



WILLIAM H. MILLER, JR. SELECTED AS LICHTENSTEIN MEMORIAL AWARD RECIPIENT

In selecting William H. Miller, Jr., as recipient of the Collectors Club Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for 1985, the Board of Governors recognized his numerous contributions to the advancement of serious philately and the promotion of our avocation in the fullest tradition of America's foremost protagonist after whom the prestigious medal was named. All previous winners submitted nominations which were, in accordance with practice, considered by the Board before final voting.

"Bill," as he is familiarly known by his many colleagues, has been a life-long collector, having worked on his albums since the age of 10 years. Except for a brief hiatus while at Harvard College and the Harvard Law School for his legal career, he has been involved in philately without interruption.

Revived interest was sparked by Philip Silver (a previous AFL Medal winner) when he convinced Bill that "aero philately was 'the' field." It was then that he switched from world-wide general collecting to concentrate on the airmail stamps and postal history of the United States, Bahamas and New Zealand, with particular interest on the latter's Pigeongram stamps and services. This collection is universally regarded as the foremost in existence, having taken numerous prizes in international competition, including a gold in Sofia, in 1979.

His writing includes eight in-depth articles published by the now defunct *Annals of the Aero Philatelists* before its merger with the American Air Mail Society, and of which Bill was secretary, vice-president, and president until 1971. He has served as vice-president and/or director of the latter from 1971 until the present.

Upon joining the Collectors Club in 1962, he was invited to serve as House Counsel upon the demise of R.L. Graham. In 1970, Bill was elected to the Board of Governors and during the ensuing 14 years unstintingly shared his philatelic knowledge, administrative skills, and legal expertise with his fellow governors. But his activities were not confined to the formal monthly meetings during which the Board transacted the necessary "business" of the Club.

He has been a trustee for the last four years to oversee the Club's material properties; a Chairman of the Library Committee, and leader of the Junior Study Group in efforts to stimulate interest in our avocation among youngsters who may become tomorrow's replacement of today's great philatelists.

In addition to the Collectors Club, Bill Miller has devotedly served the Philatelic Foundation (which was founded in 1945, as an adjunct to the CC) not only via indefatigable toil as a Trustee, but successively as Secretary, Vice-Chairman, and Chairman.

As though this wasn't considered enough, Bill traveled to all parts of the tri-state area to talk to stamp and civic clubs to promote interest in philately, at his own expense. (He never expected nor accepted reimbursement for his out-of-pocket expenses!)

We might add that Bill's secondary avocational interest lies with archaic Chinese jades (c. 4000 BC to c. 800 AD) with a collection that "is becoming widely recognized among connoisseurs" since he lectures on the subject to erudite colleagues and museum groups and has written definitive articles for European periodicals.

A Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, Bill is also a member of the American Philatelic Society and has served the Council of Philatelic Organizations as vice president since its inception.

Bill is happily married to his wife, Inez, whose son and daughter "tolerate" his long hours and days away from home in the interests of philately.

E.A.K.

The Collectors Club Philatelist is interested in receiving articles pertaining to your field of philatelic endeavor whether it be specialized information, research or postal history.

If you have such material for publication or in the process of preparation please contact Editor, The Collectors Club, 22 E. 35th St., New York, N.Y. 10016, for its possible inclusion in a future issue of our Journal.