

The Royal Philatelic Society London

41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY

Tel: 020 7486 1044; Web: www.rpsl.org.uk; Email: adminmanager@rpsl.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

The surface printed story explained

Giving the Sir Daniel Cooper Lecture to the members of The Royal Philatelic Society London on 8 May, Robert Galland presented a lucid and erudite background to the first surface printed stamps of Great Britain. The basis of this annual lecture is material that Sir Daniel Cooper, first President of the Philatelic Society of London, might have collected or known.

Bob explained that De La Rue and Co Ltd won the contract to print British stamps by surface printing from 1855 because it could offer fugitive inks, as well as overcoming the difficulties that had been experienced with perforating the line-engraved stamps.

Fears over security saw the introduction in 1862 of corner letters within the design of the stamps, at first in white on a small coloured square in each corner of the design, later the square becoming larger, until finally coloured letters on a white square were introduced.

The material shown included essays, proofs, colour trials, Specimen and issued stamps. Among the highlights was the scarce 2/- brown with large white corner letters, shown on a cover sent to Chile, and of which forgeries were also displayed.

The vote of thanks was given by Andrew Lajer who commented that the material had been 'lovingly assembled' and is 'much more interesting' than the line-engraved issues.



Cover bearing the 2/- brown sent to Chile.



Bob Galland (left) with Chris King, President of The Royal Philatelic Society London.

Those wishing to visit The Royal Philatelic Society London at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, or be a guest at one of its meetings, are asked to contact in advance the Administrative Office on 020 7486 1044.

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