



A Brief Outline of Member Benefits

Opening hours: The premises at 15 Abchurch Lane are open from 9:30am to 5pm Monday to Friday, except for public holidays and between Christmas and the New Year. Occasionally the Society's library is open on Saturdays. Meetings of other philatelic societies also take place on Saturdays throughout the year.

Meetings: Ordinary meetings of the Society are held at fortnightly intervals throughout the season starting in September and ending at the end of June, public holidays permitting. In addition to the Society's Steward, there will usually be two members who welcome visitors and members on these afternoons. They will help you find your way around. Members and Fellows may also invite guests. These are very sociable occasions, usually involving 100 or so visitors.

The format of these ordinary meetings falls into two types.

1pm: "One o'clock meetings" - The meeting room opens at 1pm and remains open until 6pm. A static display in up to 42 frames of around 480-672 sheets is shown. There will usually be a handout giving some details of the display. There may be a talk by the exhibitor, who will normally be present and happy to speak to Members and Fellows. In the case of a display by a visiting Society there will be many people only too happy to discuss their exhibits.

5pm: "Five o'clock meetings" - These are in two parts:

- a) a static display of 128 to 320 sheets in the meeting room open from 1pm to 6pm; and
- b) at 5pm the exhibitor gives a talk of about 30 minutes, often using a PowerPoint presentation of the highlights of the material on view. This is followed by questions to the exhibitor, and the meeting ends by 6.30pm.

Display handouts, often significant publications in their own right, are available for members to download, and five o'clock meetings are usually recorded and made available in audio visual format on the website, also for members to watch online, or to download.

The John Sacher Library holds the majority of the Society's reference books arranged alphabetically by country. Books may be borrowed for a period of four weeks. To borrow a book, please take it to the library desk to be checked-out by a member of staff. All library items are secured with RFID tags which have to be deactivated for the item to be removed from the building.

The Library also houses a bound run of the Society's journal, *The London Philatelist*, and other journals currently issued. The Society receives copies of up to 300 periodicals each year. A total of 2,400 titles are held with the earliest being the first periodical wholly concerned with philately, *The Stamp Collector's Review and Monthly Advertiser*, from December 1862. It also houses bibliographies and indexes, recent editions of stamp catalogues and current auction catalogues.

Members of the Library team are usually available to advise Fellows and Members on the availability and use of the various catalogues and finding aids so that they can locate material. A guide to the range and scope and location of material is maintained in the Library and on the Society's website. Rare items and archives must be viewed in the research room.

Museum and Archives: This is open to members by arrangement, and the items contained therein may be viewed in the display cabinets around the building. The Archive contains material from the Society's history and the history of Philately, together with the archives of Perkins, Bacon.

The London Philatelist is the Society's journal. It contains research papers, articles of a specialised nature, as well as more general papers and reports of meetings. A wealth of advanced philatelic knowledge has been printed in its 33,000 pages, all of which are available as digital editions. The journal is published 10 times a year and is sent post free to members.

Book sales: Fellows and Members are entitled to a discount on purchases of books published by the Society. A current book list is available from the Office and on our website.

Website: Our website is www.rpsl.org.uk and includes our latest news and many other items about the Society including meeting handouts. It also has a Members' area with access to exclusive information.

The Digital Catalogue at www.rpsl.org.uk/Catalogue incorporates the Library, Auction, Exhibition and Periodical catalogues among others and includes three dimensional material held by the Society. Indexes to specialist journals and the Society's own publications are part of the catalogue containing more than 250,000 entries, with more being added continuously.

Regional Meetings: The UK is divided into 15 regions for which Representatives of the Society have been appointed by the Council. Many regions hold "Regional" meetings around the UK at which local Fellows and Members present displays, and at which non-members are welcome guests. These are advertised in *The London Philatelist* on the website and on the Programme Card for the Season. The Society's Representatives in overseas countries also organise events, often in association with exhibitions.

Expertising: RPSL Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary company of the Society that operates an expertising service for members and the philatelic public, and is the formal body which manages the expertising operation. The Expert Committee, its helpers and consultants process around 350 "patients" at each of ten meetings per year. Fellows and Members are entitled to discounts.

Wi-Fi Internet Access is available in the building for members who bring their own laptops. The PCs in the Library are available for members to access the Internet and to search the Library Index, *The London Philatelist* archive and the RPSL Catalogue. An A3 scanner, photocopiers and printers are available for members at the Society's premises. Overseas members can request photocopies and scans for a small fee.

Meeting Rooms may be hired by Fellows and Members by prior arrangement with the Office, subject to a fee.

Ties, Pins and Brooches: Ties, lapel pins and ladies brooches can be bought from the Office.

Vault Box Hire: The Society offers a secure safety deposit box hire service to members. This is competitively priced and offers significant savings when declared to an insurer. Please contact the Office for further information.