



# *The Revenue Society*

## CONSTITUTION & RULES

### *Name, Objects and Definition*

- 1 The Society shall be known as “The Revenue Society”.
- 2 The Objects of the Society shall be to promote and encourage the collection and study of Revenue Stamps; to arrange meetings where Members may discuss these stamps; to encourage the exhibition and display of these stamps and to publish a Journal the contents of which shall relate to Revenue stamps and their usage.
- 3 In the context of the Society Revenue Stamps are defined as *Stamps, whether impressed or adhesive or otherwise, issued by or on behalf of International, National or Local Governments, their licensees or agents, and indicative that a tax or duty has been paid or pre-paid or that a permission has been granted.*

The Society is not concerned with monies paid with respect to goods or services including the carriage of mail except insofar as some stamps were or are valid for both revenue and non-revenue purposes

### *Membership of the Society*

- 4 There shall be two classes of Member:
  - a) Ordinary Members. Application for Ordinary Membership shall be open to anyone with an interest in Revenue stamps and over the age of eighteen years at the time of application. The Committee of the Society shall have absolute discretion to accept or refuse applications.
  - b) Honorary Members. Honorary Membership may be conferred upon any person deemed by the Society to have made worthy contributions to Revenue Philately; there shall not be more than five Honorary Members at any one time.

Any Member in good standing may propose candidates for Honorary Membership. Such proposals shall be considered by the Committee of the Society and their recommendations placed before the next General Meeting of the Society for confirmation.

- 5 Members shall be bound by this Constitution and by such additional Rules as shall from time to time be made by the Committee of the Society.
- 6 Members shall be entitled to attend Ordinary and General Meetings of the Society, to vote at such Meetings and to receive one copy of each issue of the Society's Journal.

Ordinary Members shall pay to the Treasurer of the Society, in pounds sterling or \$US, such annual subscription as shall from time to time be fixed by the Society's Committee and approved at a subsequent General Meeting of the Society.

- 7 Any Member may resign from the Society by giving one calendar month's notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary of the Society at the expiry of which notice the Member shall cease to be entitled to be benefits of Membership. The resigned Member shall remain liable for any unpaid subscription or other monies owing by the Member to the Society.

8 The Committee shall have absolute discretion to suspend or expel Members for reasons including but not confined to non-payment of subscriptions or other dues or bringing the Society into disrepute.

9 Officers of the Society and its Committee

The Officers of the Society shall be:

- a) The President
- b) One or more Vice-Presidents
- c) The Chairman of the Committee
- d) The Secretary
- e) The Treasurer

All positions shall be honorary and open to any Ordinary Member in good standing.

10 The control of the affairs of the Society shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the Officers of the Society plus the Editor of the Journal, the Publicity Manager and not more than six additional Members. The Committee shall have power to co-opt any additional Member to the Committee at any time.

11 The Committee shall retire each year and those to take their places shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. All retiring Officers and Committee members shall be eligible for re-election. In normal circumstances it is expected that the President and Chairman will remain in office for four years.

12 With the sole exception of the Treasurer, who must be a resident of the United Kingdom, there are no restrictions on the domiciles of Officers or Committee Members. The President should be available for UK functions where his or her presence is required and the Chairman of the Committee must normally chair meetings of the Committee.

### *Finance*

13 The financial affairs of the Society shall be conducted by the Treasurer under the supervision of the Committee. All monies paid to the Society in the form of subscriptions or otherwise shall be placed in the account of the Society and all transactions shall be recorded in a proper manner.

14 The Financial Year of the Society shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> August until 31<sup>st</sup> July of the subsequent year; the accounts of the Society shall be closed on the last day of the Society's Financial Year and an audited statement of the Society's financial position shall be placed by the Treasurer before the next following Annual General Meeting.

### *Meetings*

15 The Annual General Meeting shall be held each year on such date and at such place as the Committee shall decide. The Secretary shall convene the meeting giving Members at least one month's notice in writing of the place and time and of the Agenda for the meeting.

16 Business transacted at the Annual General Meeting shall include the election of Officers Committee members and an Auditor and the consideration of the Financial Statement.

