

The Royal Philatelic Society London

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PRESS RELEASE

President tells of Byways and Backwaters

The President of The Royal Philatelic Society London, Brian Trotter, enthralled the members on 2 May with a presentation and display that told of the 'Byways and Backwaters' of Southern Africa.

Showing a wealth and variety of material, Brian told of the involvement in southern Africa of the British, who initially only showed any interest in the Cape of Good Hope in the late 1700s and early 1800s to prevent the French taking control of the vital sea route to the East.

Many of the covers on display were sent during wars and campaigns, some remaining largely unknown. One such was the Gun War of 1880 to 1881. The Basuto tribe had equipped itself with guns to challenge settlers trying to take its land. The British wanted the tribe to surrender its weapons, but failed to engage them in the mountainous terrain, so declared a 'victory' by allowing the tribe to keep the guns as long as they registered them.

Among the other items shown were Bechuanaland Protectorate embossed cheque stamps, Customs duty stamps, the Tati Concessions Gold Mining revenue stamps, postage due stamps of Transvaal, Southern Africa and South West Africa, and revenue stamps of Southern Rhodesia.



Brian Trotter with his wife Chris
in front of part of his display.

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.

4 May 2013