yacht Club, Mumbai
Royal Calcutta Golf Club, Kolkata
Royal Calcutta Turf Club, Kolkata
Secunderabad Club, Secunderabad
Tollygunge Club Ltd, Kolkata
Willingdon Sports Club, Mumbai

Ireland
United Arts Club of Ireland, Dublin

Kenya
Mombasa Club, Mombasa
Muthaiga Club, Nairobi
Nairobi Club, Nairobi

Luxembourg
Cercle Munster, Luxembourg

Malaysia
Royal Selangor Club, Kuala Lumpur
Royal Sungai Ujong Club, Seremban

New Zealand
Auckland Club, Auckland
Canterbury Club, Christchurch
Christchurch Club, Christchurch
Dunedin Club, Dunedin
Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, Auckland

Nigeria
Ikoyi Club 1938, Lagos

Pakistan
Punjab Club, Lahore
Sind Club, Karachi

Philippines
Manila Club, Makati City

Portugal
Oporto Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club, Porto
Royal British Club, Estoril
Annexes

13. Annual Music Competition
Prizewinners 1952–2009

Prior to 1952, the competition was known as 'The Festival of Commonwealth Youth' and was non-competitive. From 1965 until 1979, two equal first prizes were awarded to the best competitor from overseas and the best competitor from the United Kingdom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Robert Cooper</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Geoffrey Parsons</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Oswald Russell</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Rohan de Saram</td>
<td>cello</td>
<td>Ceylon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Winifred Durie</td>
<td>viola</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Audrey Cooper</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Patsy Toh</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>John Georgiadis</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Jacqueline du Pré</td>
<td>cello</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Marjorie Biggar</td>
<td>contralto</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Ruth Little</td>
<td>contralto-</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Roy Malan</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>John Lill</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Ross People</td>
<td>cello</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Sharon McKinley</td>
<td>cello</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Gwennyth Annear</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From 1965 until 1979, two equal first prizes were awarded to the best competitor from overseas and the best competitor from the United Kingdom. From 1980 onwards, the first prize has been awarded to the best musicians from any country chosen from the winners of the four main solo categories (* indicates First Prize winners).

1965
Georgetta Psaros soprano Australia
Leslie Child violin UK

1966
Enloc Wu piano Hong Kong
Hannah Francis harp UK

1967
David Bolland piano New Zealand
Orid Sutherland contralto UK

1968
Dennis Lee piano Malaysia
Frank Wilbaut UK

1969
Patrick Payne contralto New Zealand
Penny Scott piano UK

1970
Geoffrey Tozer piano Australia
Andrew Haigh piano UK

1971
Andrea Kalanj piano Canada
Jan Latham Koenig piano UK

1972
Tessa Uys piano South Africa
Marius May cello UK

1973
Richard Creager tenor New Zealand
Anthony Smith baritone UK

1974
Francis Reneau piano Belize
Colin Carr cello UK

1975
Keith Lewis tenor New Zealand
Jonathan Dunby piano UK
Stewart Harling cello UK

1976
Melvyn Tan harpsichord Singapore
Lorraine McAslan violin UK

1977
Ralph de Souza violin India
Aydin Onac piano UK

1978
Mark Walton clarinet New Zealand
Suzie Meszaros viola UK

1979
Surendran Reddy piano South Africa
Barry Douglas piano UK
Jonathan Rees violin UK

1980
Ian Graukroger piano Zimbabwe
John Harle saxophone UK
Peter Manning* violin UK
William Shinnell baritone UK

1981
Wissam Boustany flute UK
Jagdish Mistry violin India
Jean Rigby* mezzo-soprano UK
Simon Shewring piano UK

1982
Geoffrey Dolton baritone UK
Helen Duffy flute UK
Piers Lane* piano Australia
Carla Maria Rodrigues viola UK

1983
Douglas Boyd oboe UK
Susan Bullock soprano UK
Christopher Marwood cello UK
Jonathan Plowright* piano UK

1984
Lorna Anderson soprano UK
Nicholas Cox* clarinet UK
Gina McCormack violin South Africa
Adrian Sims piano UK

1985
Philip Lloyd-Evans baritone UK
Ieuan Jones* harp UK
Anthony Marwood violin UK
Jean Owen* bassoon UK
Victor Sangiorgio piano Australia

