

John N. Luff Award
American Philatelic Society

Dr. Arthur H. Groten

2013 Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research



Dr. Arthur H. Groten of Poughkeepsie, New York, has been selected as the recipient of the 2013 Luff Award for *Distinguished Philatelic Research*.

Art exemplifies the best kind of researcher in any field. He is indefatigable and thorough in his search for knowledge. Further, he is uncommonly generous in sharing his findings, welcoming new information, and collaborating with other researchers. Art is intrigued by an unanswered question or by a type of artifact. He then collects avidly and broadly until he feels he has a center of mass. He searches everywhere for information that could bear on the project, then he narrows the scope until there is a conclusion in sight. He refines his research towards broadcasting the finding: in a major exhibit, an article or series of articles, a handbook or monograph.

Art has been especially attracted to the “borders” of philately and postal history — areas that move collecting into pioneer territory. He was intrigued by poster stamps, and so helped start a new collectors’ group, organizing it as an APS affiliate. He became active in the Ephemera Society, is its immediate past-president, and steered it to become an APS affiliate.

However, he also has done a tremendous amount of original research within the more traditional boundaries of the hobby, especially in the area of Palestine and Israel. He published the first monograph on the postmarks of Mandate Tel Aviv and the first study of the internal and external rates of Mandate Palestine. Using primary source material, his study of routes to, from, and through Palestine resulted in the first non-classical Palestine exhibit to win a Grand award in national competition. He brought to light new information about the workings of taxi mail in the Holy Land, expanded the information on the trans-desert mail route from Baghdad to Haifa, and authored the first monograph about the Levant Fairs held during the Palestine Mandate.

Other original research by Art includes the plating of the 1859 issue of Canada; the first study of St. Helena postage rates, and first analysis of censorship of Napoleon’s mail on St. Helena; and the first in-depth study of the U.S. permit imprint system.

Art has had research pamphlets and books published by the Society of Israel Philatelists, the British North American Philatelic Society, and Postilion Publications. He also served as general editor for four Postilion Publications written by others.

His articles have been published in at least a dozen publications. He has had three articles published in *The American Philatelist* and the *American Philatelic Congress Book*. He is a columnist or regular writer for *American Stamp Dealer and Collector* (since its beginning), *Journal of the Poster Stamp Collectors Club* (from founding in 2006), *The Philatelic Exhibitor* (columnist for ten years), *Postal Label Collectors Club Bulletin* (from founding in 2008), and *Topical Time* (for fifteen years). Some of his earliest writing was for a five-year series on the plating of the 5-cent Beaver and 10-cent Consort in the British North America Philatelic Society *Topics* from 1975–1980. He also has been published in the *Air Post Journal*, receiving the Gatchell Award for best article; the *Collectors Club Philatelist*; the *Ephemera Journal* and *Ephemera News*.

For his multi-frame exhibits Art has received three Large Vermeils at the international level and three Grand awards and four Reserve Grand awards at the national level. His single-frame exhibits have reached the Reserve Grand and Platinum level.

He has served as president of three APS affiliates: the Ephemera Society of America, the Poster Stamp Collectors Club, and the Postal Label Study Group. He is a life member of the APS and the Society of Israel Philatelists and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

Art believes passionately in the salutary effects of involvement in our hobby; philately is fortunate that he chose it.