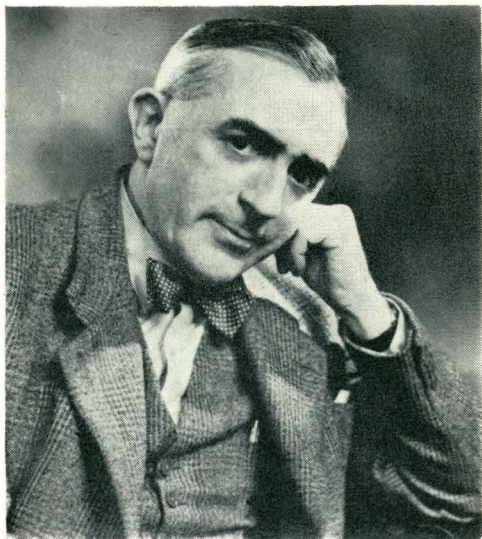


Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award

H. R. Holmes 1969 Recipient



This year, the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award* goes overseas. The Collectors Club's Board of Governors at its January, 1969 meeting unanimously selected *Mr. H. R. Holmes of Great Britain* to be the 17th recipient of America's premier award for "distinguished service to philately."

As has been the practice for several years, the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award* committee met here in the Collectors Club last November to recommend qualified candidates for the award to the Board of Governors. The committee consists of the previous medalists, who can conveniently attend this meeting at 22 East 35 Street, New York City.

The Chairman of the committee submitted the names of candidates to the Board of Governors for their consideration at the December, 1968 meeting. The selection was made one month later.

Mr. Holmes becomes the second Britisher to receive the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award*.

A 60-Year Philatelic Career

Mr. Holmes' "distinguished services to philately" covers sixty years, a record that few other philatelists in the world can equal or surpass. To demonstrate this, the highlights of this 60-year great record now follows:

Mr. Holmes began collecting stamps as a young boy. In 1909, when aged only fourteen, he joined "the Chums Society of Stamp Collectors." This was a society run by a boy's magazine. "Chums" is now defunct. The following year, he joined the Junior Philatelic Society in London, England.

Later on, reference will be made to Mr. Holmes's prolific writings on philately. It began way back in 1911 after he had read a paper, "The King and Queen on Postage Stamps," to the Junior Philatelic Society. This was published in the Society's periodical, "The Stamp Lover," Vol. IV, page 136.

In 1912, the Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition was held in London. Mr. Holmes exhibited in the Junior Class a specialized collection of Bermuda, which was awarded a silver medal. The next year in Hamburg, Germany, a Junior Stamp Exhibition was staged (Jugendausstellung 1913 Hamburg); the Bermuda collection was entered in it. It was awarded a silver inkstand. That same year, he read a paper before "the Chums Society of Stamp Collectors" on the "Dock Stamps of Bermuda." This was published shortly thereafter in the "World of Stamps." (For the edification of some Americans, it has been a

longtime practice in Great Britain to have an exhibitor and speaker first read a paper which usually is published later in the society's or stamp club's journal. In the United States, many exhibit and speak before stamp clubs, but with the exception of the Collectors Club, New York, N. Y., the remarks are not later published).

1914-1923

World War I broke out in August, 1914 in which Great Britain was involved. Stamp collecting was mostly forgotten. Mr. Holmes did work abroad in foreign countries — Egypt, India, Ceylon, Malaya, China, and Japan. After the War ended in 1918, he served in Geneva, Switzerland as an official of the International Labor Office.

One of the first great international stamp shows was held in London, England in 1923. Work for this began one year in advance. Mr. Holmes was appointed to and served with distinction on the Executive Committee that organized the 1923 International Philatelic Exhibition, London.

Curator and Expert

He became a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, London in 1929. In 1936, Mr. Holmes was appointed the editor of the "Philatelic Journal of Great Britain," a long-established and respected English-language periodical. He was unable to function as the editor of this journal in 1937, but resumed the work in 1938 and continued until 1945.

Mr. Holmes took an active interest in the Royal Philatelic Society, London; in 1941, he was honored by the appointment to the Royal's Expert Committee. Later that same year, he was elected a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, London's Council (its governing board).

In 1947, he was given the position of Honorary Philatelic Adviser to the British Museum, and the same year France honored him by the election as a Corresponding Member of the Academie de Philatelie in Paris.