1986
Aline Brewer harp UK
Susan Chilcott* soprano UK
Colin Stone piano UK

1987
Manuel Bagorro piano Zimbabwe
Philip Levy violin UK
Lucy Wakeford harp UK
Janice Watson* soprano UK
Michael Whight clarinet UK
Read Gainsford piano New Zealand
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Other Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>David Mattinson*</td>
<td>bass baritone</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gerard McChrystal</td>
<td>saxophone</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aaron Stolow</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cheryl Barker</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Jane Evans</td>
<td>cor anglais</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicola Hall*</td>
<td>guitar</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alvin Moisey</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>William Dazeley</td>
<td>baritone</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rachel Gough*</td>
<td>bassoon</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicholas Unwin</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abigail Young</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>James Brawn</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Janice Graham</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alison Mackie</td>
<td>trumpet</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adele Paxton*</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Liam Abramson</td>
<td>cello</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paul Lewis</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Robert Plane*</td>
<td>clarinet</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Simone Sauphanor</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neil Varley</td>
<td>freebass accordion</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Sara Fulgoni</td>
<td>mezzo-soprano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andrew Haveron</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eryl Lloyd Williams</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David Preston*</td>
<td>freebass accordion</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Daniel Bates*</td>
<td>oboe</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catryn Wyn Davies</td>
<td>mezzo-soprano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Priya Mitchell</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roger Owens</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Annelies Chapman</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah Markham</td>
<td>saxophone</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laura Samuel</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ashley Woss*</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Jeanette Ager*</td>
<td>mezzo-soprano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicholas Cartledge*</td>
<td>flute</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Viv McLean</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alice Neary</td>
<td>cello</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>David Farmer</td>
<td>freebass accordion</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicola Howard</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stuart King</td>
<td>clarinet</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liwei Qin*</td>
<td>cello</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Daniel Bell</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gillian Keith</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fraser Tannock</td>
<td>trumpet</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alexander Taylor*</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Thomas Carroll</td>
<td>cello</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Owen Dennis</td>
<td>oboe</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Timothy Mirfin*</td>
<td>bass</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David Quigley</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Sarah Field</td>
<td>saxophone</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jonathan Lemalu*</td>
<td>bass-baritone</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Benjamin Nabarro</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tom Foster</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Juliette Bausor*</td>
<td>flute</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Richard Burkhard</td>
<td>baritone</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Danny Driver</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marie Macleod</td>
<td>cello</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Lucy Crowe*</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gemma Rosefield</td>
<td>cello</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Simon Tedeschi</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eleanor Turner</td>
<td>harp</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sara Temple</td>
<td>clarinet</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Martin Cousin*</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Katherine Wood</td>
<td>cello</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Helen Vollam</td>
<td>trombone</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wendy-Dawn Thompson</td>
<td>mezzo-soprano</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Louisa Breen</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amy Dickson*</td>
<td>saxophone</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anna Leese</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ruth Palmer</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Nicola Eimer</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Timothy Orpen*</td>
<td>clarinet</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tamsin Waley-Cohen</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth Watts</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Mateusz Borowiak</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jacques Imbrialo</td>
<td>baritone</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Myerscough*</td>
<td>cello</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leslie Neish</td>
<td>tuba</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Daniel de Borah</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jill Kemp</td>
<td>recorder</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pei-Sian Ng*</td>
<td>cello</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>George von Bergen</td>
<td>tenor</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Royal Over-Seas League

2008  Simon Ierace  keyboard
       Laura Lucas* flute
       Victoria Simonsen cello
       Adrian Ward tenor
2009  Sarah Beatty clarinet
       Yelian He cello
       Madeleine Pierard soprano
       Ben Schoeman* piano

Accompanists Prize

Since 1981 the Accompanists Prize has been of equal value and status as the awards for solo performers.

1981  John Henry  UK
1982  Pamela Liddard  UK
1983  Linda Ang  Singapore
1984  Vanessa Latarche  UK
         Malcolm Martineau  UK
1985  Steven Naylor  UK
1986  Scott Mitchell  UK
1987  Rachel Franklin  UK
1988  Clare Toomey  UK
1989  Rebecca Holt  UK
1990  Elizabeth Upchurch  UK
1991  Alan Darling  UK
1992  Sophia Rahmann  UK
1993  Helen Leek  UK
1994  Julian Milford  UK
1995  Alison Proctor  UK
1996  Gretel Dowdeswell  UK
1997  Clemens Leske  Australia

1998  Stephen de Pledge  New Zealand
1999  Simon Lepper  UK
2000  Philip Moore  UK
2001  not awarded  UK
2002  Catherine Milledge  UK
2003  Huw Watkins  UK
2004  Not awarded  UK
2005  Gary Matthewman  UK
2006  Alastair Beatson  UK
2007  Daniel Swain  UK
2008  Joseph Middleton  UK
2009  Simon Lane  UK

Ensemble Prize

Since 1980, the Ensemble Prize has been of equal status as the Gold Medal and first prize for solo performance. Since 2006 two ensemble prizes have been awarded: one for strings/keyboard and the other for wind/percussion/mixed.

