

# The Royal Philatelic Society London

41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY

Tel: 020 7486 1044

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

Fax: 020 7486 0803

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



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Providing mail for the blind**

How mail for blind people has been treated over the years was the subject of the display and presentation given by Gavin Fryer to The Royal Philatelic Society London on 7 February.

The system of raised dots that enables blind people to read and write was developed by Louis Braille, who became blind at the age of four. However, for many years postal administrations were unwilling to adopt preferential rates for mail containing material for the blind, on the grounds that the existing book posts and printed paper rates were sufficient. However, gradually the position relaxed as items such as tapes and apparatus were permitted in addition to the embossed literature.



Brian Trotter, President of The Royal Philatelic Society London, (left) with Gavin Fryer.

From 1 January 1966, following the Postal Convention adopted in Vienna in 1964, items for the blind could be posted free of postage and other postal charges, except for a small air surcharge on parcels.

The display featured material dating from 1822, and from many parts of the world, including items of mail, pamphlets, forms and other ephemera.

11 February 2013