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**TEXPEX 2003 MAJOR CRYSTAL AWARDS**  
**SIGNED BY WATERFORD DESIGN DIRECTOR**

DALLAS – The major exhibition winners of the annual TEXPEX philatelic show traditionally receive Waterford Crystal pieces – awards that are unique among the American Philatelic Society’s prestigious World Series of Philately shows. This year the Waterford awards at TEXPEX take on added value when they are presented on Saturday, April 12, 2003.

“The large Balmoral design Waterford vase that goes to the Grand award winner and the medium Balmoral vase that goes to the Reserve Grand winner, this year bear the etched signature of Jim O’Leary, the Design Director of Waterford Crystal,” said Tom Koch, TEXPEX 2003 chairman. “O’Leary came to Neiman Marcus in Plano about the time we were acquiring the 2003 awards and he graciously signed the base of both vases. So this year, the stamp show winners will receive a bit more for their achievement.”

The vases are accompanied by a certification that O’Leary signed them. O’Leary joined Waterford in 1960 as an apprentice and moved up the ranks to become a master cutter. In 1988 he became design director and today is considered one of the most talented and celebrated crystal designers in the world.

Exhibitors compete annually in the 188-frame TEXPEX exhibition that is judged by APS certified officials from across the United States. The Grand award winner qualifies for the APS Champion of Champions Philatelic exhibition, this year scheduled for Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 7-10.

A Waterford Crystal egg is traditionally awarded to the best single frame exhibit winner at TEXPEX. The crystal awards, along with Texas Philatelic Association (TPA) medals and various

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society trophies will be presented at the annual awards banquet set for the Renaissance Dallas North Hotel, LBJ Freeway and Midway Road, at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 12, 2003 in the Garden Terrace Room. Tickets are \$30 each.

This year two new awards will be presented. The Southwest Philatelic Foundation will award the first “TEXPEX Service to Philately Award” for unselfish devotion to the betterment of philately. The winner will be kept secret until announced at the awards banquet. The award will be a Waterford Crystal piece.

Also new this year, the TPA will offer “The Best Exhibit by a Young Adult” for those between the ages of 18 and 30. “The TPA recognizes that collectors in their 20s seldom participate in exhibitions so this plaque is intended to provide a goal for them to shoot for,” Koch said. The award is provided by the Seagull Stamp Club of Corpus Christi, Texas.

TEXPEX, the annual national philatelic exhibition in Texas, will welcome the Cuban Philatelic Society of America as a visiting society to this year’s show set for the Renaissance Dallas North Hotel, LBJ Freeway and Midway Road, April 11-13, 2003.

The show offers free admission and free parking to everyone. Included is a Youth Fun Center open to all youngsters, a bourse of 40 national and regional dealers, informative seminars by philatelic specialty groups, a three-day U.S. Postal Service substation with special show cancellation and philatelic items, and an awards banquet.

The major stamp show is presented by the Southwest Philatelic Foundation with support from the Collectors Club of Dallas, the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library at the University of Texas at Dallas, the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society, the Mid-Cities Stamp Club and the American First Day Cover Society Chapter No. 56.

The hotel’s show rate is \$89 single/double. Reservations must be made by March 11, 2003. Call 1-800-468-3571 for national reservations. The local number is 972-385-9000.

For show details call 972-883-4951.

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