

# George W. Brett To Receive 1983 Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award



The action of the Board of Directors in granting the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for 1983 to George W. Brett should occasion no surprise; Mr. Brett's name has been a familiar one on the philatelic scene for more than fifty years.

Many of us have our philatelic organization preferences. For George Brett, that was and continues to be the Bureau Issues Association. He has served that organization in almost every conceivable capacity, including president, member and chairman of its Board of Governors, and, finally, chairman emeritus. Before reaching the presidency, he served on many committees: production methods, catalogue listing, and publications, to name

but a few.

Mr. Brett is also a past president of the Canal Zone Study Group and has served in somewhat similar committee capacities for that society.

It is mainly in the publishing field, however, that Brett has made his mark. From the time he became active in writing, starting in 1930, he has written more than 300 articles. Most of these have appeared in *The Bureau Issues Specialist* and *The United States Specialist*, but his articles have also appeared in many other publications, including (but not limited to) *The Essay-Proof Journal*, *Stamp Collector*, *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, and *Stamps*.

Brett is probably the best-informed philatelist in the field of postage stamp printing and production methods in the United States. Some of the articles with which he has helped educate several generations of United States philatelists in these areas are: "Differentiating the Dry and Wet Printed Product of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing," "The Making of Plate Numbers," "Production of the FIPEX Souvenir Sheet," "Manufacture of United States Postage Stamps," "The Nine-Color Webfed Intaglio Press," and "A New Era in United States Booklet Production." If some of these articles were technical in nature, they nevertheless fall into the "for-the-record" category, without which philatelic knowledge would not be complete.

Mr. Brett has written several books, including *The Giori Press* and *The United States Bicentennial Mural Souvenir Sheets*, the latter in joint authorship with James T. DeVoss. Several other books in preparation relate to postage stamps, their production and study.

When the Pennsylvania State University began to give seminars in philately in 1980, Brett was one of the participants, giving lectures in printing and production methods. He has been on the panel of philatelists who present these annual seminars in each succeeding year as well.

Brett has served as a member of the Postmaster General's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee. Starting in 1936, he has been a judge at many local, regional, and national exhibitions. He is an accredited judge of the American Philatelic Society. Two of the international stamp exhibitions at which he has served as a member of the jury are SIPEX (Washington, D.C., 1966) and INTERPHIL (Philadelphia, 1976).

Mr. Brett serves on several expert committees, including those of The Philatelic Foundation, the American Philatelic Society, and the Society of Philatelic Americans. He examines approximately 100 items each month involving, but not limited to, all kinds of printing and production problems.

He is a member of most of the major philatelic organizations including the American Philatelic Congress, American Philatelic Society (Life), American Printing History Association, Bureau Issues Association, Essay-Proof Society, American Revenue

Association, Canal Zone Study Group, Society of Philatelic Americans, Washington, D.C., Philatelic Society (Life), Society of Paper Money Collectors, United Postal Stationery Society, and The Philatelic Foundation.

For his many services to philately, Brett has received the Hopkinson Memorial Award for Literature (1954, 1968), the SEPAD National Merit Award (1964), the Bureau Issues Association Special Award (1974), the John N. Luff Award of the American Philatelic Society (1978), APS Unite 30 Writer's Hall of Fame (1979), the Hugh M. Southgate Distinguished Philatelist Award of the Bureau Issues Association (1980, first recipient), and The Philatelic Foundation Award for Meritorious Service (1981, first recipient).

For his devotion to philately over a period of more than fifty years, The Collectors Club takes great pride in designating George W. Brett as the 1983 recipient of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award.

*Philip Silver*

# Letters to the Editor

## **To the Editor:**

I have just received the November-December issue of the *CCP* and read with amazement the book review of my book on the Pence Issues of Newfoundland. I have always believed that a reviewer should attempt to tell the reader why a certain book would be of interest to him and not be telling the wide wide world about the wonderful attributes of the reviewer. Evidently Mr. Hahn has little previous knowledge of British North American philately.

I falter on his statement that a cross reference to Boggs is necessary to understand the procurement of the stamps. The same information is in both books; however, in mine it is properly identified, related to the procurement and shortened to essential information. Boggs' book, by the way, is not named on page 359 but it is the one published in 1942. I knew Mr. Boggs and had great respect for him and his writings—which were accurate as far as the data available to him were concerned (we discussed this prior to his death). The 1852 Report quoted by Boggs was actually for the three months of 1851 (written in 1852) when the Post Office was in operation but not as yet accepted by the Crown, and the 1852 Act quoted in his book was never approved by the Crown and thus had no effect on the purchase of stamps. The 1865 and earlier rates are all covered in the listing of the covers where they are most relevant, and it would be redundant to cloud the beginning with all the rates.