

The Royal Philatelic Society London

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PRESS RELEASE

Amazing combination covers from Greece

The complex story of covers posted to Greece during the life of the Large Hermes Head stamps was comprehensively told by Wolfgang Bauer at a meeting of The Royal Philatelic Society London on October 18.

Wolfgang explained that, up to February 28, 1875, postal charges to be paid on incoming mail were indicated, not with postage dues, but by the use of the normal stamps, the Large Hermes Head issue.

The process of determining the amount to be paid was complex, involving not only weight and distance travelled, but also the rates applicable to the countries through which a letter had passed taking into account the respective exchange rates: even the charges made by shipping companies to transport the mail had to be included.

As many of the letters had already been stamped for part of their journey, with the stamps of one or more countries, to which were then added the Greek stamps, many unusual and rare combination covers exist, an unrivalled selection of which was on display. Particularly difficult to find are covers on which the rates had been underpaid, which the Greek Post Office charged as if unpaid.



Chris King, President of The Royal Philatelic Society London (left) with Wolfgang Bauer.

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.

22 October 2013