1980  Trio Canello  1989  Apollo Saxophone Quartet
1981  Mladi Ensemble  1990  Techinsky Quartet
1982  Guildhall String Ensemble  1991  Kreutzer Quartet
1983  Marwood String Trio  1992  Bone Idols
1984  Auriol Quartet  1993  not awarded
1985  John & Katherine Lenehan Piano Duo  1994  Nemo Brass Quartet
         Leopold Piano Trio  1995  Leopold String Trio
1986  Mistry Quartet  1996  Micallef/Inanga Piano Duo
1987  No Strings Attached  1997  BackBeat
1988  Barbican Piano Trio  1998  Newbold Piano Quartet
### The Royal Over-Seas League

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Artist/Group</th>
<th>Instrument(s)</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Moore/Crawford Phillips Piano Duo</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Sacconi Quartet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Tavec Quartet</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Cappa Quartet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Bones Apart</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Eimer Piano Trio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Bronte Quartet</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Brass10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Linos Wind Quintet</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the main awards listed above, the ROSL has given support and encouragement to hundreds of other gifted musicians from all over the Commonwealth through many other prizes and scholarships awarded under the umbrella of the ROSL Annual Music Competition and ROSL ARTS. A small selection of these winners is given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Artist/Group</th>
<th>Instrument(s)</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Jagdish Mistry</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Ian Munro</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charles Uzor</td>
<td>oboe</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Param Vir</td>
<td>composer</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Charles Uzor</td>
<td>oboe</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Ning Kam</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Ian Bostridge</td>
<td>tenor</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Nathan Berg</td>
<td>baritone</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carmine Lauri</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>Malta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Philip Dukes</td>
<td>viola</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clio Gould</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Stephen de Pledge</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gretchen Dunsmore</td>
<td>clarinet</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christopher Maltman</td>
<td>baritone</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ashan Pillai</td>
<td>viola</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Christopher Duigan</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Glen Inanga</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Karina Gauvin</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clemens Leske</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicholas Vines</td>
<td>composer</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Grant Doyle</td>
<td>baritone</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sally Anne Russell</td>
<td>mezzo-soprano</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Catrin Finch</td>
<td>harp</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Catherine Carby</td>
<td>mezzo-soprano</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natalia Lomieko</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Andrew Atrens</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ellen Deverall</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jared Holt</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joyce Moholoagae</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gillian Ramm</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bobby Chen</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>William Berger</td>
<td>baritone</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Elizabeth Cooney</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mei Yee Foo</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bobby Chen</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>James Baillieu</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kishani Jayasinghe</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Brian O’Kane</td>
<td>cello</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicholas Vines</td>
<td>composer</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Antipodes String Quartet</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Ierace</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victoria Mavromoustaki</td>
<td>violin</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Katie Stillman</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trio Scintillatum</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jayson Gillham</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Sarah Jane Brandon</td>
<td>soprano</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Royal Overseas League

14. ROSL Annual Exhibition
Prizewinners 1984-98 and Scholarship Winners 1999-2009

The ROSL Annual Exhibition, established in 1984, has provided a showcase for young artists from the UK, Commonwealth and former Commonwealth countries including Australia, The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Cyprus, Ghana, Grenada, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and the UK (* indicates First Prize winners).

1984

Christopher Cook UK
Julie Held* UK
Miles Hunter Canada
Maggie James UK

Trevor Landell UK
Shanti Panchal India
Elizabeth Willis UK

1985

Michael Croft UK
Valerie Dunant UK
Amanda Faulkner UK
Yvonne Forward UK
Wendy Hodge Canada

William Macilraith UK
Neil Macpherson* UK
Gerard Morris UK
Emma McClure UK

1986

Iona Campbell-Gray UK
Philip Davies* UK
Jason Gibilaro UK

Julie Held UK
Emma McClure UK
John Skinner UK

1987

Sonia Boyce* UK
Nicholas Freedman UK
Alexander Guy UK
Roderick Henriques UK

Judy Inglis UK
Stephen Rose UK
Colin Smith* UK
Patricia Wright UK

1988

Patricia Gardner UK
Stephen Goddard UK
Leslie Hakim-Doweik* UK

Sally Moore UK
Jake Tilson* UK

1989

Stacy Billups UK
Martin Churchill UK
Rory Donaldson UK
Paul Furneaux UK

Julian Hyam UK
Robin Mason* UK
Tara Sabharwal India

1990

Martin Churchill UK
Christopher Cook UK
Lynn Dennison UK
Nicholas Romeril UK

Susan Ryland UK
Rebecca Salter UK
Tai-Shan Schierenberg* UK

1991

Susan Adams UK
Lesley Banks UK
Tracy Beckerley UK
Simon Brewster UK

Mark Burrell UK
Moyra Derby UK
Anne Desmet UK
Christopher Nurse* UK
The Royal Over-Seas League

