

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW

Phone: 020 7486 1044

Website: www.rpsl.org.uk

Email: pressrelease@rpsl.org.uk



PRESS RELEASE

The attraction of Madeira

The island of Madeira is best known for one famous commodity – the wine it produces. Its location, in the Atlantic Ocean, made it a useful sheltering and watering point for Portuguese navigators venturing west: many ships would call just to take on board some Madeira wine. Understandably these aspects dominate the early postal history of the island.

Not surprisingly therefore they were the focus of a presentation, 'Madeira – Some aspects of its postal history', given by Luis Frazão RDP, FRPSL to the members of the Royal Philatelic Society London on 23 January.

Luis explained the background to the early mail both from and to Madeira, illustrated by correspondence, undoubtedly rare but surviving thanks to Madeira wine and the original owners of the oldest company in the trade, Cossart Gordon & Co. Included were a letter sent from Funchal on 12 May 1696, going via Lisbon and Falmouth to arrive in London on 30 October, while another from London on 30 December 1765 arrived in Madeira on 26 February. Unfortunately, a problem for collectors with much of the early correspondence is identifying the rates, as the records no longer exist.

Giving the Vote of Thanks, Paul Wijnants FRPSL, described Luis as a 'great philatelist and postal historian, a superb researcher' who embraced 'the best of both worlds' thanks to enjoying postal history and Madeira wine. Luis was presented with the Society's plaque by its President, Simon Richards FRPSL.

(28 January 2025)

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW

Phone: 020 7486 1044

Website: www.rpsl.org.uk

Email: pressrelease@rpsl.org.uk



Simon Richards FRPSL, President of the Royal Philatelic Society London (left) with Luis Frazão RDP, FRPSL.