



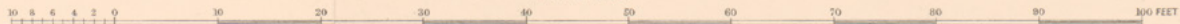
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“To increase the means
of industrial education
and extend the influence
of science and art upon
productive industry.”
—

MISSION OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION
FOR THE EXHIBITION OF 1851
(TAKEN FROM THE COMMISSION'S
SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER 1851)

www.royalcommission1851.org

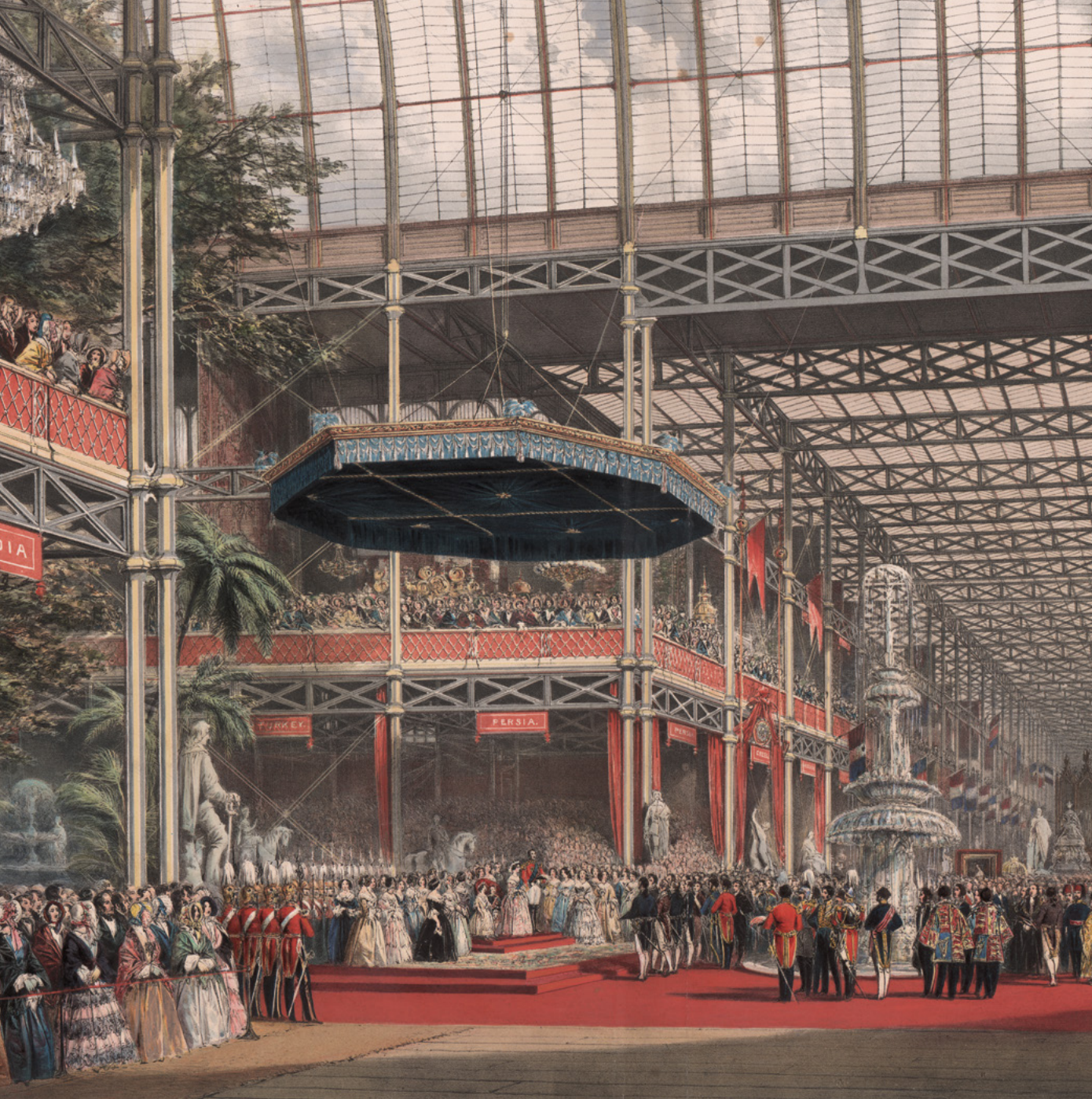
SOUTH ELEVATION.

