

Patricia Stilwell Walker to Receive 2006 Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award



The Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award was established in 1952 to recognize distinguished service to philately, and is regarded as one of the highest international awards in philately. In over fifty years, only three women have been selected by the Board of Governors for the honor, with Patricia Stilwell Walker now becoming the fourth. She will receive the award at the Annual Awards Banquet, which will be held at the Cornell Club on May 10, 2006.

Pat decided to collect Irish postal history with her first purchase of a cover at Interphil '76. Three years later she was a seasoned exhibitor. She met her husband Dan, then a novice, at a show in Newark in 1979 (where both won silver medals), and they were married three years later.

Her exhibiting results have improved greatly from that relatively modest start, with international results including the Grand Prix National at The Stamp Show 2000, the F.I.P. World Exhibition in London and a Large Gold with Special Prize in España 2004 in Valencia for her Irish postal history. Not to be considered one with a single area of interest, her exhibit of Baltimore postal history has been shown once at the F.I.P. level winning Large Gold at Bangkok 2003.

She has long been a member of the Eire Philatelic Association, having served two terms as president in the late 1980s, and is also a member of the Irish Philatelic Circle. She is a life member of the American Philatelic Society, having served two terms as a member of its Board of Vice Presidents. Other memberships include the Postal History Society (U.S.), the Society of Postal Historians (U.K.), the American Philatelic Congress, and the Royal Philatelic Society London, of which she is a fellow. Pat is the immediate past president of the United States Philatelic Classics Society and is also a director and treasurer of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. She became accredited as a national judge in 1985 and as an international judge in 1990 (youth), adding a postal history accreditation in 1993. Her next major assignment will be to serve on the jury at Washington 2006.

On the personal side, she graduated magna cum laude in mathematics from Vassar College and is now retired from working 30 years with IBM. It is not easy to stay "retired," and she is currently working with her husband Dan in his insurance firm, as well as being a Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant. Each year she is actively involved on the BALPEX committee as chairman of judges and exhibits selection.

With such a wide range of philatelic credentials, Patricia Stilwell Walker is a worthy addition to the list of recipients of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award.