

The Royal Philatelic Society London

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PRESS RELEASE

Fascinating stories from New Zealand

At the meeting of The Royal Philatelic Society London held on 15 March, Patrick Maselis enthralled his audience by tracing the development of postal services in New Zealand until the introduction of the adhesive postage stamp.

Patrick began by telling how Baron de Thierry, born in Brabant (then part of The Netherlands and now part of Belgium) had bought land in New Zealand from two Maori chieftains, registering the contract in 1822. In 1835 he tried to establish himself as 'Sovereign Chief of New Zealand', but his ideas were thwarted by the British Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, revoking all contracts that the Maori chiefs had made. Patrick's display included a letter from Baron Charles de Thierry; the letter was sent from Pitcairn Island while he was trying to sail to California for the gold rush, a quest in which he never succeeded, reaching no further than Honolulu.

The entire display contained outstanding and fascinating material, not least mail sent between Maori tribes using their efficient system of couriers and message carriers, able to travel some 30 miles a day.

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:

Patrick Maselis.

Patrick Maselis with Brian Trotter, President of The Royal Philatelic Society London (right).
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