

The Royal Philatelic Society London

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PRESS RELEASE

Reaching the Empire by Air

The intriguing story of the creation of Imperial Airways and the expansion of its services was the subject of a talk and display given by Barry Scott, from New Zealand, to the members of The Royal Philatelic Society London on 11 October.

Imperial Airways formally came into being on 31 March 1934, from a desire by the British Government to bring together the existing private airlines into a single company to serve Great Britain and the Empire. The display demonstrated how the routes gradually expanded, to South Africa, and a year later in 1931 to India, Burma, Singapore and Australia.

Following the formation of the airline, the Empire Air Mail Scheme was established, providing low cost airmail thanks to subsidies provided by the various Empire governments.

A notable feature of Barry's material is that he does not include first flight covers, relying entirely on commercial mail, much the subject of careful research to determine the route taken and the charges applied.



Barry Scott (left) with Brian Trotter, 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 kindly asked to contact in advance the Administrative Office on 020 7486 1044.

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