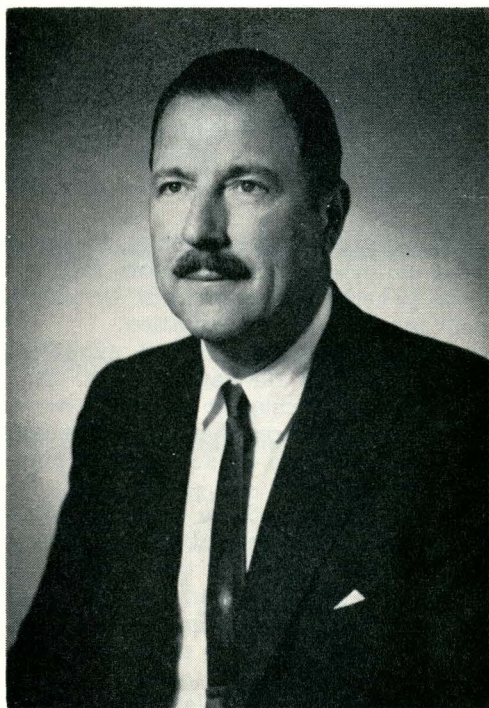


Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award

John R. Boker, Jr.

1967 Recipient



Since its establishment in 1962, fifteen prominent philatelists from the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, and South America have received the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award* for "distinguished services to philately." If one travels abroad, he will learn that in world philatelic circles, this award ranks as the highest one given in America.

At its January, 1967 meeting, the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club again, as has been an annual custom, had the names of several deserving philatelists submitted as candidates for the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award*. The unanimous selection for 1967 was Mr. *John R. Boker, Jr.* of Scarsdale, New York.

A Distinguished Philatelist

There is probably no philatelist in America better known and more respected overseas for his profound philatelic knowledge than Mr. Boker. This has been attested to four times since 1960.

In 1964, he was accorded what is considered the greatest honor in international philately, when he was elected by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (see the *COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST* November, 1966, pages 337-342). In that year, Mr. Boker travelled to Bournemouth, England to sign his name upon the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Because of his standing in international philatelic circles, Mr. Boker was chosen to be Chairman of the Board of International Judges by vote of the entire SIPEX jury in Washington, D. C. in May, 1966. Before this, he had been selected as the Vice Chairman of the International Jury in 1965 at WIPA (Vienna, Austria) and also in 1960 at the London International Stamp Show.

Now, his own country recognizes his "distinguished services to philately" with the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award*. The medal will be presented to him at the annual Awards Dinner of the Collectors Club, scheduled to take place in New York City on May 10, 1967.

John R. Boker, Jr. has served philately in many capacities, far too many to enumerate them all within these space limitations. Because of his profound philatelic knowledge, he has been frequently called upon to judge at international, national, regional and local stamp shows.

Over more than 25 years, Mr. Boker has exhibited and won awards at international philatelic exhibitions. At CAPEX, Toronto, Canada in 1951 and again in London 1960, he was invited to exhibit "hors concours" in the Court of Honor.

In 1965, he was asked to exhibit and speak before the Royal Philatelic Society, London on selections from his collection of United States Private Posts. Not only was Mr. Boker one of the few Americans privileged to speak before this august philatelic group, but for his outstanding presentation, he was awarded the Royal Philatelic Society's *Tilleard Medal* for the best paper read at all of the 1965 meetings. Furthermore, he is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

Often an exhibitor and lecturer at the Collectors Club here in New York, Mr. Boker served as the club's president in 1963 and 1964. He has been a member of the Board of Governors for many years, and for about a year served as one of the club's three trustees.

The Philatelic Foundation also has benefited from Mr. Boker's services, as a longtime member of the Board of Trustees and a member of its Expert Committee until a few years ago. Now, he is a consultant to this body.

Speaker and Writer

Outside of one's small intimate circle, a philatelist may both speak about his interests to an audience and write articles. Many do neither; some speak but do not write, while a few write but do no public speaking.

As a philatelic public speaker, this writer can think of no one who can come close to Mr. Boker. He brings to his audience not only an unusual store of philatelic knowledge, but also an exceptionally fine command of the English language. There is no other philatelist, who comes to mind, with the gift of speaking equal to the one Mr. Boker possesses.

Mr. Boker, upon occasion, has written some very fine articles for the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST (although not half as many as the editor would have liked). His "Bergedorf" article in 1952 was voted one of the best in this magazine for that year. His 1962 article on "Hale & Co., Boston, Mass. An Independent Mail Service" was not eligible for selection for the c. c. p. Medal, because Mr. Boker then was Chairman of the Awards Committee, that selected the winners for 1962.

A Stamp Collector and Philatelist

John R. Boker, Jr. is both an ardent collector of stamps as well as a philatelist, who studies and knows his material. As a youth, he inherited his keen interest in stamps from his father, who also had collected. "Father" Boker guided and assisted his son. In 1926 at the 2nd International Philatelic Exhibition held in New York City, John R. Boker, Jr. traces the beginning of his intense interest in philately. From then on, all stamps and covers seemed to have fascinated him—the modern less than the early classics. Although today, those who do not know him well, would rate Mr. Boker as an old-school philatelist interested only in classic issues, they have forgotten that one of his prime interests is United States precancels. He built an outstanding collection in this field, New York State precancels. Years ago, he was very active in the Precancel Society.

