

Robert H. Pratt To Receive Lichtenstein Award

Colonel Robert H. Pratt says that an automobile accident in 1951 proved to be "rather disabling" and confined him to his home for a time. Collectors and philatelic students of postal history can be glad that this enforced "vacation" re-awakened a boyhood interest in, and enjoyment of, collecting.

At first Pratt acquired a United States collection which, to his surprise, contained some Newfoundland material. A few years later, Bob Siegel persuaded him to buy a Newfoundland collection, and from then on Colonel Pratt devoted his collecting interests and research to Newfoundland. Fortunately, he became interested in proofs, essays, and postal history at a time when this material was available at prices which today would seem inexpensive indeed.

Eventually, Colonel Pratt acquired substantial portions of the proofs and essays of a number of Canadian collectors, including Borden, Glasgow, and Banfield, and (from overseas) from the collections of Dr. Willan, Wilkinson, Goodie, and Harris. With the death of Dan Meyerson, his postal history material also became available and this was joined by a collection of Charles deVolip's. The sources of Bob Pratt's general collection from the on read like an inventory of the great collections of the world—Ferrari, Caspary, Amundson, Burrue, and others, with covers from the Colonel Green and Seybold collections. He says his greatest acquisitions came from the Singmaster, Fox, Dale-Lichtenstein, and Harris sales, as well as portions from the Jephcott and Hubbard collections.

The lack of written material on the postal history of Newfoundland induced Colonel Pratt to begin his researches in this area and his inquiries reached from Milwaukee to the G.P.O. and the Royal Philatelic Society in London, by way of the New York Public Library and the Collectors Club Library and the Newfoundland Archives in St. John's.