

# The Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award For 1972 Presented To Philip Silver



At the December 1972 meeting of the Board of Governors, Philip Silver was unanimously chosen as the 1972 recipient of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial award "for distinguished service to philately."

For Mr. Silver, this caps a philatelic career that began in 1939 shortly after the birth of his son, David. Working in the Comptroller's Office with Mr. Silver was Harold Baer, then the Law Secretary to the Comptroller, presently a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York. Acting upon the latter's suggestion, Mr. Silver started a collection for his newborn offspring. The son's interest was minimal; the father's continued unabated to this day.

## **Early Philatelic Interests**

Starting with a collection of mint sheets, first day covers and plate blocks of United States stamps, Mr. Silver gravitated to topical collecting. After President Franklin D. Roosevelt's death in 1945, many countries issued stamps in his honor. So, a "Rooseveltiana" collection was started. Later, after a meeting with other topical collectors, he started a sports stamp collection. This contact with early topical collectors led him to join with others as an organizer of the first topical stamp society in this country, Topical Philatelists. He served as Secretary and Treasurer and also as Business and Advertising Manager of "The Topicalist," the first topical publication in the United States. His articles on "Rooseveltiana" eventually led to the publication of the American Topical Associations' handbook on "Rooseveltiana," which he co-authored with the late Jan Bart.

### **Interest In Air Mails**

A chance introduction to several air mail collectors, started him in the field of air mail collecting. He joined Aero Philatelists in 1951, subsequently being elected to its Board of Directors. He served this organization as Secretary for three years. In 1959, he was elevated to the Presidency and served in that capacity for three years as well.

Mr. Silver's attraction to air mail stamps caused him to give up several of his other interests including his collection of 19th and 20th century United States and Confederate States of America. Finding that a collection of air mails of the entire world was beyond his reach — even today there are few such collections — he concentrated instead on the air mail stamps of the United States and of the smallest South American country, Uruguay. Today, he is recognized as a leading authority on the air mail rates of the United States.

### **The Collectors Club**

In 1952, he joined the Collectors Club of New York. Several years later, the late Henry M. Goodkind, then editor of *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, asked him to "write-up" one of the Club's meetings. He complied and, for many years after, his reports on philatelic presentations at Club meetings were a standard feature of that world renowned publication.

In 1961, Mr. Silver was elected to the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club. One year later, he was elected Secretary of the Club and served in that office for three years. Next came three years as Vice President. He was then elected to the Presidency and served in that capacity for three years from 1968 to 1970. In 1971, he was elected a Trustee, a position he still holds.

In 1972, at the urging of the governors, he agreed to serve as Treasurer, until a replacement could be found. In addition, he has served as Chairman, Co-Chairman, or member of almost every committee in the Club. He was responsible for the formation of the Capital Fund in 1964 and has served as its Co-Chairman with Mr. Boker, since that date.

### **Other Philatelic Activities**

Mr. Silver has served philately in many other offices. In addition to his activities in the Collector's Club, Aero Philatelists, and Topical Philatelists, he is presently a Vice President of the American Air Mail Society and the President of the Uruguay Collectors Club. Mr. Silver is also an alternate member of the American Revolution Bi-Centennial Commission, a Director of the Association for Stamp Exhibitions and a Vice President of the recent AN-PHILEX Exhibition which celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Collectors Club.

Mr. Silver has contributed his talents to philately in other ways. He is an accredited judge of the American Philatelic Society. He served as a Judge of the Junior Section during the 1956 FIPEX Exhibition in New York and has judged a number of national and regional shows in several parts of the country.

He is a member of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation. On that committee, he specialized in the difficult area of surcharges and overprints.

Mr. Silver has not neglected the exhibiting side of philately. He twice received Awards of Honor at Collectors Club Annual Competitions for Confederate States and United States air mails. His collections have won grand awards in SOJEX and SEPAD. In international competition, he has received many

major awards, including a small-gold at the 1966 SIPEX Exhibition in Washington, D.C. In international air mail competition, here and abroad, he has received a number of gold medals plus special awards for research.