Mention any stamp to Mr. Boker; then, listen to him hold forth. He knows them all from the early U. S. Private Posts down to the 20th century. In U. S.,

he has an excellent knowledge of early covers, Grills, 1876 Special Printings, 20th century coil and coil-waste stamps, a complex group to identify and understand. You name it—America, South America, Asia or Africa; he knows. His knowledge of early German and Italian States is vast. But one should not overlook 20th century Germany—in fact, all of Europe.

An event about five years ago is recalled because it evidences the great philatelic talents of Mr. Boker. General C. W. Wickersham had been scheduled to exhibit and lecture on his "19th Century Colombia and States." He had been taken ill at the last moment and asked his friend, John Boker, to substitute for him. Mr. Boker did. It is no exaggeration to say that no one in the audience expected much from Mr. Boker; all never associated him with the stamps of early Colombia. What a display of philatelic knowledge was in store for the Collectors Club audience that night! The range and depth of his knowledge of this complex Latin American country was truly astounding.

His Life Story

John Robert Boker, Jr. was born in New York, N. Y. January 29, 1913. As a young boy he spent his summers at the Jersey Shore where his activities were tennis, swimming and reading. He took an early interest in foreign languages, which he believes was helped by his interest in stamps. He speaks German fluently and can converse and read several other foreign languages. After fourteen, he spent part of his summers, for several years, in Europe.

He graduated from the Browning School in New York in 1929 and received his B. A. degree from Yale University in 1933, Phi Beta Kappa.

Shortly after graduating from Yale, he joined H. Boker & Co. Inc. which had been established in New York City in 1837 as importers of hardware. In 1948 he became the president of this firm. It remained in business until two years ago, as importers and manufacturers of cutlery.

In 1958 he became interested in the mutual fund field, and is vice-president and director of the Nelson Fund, an open-end mutual fund specializing in European securities and special domestic situations. Also Mr. Boker is vice-president and director of Growth Capital Foundation, a company specializing in special listed domestic securities.

In 1941 he entered the U. S. Army as a private; he served first in the infantry and later in intelligence in the European theater until his discharge as a Captain in 1945. He was promoted to Major in the reserve, from which he resigned at the end of the Korean War. During his service, he was awarded several Battle Stars and a Bronze Star Medal.

Outside Of Philately

On November 7, 1948 he married. John and Polly Boker have two daughters born in 1954 and 1955.

In addition to philately, Mr. Boker collects model soldiers (those produced as toys). He owns a collection of books by "some popular but second-rate" authors of the 19th and early 20th century, and others in foreign languages. He also keeps up his swimming, bowling and golf; he likes to watch baseball, Jai Alai, and trotting races.

In addition to his philatelic affiliations, he belongs to the Yale Club (NY), New York Athletic Club, Winged Foot Golf Club, Merchants Club (NY), Scarsdale Golf Club, N. Y., Society of Credit and Financial Management, and Elizabethan Club, New Haven, Conn.

Conclusion

John Robert Boker, Jr. now becomes the 16th prominent philatelist to have

(Continued on Page 121)

The following is a list of the appendices in order to show the vast amount of information presented: King George V Simple Cypher Watermark Varieties; "Specimen" Overprints; Perforators; Identification of the Plates; Post Office Booklets of Stamps; Advertisement Panes; Photogravure Booklet Panes with Cylinder Numbers; and Cylinder Numbers, Controls and Perforation Types. A conversion table of sterling into Canadian and U. S. dollars as well as a small bibliography are included.

Most specialists in this field would probably like to see a chapter on postal markings and the use of some of these stamps abroad. Unfortunately, this book bypasses this phase of collecting. Despite this omission, this reviewer recommends this book as well as its companion, Volume I on the stamps of Queen Victoria; he commends the publisher on a job "well-done." (*Richard S. Wilson*)

CLUBHOUSE *(Continued from Page 115)*

Mrs Rae D. Ehrenberg
Henry M. Goodkind
Harrison D. S. Haverbeck
Norman S. Hubbard
Malcolm G. O'Reilly
Stanley R. Rice

The President expressed his personal and official thanks to *Mr. Solomon Altmann*, who is retiring from the Board of Governors and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation for his many valuable services while serving on the Board of Governors.

Meeting recessed while Governors retired to elect officers for 1967.

Meeting reconvened and the President announced the election of the following officers for the year of 1967:

President *Herbert P. Woodward*
Vice President *Philip Silver*
Secretary *F. B. Sellers*
Treasurer *Howard B. Lee*

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

LICHTENSTEIN AWARD *(Continued from Page 32)*

been honored with the receipt of the coveted *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award*. The fifteen previous recipients have been:

*1952 Theodore E. Steinway, New York, N. Y.	1960 J. R. W. Purves, Melbourne, Australia
*1953 Dr. Clarence W. Hennen, Chicago, Ill.	1961 John J. Britt, New York, N. Y.
*1954 Dr. Carroll Chase, Amherst, N. H.	1962 Mrs. Louise B. Dale, Red Bank, N. J.
*1955 August Dietz, Sr., Richmond, Va.	1963 Henry M. Goodkind, New York, N. Y.
1956 Sir John Wilson, London, England	1964 Vincent G. Greene, Toronto, Canada
1957 Harry L. Lindquist, New York, N. Y.	1965 Alvaro Bonilla Lara, Santiago, Chile
1958 Winthrop S. Boggs, E. Orange, N. J.	1966 H. D. S. Haverbeck, Bernardsville, N. J.
1959 Lt. Gen. C. W. Wickersham, Cedarhurst, N. Y.	

*Deceased

In case of change of address, please notify Secretary, The Collectors Club, 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. 10016.