SCALE



C. Downes, Darf

John Weale, 59 High Holborn, Aug. 30th 1851.



Mission and history

In the late 1840s Prince Albert had the idea of holding an international exhibition in London to celebrate and encourage manufacturing and design. In order to organise this event he established the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 under a Royal Charter from Queen Victoria. As the Commission's President Prince Albert played a pivotal role in organising the Great Exhibition and in the later work of the Commission.

The Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations brought exhibits from manufacturers, designers, scientists, engineers and artisans around the world to the "Crystal Palace", the iconic iron and glass building, the largest structure on Earth at the time, designed by Joseph Paxton and erected in Hyde Park. Opening on 1st May 1851 this unprecedented celebration of industry, design, internationalism and trade was a huge success. As the doors to the Exhibition closed for the final time on 15 October 1851, the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 was entrusted with ensuring that the £186,000 profits would be used in perpetuity to further the far-reaching vision of Prince Albert, its President.

The Great Exhibition of 1851

6 weeks

The time taken to design the Crystal Palace



26 acres

Size of site in Hyde Park

2,260

Largest number of construction workers onsite in Hyde Park in one day



4 months

The time taken to build the Crystal Palace

1,848 feet

Length of the Crystal Palace: equal to 51 London buses



13,937

Number of exhibitors, presenting over 100,000 exhibits



141

Number of days the Great Exhibition was open



109,915

Maximum number of visitors in a single day, 7 October 1851



6,039,195

Total number of visitors



5 shillings

Saturday admission fee



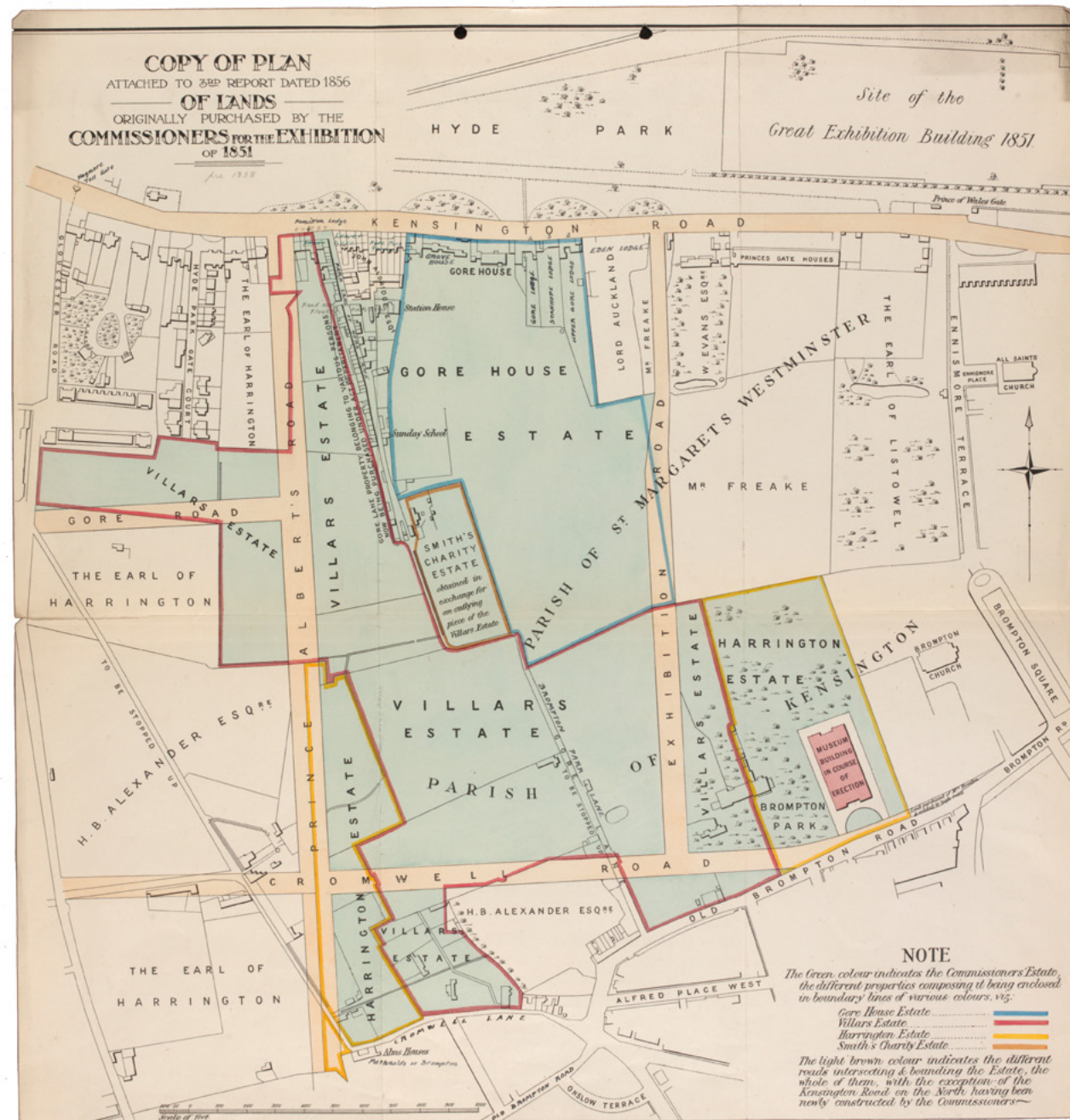
£186,437

Profit from the Great Exhibition

Today, with assets that have grown to over £110million, the 1851 Royal Commissioners continue to honour the spirit of innovation, education and culture that informed the work of their nineteenth century predecessors. The Commission's estate in South Kensington, purchased with the profits from the 1851 Exhibition, is now home to some of the world's leading educational and cultural institutions. The Commission manages an extensive programme of fellowships and studentships, awarding over £3 million of grants each year to students and researchers. In addition Special Awards are granted to projects aligned with the Commission's commitment to its estate and to education in science, engineering and design.

"The Great Exhibition cannot fail to exercise a very considerable influence upon the art and industry, as well as upon the commerce and international relationships of the world."

Illustrated London News (Hobhouse p.82)

