

When he is not traveling or collecting stamps, Patrick Maselis, who lives in Belgium, runs a company that produces wholesale and consumer grain and cereal products. He also devotes himself to numerous other business and civic obligations. But when it comes to philately, he is passionate about sharing his talents and visions worldwide. Maselis is the world's leading collector and scholar of Belgium, its colonies, and the Free State of Congo. He is a large gold international exhibitor, researcher, author of many published books and articles, and a gifted speaker.

His presentation on Belgium's early "Medallion" issues at the Collectors Club in March of 2020 was one of the best-attended gatherings there in many months – and, as it happened, the last one before the pandemic enforced a shutdown of in-person activities.

Among the philatelic honors Maselis has collected are signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and receiving the European Academy of Philately's "European Philatelic Merit" award. He is a member of the Collectors Club of New York, and the Club honored him in 2010 with its award for best meeting presentation, on the Congo.

Maselis is an international leader in organized philately. His service has included being president of the Club de Monte-Carlo, immediate past president of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, past president of the Royal Belgium Academy of Philately, a council member of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, first vice president of the European Academy of Philately, corresponding member of the Academie de Philatélie (France) and the Real Academia Hispánica de Filatelia e Historia Postal (Spain), honorary member of the Russian Philatelic Academy and the Club of Elite Russian Philately.

But perhaps his most special contribution to the hobby has come as a promoter: Maselis is a philanthropist who likes to make quiet differences to affect the future of our hobby. He has sponsored international trips for promising young philatelists, including the Young Philatelic Leaders of the American Philatelic Society. He has financially supported advertising to promote an international philatelic show. He organizes international gatherings and dinners of fellow collectors to share the joy of stamps and postal history and ensure the future connections that are vital to sustaining the hobby.

Perhaps most impressive of all, Maselis has traveled to every country in the world – all 195 of them. Invariably, on each of his travels he sends out hundreds of souvenir postcards to friends and acquaintances, to encourage the understanding of contemporary philately.

Alfred F. Lichtenstein (1876-1947) was widely considered one of the greatest American philatelists of the first half of the 20th century. The award in his memory was established by the Collectors Club in 1952, and its first recipient was Lichtenstein's good friend and co-founder of the Philatelic Foundation, Theodore Steinway. In past years, the award has been given to a single recipient.

More information can be found at the club's web site, www.collectorsclub.org