1992
Murshida Arzu Alpana Bangladesh
Andrew Bick UK
Shirley Chubb UK
Lee Wing Keung Ghana
Atta Kwami

1993
Ben Cook UK
Elysia Dywan Canada
Joe Fan* UK
Nigel Jensen UK
Mark Masters Canada

1994
Lucy Bentley UK
Ma Choi Hong Kong
Jonathan Cole UK
Shelly Goldsmith UK
Mohd Azhar* Malaysia
Abd Manan* UK

1995
Pindaro Cabrera Canada
Martin Constable UK
Michael Cubey New Zealand
Joan Dymianiw Canada

1996
Marika Borhase Australia
Alan Brooks* New Zealand
Jenny Dolezel Ireland
Sarah Durcan

1997
Guy Buckles UK
Helen Flockhart UK
Christopher
Gilvan-Cartwright UK
Vincent Graves-Aggrey Ghana

1998
Isobel Brigham UK
Andrew Cranston* UK
John Dargan UK
Derek McGuire UK
Todd Narbey New Zealand

Visual Arts Travel Scholarships:

Since 1999 ROSL ARTS has offered five Visual Arts Travel Scholarships annually. These scholarships enable selected artists to make a study visit to or undertake a residency in a Commonwealth country other than their country of origin. In the year following their scholarship study visit or residency the scholars are brought together for a group exhibition in London.

1999
Pindaro Cabrera Canada
Todd Narbey Canada
Ming Wong Singapore

2000
Matthew Burrows UK
Fiona Coulbridge South Africa
Muzuki Dyalouy South Africa
Nahid Niazi Bangladesh
Savandhary Vongpoothorn Australia

2001
Joseph Cartoon Kenya
Bella Easton UK
Belinda Harrow Malaysia
John Lai New Zealand
Heather Straka

Appendices

1997
Guy Buckles UK
Helen Flockhart UK
Christopher
Gilvan-Cartwright UK

1998
Isobel Brigham UK
Andrew Cranston* UK
John Dargan UK
Derek McGuire UK
Todd Narbey New Zealand

Visual Arts Travel Scholarships:

Since 1999 ROSL ARTS has offered five Visual Arts Travel Scholarships annually. These scholarships enable selected artists to make a study visit to or undertake a residency in a Commonwealth country other than their country of origin. In the year following their scholarship study visit or residency the scholars are brought together for a group exhibition in London.

1999
Pindaro Cabrera Canada
Todd Narbey Canada
Ming Wong Singapore

2000
Matthew Burrows UK
Fiona Coulbridge South Africa
Muzuki Dyalouy South Africa
Nahid Niazi Bangladesh
Savandhary Vongpoothorn Australia

2001
Joseph Cartoon Kenya
Bella Easton UK
Belinda Harrow Malaysia
John Lai New Zealand
Heather Straka

Appendices

1997
Guy Buckles UK
Helen Flockhart UK
Christopher
Gilvan-Cartwright UK

1998
Isobel Brigham UK
Andrew Cranston* UK
John Dargan UK
Derek McGuire UK
Todd Narbey New Zealand

Visual Arts Travel Scholarships:

Since 1999 ROSL ARTS has offered five Visual Arts Travel Scholarships annually. These scholarships enable selected artists to make a study visit to or undertake a residency in a Commonwealth country other than their country of origin. In the year following their scholarship study visit or residency the scholars are brought together for a group exhibition in London.

1999
Pindaro Cabrera Canada
Todd Narbey Canada
Ming Wong Singapore

2000
Matthew Burrows UK
Fiona Coulbridge South Africa
Muzuki Dyalouy South Africa
Nahid Niazi Bangladesh
Savandhary Vongpoothorn Australia

2001
Joseph Cartoon Kenya
Bella Easton UK
Belinda Harrow Malaysia
John Lai New Zealand
Heather Straka

Appendices

1997
Guy Buckles UK
Helen Flockhart UK
Christopher
Gilvan-Cartwright UK

1998
Isobel Brigham UK
Andrew Cranston* UK
John Dargan UK
Derek McGuire UK
Todd Narbey New Zealand

Visual Arts Travel Scholarships:

Since 1999 ROSL ARTS has offered five Visual Arts Travel Scholarships annually. These scholarships enable selected artists to make a study visit to or undertake a residency in a Commonwealth country other than their country of origin. In the year following their scholarship study visit or residency the scholars are brought together for a group exhibition in London.

