

# The Royal Philatelic Society London

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Delivery on Christmas Day

At its meeting just prior to Christmas, The Royal Philatelic Society London enjoyed a presentation and display by Patrick Campbell on the 'Posted in Advance for Christmas' service.

The idea was first trialled in Manchester in 1902, devised by John Philips, the Surveyor for Manchester. He wanted the public to stagger the posting of their Christmas greetings between 17 and 22 December, safe in the knowledge they would be retained and not delivered until Christmas Day.

The mail so posted received a strike that advised it has been posted in advance for delivery on Christmas Day. Later the markings featured a prominent 'X' as part of 'Xmas'.

The scheme did not receive the expected support and came to an end in 1909.

The display featured not only covers tracing the development of the scheme, but also wrappers used for bundles of advance posted letters, and the facsimiles produced in 1940 by Col Guy Crouch of Aylesbury.



Patrick Campbell with part of his display to 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.

20 December 2012