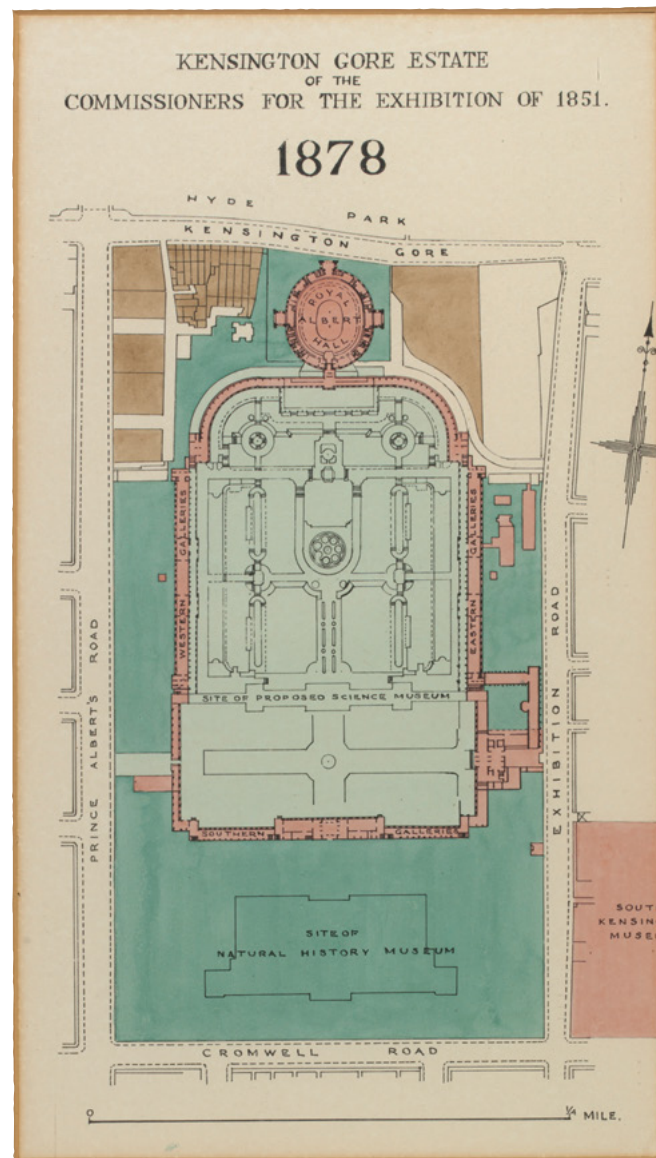


The South Kensington Estate

Within two years of the Great Exhibition, the 1851 Commission had purchased an 87 acre site in South Kensington. The acquisition of this land was critical to Prince Albert's vision of a quarter for museums, educational institutions and learned societies, which would ensure that "the Great Exhibition of 1851 should not become a transitory event of mere temporary interest but that its objects would be perpetuated, that the different