1999
Pindaro Cabrera Canada
Todd Narbey Canada
Ming Wong Singapore

2000
Matthew Burrows UK
Fiona Coulbridge South Africa
Muzuki Dyalouy South Africa
Nahid Niazi Bangladesh
Savandhary Vongpoothorn Australia

2001
Joseph Cartoon Kenya
Bella Easton UK
Belinda Harrow Malaysia
John Lai New Zealand
Heather Straka

Appendices
The Royal Over-Seas League

2002
Sudath Abeysekera  
Kwadwo Ani  
Deborah Bowness  
Christine Morrow  
Ebony Patterson

Sri Lanka  
Ghana  
UK  
Australia  
Jamaica

2003
Matt Cooper  
Jason Hicks  
Kwok Cheun Lee  
J. Henry Mujunga  
Ruth Uglow

New Zealand  
New Zealand  
Hong Kong  
Uganda  
UK

2004
Jemima Burrill  
Sohan Ariel Hayes  
Ally Nyomwa  
Shanti Persaud  
Ratheesh Thankamma

UK  
Australia  
Tanzania  
Jamaica  
India

2005
Daisy Jackson  
Ali Kazim  
Ryan Mosley  
Justin Partyka  
Nicholas Twist

New Zealand  
Pakistan  
UK  
UK  
New Zealand

2006
Aimee Lax  
Joseph Matthew  
Paul Ryan  
Allyson Reynolds  
Francois Simard

UK  
India  
UK  
Australia  
Canada

2007
Jacob Carter  
Joanna Langford  
Christina Papakyriakou  
Lauren Porter  
Jeremy Sharma

UK  
New Zealand  
Cyprus  
UK  
Singapore

2008
Melanie Fitzmaurice  
Liliane Nabumine  
Kazi Sahid  
Michele Fletcher

Australia  
Uganda  
Bangladesh  
Canada

2009
Anikpe Ebene  
Chin Kok Hooi  
Keegan Simon  
Todd Stratton

Nigeria  
Malaysia  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Australia

Notes

Introduction

1 Robert Browning, ‘Andrea del Sarto’, 1855.

1–Evelyn Wrench and the Founding of the Royal Over-Seas League

1 The Boy’s Own Paper was a collection of stories and articles aimed at young and teenage boys. It was published by various publishers including the Religious Tract Society, Lutterworth Press, Purnell and Sons and BPC Publishing between the years 1879 and 1967. For more information see the Wikipedia entry at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boy%27s_Oppn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boy%27s_Oppn).


3 In the 1840s Henry Mayhew observed, documented and described the state of working people in London for a series of articles in the Morning Chronicle newspaper. These were later compiled into London Labour and the London Poor, with three volumes published in 1851 and a further book in the series was published in 1861. More recent editions were published by Dover Publications in 1968 (Vols 1–3) and 1983 (Vol. 4).


5 Ibid., p.242.

6 See n.2.

7 The award Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George.

8 From a letter of sympathy after the death of Sir Evelyn Wrench to the then Director General, Philip Crawshaw.
The Royal Over-Seas League

9 Quotation in the Courtyard of Dartmouth House, the English-Speaking Union Headquarters.

II - Development of the League

2 The award of Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George.

IV - Communications

1 From 'The Story of the Over-Seas League', an in-house article written '28 years after its inception' by Sir Evelyn Wrench.
2 From 'Over-Seas League in the Year of the Coronation of His Majesty King George VI' (in-house publication, 1937).
3 Many thanks to the family of Philip Noakes who hold these records and have given permission for use of the quotations from his diaries and private letters in this book.

V - The Branches, Honorary Corresponding Secretaries and Reciprocal Clubs

1 Over Seas League Annual Report, 1926.

VI - Over-Seas House, London and Edinburgh, Architecture and History

1 From an article by Sir Evelyn Wrench in 1937 to mark the completion of the Westminster Wing.
2 Ibid.
3 The Dunciad by Alexander Pope was first published anonymously in 1728.
4 The Daily Advertiser, April 1731.

Notes

6 For all direct quotations and terms ascribed to Lady Diana Cooper in this section see Chapter 1 of Diana Cooper, The Rainbow Comes and Goes (London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1958).

