

# The Royal Philatelic Society London

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Stamp booklets reflect social history**

Ian Harvey's display of Great Britain Stamp Booklets, shown to the members of The Royal Philatelic Society London on 27 March, demonstrated that these are more intricate to collect than normal sheet stamps. They also provide a fascinating insight of life over the years through their advertising pages.

The material shown extended far beyond the stamps contained within the booklets, including the covers and interleaves, with many trials and essays on display. Also shown were booklet panes with the stamps invalidated, such as by CANCELLED or SPECIMEN overprints, often included within sample booklets supplied to advertisers.

Although the British Post Office issued its first booklet in 1904, the Stamp Distribution Syndicate (Limited) in 1891 produced a 'Memorandum' note book containing a single 1d lilac stamp. However, Ian's display began with the earliest extant booklets, dating from 1868, sold for 21 shillings and containing the 3d stamps produced by Bonelli's Electrical Telegraph Co Ltd.

Giving the vote of thanks, Chris Harman described this as 'most astonishing collection' that had been 'exceptionally difficult' to assemble.



Ian Harvey in front of a 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 asked to contact in advance the Administrative Office on 020 7486 1044.

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