

THE ALFRED F. LICHTENSTEIN MEMORIAL AWARD MEDAL

1953 Recipient Clarence W. Hennan, M.D.



Fig. 1 Clarence W. Hennan, M.D.

Dr. Clarence W. Hennan of Chicago, Illinois is selected for the 1953 *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Medal Award* by the unanimous vote of the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club. This honor, which was created last year, is accorded to a philatelist well known not only in his own country but throughout the world. In the eyes of many who cherish the welfare and future prosperity of philately, Dr. Hennan rightly joins the first two great patrons of philately

associated with this honor, the late *Alfred F. Lichtenstein* in whose memory the Collectors Club created this award and *Mr. Theodore E. Steinway*, the first recipient of the Medal.

Although Dr. Hennan is so well known to countless collectors, yet, few, if any, realize the scope of his work, his stature in his profession and his countless good deeds for philately. Let the story of this great American philatelist be put upon the record.

Clarence William Hennan was born on May 22, 1894 in Dosch's Corner, Richland County, Wisconsin. In the most revered American tradition, his birth occurred in a log cabin. His early youth was spent in the seat of his birth and he attended the local country school there. When ready for high school, his family moved to Richland Center, Wisconsin, where he attended and graduated from the local High School. He then enrolled in the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery — Loyola University — from which he graduated as a Doctor of Medicine in 1917. From 1917 to 1918 he completed his internship at the Francis E. Willard Hospital, Chicago, Illinois.

Since embarking into the practice of medicine, "Doc" Hennan has achieved a brilliant success. This is attested by the many high positions he either now holds or held previously. He was the former Treasurer and then Chief of Staff of the Jackson Park Hospital, Chicago. He was the President and is now a Governor of the Chicago Society of Industrial Medicine and Surgery. Besides he is Medical Consultant of the U. S. Railroad Retirement Board, Chief Surgeon of several local Industrial plants and Medical Legal Expert for many insurance companies. He is a Fellow of the Industrial Medical Association, and a Member of the Chicago Medical Society, the Illinois Medical Society and the American Medical Society.

Dr. Hennan is very civic-minded. He is a Trustee of the Chicago Historical Society and a member of the Union League Club, Athletic Association and Medinah Temple of Chicago.

"Doc" has always been our country's second largest city's best ambassador of good will to philately. There is many a philatelist who sought Dr. Hennan's medical advice and services. This was always given unselfishly, to say nothing of his great ability.

"Doc" Hennan began collecting stamps about 1903. He soon became fascinated with the life and achievements of Christopher Columbus and turned to collecting stamps from places connected with Columbus' life and voyages. This early specialized interest has remained with him ever since. The American collections of Dr. C. W. Hennan are world famous today. There is not a prominent International or National Philatelic Exhibit where portions of his Haiti, Dominican Republic, Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru and Venezuela collections are displayed either "hors concours" in the Court of Honor or, when entered in competition, garner top awards.

Some of the collections that he built but since has disposed of are also famous. In particular there is the Dom Pedro Issue of Brazil collection which was known and honored internationally. His Netherlands and Netherlands' Colonies collections were admired especially his outstanding pages with the plating of the First Issue of Netherlands. He built an extensive specialized collection of Austria. He had lesser collections of Bulgaria and Montenegro plus a large U. S. Specimen Envelope collection. And it might have been forgotten that he was one of the first in this country to collect our Precancels. In fact, he became so well versed in Precancels that he supervised and conducted the first Precancel Auction Sale ever held in the United States.

Dr. Hennan has always shared his philatelic knowledge. He has written articles which were published in the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST and similar philatelic journals on the Dom Pedro's of Brazil, Curacao, Dominican Republic stamps and postal history and the First Issue of Nicaragua. His extensive study of the "Stamps and Postal His-

tory of Haiti" is being presently run in "The American Philatelist". And he has about completed a manuscript on "The Plating of the First Issue of Netherlands".

Dr. Hennan's philatelic associations are so vast that it proves beyond all doubt his right to the name, a great philatelist. He started to become interested in organized philately in 1915 when the late Mr. Charles Severn introduced him to his home town Chicago Philatelic Society. He soon became such a loyal and obliging member that he was elected Secretary and finally the President. In 1925 in return for his unselfish services, the Chicago Philatelic Society made him an Honorary Member. He was a founder and then President of the Collectors Club of Chicago. He has willingly and generously supported other local Chicago stamp clubs by becoming an active member. He encourages stamp collecting by donating awards and guaranteeing the success of local exhibitions.

With our national organizations, "Doc" Hennan has long been an important factor. He has been a member for over 30 years of both the A. P. S. and the S. P. A. He had been a Director of The American Philatelic Society, and then its President; now he is a Life Member of both the A. P. S. and S. P. A. He is a Trustee of the Philadelphia Museum, and the Past President of the Essay Proof Society. He also served as President for the American Philatelic Congress.

Dr. Hennan is active here at 22 East 35th Street, New York, N. Y. He has been a member of the Collectors Club since 1925 and a Trustee of the Philatelic Foundation since its inception in 1946. He has exhibited often here, the latest being a small portion of his Costa Rica collection in February of this year.

Honorary Memberships from stamp societies all over the world have been accorded him. These are the Garfield-Perry of Cleveland, Ohio, Brazilian Philatelic Society, Societe Belge, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and many European and South American Philatelic Societies. The old world's leading philatelic group, the Royal Philatelic Society, London, England, had elected him a Fellow some years back after he had been a member of the Royal since about 1925. Presently Dr. Hennan is one of the Royal's two representatives for the United States.



Fig. 2 The face of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Medal.

Obviously one of such standing must know a thing or two about philately so upon numerous occasions, Dr. Hennan has served as a judge or Chairman of the Board of Judges at many National Exhibitions in this country. He was a juror at the 1936 and 1947 International Shows in the United States, the London International of 1950, the Canadian Centenary at Toronto in 1951 and the Belgium International Exhibition.

Dr. Clarence W. Hennan has lived in Chicago for most of his life. He married Kathleen Breen there in 1915 and his son, Dr. Billie Breen Hennan, has followed his profession as a Doctor of Medicine.

This is the man upon whom now has been bestowed a medal which many hope will become and remain one of the great philatelic honors for many years. The *Lichtenstein Memorial Award* was created in the name of a great American philatelist, a gentleman successful in his profession of chemistry, and a remarkable philatelist so recognized here and abroad. Anyone reading of or knowing the exploits and devotions of Dr. Hennan to philately will concur completely with this selection as the second recipient of the Award. To those who knew and worked with *Alfred*

F. Lichtenstein it is obvious that men like Steinway and Hennan are his type of philatelists, those who give without ever thinking beforehand what they will receive.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

JULY and AUGUST, 1953

SUMMER RECESS

September 16—"United States 1 cent 1851"—Morris Fortgang and Mortimer Neinken.

(Continued from Page 167)

during many centuries. Study all this and more for 100 years and if you then never make a mistake it is probably because you are at once so learned and so timid that you never dare express any opinion whatsoever.

But if all were to follow completely this advice, philately truly would sprout angels' wings.

H. M. G.