VIII - The League Today

3 From ESU promotional brochure.
4 In conversation with PR Director Margaret Adnan-Vallence in Namibia, as reported to the author.
5 In conversation with PR Director Margaret Adnan-Vallence in Namibia, cited in ROSL Annual Report 2007.
Page references in italics refer to illustrations.  
The colour illustrations between pages 96 and 97 are shown as e.g. col 2*, where the 2 refers to the numbering of these illustrations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adrian-Vallance, Margaret col 20*</td>
<td>Babies of the Empire Training Centre 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta 87</td>
<td>'Back to the Land Scheme' 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra, Princess 35, 45, 111, 114, 119, 120</td>
<td>BackBeat Percussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra, Queen 19, 20</td>
<td>Ensemble col 11*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All People's Association 24</td>
<td>Baker, Vicky 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen, Geoffrey 108</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allies Welcome Committee 30–4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpana, Murshida Arzu col 2*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Art Exhibition 122–3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prizewinners 1984–98: 168–71</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Music Competition 119</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accompanists Prize 164–5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ceramic trophy 124</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensemble Prize 165–6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gold medal 120</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prizes and scholarships 166–7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prizewinners (1952–2009) 159–64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rules 159, 160, 161</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Scholars Exhibition 1994: col 2*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Araeb, Elias 134</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia 86–7, 151</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avery Associates Architects 113</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awases, Belinda 134</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Barbier, Lady 74-5, 119, col 6*
Bath branch 81
Berkley, Sir Lennox 116
Betty, Queen of the Apple Women 99
Birch, Sir Ernest 22, 25
Bolitarte, Clara 132, 133
Bonyne, Richard 116
Book Trust, The 125
Bournemouth branch 84
Bowness, Sir Alan 4*
Boy Scouts 6, 16
Boy's Own Paper 5
branch organisation 76-81
branch support for education and the arts 77
branches
1960 map 82-3
current 151-2
United Kingdom 81, 84-6, 151
worldwide today 86-90
British Columbia 87
British-Made Goods League 8
Britain, Sir Harry 11
Burney, Sir Anthony 37
Byford, Sir Lawrence 74, 123

C
Caine Prize for African Literature 125, col 8*
Canada 87
branches/chapters 151
Carr, Lisle 65
Chairmen's portraits 74-5, 123, 75
Chalmers, Alan 111
Chamberlain, Dick 90, 131, 132, col 20*
Chaplin, Eric 60
Cheltenham branch 84
Civil Society Organisation of the Commonwealth 48
Clerk of Penicuik, Lady 109

D
Cochrane, Alec 50
Cohen, Harriet 116
Commonwealth Centre possibilities 37
Commonwealth Day 78
Commonwealth Foundation 96, 125
Commonwealth Week, Edinburgh 111
Commonwealth Writers' Prize 125
concerts in Edinburgh 111
Connaught, Prince Arthur, Duke of 41
Convex Leisure Limited 108
Cooper, Lady Diana, née Manners 101, 103
Crawshaw, Philip
Secretary General, later Director-General 35
Travelling Secretary 65-6
'Cred of an Imperialist' 11
Cricket Society 40
Crinoline stairs 101, 103
Crowe, Lucy 122
Cunningham, Sir John 32
Cwi, Cwisa 132-3, col 21*

E
Easton, Bella 75
Edinburgh branch 84-5
Edinburgh Castle col 16*
Edinburgh College of Art 1994: col 2*
Edinburgh concerts 111
Edinburgh premises 108-11, 110-11
rebuilding 109
Edinburgh, Prince Philip, Duke of 42
Edward VIII, King 41-2
(when Prince of Wales) 22, 27
Edwards, Elwyn Hartley 60
Egypt 152
Elizabeth, Queen (when Duchess of York) 43, 45, 48
Elizabeth II, Queen xvi, xv, 41, 42, 45, 46, 74, col 17-18*
Elliott, Stuart 25
'Empire Brotherhood' 12
'Empire Centre' 27, 112
Empire Day 78
Empire Day movement 8
Empire League 8
Empire migration 27, 29
English Speaking Union 16, 24, 37, 126-7
Evelyn in Her Garden 75
Exeter branch 85

F
Fairbridge Society 27
Festival of Commonwealth Youth 112, 115, 116
First World War
children's certificate 75
Overseas Aircraft Flotilla 18-20
Perrier advertisement 55
RFC hospital nurses 14
RFC hospital patients 14
visit by King George V and Queen Mary 42
War Memorial, Vernon House 24
Wrench, John Evelyn 13
Fleming, Peter 16
Forres, Jessica, Lady 115
Fox, Charles James 99
Friends of ROSL ARTS 125, 129
Furr, Christian xiv, 74, col 7*

G
George V, King 43
patronage and involvement 41
George VI, King 41-2, 45, 95
(when Duke of York) 44, 46, 108
Gibbs, James 99, 102
Glasgow and West of Scotland branch 85
Gloucester, Prince Henry, Duke of 42, 112
Goff, Martyn 123
Gough Matthews, Michael 119
Grey, Lord 7
Grey of Naunton, Lord 37, 74, col 3*

