

Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award to Louis F. Grunin



Louis Grunin

The Board of Governors of the Collectors Club has selected Louis F. Grunin to receive the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award at the annual awards dinner in May. Perhaps best known for his four years of service as president of the Club, Lou has compiled an impressive record of philatelic accomplishment and community service.

Born on January 11, 1928 in Brooklyn, Lou graduated from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in 1949 with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry. Married to Pearl Finkel in 1951, he left Poly where he was a doctoral candidate to run his own business, Lustra Plastics Corp., which he had founded while still in graduate school in 1953. In 1963 he merged the business with US Plastics and Chemical Corp., which was then purchased by the Koppers Co. in 1965. By 1970 Lou had retired from business and devoted most of his time thereafter to his wife and three children, Marion, Eric, and Lori. His non-family activities revolved around his lifelong stamp hobby and his new one of golf. He was quite active at the Dellwood Country Club in New York, NY, becoming its president in 1982-83. While at Dellwood, he was active in the Dellwood Foundation - a charitable arm of the club. He served as chairman of that foundation for a four-year period until 1994. In 1980 he returned to business for a short time to start up the Stanley Gibbons Auction Gallery in New York City. The firm was closed one year later - after four successful auctions — due to reverses in the parent companies' fortunes.

A stamp collector since the age of eight, Lou collected the world until he sold his company and decided to devote more time to his hobby. He formed a number of specialized US collections through the 1970s and 1980s, winning many grand and specialized awards such as the Hopkinson and Southgate trophies for 19th and 20th century collections at the national level. His exhibit of the 1847 General Issues garnered international gold and large gold awards, until culminating in the Grand Prix at Interphil in 1976.

He currently has formed collections of New York City postmarks and cancellations of the 1861-1868 period and of the Mulreadys of Great Britain, the latter of which received the reserve grand award at Stampshow 94.

Lou has been a member of the boards of governors and directors, respectively, of the Club and the Philatelic Foundation for almost 20 years. He served the Foundation as assistant chairman of the expert committee under Mortimer Neinken and as a speaker at many of their

seminars. He contributed to the *Opinions* series with an article on the Indian Red stamp of the 1857-1860 series. Stepping down from the Foundation's executive committee in 1987, he returned to its board to assist in the resolution of its problems. Currently, he chairs the Philatelic Foundation.

A dynamic organizer, Lou is a well-known practitioner of the philosophy of including everyone who wants to participate in every activity.

Sometimes It Takes Time

Recently, Mr. J.E. Stuart, of Poughkeepsie, purchased an unopened registered cover from Britain to the United States, addressed to the Club. Inside he found two membership renewals, dated 1935, and \$10, which he forwarded to the Executive Secretary. The individuals renewing their memberships, F.S. Phillips and William Hamilton Andres, both resided in London and neither are on the rolls today. It is interesting that a year's subscription to the CCP cost \$2. Today, that would not even cover the postage to mail a copy to the UK.

The Collectors Club, *24 July* 1935
30 East 42nd Street,
New York City

I enclose herewith \$ *5.00* in payment for my annual membership dues in the COLLECTORS CLUB, \$2.00 of which is for one year's subscription to the "COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST."

Signed *F.S. Phillips*
Address *391 Strand*
City *London W.C.2 England*

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I enclose herewith \$ *5.00* in payment for my annual membership dues in the COLLECTORS CLUB, \$2.00 of which is for one year's subscription to the "COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST."

Signed *Wm. Hamilton Andres*
Address *391 Strand*
City *London W.C.2 England*