R.D.P. And Many More Honors

In 1956, Mr. H. R. Holmes was elected the Vice-President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London and retained that office until he was elected the Society's President in 1961. He remained as the head officer of the Royal Philatelic Society, London until 1964.

Britain's highest philatelic honor (also considered by many the top one in the world) is *the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists*. Mr. Holmes was invited to sign *the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists* in 1953.

Two outstanding international philatelic exhibitions were staged in London. The first was in 1950, the second in 1960. For the former, Mr. Holmes worked hard and efficiently as a member of the Organizing Committee; for the 1960 London International Stamp Exhibition, he acted as the Vice-Chairman, a most difficult and arduous task.

More honors have deservedly come his way in the more recent years. In 1967, he received the Harvie-Pirie Award of South Africa for his studies on the stamps of Griqualand West. The next year, Sweden recognized his services to philately with the Nils Strandell Memorial Medal awarded by Sveriges Filatelist Forening. Last year also he was elected an Honorary Life Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

International Judge

Twenty-two years ago, H. R. Holmes made his debut as a judge of an international philatelic exhibition. From 1947 to date, he has served as a

judge at practically all the better known international stamp exhibitions. Twice he came to the United States, for FIPEX in 1956 and again for SIPEX in 1966. Here is the complete score:

Copenhagen, Denmark (1947); London (1950); Toronto, Canada (1951); Monaco (1952); Oslo, Norway (1955); FIPEX New York (1956); Johannesburg, South Africa (1960) — elected Chairman of the International Jury; London (1960); international air post exhibition Brussels, Belgium (1963); Istanbul, Turkey (1963); WIPA 1965 Vienna, Austria; SIPEX (1966) Washington, D.C.; Aeropex, New York, N.Y. (1966); Amsterdam, Holland (1967); air mail exhibition Budapest, Hungary (1967); Prague, Czechoslovakia (1968) and the international air post show in Vienna, Austria this same year. Mr. Holmes made his fourth trip to America to act as an international judge for EFIMEX in Mexico this past November.

Author, Editor, And Collector

H. R. Holmes has written many articles over the years for all of the leading British periodicals. There are far too many to list them all. He has written on the stamps of Bermuda, Tibet, Norwegian Byposts, Honduras — the 1877 Issue, and Griqualand West. Also, several very fine philatelic books have been authored by him, the latest one, "The Postage Stamps of Griqualand West," published by the Royal Philatelic Society, London (1966) after having been run as a series in the "London Philatelist."

In 1946, Mr. Holmes was appointed by the Royal Philatelic Society, London to be the editor of its monthly magazine, "The London Philatelist." He served as the editor until 1954.

Over the years, he has been a very versatile collector. Just as with his articles, the list is too long to mention all of the Holmes' collections. But the following will afford a clear picture of his widespread philatelic interests. He has formed collections of Netherlands, Bermuda, Sarawak, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France 1876-1900, Switzerland 1850-1934, Baden, Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Siam, Nepal, Tibet, the Bechuanalands, Griqualand West, Transvaal, Hungary, United States Official stamps, and pioneer air mails.

Some Personals

H. R. Holmes, called "Bob" by his host of philatelic friends, is a fine example of not living by the calendar. Although born in 1895, he still can move faster than most people half his age. Furthermore, his appearance does not show his age. His finest attributes, in the opinion of some, is his very active mind, his wonderful philatelic memory, and his sense of fairness. His keen sense of humor should be mentioned, a great asset that unfortunately too many serious philatelic students lack.

By profession, he was associated with one of the leading British newspapers as a press expert, thus qualifying him well as a philatelist with his intimate knowledge of printing. He is retired and now lives with his wife outside London in the British countryside in Hants.

In his younger days, "Bob" Holmes played a fine game of cricket. He still takes an interest in this British sport. When not involved with stamps, he enjoys playing cribbage and dominoes with his wife and old friends from London who come from the big city for a visit.

Due to the centennial celebration of the Royal Philatelic Society, London in April of this year, Mr. Holmes regrets that he and Mrs. Holmes will be unable to come here to New York to receive the 1969 Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award at the Collectors Club Awards Dinner to be held on May 14th. He is anxious, however, to come here to personally receive his award, hoping that mutually satisfactory arrangements can be made for a later date.

(H. M. G.)