industrial pursuits of Mankind, Arts and Sciences, should not again relapse into a state of comparative isolation from each other, in which their progress is necessarily retarded, and that the different Nations would remain in that immediate relation of mutual assistance by which these pursuits are incalculably advanced." (Memorandum of Prince Albert, 10th August 1851),

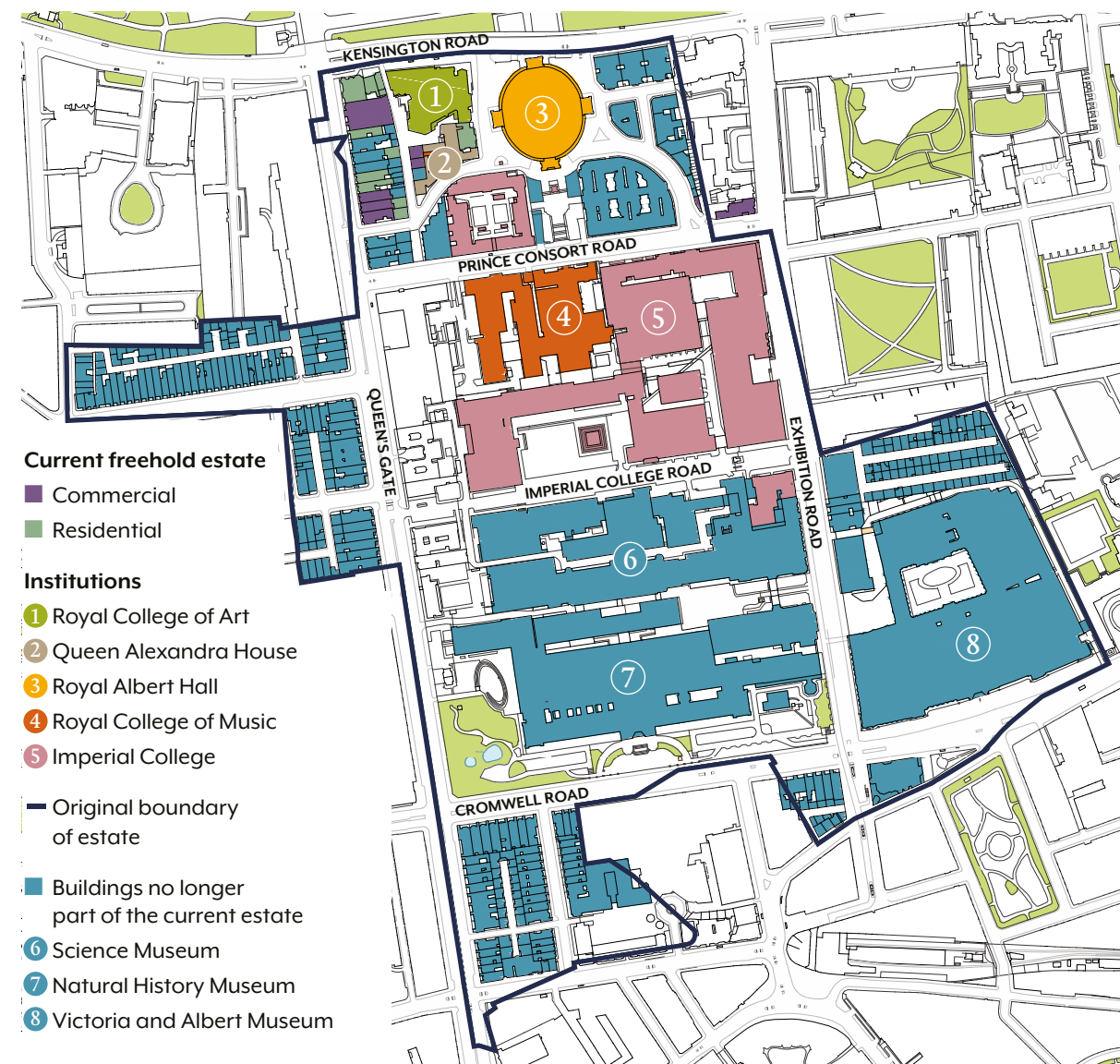
"South Kensington is becoming the nucleus of everything scientific and artistic..."

