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2018 Rowland Hill Awardee John T. Burnett, OTB

Atlanta, GA

The Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs will recognize John T. Burnett, OTB, of Madison, Alabama, as the recipient of the 2018 Rowland Hill Award on January 27, 2018.

The award, named after Sir Rowland Hill, creator of the first postage stamp, is a lifetime achievement award first presented in 2005, and is presented annually to a philatelist who has made outstanding contributions to stamp collecting in the Southeastern United States.

John started collecting stamps in 1945 in his home town of Vancouver, British Columbia. Since then, John has become a specialist in the stamps and postal history of Canada and British North America, and is a prominent philatelic writer and exhibitor.

Burnett's prolific writing career began as a contributor to *Linn's Stamp News*, where he authored the column "Collecting Canada" for over 15 years. In addition he has written over 30 articles for *BNA Topics*, *Maple Leaves* and the *PHSC Journal* combined. He has also contributed to the British North America Philatelic Society Newsletters and *The Log*, the newsletter of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society. John is also co-author of the book *Canadian Philately - An Outline*, which was distributed by BNAPS as a promotional giveaway to all BNAPS members and is also given to new members upon joining the society.

In his exhibiting career, Burnett has created twenty different exhibits of Canadian philately and continues to do research for new ones. He first exhibited in 1975 when he presented his Small Queens of Canada for the first time at BALPEX. The exhibit has grown from a bronze medal to a gold medal at national level exhibitions and from a silver medal to a large vermeil medal at international venues. In 2014 the exhibit won a gold at the Southeastern Stamp Expo in Atlanta, and was selected as the most popular exhibit. A current example of Burnett's own research is his exhibit of the commercial cachets of the Montreal Telegraph Company. This exhibit was shown at a national show for the first time at the Southeastern Stamp Expo in 2017 in Atlanta where it earned a Large Vermeil.

Burnett has been a member of the American Philatelic Society for more than 40 years. He is also a member of the British North America Philatelic Society, the Postal History Society of Canada, the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain and the American Philatelic Congress. However, it is his work with BNAPS that merits in-depth discussion.

A forty year member of the society, John was elected to the Board of Directors of BNAPS in 2001 and given the responsibility of preparing a long range plan and establishing an Education Department. The

Educational Group, now called Online Resources and Exhibits (ORE), is available free to all on the BNAPS website. Each year BNAPS publishes an average of 15 books on Canadian philately, including their Exhibit Series in which they document all BNAPS major award winning BNA exhibits, to be preserved as a reference for the future of the hobby.

Burnett currently heads the "Dixie Beavers," a regional group which meets several times annually, including a gathering during the Southeastern Stamp Expo. Finally, John Burnett's service to BNAPS culminated with his election to the Order of the Beaver (OTB) in 2001, the Fellowship of BNAPS recognizing service to the society and to philately in general.

"John Burnett has served the British North America Philatelic Society for over 40 years, and is recognized through his writings, correspondence and conversations as a scholar and renowned expert on many aspects of BNA Philately" said Eldon C. Godfrey, President of BNAPS. "We are delighted to see that this valued and honored member of our Society is being recognized within his own region with this prestigious award and extend our heartiest thanks to the Federation and congratulations to John."

Locally, John is a member of the Chattanooga Stamp Club and a past member of the Huntsville Philatelic Society. For many years he has regularly served local clubs by doing presentations.

In his personal life, John graduated from Royal Roads Military College with a degree in Marine Engineering and later earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Newark College of Engineering. He served in the Royal Canadian Navy for seven years. In Civilian life, John was employed by Emerson Electric Company in domestic and international Sales and Service for 40 years.

John will accept the Rowland Hill award at the Awards Banquet of the Southeastern Stamp Expo in Norcross, Georgia, on January 27, 2018.

2005 Nancy B. Clark

2006 Dr. William H. Waggoner

2007 Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert C. Effinger Jr.

2008 Edwin Jackson

2010 Douglas N. Clark

2013 Bruce Roberts

2014 Frank J. Crown

2015 Charles O'Brien III

2016 Dr. Thomas W. Broadhead

2017 Roger P. Quinby, FRPSL

About the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs

The Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs is a registered non-profit organization representing 18 stamp clubs and societies in Georgia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Massachusetts, Maryland and Alabama which pool resources for a common goal of promoting and supporting stamp collecting activities and philatelic education in the southeastern region. Principal among these activities is the sponsorship and management of the annual Southeastern Stamp Expo, an APS World Series of Philately stamp show. The show will be held January 26 – 28th, 2018 at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Norcross, GA 30092.

About the British North America Philatelic Society

The British North America Philatelic Society Ltd. - BNAPS - is an international organization (founded 1943) devoted to the collecting and study of the stamps, markings, and postal history of Canada and the pre-confederation colonies of British North America (British Columbia, Canada, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island)..
