

# Robert G. Stone To Receive 1981 A. F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award

The Alfred F. Lichtenstein Award for Distinguished Service to Philately is presented each year by The Collectors Club to a philatelist whose achievements are outstanding and whose service to the hobby is equally so.

One of the most coveted awards in stampdom, the recipient is nominated for the honor by a caucus of former Lichtenstein winners. That nomination is presented to the Board of Governors of the Club to be voted upon for final approval.

Such a nomination was acted upon by the Board at its November 1981 meeting and the winner of that year's award was declared to be Robert G. Stone of Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania.

As with a great many of us, Bob Stone had a brief boyhood excitement with stamps. He did not begin to collect seriously, however, until the mid-1930s when he experimented with a variety of subjects. Over the next decade he spent much philatelic time over the West Indies, but also collected world-wide used abroads, Paquebot and Naval covers, and Foreign Offices in Levant. He finally settled down to concentrate on Danish West Indies postal history and French Colonies.

A chance encounter with the late Alfred Lichtenstein in 1947 encouraged him to publish several interesting discoveries made in his collections. From that beginning and his ever deepening study of those areas has flowed a long series of publications in numerous American and foreign journals. He has also written several books. His first was an excellent handbook and a definitive work on the subject, *The French Colonies General Issues*, published by The Collectors Club in 1961. Recently volume I of a series on Danish West Indies Postal History has come from his pen to win a gold metal at NORWEX. An extensive *Bibliography of Philatelic Literature on French Colonies*, also in



Robert G. Stone

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serial progress, will be published in book form at its conclusion by the APRL. Mr. Stone's articles touch virtually every aspect of French Colonial philately and have brought him wide recognition and hearty response from a host of collectors.

Articles by him in American Philatelic Congress books have won the McCoy Award twice. Others in the *Postal History Journal* and *Collectors Club Philatelist* have also won awards, among them the Gerard Gilbert Memorial Award (twice). He has been active in the editorial field and has been Editor of *The France & Colonies Philatelist* since 1964. This journal has won awards at several expositions. He was co-editor of the just published book by Ruth and Gardner Brown, *The Bordeaux Issue of France*. In appreciation of his writing and editorial work in promoting the greater understanding of French and French colonial philately in the English-speaking world, The Académie de Philatelie of Paris elected him a corresponding member in 1978.

Mr. Stone has eschewed active roles in philatelic organizations, though he is a member of those related to his interests. He prefers, rather, to collect, to study, and to write which, he says, he "has done solely for [his] pleasure, but which has repaid [him] a thousand times over in the pleasure that others have derived from [his] work."

Lately he has begun to exhibit more and has achieved several awards. A few essay-type articles have been devoted to his concerns about philatelic research, bibliography, postal history, nomenclature of proofs and essays, and stamp designing. Also he now engages in a little "expertizing."

Before his retirement in 1971, Robert Stone was a professional meteorologist and climatologist. In these fields, too, he wrote and edited numerous articles, books, and bibliographies. He was elected a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society, whose *Bulletin* he edited for many years. He is a Life Member of the New York Academy of Sciences and was a member of several Commissions of the International Meteorological Organization from 1936 to 1950. He was also editor of the biometeorology section of *Biological Abstracts*. He is listed in *Who's Who in America* and in *American Men of Science*.

Mr. Stone was born in Schenectady and has lived in many places including New York City. In addition to his never-ending research and study, he enjoys hiking in the forests and mountains of the Appalachians that surround his home and finds great interest in ecology, geology, human geography, and natural history. One of those rare birds, a born scholar and researcher with an enquiring mind, a man who shares his findings with his fellow collectors, he is truly worthy of the award bestowed upon him.

Ira Zweifach