Pall Mall Gazette, February 1863 (Hobhouse p.147)



The main square of the Commission's estate was formed in 1855 and 1856, when the roads of Exhibition Road, Cromwell Road and Queen's Gate were laid out. The Royal Albert Hall was opened on the estate in 1871. Designed as a Central Hall for Science and Art it was named as a memorial to the Prince Consort ten years after his untimely death. In the years that followed, the estate became home to educational institutions including the Royal Colleges of Music, Organists, Needlework and Art; the Imperial Institute; and the Royal College of Science, the Royal School of Mines and the City and Guilds College, which would join to become the Imperial College of Science and Technology in 1907.

Over the years the 1851 Commission has divested itself of some of the original estate but for those educational and cultural institutions for whom it is still landlord it continues to provide long leases at below-market rates. The Commission continues to support all the "Albertopolis" institutions (ie those on its original estate) in their work in education, research, science and the arts and works closely with them to improve the experience of all those visiting, working, studying and living in South Kensington, one of the world's most popular cultural and educational destinations.





The 1851 Commission Estate

87

Acres of land acquired
in 1852 – 1853



£200,000

Cost of Royal Albert
Hall construction
in 1871

Number of students
over 20,000



20 million

Number of visitors
each year

2019

First Great
Exhibition Road
Festival

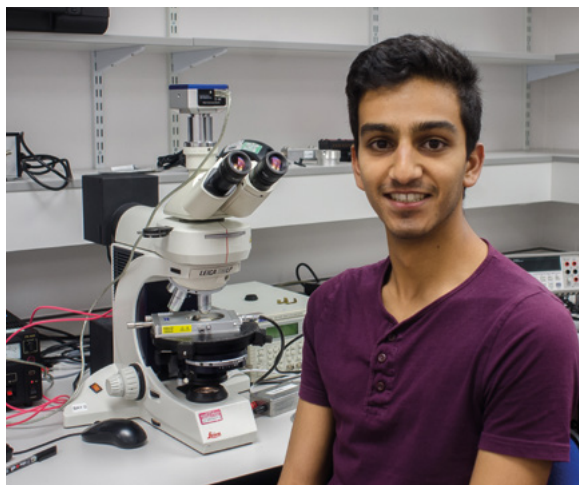


Find out more:

www.discoversouthken.com: the website
of the Exhibition Road Cultural Group, of
which the 1851 Commission is a member,
provides events listings and guides to
exploring our neighbourhood.

Transformative education and research

In 1851 Prince Albert had intended that the Commission would offer scholarships for people to pursue study in the fields of science and design. However at that stage the Commission's resources were fully stretched in developing its estate. It was not until the end of the nineteenth century, with the estate well-established and thriving, that the Commissioners had the necessary resources to develop a programme of scholarships and fellowships. In 1891, forty years after the Great Exhibition, the Commission awarded its first scholarships, for "research in the experimental sciences bearing upon the industries". These awards enabled students from Great Britain and the countries of the British Empire to pursue research away from their own universities.



1851 Alumni Nobel Laureates

Ernest Rutherford

1851 Award held 1895 – 1898
Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1908

Charles Glover Barkla

1851 Award held 1899 – 1902
Nobel Prize in Physics 1917

Robert Robinson

1851 Award held 1907 – 1909
Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1947

Walter Norman Haworth

1851 Award held 1909 – 1911
Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1937

James Chadwick

1851 Award held 1913 – 1919
Nobel Prize in Physics 1935

John Douglas Cockcroft

1851 Award held 1920 – 1922
Nobel Prize in Physics 1951

Paul Adrien Maurice Dirac

1851 Award held 1925 – 1928
Nobel Prize in Physics 1933

1851 Alumni Nobel Laureates

Ernest Thomas Sinton Walton

1851 Award held 1927 – 1930
Nobel Prize in Physics 1951

Alexander Robertus Todd

1851 Award held 1931 – 1934
Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1957

John Warcup Cornforth

1851 Award held 1939 – 1942
Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1975

Aaron Klug

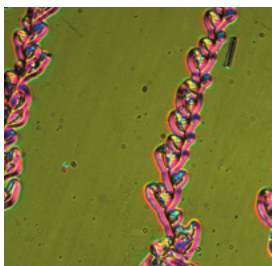
1851 Award held 1949 – 1952
Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1982