H
Hall of India and Pakistan 104
Hammer, Tony 95
Harcourt, George 95
Harron, Damien col 11*
Henderson, Gavin 119, col 9*
Henderson, Malcolm 34
Hong Kong 87-8, 152
Honorary Corresponding Secretaries 68, 69, 77, 90, 97, 153-4
Index

Hume, David 99
Hunting Trophies col 5*

1
Immortal Years 30
Imperial Conference 6
Imperial Society 7
Imray, Sir Colin 74, 75
India and Noakes' visit 67-9, 70-2
Inter-Club Group 40
Iremonger, Tom 60, 62
Irish Republican Army 95
Irish Unity League 24

J
Jebb, Richard, Over-Seas Club – first Chairman 6, 12

K
Kent, Prince George, Duke of 42
Ken, William 103

L
Ladies in Reduced Circumstances 51
Lakin, Roderick 96, 111, 117, 118, 119, 125
Lancaster House concert 1992: 96
Langan, Peter 88
Lepper, Simon col 12*
letters of appreciation 79-80
Liddiard, Miss 51
literary lectures and book events 123
Lockwood, Graham 125
London premises
bomb damage 104
food and beverage outsourced 106, 108
Hall of India and Pakistan 104

M
Manan, Moh’d Azhar Abd col 2*
Martín, Stanley 1-3, 39, 114
Mary, Queen 43
Mazola, Patrick col 2*
membership 1922: 23
1962: 36
certificate 1934: 28
corporate organisations 37, 128
Membership Tree 1934: 61
no distinction on grounds of race, creed or gender 22
non-Commonwealth 38, 128
Scotland 1941: 109
Miller, Harry 117
Mine, Lyn col 10*
Ming Wong col 2*
Moore, Miranda 64

N
Namib desert col 19*
Namibia, welfare projects 131-4
Namibia Denlui School col 21*
National Book League 123
National Children’s Adoption Association 51
Navy League 6, 8
Needham, Mother 99
New Zealand 88-9, 152
Newell, Robert 95, col 17*
General Manager, later Director-General 37, 47, 106
ROSL and the future 135-8
Newman, Cardinal 6
Noakes, Moragh, née Dickson 67, 69
Noakes, Philip 73
Empire Tour 1939: 66-9, 70-2
Nonis, Chris 39
Norden, Florence 35
Northcliffe, Lord [Alfred Harmsworth] 7, 8-10, 10
Over-Seas Club – Founder and President 12

O
Ogilvy, Hon. Angus 35
Ontario 87
Over-Seas Club 21

P
Partridge, Ian 119
Patriotic League of Britons Overseas 13, 20, 21, 90
Paterson, Robert 109
philanthropy, importance of 6
Pitt, William 99
Plunket, Lady 17, 18
Plunket Society for the Promotion of the Health of Women and Children 17
Index

Ponsford, Myriam 117
Porter, Laureen col 5*
Potter, Joan Kemp 115, 117
Princess Alexandra Hall 95, 104, 112-13, 125, col 12*
Princess Royal, The 33

R
Ranfurly Library Service 29
Rebello, Simome col 11*
reciprocal clubs 92-4, 155-8
Resefield, Gemma col 12*
‘Return of the Missing Picture’ 95
Rhodes, Cecil
idol of Wrench 7
inspirational paper 7-8
Rice, Eric 77
positions held 64-5
ROSL journeys 1934 (map) 66
ROSL Secretary 34

