

## *The Sir Thomas J. Lipton Interclub Challenge Cup*




*This 39" tall silver cup was presented to Southern Yacht Club by the great tea magnate, Sir Thomas Lipton in 1919 as a challenge trophy. Following Lipton's wishes, SYC offered the Trophy for interclub races between clubs in the Gulf Coast Area. This was followed by the first challenge in October 1920, the beginning of the now 81-year-old competition for this yacht racing prize, competed for by clubs in the Northern Gulf area.*

*Later the same year in Mobile, Alabama, the Southern Gulf Coast Yachting Association was reorganized as the Gulf Yachting Association.*

*The trophy was allowed to travel from winning club to winning club until 1974, when, for protection purposes, SYC elected to keep it in its clubhouse, and arranged for a half-model to be cast and to be displayed at each winning club.*

## THE SIR THOMAS LIPTON INTERCLUB CHALLENGE CUP

*One of the most valuable perpetual trophies owned by the Southern Yacht Club, this sterling silver piece is inscribed with the following hallmarks:*

<i>Silversmith's Mark</i>	<i>The mark of Charles and Richard Comyns, registered 1918-1919</i>
<i>Lion Passant</i>	<i>Indicating the trophy is guaranteed sterling and was crafted in England</i>
<i>Leopard's Head Uncrowned</i>	<i>Indicating the trophy was made in London</i>
<i>The letter </i>	<i>Indicating crafting in 1919</i>
<i>Reigning Sovereign's Head</i>	<i>Profile of King George V, indicating that the piece had been assayed</i>

*The trophy sits atop a wooden base, adorned with silver plates engraved with names of former winning yacht clubs.*

*In accordance with Sir Thomas Lipton's letter to Southern Yacht Club Secretary-Treasurer William Parham dated October 22, 1919, the trophy was designed in 1919. Commodore Percy Benedict's letter to Sir Thomas dated June 11, 1920 confirmed receipt of the gift.*