



George T. Turner of Washington, D. C. has been selected by The Collectors Club as the recipient of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Award in its 25th Jubilee year. This honor is presented to another philatelist of quality known world wide for his unselfish devotion to the best interests of philately.

George Townsend Turner, Jr. was born in 1906 at River Forest, Illinois. There he spent his childhood and graduated from Oak Park and River Forest High School in 1925. He still has the small general collection of stamps he started as a lad of ten. He recalls that his mother would not permit him to have the albums while studying at Cornell University where he received the degrees of Bachelor (1929) and Master of Chemistry (1931). He spent the summer of 1927 on a student tour of eight European countries. He married in 1929, a collegiate status frowned upon at that time.

George's interest in stamps was revived when Prof. B. S. Monroe showed him a collection of the 3-cent 1851-57 issue and Dr. Carroll Chase's book on the subject. Going "all out" he amassed a general U. S. collection that was sold at a loss during the Depression of the 1930s. He took an interest in cancellations and postal markings

## George T. Turner to Receive 1975 A. F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award

when he acquired a large lot of covers, also began searching for plate varieties and started replating the 3-cent 1851 issue stamps.

While he was engaged in research for Armstrong Cork Co. at its factory in Beaver Falls, Pa., George came to know the area's active collectors and was initiated into the "Visiting Firemen of Philately." His interest in United States revenue stamps was stimulated when C. W. Bedford, who founded the "Shift Hunter," inspired him to undertake the original plating of the 10-cent Certificate Civil War revenue issue. He completed the plating in a year and other plating research has been a continuing endeavor.

Transferred to the Company's home office, he became a member of the Lancaster County (Pa.) Stamp Club and joined the American Philatelic Society in 1933, attending its annual conventions at Atlantic City in 1934 and Washington in 1935 where he met the A.P.S. leaders of that era. During a brief residence in Chicago he was invited to present a paper entitled "Some notes on Revenue Plating" at the Third American Philatelic Congress in 1937, and had the opportunity to use the fine library of Ralph A. Kimble then the editor of the American Philatelist. He conducted columns in the "A.P." for the Postal Markings Unit and Revenue Unit between 1934 and 1942.

When he was employed by U. S. Steel Corp. on a development project it was moved to Newark, N. J. early in 1938. Being in the New York area he had the fortunate opportunity to work on and study the many ramifications in the field of U. S. revenues with Morton D. Joyce, the leading revenue

collector with whom a lasting friendship developed. He joined the Collectors Club in May 1938 and worked on the Library Committee during the period 1938-56.

George's ardent interest in the literature of philately came about through his purchase in 1939 of the "Uncle Billy" Stone library in order to secure needed reference material on revenue stamps. Originally he planned to dispose of the unrelated foreign publications in the collection, but he became fascinated with philatelic books and soon expanded his interests to include the entire field of literature. Later he acquired a considerable portion of the William R. Ricketts library, then, in 1950, the entire W. R. King library and in 1953 the exceptional library of Ralph A. Kimble. One of his goals has been to obtain as nearly as possible all philatelic works published in the United States.

George assisted Elliot Perry in preparing the wonderful exhibit arranged by Alfred F. Lichtenstein to honor the "Centenary of the Postage Stamp" at the Collectors Club in 1940.

After a year working on color and plastic research with Ciba Inc. he joined the research group at Johnson & Johnson where his experience with plastic and rubber adhesives was essential to the war effort. He was chief chemist with Revertex Corp. of America for the years 1944-46, formulating rubber latex compounds for various uses. In 1946 he began work for I. B. Kleinert Rubber Co. as chief chemist and was technical director from 1954 until 1957.

In July 1958 George's avocation became a "second career" with his appointment as associate curator of the Smithsonian Institution's Division of Philately and Postal History. His primary efforts were devoted to coordinating the design of display cases and of frames suitable for a hall in which the National Collection in a new Museum of History and Technology would be exhibited. He also planned the offices for the division. The Hall of Philately was opened Sept. 18, 1964, during the NAPEX show; 15 national philatelic societies convened for the dedication.

After retiring from the Smithsonian in April 1963 he joined the Technical Staff of the Bureau Issues Association as research philatelist. With George W. Brett he co-edited the "Bureau Specialist" between July and September. Earlier he had compiled "SLOANE'S COLUMN," published in 1961 by the B.I.A. under the auspices of the Hugh M. Southgate Fund. His most recent B.I.A. publication is "Essays and Proofs of United States Internal Revenue Stamps." Completed in December 1974, it received the 1975 Eugene Klein Award of the American Philatelic Congress.

