

# The Royal Philatelic Society London

41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY

Tel: 020 7486 1044

Fax: 020 7486 0803

Web site: [www.rpsl.org.uk](http://www.rpsl.org.uk)

Email: [secretary@rpsl.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rpsl.org.uk)



## PRESS RELEASE

### **The most beautiful stamp**

The 'most beautiful stamp' issued during the reign of Queen Victoria was how Professor Keith Klugman described the Chalon portrait as used on the stamps of Natal from 1859. Professor Klugman had travelled from the United States to give a presentation on Natal from 1836 to 1899 to the members of The Royal Philatelic Society London. He astounded members by revealing that the collection had been formed in only the past 15 years.

The display began with a letter sent from Natal in August 1836, and continued with many superb covers, several being outstanding examples of combination covers when letters had to travel through other countries for onward transmission.

Also shown were covers of the embossed stamps of Natal, issued on May 26, 1857, a number being unique in bearing multiples including tête-bêche pairs. As these embossed stamps were subsequently reprinted using the original dies and on original paper, the provenance of these stamps can only be guaranteed if used or on cover.

Giving the vote of thanks, Gerald Bodily said how privileged the members of the Society had been to see this fine material.

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 kindly asked to contact in advance the Administrative Office on 020 7486 1044.

#### *Caption for illustrations:*

Professor Keith Klugman with his wife Magderie.

Die proofs of the Natal Chalon Head.

20 February 2012