In addition to his membership in the Collectors Club, Mr. Silver is a fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society, London, and a member of the American Philatelic Society, Society of Philatelic Americans, American Air Mail Society, Jack Knight Collectors Federation, Metropolitan Air Mail Cover Club, Uruguay Collectors Club, Essay Proof Society, etc.

### **Writing Activities**

Although Philip Silver has served philately well in many executive and administrative capacities, his first love is writing. Over the past 20 years, more than one hundred of his articles have been published in the Collectors' Club Philatelist, "STAMPS," Linn's Weekly Stamp News, Western Stamp Collector, "First Days," "Covers" magazine, and, last but not least, in the AERO Philatelist Annals. He was Assistant Editor of the Aero Philatelist Annals from 1959 until its demise in 1971. After the merger of Aero Philatelists and the American Air Mail Society is legally consummated, he will be the editor of the publication to be issued by the merged organization.

In addition, Mr. Silver has served on the editorial committee of the Collectors Club Philatelist since 1962. He is a section editor of the American Air Mail Catalog and a contributor to the Sanabria Air Post Catalog.

### **Previous Recognition**

Mr. Silver's efforts on behalf of philately have been recognized on several previous occasions. He received the RICHARD S. BOHN Memorial Award for distinguished services to Aerophilately and the Metropolitan Air Mail Cover Club Award for outstanding services to Aerophilately. Last year, at the annual awards dinner, he was honored with the Collectors Club medal for distinguished service.

Also, because of his philatelic activities, he presently has two biographical listings—Who's Who in the East and the Dictionary of International Biography published in London, England.

### **Schooling**

Mr. Silver was born in Brooklyn, New York on July 18, 1910. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the City College of New York where he majored in Spanish. In his undergraduate days, he was elected to Sigma Delta Pi, the national honor society in Spanish. He also completed graduate studies in that field at Columbia University and the National University of Mexico.

Subsequently, he enrolled in the Baruch School of Business and Public Administration of the City College with a major in Accountancy. While completing all of the requirements for the master's degree in business administration, he was elected to membership in Beta Alpha Psi, the national honor and professional fraternity in accounting. He is a registered public accountant of the State of New York and a member of the American Accounting Association.

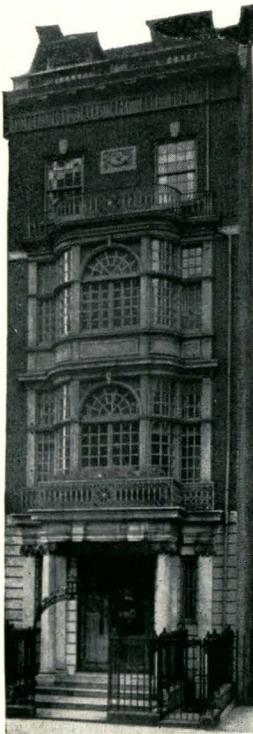
Also, in his undergraduate days, Mr. Silver took courses in the City College School of Engineering and qualified upon examination as a Junior Assistant Civil Engineer.

**Outside of Philately**

Philip Silver has spent almost 46 years in government service. For 19 years of that service, he was the Chief Accountant responsible for all claims filed against the City of New York. Almost a year ago, Mr. Abraham D. Beame, Comptroller of the City of New York, appointed Mr. Silver Chief of the Bureau of Law and Adjustment, where he administers a staff of almost 200 employees. In that position, with major legal responsibilities, he is the first person to serve as Bureau Chief who is not an attorney.

**Conclusion**

Philip Silver becomes the 22nd honored recipient of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award, joining a fellowship of some of the most distinguished philatelists in the world. He started a collection for his son, ended up owning one of the foremost collections of United States air mail stamps ever assembled and contributed his services to philately in the process.



**THE COLLECTORS CLUB**

22 EAST 35TH STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016



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