

The Royal Philatelic Society London

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PRESS RELEASE

Outstanding Overland Mail shown to Royal

The meeting of The Royal Philatelic Society London held on 13 March was shown an outstanding assembly of covers carried overland between India and the United Kingdom and France via the Mediterranean.

The presentation, by Jochen Heddergott, began with a cover sent from Madras on 9 June 1785, which reached its destination, London, nine months later on 14 March 1786.

Covers were shown that were sent via Southampton, Marseilles or Trieste. Also demonstrated was the use of forwarding agents, the most famous of which was Thomas Fletcher Waghorn, even though he took money for services that others undertook for free.

To ensure correspondence reached its destination, senders would often use two routes for identical letters. Jochen had brought together two such letters, sent from Guernsey to Madras, one that travelled via Aleppo and Bagdad, the other via the Cape.

Expressing the thanks of the meeting, President Chris King spoke of the complex and considerable research needed to bring together the high quality and very scarce material that had been shown.



Jochen Heddergott (left) with Chris King,
President of 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.

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