

Lt. General Cornelius W. Wickersham NYG(Ret.) Recipient of 1959 A. F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award



The Board of Governors of the Collectors Club have unanimously selected our immediate Past President, Lt. General C. W. Wickersham, of Cedarhurst, N. Y. as the recipient of the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award* for "Distinguished Service to Philately" for the year 1959. The Medal, awarded annually, will be presented to General Wickersham here at 22 East 35 Street, New York, N. Y. on the night of May 6, 1959.

General Wickersham is perhaps best known to the Collectors Club members for Venezuela. His book, "The Early Stamps Of Venezuela" has recently been published by this Club under the sponsorship of *The Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Fund*. This book was a complete revision of the series of articles on Venezuela that appeared in this magazine from 1950 thru 1957.

Lt. General C. W. Wickersham NYG (Ret.) has had a long and distinguished career as a lawyer, a soldier, a public servant, a philanthropist and a philatelist. General Wickersham's father and grandfather held high appointive positions with

the United States Government. His father, the late George W. Wickersham, served in the Cabinet of President Herbert Hoover as the Attorney General of the United States. C. W. Wickersham's law career started after his graduation *cum laude* in 1909 from the Harvard University Law School. He joined the firm of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, which dates back to 1792, and now is its senior partner.

As a soldier, this commenced as a private in 1915 during the Mexican campaign and lasted until 1948 when C. W. Wickersham had gained the high rank of Lieutenant General in the New York Guard. During this distinguished military career, which saw service in both World Wars I and II, decorations came to General Wickersham from the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Poland.

His public service covers many years. Only the outstanding ones will be mentioned. He was appointed to the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, serving until his statutory retirement in 1953. From 1950 and 1951 he was the Director of Civil Defense, Nassau County, New York. He still is active as the Chairman of the Nassau County, N. Y. Bridge Authority.

As a philanthropist, General Wickersham has given both of his time and money to many hospitals, libraries and his Church. Unknown to many, he also has been a benefactor to philately by donations to the Collectors Club for our worthy research and publication work.

His love for stamps and record as a philatelist goes back many years. He has collected United States, Confederate States of America, Peru and Venezuela. Currently his top interests are 19th Century Liberia and the States of Colombia. He has written many

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Bibliography

- Postage Stamps in The Making*, by John Easton, Faber & Faber, London (1949).
Foundations of Philately, by Winthrop S. Boggs, Faber & Faber, London, England; D. Van Nostrand, Princeton, N. J. (1955).
Printing Postage Stamps by Line Engraving, by James H. Baxter, American Philatelic Society, State College, Pa. (1939).

Footnotes

1. U. S. 1908 2c plate 5299 U. L. 37, has traces of a 1c entry. Another "foreign" relief occurs in the U. S. Revenue Stamps, and in Mexico 1872 issue.
2. *Essay Proof Journal*, Vol. I, p. 3, January 1944, also *Postage Stamps & Postal History of Canada*, (Boggs) Vol. I, p. 224 et seq.
3. *B. N. A. Topics* January and March 1951.
4. *B. N. A. Topics* July 1947.
5. United States Newspaper Stamps of 1865 (Scott #PR1-8), and Canada Map Stamp 1898 (Scott #85, 86), colored portion only, which were typographed.
6. See *Jacob Perkins*, by Greville and Dorothy Bathe, p. 43 and p. 200, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1943.
7. Reprinted in *the Essay Proof Journal*, Vol. 14, No. 1, January 1957 and following numbers.
8. The 1c plates were produced from rollers bearing three or six reliefs; the 3c, two or three and six reliefs; the 5c, six reliefs; the 10c, two reliefs; the 12c, one relief; the 24c, six reliefs; and the 30c and 90c, four reliefs each.
9. Obtained by photographing a copy of the 5c entry on 6c variety, and a normal 6c, then laying the negative of the 6c on the traces of the 5c relief, and printing.

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articles, probably the greatest proportion for the COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST. He follows the more traditional school of philately, being interested primarily in a stamp's printing and production rather than postal history.

C. W. Wickersham has given of devoted service to the Collectors Club. His legal career proved most helpful, and he offered these abilities to this Club in numerous legal problems, culminating in the recognition by the courts of New York State of this institution as an educational, non-profit one. He served on the Board of Governors for six years and as our President for two years 1956-57. In 1958 he had graciously decided to turn the management over to younger members by tendering his resignation as a Governor. But his interest in the welfare of the Collectors Club has never waned, so that he now can be said to act in the capacity of "Elder Statesman". Each year for the past five years, he comes before the membership to exhibit and speak upon his very fine collections.

In the difficult task of preparing for the mammoth International Philatelic Exhibition of 1956 (FIPEX), the services of General Wickersham were most helpful. He was primarily responsible for having this exhibition among the inaugurals of New York City's huge new Coliseum. He was appointed Chairman of the FIPEX Board of Judges. He is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London and his collections have gained high awards at many international philatelic exhibitions.

Surely this brief sketch of the career of Lt. General Cornelius W. Wickersham well indicates the many qualifications of this philatelist to receive the *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award* for "Distinguished Service to Philately". (H. M. G.)

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

Over the years, the **Collectors Club** has published numerous Handbooks relating to almost every field of philately. Some have been sold out long ago, now only being obtainable at an auction sale at prices far above their original selling price.

See Page IV for the recently published books.