

# 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

### **Incredible treasures from the British Library**

Members of The Royal Philatelic Society London were mesmerised on learning at the meeting held on 13 February about the incredible Royal correspondence between Britain and Asia that forms part of the India Office Records held at the British Library.

Paul Skinner, Head of the Philatelic Collections at the British Library, introduced his colleague Richard Scott Morel, Curator of the India Office Records that occupy some nine miles of shelving at the Library.

The letters described during Richard's presentation dated from 1600, the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, reflecting a time when many European powers, not least Britain, were seeking to trade with, even conquer, parts of south-east Asia, areas of great wealth.

One way in which operations such as the East India Company could make contact was by sending letters that were endorsed by the Crown. These were often magnificent works of art, specially created and invariably highly embellished, sometimes with gold and gems.



Paul Skinner (left) with Richard Scott Morel at 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 asked to contact in advance the Administrative Office on 020 7486 1044.

*(17 February 2014)*