

Donald Wright Selected 2015 ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist

George Griffenhagen

Entomologist Donald P. Wright, Jr., of Pennington, N.J., has been selected as the American Topical Association 2015 Distinguished Topical Philatelist, according to an announcement by DTP Committee chairman, Donald W. Smith. The award will be presented during the National Topical Stamp Show in Portland, Ore., July 31-Aug. 2, 2015.



Since 1956, Don has been a member of the oldest ATA Unit established in 1951 as the Biology Unit. During the 64 years of its existence, Don has served twice as president and three different terms as Unit Vice President. In 1971-1972, Don served as editor of the unit periodical, *Biophilately*, and continues to serve since 1971 as associate editor for the Entomology column (thus far more than 50 columns). In addition, Don has been the author of or contributor to four ATA Handbooks on Invertebrates, Entomology and Insects (released this year).

Don was born in Connecticut in 1928 and lived there until 1961, when he moved to New Jersey. He graduated in 1959 from the University of Connecticut, receiving a B.A. in Zoology-Entomology. Professionally, Don was employed for 39 years by American Cyanamid Company in Princeton, N.J., (now Pfizer Company). He retired in 1991 as Senior Research Entomologist and holds more than 100 U.S. and foreign patents. Don introduced the concept and coined the term “antifeedants” for insect control. He was invited to describe his research in Milan, Italy, at the World Congress of Pest Control.

In the U.S. Army during the Korean War, Don served with a Preventive Medicine Control Detachment, performing insect and rodent control research. As an amateur radio operator, Don has been Examination Director of the Delaware Valley Radio Association since 1972. He is also active in the Herb Society of America, serving as secretary-treasurer and maintaining the herb garden at the Holcombe Jimison Farmstead Museum.

A member of the Pennington Presbyterian Church since his arrival in 1961, Don has served as Deacon and on many committees. He has been married to Ellen for 55 years. They have sons in Tennessee, Wisconsin and New Mexico and have four grown grandchildren.

The ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist Award was established in 1952 by ATA founder Jerome Husak to recognize notable service in topical philately. This award has been presented in the past 65 years to 129 topical philatelists, including residents of Canada, Great Britain and Italy. The current selection committee, chaired by Donald W. Smith, consists of Donald Beuthel, Jack H. Green, George Griffenhagen, Dorothy C. Smith, Dalene Thomas and Mark H. Winnegrad. ☐