Sydney Brenner

1851 Award held 1952 – 1954
Nobel Prize in Medicine 2002

Peter Ware Higgs

1851 Award held 1953 – 1955
Nobel Prize in Physics 2013



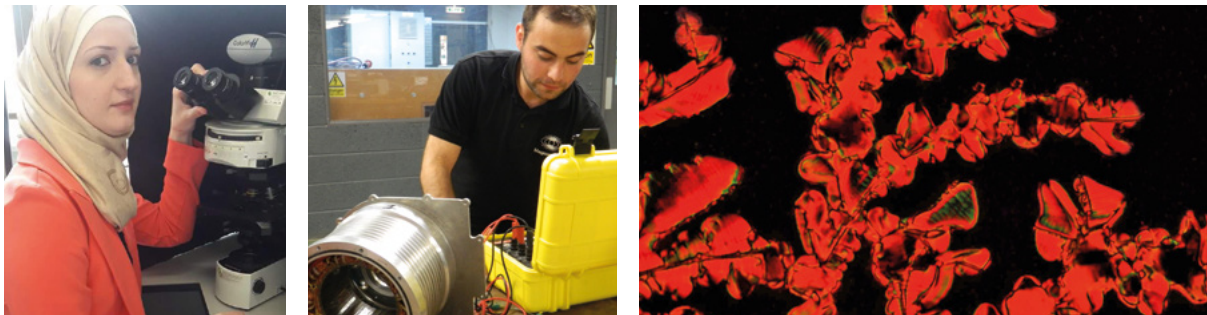
“To say that the Commission enabled me to launch my career would be a massive understatement.”

Professor John Boothroyd, Burt and Marion Avery
Professor of Immunology, Stanford University;
Overseas Scholar 1976 (Annual Report 2016)

As the needs of industry and the national and international research funding landscapes have changed through the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, so the 1851 Commission has adapted its award schemes for students and researchers to ensure that they continue to be of relevance in a fast-changing society. But through all their transformations the awards have continued to support the brightest and best in the early stages of their careers, who are undertaking autonomous research and education oriented towards industry and who have the potential to make a difference in their chosen field and beyond.

The 1851 Commission scholarships and fellowships have had a considerable impact on the world in which we live. The Commission counts thirteen Nobel Laureates, seven holders of the Order of Merit and four Presidents and over 150 Fellows of the Royal Society among its alumni. Recent research fellows have explored topics as diverse as the impact of tunnelling on heritage masonry structures, the behaviour of cancer cells in instances of colorectal cancer and alternatives to the theory of General Relativity.

Scholarships and Fellowships today



Post-doctoral Research Fellowships in Science or Engineering

For early career researchers of exceptional promise to conduct a research project of their own instigation.

Industrial Fellowships

Awarded to graduates with the potential to make an outstanding contribution to industry, for research supported by a company, leading to a patent, product or process improvement and a postgraduate award.

Industrial Design Studentships

For outstanding engineers or scientists to undertake Masters degrees in industrial design, for up to two years.

Fellowships in Design and the Built Environment

Awarded in alternate years for mid-career professionals to explore important current issues identified by the Commissioners.

Enterprise Fellowships (with the Royal Academy of Engineering)

A package of tailored mentoring, training and grant-funding for graduates to pursue commercialisation of their technological ideas.

These programmes are regularly reviewed and new initiatives considered to ensure the Commission's work maintains its relevance and reaches widely across the whole spectrum of tertiary education and research.

A global alumni network

One of the Commission's most enduring assets is its Alumni Network. The 1851 Alumni Network contains nearly 900 active members. They span the globe from the Northwest Territories of Canada to New Zealand, from Sweden to South Africa

and work in a diverse range of professions and fields. Through events and online the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 encourages cooperation and a cross-pollination of ideas amongst its alumni and between alumni and current award holders.

