

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

How the Expert Committee works

The work of the Expert Committee of The Royal Philatelic Society London (operating as RPSL Ltd) was explained to members of the Society on 9 February by Chris Harman, the Chair of the Committee.

Chris told his audience that the Committee of nine volunteers examines between 2,500 and 3,000 'patients' a year, with every member examining each item. The work is eased by using very sophisticated equipment, such as the video spectral comparator, that can view items under a wide range of light sources, allows the image of one stamp to be overlaid on another to permit accurate comparison, and enables extremely accurate measurements to be made of features on a stamp.

Each certificate issued gives the opinion of the Committee: it is not a guarantee. However, it is an opinion based on considerable knowledge and experience, coupled with access both to reference material, and to other 'specialist' knowledge if appropriate.

The presentation included examples of stamps that have been seen by the Committee over the years, explaining the great lengths that are undertaken to answer the question posed by the person submitting an item for an opinion. Indeed, considerable time can be spent over a single 'patient', even if the outcome is that the Committee cannot confirm the enquirer's expectations.

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 the Administrative Office (020 7486 1044).



Frank Walton, President of The Royal Philatelic Society (right) thanks Chris Harman for his presentation.

(14 February 2017)