

# The Royal Philatelic Society London

41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY

Tel: 020 7486 1044; Web: [www.rpsl.org.uk](http://www.rpsl.org.uk); Email: [adminmanager@rpsl.org.uk](mailto:adminmanager@rpsl.org.uk)

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Jacob Perkins' remarkable life revealed**

The name of Perkins Bacon is familiar to most collectors; fewer are aware of the life of Jacob Perkins before he moved to England in 1819.

At the meeting of The Royal Philatelic Society London held on 3 October, Gary W. Granzow presented the remarkable history of Jacob's early life in America. Born in Newburyport, Massachusetts in 1766, at the age of 12 he was apprenticed to a goldsmith, and three years later was asked to take over the operation following the death of his master.

While best known for stamps and banknotes, his inventiveness extended to producing coins for Massachusetts, designing a fire engine, and a machine for producing nails. However, it was his invention in the late 1790s of a means of engraving on steel that resulted in the intricate work seen on banknotes and stamps, providing unrivalled security at the time.



Chris King, President of The Royal Philatelic Society London (left) with Gary W. Granzow.

His first banknote was for Massachusetts, engraved in 1799, but the most familiar example of his techniques is Great Britain's Penny Black issued in 1840.

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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