

# The Royal Philatelic Society London

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Outside the scope of the catalogue

A cursory glance at the pages of the Stanley Gibbons stamp catalogue devoted to overprinted or surcharged stamps from Pakistan may give the impression that these are straightforward. In reality the situation is very different, as Michael J. Roberts FRPSL explained to The Royal Philatelic Society London on 9 March in his paper: *Pakistan Beyond the Catalogue; Birth, Conversion and Divorce*.

Mike began with the stamps of India overprinted for Pakistan following partition in 1947. While stamps overprinted at the Security Press at Nasik were available from 1 October, such was the pressure on the printers to provide overprinted stamps that, from 20 November, local overprints – handstamped, machine-printed, even hand-written – were permitted.

While the catalogue acknowledges that these local overprints are of 'considerable philatelic interest', they are not listed. Mike provided the background, with examples on display. Similarly, the decimal surcharges of 1961 are listed as a set of six stamps, while a vast array of local handstamps exists. Such stamps are acknowledged in the catalogue with: 'these local issues are outside the scope of this catalogue'.

Mike presented a thorough analysis of the surcharges, illustrated by both unused and used examples. Later came the 'Bangladesh' overprints on Pakistan – but sorting out the numerous types is a challenge that Mike still has to complete.

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).



*Michael J. Roberts FRPSL in front of part of his display.*

(14 March 2017)