17 All members in good standing may vote in any elections and on any other resolutions placed before the Annual General Meeting. Members unable to attend the Meeting may register their preferences or may offer the Chairman an unrestricted proxy vote on their behalf by mail or Email to reach the Secretary not less than five days before the Meeting.

- 18 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by resolution of the Committee or on receipt by the Secretary of a written request signed by ten Members all in good standing.

Any such resolution or request shall specify the reason for the calling of the General Meeting which shall be held at a time and place determined by the Committee not less than sixty days subsequent to the passing of the resolution or receipt of the request.

Notice of an Extraordinary General meeting shall be despatched by the Secretary to every member not less than fourteen days before the date fixed for the Meeting.

- 19 The quorum for Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings shall be ten including postal or Email participants.
- 20 In furtherance of Article 2 (“to arrange meetings”) the Society will encourage Members to organise display or social meetings in their localities and the Committee is empowered to make contributions towards Room Fees and other administrative costs from Society funds.

### *Awards*

- 21 The Society’s Committee may make the following awards to worthy recipients, and, apart from the Competition Medal, not necessarily to Members of the Society:
- a) Honorary Membership of the Society (see Article 4b)
  - b) The Society’s Competition Medal to be awarded annually to the winner of the Society’s Annual Competition
  - c) The Society’s Research Medal to be awarded on the recommendation of the Committee
  - d) Revenue Society Trophies to be placed at the discretion of Juries at any Regional, National or International competitive exhibition
  - e) Small cash or in-kind awards to individuals who place articles in philatelic magazines other than the Society’s Journal or equivalents
  - f) Contributions towards Frame Fees incurred by Members presenting revenue stamps at local, national or international exhibitions (Article 2: “to encourage the exhibition and display of these stamps”).

Detailed Rules relating to each class of Award shall be approved by the Committee and publicised in the Society’s Journal and website. All Awards shall be publicised in the next available issue of the Society’s Journal and on a dedicated page of the Society’s website.

### *Services to Members*

- 22 The Committee is empowered to authorise services additional to those mentioned in Article 2; examples might include a Library, Auctions or a website. In each case the Committee shall approve the relevant Rules, which shall not needlessly discriminate against Members resident outside the country where the service is operated.

### *Library*

- 23 In 2014 the libraries of The Revenue Society and The Cinderella Stamp Club were merged. The combined contents are now jointly and equally owned. In the event that either Society decides that they no longer want to retain ownership of their half of the library it will automatically become the sole property of the other Society without any compensation payment being made. If both Societies mutually decide to dispose of the library the proceeds of any revenue generated will be split equally.

Library books may be borrowed by members of either Society with a United Kingdom address but extracts will be sent to overseas members where practical. Up to six books may be borrowed at any one time and all are on a three-month loan period. If no other member is waiting to borrow a book that is on loan then it may be retained for further three-month periods. Books can be collected from the Librarian's home or the librarian will deliver them to Revenue Society, Cinderella Stamp Club or other Society meetings where possible. Failing that they will be mailed to the borrowing member free of charge but any contribution to the postage costs will be appreciated. The borrower is responsible for returning all books within the specified time period at their own expense.

### *Dissolution*

- 24 The Committee may decide by simple majority that it is desirable to dissolve the Society. In this event a Special General Meeting shall be convened to decide the course to be taken, this decision requiring a two-thirds majority of Members present. Should it be decided to dissolve the Society a resolution must be passed to cover the disposal of all assets of the Society remaining after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, which must be donated to another suitable organisation with similar aims and objects as this Society.

### *Alterations*

- 25 No alteration to this Constitution shall be made except at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society. The Secretary shall receive any proposed motion at least six weeks prior to the Meeting and inform Members as per Article 15.

### *Chairman's Ruling*

- 26 Where it appears that a point has not been covered by the Constitution, the Chairman of the Committee shall issue a ruling, which shall stand until ratified or reversed at the next General Meeting of the Society.

This version of the Constitution and the Rules was agreed at the Annual General Meeting of the Revenue Society at the Royal Philatelic Society on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015.

Andrew McClellan  
Secretary