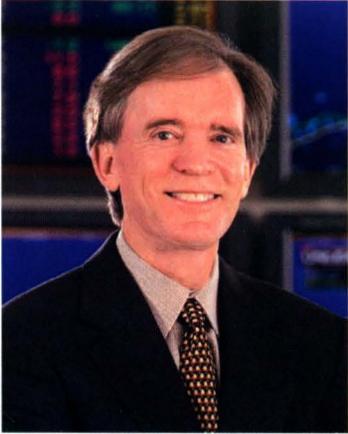


# *William H. Gross to Receive the 2011 Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award*



The Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for 2011 will be presented to William H. Gross, of Laguna Beach, California, at the Collectors Club Annual Awards Banquet, which will be held at the Cornell Club in New York on January 10, 2011. Mr. Gross has become one of philately's most philanthropic supporters in addition to having built one of the finest stamp collections in private hands.

Mr. Gross' unique contributions to philately are measured in a way different from those of previous recipients. In addition to being the most generous financial supporter of philately we have ever seen, he has also contributed to a tremendous uptick in media exposure for the hobby of stamp collecting due to his high pro-

file in the financial world. His collecting accomplishments, his unique stamp "trade" of the Inverted Jenny plate block for the One Cent "Z" Grill, and both his and his wife Sue's generosity in donating millions from the sale of portions of his stamp collection to charitable causes has generated more media exposure over the past decade than any other single collector.

During the past eighteen years, Mr. Gross has diligently and tenaciously assembled what is, without question, one of the finest collections of United States stamps and postal history ever formed. It is a breathtaking and comprehensive array, consisting of mint singles, largest known multiples, plate number multiples and outstanding postal history. His nineteenth century U.S. exhibit was honored by winning the Grand Prix National at the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition.

In 2008, Mr. Gross co-published, along with Spink Shreves Galleries, *A History of United States Stamps: The William H. Gross Collection—United States Classics 1847–1869*. He donated virtually the entire press run to the Collectors Club and, to date, its sale has generated in excess of \$36,000.00 in revenue for the benefit of the Club, with many more copies of the book having been donated by the Club to other philatelic organizations.

Over the past three years, he and his wife have donated a combined total of over \$17,000,000 to charities and nonprofit organizations with the proceeds from six auctions of stamps from his worldwide collections. Some of the organizations that have benefited from these donations include: Doctors Without Borders, Millennium Villages Project at the Earth Institute and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

In 2009, Mr. Gross committed \$8,000,000 for the benefit of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum expansion project, which, when it opens in 2012, will create the finest Postal Museum in the world. The Smithsonian has acknowledged his "seed" donation by naming the new gallery in his honor, The William H. Gross Stamp Gallery. In addition, he gave on long-term loan, three iconic United States rarities to be featured in the Gems gallery of the new museum.

His contributions to philately are exceptional, and they are recognized by the Collectors Club by being presented the 2011 Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award.