

Francis Kiddle to Receive the 2012 Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award



Francis Kiddle became interested in organized philately at an early age, and he has continued his philatelic passion throughout his life. From founding a local stamp club to his activity at the highest levels in Great Britain, he has left his mark in many places.

This is particularly the case with the Royal Philatelic Society London, where he served as a Council member starting in 1977. He soon became Honorary Librarian, serving for the second longest such tenure in the Society's history. That connection, in turn, led to his interest in philatelic literature and FIP accreditation as a philatelic literature judge in 1980. It was only natural that he be one of the judges at Philitex 92, probably the largest-ever international literature competition, held at the Collectors Club.

At the Royal, he served as president in the mid-1990s and currently is the curator of the Perkins, Bacon archive, a remarkable assemblage of original documents that offer a glimpse into the earliest days of stamp production. His many activities for the Royal earned him the rare distinction of being elected an Honorary Fellow of the Society.

At the FIP level, he was accredited as an international judge in 1980 and has served on 35 juries, with 9 occasions as secretary of the jury. He has served also as a jury member at 10 U.S. national shows in the last 15 years. For eight years he was the chairman of the FIP Literature Commission and since 2008 has been chairman of the Revenue Commission. He has served as U.K. commissioner to eight international exhibitions, which some who have done so believe to be beyond the normal tolerance level of average humans. In 1999, he was elected a member of the AIEP, the International Association of Philatelic Experts.

His exhibiting activity is both extensive and eclectic, with 17 different exhibits ranging from Cinderella material, such as worldwide locals, to a variety of traditional and postal history subjects. As a writer he has contributed 145 articles on Cinderellas with his brother Charles, comprising a total of 150,000 words of text, for a regular column in *Stamp Magazine*, and has many other writing credits, both individually and with others.

Needless to say, all of this activity in many philatelic areas of specialty has earned him recognition by various organizations. In the UK, having served in many positions, including chairman of the British Association and chairman of the ABPS International Committee, he received the Rowland Hill Lifetime Achievement Award. Francis signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1995, and in 2006 he received the Smithsonian Philatelic Achievement Award. It is fitting that he now adds the Lichtenstein Memorial Award to his well-earned list of achievements.

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