ROSL [Royal Over-Seas League] Arts 115-30
ARTS Sponsorship Committee 113
building fund 23
Central Council 128
Central Council at January 2010: 149
Chairmen 146
change, capacity to adapt to 127-8
current overview 126-9
Director-Generals 147
Discussion Circle/Group 29, 38
double purpose 24
‘Empire Brotherhood’ 126-7
finances post First World War 21
financial difficulties 1980s 37
financial position 1960s 62
financial position 1970s 135
financial position 1980: 104
‘friends organisation’ comparison 128-9
future 135-8
history overview 1-3
London Group 29, 38
objectives 21-2
Patrons 144
Presidents 145
Public Relations Department activities 38, 39, 40
Returned Prisoners of War Committee 34
Royal Albert Hall 21st birthday celebration 26, 27
Royal Charter 1922: 21, 42
‘Royal’ title and coat of arms 36, 42
Secretaries 147
senior staff at January 2010: 150
timeline 140-4
Travelling Secretary 64-9
Vice-Patrons 145
Vice-Presidents at January 2010: 148
Royal Automobile Club, Victoria 92, 94
Royal Colonial Institute 6, 8
Royal Commonwealth Society 23, 36
Royal Empire Society 67
Royal visits 48
Rumble, John 37
Ruskin, John 60
Rutland House 24, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, col 1*
partial destruction 105
Rysbrack, John 103
S
St Andrew’s Hall 95, 104, 112
St Thomas’ Hospital 18
Salvation Army 8
Sampson, Stephanie col 2*
Satyanand, Hon. Sir Anand col 10*
Saudi Arabia 152
Schierenberg, Tai-Shan 74, col 3*
Scott, Sir David 37, 120
Scott, Sir Kenneth 111
Second World War
Allies Welcome Committee 30-4
Field Forces Hampers 60
informal hospitality 34
receptions for Allied leaders 30-1
Tobacco Fund 60
Vernon House bomb damage 104
visit by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth 42
Sharma, Kamalesh 136
Shaw, Michael John 75, col 6*
Shelter col 4*
Singapore Cricket Club 92, 93
Sovereign’s official birthday 78
Spectator 16
Sri Lanka welfare projects 130
Stammers, Patricia 117
Stevenson, Frances, later Lady Lloyd George 51
Strange, Audrey 117, 117
Switzerland 89, 152

T
Tan, Melvyn 121
Tanglin Club, Singapore 92
Taunton branch 86
telephone link ceremony, all-Empire 112
Thailand 89-90, 152
Travelling Secretary 64-9
Treasure, Pat 62, 64
Truby King, Sir Frederick 17-18
Turner, Dame Eva 119
Twentieth-Century Group 35, 40

V
Vernon House 23-4, 97, 103, col 1*
bomb damage 34, 104
Vernon, Edward 103-4
Victoria League 6, 8, 37
View from Green Park, The col 1*
Voluntary Service Overseas 29

W
Walker, Jane 123
Walpole, Sir Robert 99
Webb-Johnson, Colonel 68
welfare projects
Namibia 131-4
Sri Lanka 130
Western Australia 130
Wessex, Earl of 47
West Cornwall branch 84
West Sussex branch 85-6
Western Australia welfare projects 130
Westminster Wing 24, 98, 105, 106, 107-6
Whitlock, J.col 1*
Wilkie, James 111
Wrench, Sir (John) Evelyn
Bentley presentation 25, 25
Cecil Rhodes as idol 7
dead 30, 36
editor of Overseas 13, 49
‘Empire Centre’ 24, 104
‘Empire Crusade’ 12
Empire links speech 112
Empire tour 1912: 76
energy and idealism 16
English Speaking Union 16
Executive Director, the Spectator 23
First World War 13

Sri Lanka welfare projects 130
Western Australia welfare projects 130
Western Australia 130
Wessex, Earl of 47
West Cornwall branch 84
West Sussex branch 85-6
Western Australia welfare projects 130
Westminster Wing 24, 98, 105, 106, 107-6
Whitlock, J. col 1*
Wilkie, James 111
Wrench, Sir (John) Evelyn
Bentley presentation 25, 25
Cecil Rhodes as idol 7
dead 30, 36
editor of Overseas 13, 49
‘Empire Centre’ 24, 104
‘Empire Crusade’ 12
Empire links speech 112
Empire tour 1912: 76
energy and idealism 16
English Speaking Union 16
Executive Director, the Spectator 23
First World War 13

Sri Lanka welfare projects 130
Western Australia welfare projects 130
Western Australia 130
Wessex, Earl of 47
West Cornwall branch 84
West Sussex branch 85-6
Western Australia welfare projects 130
Westminster Wing 24, 98, 105, 106, 107-6
Whitlock, J. col 1*
Wilkie, James 111
Wrench, Sir (John) Evelyn
Bentley presentation 25, 25
Cecil Rhodes as idol 7
dead 30, 36
editor of Overseas 13, 49
‘Empire Centre’ 24, 104
‘Empire Crusade’ 12
Empire links speech 112
Empire tour 1912: 76
energy and idealism 16
English Speaking Union 16
Executive Director, the Spectator 23
First World War 13
Index

Wrench, Sir (John) Evelyn (cont.)
- founder of ROSL 7
- ideals 129
- India during Second World War 30
- John Ruskin quotation 60
- knighted 29
- knighted KCMG 30, 142
- marriage 29, 30
- *Overseas Daily Mail* 7, 10, 11-12
- Peter Fleming's impression of 16

photographs 13, 25, 30
- 'practical idealist' 126
- Rhodes' inspirational paper 7-8
- 'Royal' title 42
- service in honorary capacity 127
- *Spectator* 16
- Wrench, Winifride 12, 17-18, 29, 108
- Wyatt, Carol 122