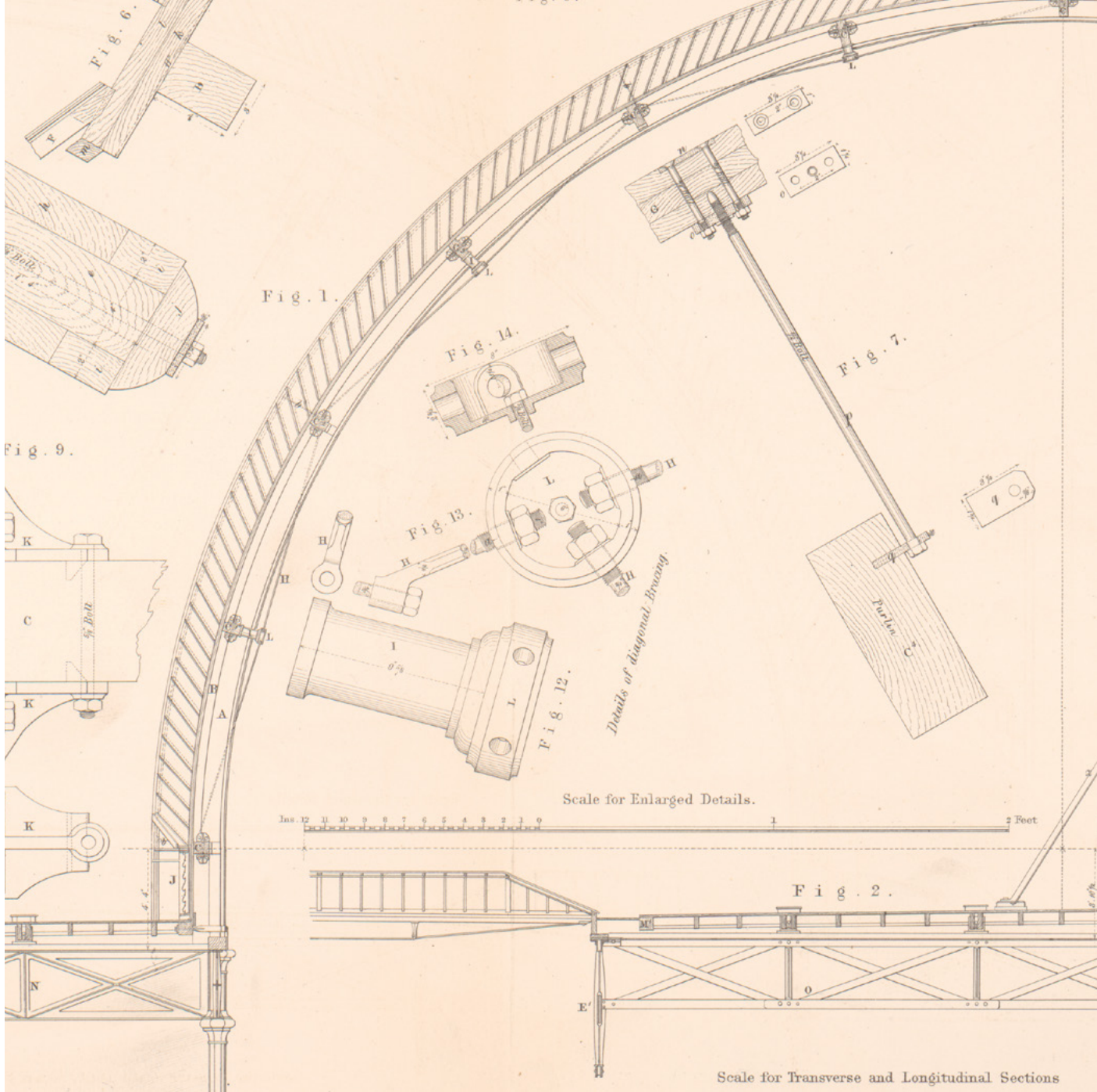


The 1851 Alumni Network spans the globe



“The 1851 Fellowship gave me the best ever start to my independent career. Not only did it help me make friends across disciplines with other 1851 awardees of my time, but it helped me connect with the incredible previous Fellows.”

Professor Yamuna Krishnan, Research Fellow 2002



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