

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

120 years of Scottish Postal History

In his presentation to The Royal Philatelic Society London on 29 October, Malcolm Fenning examined the postal history of Scotland from 1591 to 1711. The starting date was chosen as the earliest cover on display was sent in that year to London possibly from Kincardine. On 1 June 1711 the Post Office Act saw the abolition of the Scottish Post Office upon the creation of the General Post Office in London.

Malcolm explained that Scottish postal history can be divided into three sections: privately carried letters; Burgh Posts, many towns having their own messengers; organised posts. He focused mainly on the development of the latter.

King James VI of Scotland (King James I of England) extended the post road between London and Berwick to Edinburgh, the King's Post being available to the public from 1635. During the 1660s the post roads in Scotland branched out to Glasgow, Ayr and Port Patrick, and to Aberdeen and Inverness.

Following the vote of thanks, in which Chris Hitchen commented on the 'very erudite and carefully researched explanations' given, the President, Frank Walton, presented the Society's plaque to Malcolm.

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.



Malcolm Fenning (left) receives a plaque from Frank Walton, President of The Royal Philatelic Society London.

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