

The Royal Philatelic Society London

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PRESS RELEASE

First time for El Salvador

It was the first time a display of El Salvador had been presented to the members of The Royal Philatelic Society London, but all were in for a rare treat when Guillermo F. Gallegos showed The Prestamp Period, from 1525 to 1866, on 9 November.

The presentation spanned the period when El Salvador was a Spanish colony, through the post-independence years and the creation of the Central American Federation, onto the independent Republic. Included were many fine and rare covers, often the majority of only a handful known.

The display ended with a taste of the issued stamps. Shown were proofs of the first issues from 1867 by both the American Bank Note Company and the Hamilton Bank Note Company. Also included was a selection of the unusual 'composite proofs' from the days when Nicholas Seebeck held the contract to produce stamps for a number of Latin American countries.

Throughout the presentation tributes were paid to Brian Moorhouse, who sadly died in June and who had done so much to promote and encourage interest in the philately of Central and South America.

Giving the vote of thanks to Guillermo for his 'wonderful array of markings, all very rare', John Shaw FRPSL commented how enterprising the early settlers must have been, considering Christopher Columbus colonised the 'New World' in 1492, and by the 1520s mail was being sent from El Salvador.

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).



Patrick Masellis RDP FRPSL, President of The Royal Philatelic Society London (left), presents the Society's plaque to Guillermo Gallegos.

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