George has always been an active member of local clubs wherever he has lived, and has held important offices in many national societies. With a dual membership — Nos. 13 and 14 — he helped the Philatelic Literature Association when founded in 1941 and later served as its president 1952-63. He was on the Board of Governors of the B.I.A. 1946-49 also serving on its Catalog Listing Committee. Long a member of the American Philatelic Congress, he was its president for the years 1954-58. More recently he was president of the American Academy of Philately 1970-74. He had joined the Royal Philatelic Society in 1948 and was elected a Fellow in 1955. He also holds membership in the "Royal" of Australia and Canada. In 1956-58 he assisted Harry Lindquist on the Hobbies Committee of the People-To-People Program that promoted better international understanding.

Turner has been a member of the American Philatelic Society's Board of Directors in one office or another every year since 1957 except during 1965-67 when he withdrew as a candidate for president to devote his full time and energy to the SIPEX international philatelic exhibition. Currently he is serving for a second time as A.P.S. Director of International Affairs.

He has represented the United States as a delegate to the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) Congresses in Paris '64, Munich '66, Prague '68, Sofia '69, London '70, Budapest '71 and Madrid '75. He has served as an international judge at

FIPEX '56, SOFIA '69, PHILATOKYO '71 and POLSKA '73.

Several of George's collections have been exhibited at times since 1934, in national shows and occasionally overseas. They are educational in nature, created to interest the public or inform fellow collectors of the possibilities in a subject, rather than to win awards. However, major awards have been received. A United States postal history collection limited to mourning covers won the grand award and Postal History Society's gold medal at VAPEX '73. An original topical exhibit, "Collecting Stamp Collectors," which depicts about 60 recognized stamp collectors pictured on stamps, has received a variety of awards. An exhibit of the Flag Cancells of the American Postal Machines Co. used from 1894-1940 has attracted considerable interest and gained five special trophies at shows in 1972-75. An "On Document" display of U. S. Revenue Stamps shown in 1963 is now being remounted. Occasionally items from his philatelic library have been shown hors concours.

George's second marriage, in June 1949, was to Helen Jo Jasper after a ten-year friendship. A career woman, Jo was in the educational field for many years, then a creative editor with Artists and Writers Press, a division of Western Publishing, printers of the well known line of Golden Books. Later she served a term as president of the Women's National Book Association.

Jo observes that her husband's primary concern is helping young collectors by freely sharing his broad knowledge of philately. But she adds that he

#### SIRIUS COVERS (Contd.)

*Queen* was ready, she apparently did not, for we find six trips listed for the *Great Western* between August 18, 1838, and July 12, 1839, when the *British Queen* began her delayed maiden voyage and none for the *Sirius*. The explanation may be in Pond's *Junius Smith*, page 107, where it is noted:

"There was no certainty that the *Sirius* would be able to continue her record, and it was not intended that she should. She was run at a loss . . . It is significant that not

can be a rather harsh and outspoken critic at times because he abhors the perpetuation of factual errors in philatelic articles resulting from failure of authors to check all prior references or review their writings thoroughly with others before rushing into print. He also has little patience with the inaccurate use of precise philatelic terminology.

There are few that possess as vast a perception of historic philately and the many participants therein as Mr. Turner. Several influential individuals owe their present position today to George's recommendation.

George has received "Services to Philately" awards from—the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club in 1958, SEPAD in 1968 and the American Philatelic Congress and the Order of the Vest in the same year.

But the one of which he is proudest is a simple testimonial based on his most important achievement, the direction of the Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition (SIPEX 1966) in Washington after plans by the Association for Stamp Exhibitions for a New York show collapsed.

The citation presented to him by his fellow SIPEX directors reads:

*Let it be known whenever philatelists speak of SIPEX that it was George T. Turner's original idea to hold this great event in Washington, that his was the guiding spirit and principal organizing effort, that by his talents, wisdom and warm human qualities he guided SIPEX to success, and thereby rendered a great service to philately and his country.*

withstanding the huzzahs with which the voyage of the *Sirius* was greeted, the letters of Smith to his New York nephew have little to say concerning her. What Smith impatiently waited for was the maiden voyage of his big liner, the *British Queen*. It was business he was looking for, rather than glory . . ."

It is sad that Smith did not realize that he could have subsidized his voyages through the mails carried on the *Sirius*' initial Atlantic crossing.