

TORQUAY SOCIETY HISTORY

The formation of the Torquay Philatelic Society dates back to January 1921, when stockbroker Wilfrid Pheasey advertised in the local press under the *non de plume* "Philatelist" for like-minded collectors who would be interested in forming a new society. He obviously received a favorable response, as he wrote back on the 22nd from his offices at 32, Fleet Street to the respondents:



"Philatelist desires to express his thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have favoured him with enquiries regarding his advertised proposal for a local society for the purpose, amongst others, of facilitating interchange of views and exchange of duplicates amongst residents interested in stamps and stamp collecting. He would esteem it a privilege to be permitted an early opportunity of making the personal acquaintance of his correspondents, in order to arrange the formal institution of the proposed society, and to this end he ventures to request that those whose engagements permit will meet him at the above address noon on Saturday, the 5th February, when individual suggestions may be brought under discussion, and the possibility considered of a private exhibition of collections. R.S.V.P."

THE TORQUAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President - - - Mr. D. FIELD.
 Vice-President - - - Mr. S. MASON.

Committee:
 Miss M. GRANT. Mr. E. L. BLAND. Mr. J. WALKER.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:
 SIDNEY A. R. OLIVER,
 "SOUTHFIELD," TORQUAY.

PROGRAMME FOR 1922-23.

1922.		
Oct.	Mr. GRAY.	Uruguay.
Nov.	Mr. WALKER.	Australia.
Dec.	Mr. R. S. OLIVER.	Edwardian Colonials.
1923.		
Jan.	Mr. BLAND.	Newfoundland.
Feb.	Mr. R. S. OLIVER.	Georgian Colonials.
March.	Mr. MASON.	Rhodesia.
April.	Annual General Meeting.	
May.		
June.		

Meetings are held the first Monday of each month (except July, August and September) at Messrs. T. Oliver & Sons, Ltd., 16 Strand, Torquay, at 7.30 p.m.

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SYLLABUS, 1923-24.

Date, 1923.	Subject.	Lecturer.
October 1st.	Lantern Lecture. "Eighty Years of Stamp Collecting"	Mr. R. S. Oliver.
November 5th.	Display: "African Colonials"	Dr. T. S. L. Piggott.
December 3rd.	Paper and Display: "The Stamps of Great Britain"	Mr. S. A. R. Oliver.
1924.		
January 7th.	Display: "China"	Mr. S. Mason.
February 4th.	Display: "Air Stamps"	Mr. C. Greenwood.
March 3rd.	Display: "Modern Issues," to illustrate the decadence of design in Modern Art	Mr. E. D. Morgan.
April 7th.	Paper: "Ideal Philately," followed by a discussion	Mrs. Field.
May 5th.	Display: "France"	Mr. T. L. Gray.
" "	" " " " "French Colonies"	Mr. J. Walker.
June 2nd.	Stamps and Social at "The Nook," by the invitation of Mrs. Field.	

Unless otherwise advised, the meetings of the Society will be held at Messrs. T. Oliver & Sons, 16 Strand, Torquay, at 7.30 p.m. Members are invited to bring their collection of the Countries concerned to the respective meetings.

Exchange Club.—All communications for this Branch should be made direct to Mr. S. Mason, 15 College Road, Newton Abbot. All other communications to the Hon. Sec. & Treas., Mr. S. A. R. OLIVER, "Southfield," Torquay

As can be seen from these early syllabi (copies of which are still in the possession of the Society), the club was soon up and running with a varied programme of events.

It's amusing to note that even in 1924 there were some collectors shaking their heads over "modern" stamp design ... The Committee were at pains to emphasize that *"the novice and medium collectors are equally welcome with the more advanced student, in fact, anyone providing they are at all interested in the collection and study of stamps"*.

The new society sent delegates to the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain held at Bath in 1922, formed an exchange club in the same year (two "substantial" references, 2/6 entrance fee, and 5% to the Society), and a philatelic library in 1923. By the 1924-5 season the meetings had moved to the Y.M.C.A. Institute in Castle Road, close to the bus and tram routes in Castle Circus.