

A portrait of a man with a friendly expression, wearing a dark pinstriped suit, a white shirt, and a purple and white striped tie. He is also wearing a black bowler hat. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be shelves with books or documents.

Today in History

November 17, 1849

▲ London's oldest hat shop sold the first ever bowler hat, ordered by a customer who required protection from low-hanging branches when out shooting

1869: The Suez Canal, which links the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, was opened to navigation

1917: French sculptor Auguste Rodin, whose work includes his 1880 masterpiece, *The Thinker*, died

1954: General Gamal Abdel Nasser became President of Egypt

2009: Somali pirates freed a Spanish tuna trawler and its 36 crew seized a month earlier in the Indian Ocean, after receiving a \$3.5m ransom