

**ALFRED F. LICHTENSTEIN AWARD —
GEORGE SOUTH 1986 RECIPIENT**



After a hiatus of five years, during which the recipients of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award were all North Americans, the medal goes abroad once again as it has on ten other occasions in the past. Joining the list of distinguished medalists is George South, M.B.E. of Great Britain, unanimously selected by the Board of Governors as the 1986 recipient "for distinguished service to philately."

In performing these services for philately, some past recipients have concentrated on one or more areas: organizational work, collections formed, research published, service as jurors at philatelic exhibitions, membership on expert committees, etc. In awarding the medal to George South, the Board of Governors chose a recipient whose contributions to philately encompass every one of the areas noted.

George South's first article for the philatelic press was as long ago as 1933 when he wrote about the New Zealand Health Stamps. Today, his main philatelic interests are in the air mail stamps of Columbia, with special emphasis on the Scadta Consular issues, and a highly specialized collection of Seychelles. That latter collection, incidentally, was shown by invitation at the Collectors Club in New York. For his presentation, Mr. South received the Collectors Club Medal for Best Program for 1981.

George tells me that when he gets bored with a collection, he starts with something new. This must strike a responsive chord in many philatelists who have traveled the same path. For George, this has meant building an extensive collection of Finland, a research-oriented collection for the Japanese Occupation of Malaya and North Borneo, and possibly one of the largest collections of Brunei and the Northern Malay States. For each of these collections, numerous articles were written, thus adding to the entire body of philatelic knowledge.

George South has exhibited his collections all over the world, and they have attained high honors wherever shown. His collection of the Scadta Consular Issues of Columbia, for example, has received a number of international gold medals. George himself is an internationally accredited juror; I had the privilege of serving with him at such international exhibitions, and received the benefit of his extensive knowledge.

George South has served for many years as a member of the Expert Committee of The Royal Philatelic Society, London, one of the world's most prestigious committees in the field of stamp authentication. This is but another of the philatelic areas in which his contributions have made a difference.

George South's contributions to organized philately are so many that, to save space, some will be listed in tabular form only:

Honorary Secretary of The Royal Philatelic Society, London from 1961-1974.

Vice President of The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

President of The Royal Philatelic Society, London from 1977 through 1979.

Chairman of LONDON 1980, universally acknowledged as one of the finest international exhibitions ever held.

Member of Council, The Royal Philatelic Society, London for approximately 25 years.

Chairman, Board of Elections for The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Chairman of the International Commission for Air Mails in Great Britain.

Representative for Great Britain to the F.I.P. Aero Philatelic Commission.

Member of the Bureau of the F.I.P. Aero Philatelic Commission.

The Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award, which will now grace George South's mantelpiece, joins another of the world's most prestigious philatelic honors, Great Britain's Roll of Distinguished Philatelists which was achieved many years ago. Among other philatelic honors received by George in the past, is the Medal of The Royal Philatelic Society, London, an award given to only a chosen few.

In private life—if, indeed, the adjective “private” is properly appended—George South is a Solicitor. George was born in London on April 16, 1916. He was educated at Dulwich College and, upon leaving school, was articled to the Senior Partner of his present law firm. He qualified as a Solicitor in 1938, and stayed on with his firm until the outbreak of the 1939-1945 World War, when, as a member of a Territorial Army Tank Regiment, he was called up into service.

George received his commission in 1940 and saw service with his regiment in North Africa and Italy. In 1944, he was awarded the M.B.E. and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

His private and public lives merged in 1977 when he entered local government as Member for Kingswear, South Hams District (Devon). In 1984, after service as vice chairman of the Leisure and Recreation Committee, he was elected chairman of Council. He is also, at present, chairman of the Dart Harbor and Navigation Authority.

George South is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Painters, otherwise Painter Stainers. Also, quite apart from being on the District and Parish Councils, George is a member of the Parochial Church Council in Kingswear and chairman of various village charities.

George South was married to his wife, Pamela, on March 4, 1943. They have three grown sons, one of whom resides on this side of the pond in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Two of the sons are married and have presented George and Pamela with several grandchildren.

I was privileged, once, to see a June 1944 memorandum that George's Brigadier left for his successor, and I hope that George will forgive the intrusion if I quote from it, in part:

His ingenuity and initiative are outstanding. His ability to get on with the "services" and others . . . are also most marked and I commend him to my successor as thoroughly worthy of receiving some real recognition of his particularly valuable services.

Knowing the English and their propensity for understatement, this is truly a remarkable document, which George has lived up to in the ensuing forty-two years. In both his philatelic and private lives, he has shown himself to be truly a man for most seasons.

The Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for Distinguished Services to Philately, bestowed upon George South by the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club, is one he truly deserves. The medal, emblematic of that award, will be presented to George on April 9th at the Annual Awards Banquet to be held at the Tower Suite in New York.

Philip Silver

