

TEXAS PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

Awards Program

The awards program of the Texas Philatelic Association (TPA) is broad in scope and is intended to honor all contributions to Texas philately. It can be categorized as **individual awards**, **chapter/unit awards** and **exhibition awards**. The following is a brief description of the various awards by category with a comment on their current status.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Honorary Membership

Honorary Memberships are awarded on occasion by the TPA in recognition of outstanding service by a member. In accordance with *Article II, Section 1, Paragraph b* of the TPA by-laws, the Board of Directors, by simple majority vote of those voting, may confer upon any person an Honorary Membership which may be for life or for a specific term of years.

The Forcheimer Philatelic Literature Award

This award was established after the death of Leon C. Forcheimer, 1906 1974. At the tender age of fifteen, he began a journalism career that spanned more than fifty years. He wrote the stamp column for *The Houston Post* from 1964 to 1972 and was TPA Secretary/Treasurer from 1971 to 1974. All original articles appearing in *The Texas Philatelist* are eligible for this award. A committee of accomplished writers and philatelists is appointed to judge the articles. The award is presented at TEXPEX.

Distinguished Philatelic Texan Award

Established in 1974 to honor members of the Texas Philatelic Association for contributions of service to philately, to the TPA, or to the study of Texas Postal History. Recipients must be members of the TPA and qualify in two of six categories, one of which must be from "Class A." The class categories are summarized below:

- A1 Distinguished service to the TPA over a sustained period of time as an officer or appointee.
- A2 Distinguished contributions to the science of philately by publication of original studies, lectures on philatelic topics at club meetings or seminars, or frequent presentations to nonphilatelic organizations.
- A3: Distinguished contributions to Texas Postal History by publishing several original studies or articles, or of a single handbook relative to some phase of Texas Postal History.
- B1: Distinguished service to organized philately by having served as an editor or officer for a national, specialist or international philatelic organization for a sustained period of time.
- B2: Distinguished service for philatelic exhibitions reflected by winning major awards at five state or national shows, serving as a judge at ten or more state, regional, national, specialist or international shows, or having made major contributions to five philatelic exhibitions.
- B3: Recognition by other philatelic organizations such as election to a national level stamp advisory board, or having been recognized with an honor award by other national or international societies.

The award itself is a bronze medallion on a plaque and a bronze medallion attached to a red, white, and blue ribbon which can be worn at TPA award dinners. The selection committee consists of all former award winners, who may choose to not give an award if no one qualifies.

CHAPTER/UNIT AWARDS

The Spalding Trophy

Awarded each year to the TPA chapter or unit whose members recruit the most new members during the year. The Spalding Trophy is on permanent display at the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library at UT Dallas in Richardson, Texas. The award is based on the affiliation of new members who join in the time between TPA annual meetings (held at TEXPEX).

EXHIBITION AWARDS

Texas Philatelic Association Award

Given at TEXPEX and local stamp shows for the best exhibit by a TPA member. Local chapters and units holding shows must apply to the TPA President for the award.

TEXPEX Medals and Awards

The Texas Philatelic Association provides the awards presented at the annual TEXPEX exhibition. The awards, consisting of **gold, vermeil, silver, silverbronze** and **bronze** medals with the TPA seal on their face, are awarded at the discretion of the exhibition jury. TPA also provides the **Grand Award** and **Reserve Grand Award** for TEXPEX.

Cryer Cup

The Cryer Cup is a memorial to the late Mr. and Mrs. J.C.M. Cryer, of Port Lavaca, Texas. It is awarded to the **best exhibit of 19th century United States material** at the annual TEXPEX exhibition. Each year's winner has their name inscribed on a plate attached to the base of the cup. The cup is housed at the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library at UT Dallas, in Richardson, Texas. The winner receives a separate award to retain.

The TEXAS SERIES

Each TPA chapter or unit that holds an annual show is invited to send one exhibit to TEXPEX to participate in The TEXAS SERIES. The selected exhibits are entered into the TEXPEX exhibition free of fees, and the local winners receive a free year's membership in the TPA. Their exhibits become eligible for the "Best of the TEXAS SERIES" award, and are also eligible for all other awards at TEXPEX.

Young Adult Award

In 2002, the board of directors approved an award to be given at the TEXPEX exhibition for the **best exhibit by a young adult**, ages 18-30. The award is supplied by the Seagull Stamp Club of Corpus Christi.