

The Royal Philatelic Society London

41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY

Tel: 020 7486 1044; Web: www.rpsl.org.uk; Email: adminmanager@rpsl.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

Best ever assembled

‘The best ever assembled’ was how Mario Mentaschi, giving the vote of thanks, described the display of Sicily 1859-1860 presented by Francesco Lombardo to The Royal Philatelic Society London on 7 May.

The kingdom of Sicily was the last postal administration in Italy to issue its own postage stamps.

The display featured the stamps, including essays and proofs, and an extraordinary array of re-constructed sheets. Also shown were covers showing the use of the stamps, sent on the day of issue, 1 January 1859, and later both internally and overseas. Mario added that Francesco has ‘all the possible examples of letters’. On 11 May 1860 Garibaldi acquired Sicily: the use of Sicilian stamps ceased, the last recorded being on 23 July 1860 from Messina.

Francesco added that these are the ‘most beautiful stamps’, because they were the work of a great engraver, a good printer, and there was the desire to produce something special.



Francesco Lombardo (left) is thanked for his display by 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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