

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

Email: secretary@rpsl.org.uk



PRESS RELEASE

The origins of 'Stamps with Large Margins'

The annual Sir Daniel Cooper Lecture to the members of The Royal Philatelic Society London was presented on 29 March by Alan Huggins, who took as his subject 'Stamps with Large Margins'. He recalled that at the first general meeting of the Philatelic Society, London on 29 May 1869, Sir Daniel, as President, had spoken about the stamped covers produced by New South Wales.

Created by embossing the seal of the colony in colourless relief on sheets of paper (or on envelopes, letter sheets and wrappers provided by the public), these stamped covers were introduced for local use within the postal districts of Sydney on 1 November 1838. The cost included all charges for payment and delivery.

Thus saw the beginning of 'Stamps with Large Margins', more commonly known as postal stationery: Alan's lecture examined its early development, including the influence of Great Britain.

Among the many outstanding items displayed were envelopes prepared for use by Members of Parliament from 16 January to 5 May 1840, following the abolition of the 'Free Franking' privilege. The Mulready stationery, put into general use from 6 May, received much public criticism, and was soon replaced by a design featuring the coinage head of Queen Victoria by William Wyon.

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.

Captions for illustrations:

Alan Huggins giving the 2012 Sir Daniel Cooper Lecture.

Development of Wyon's design annotated by Charles Whiting.

3 April 2012