

SOMETHING NEW HAS BEEN ADDED

At the Annual Meeting of the North American Lily Society held at Longwood Gardens in 1959 the need was felt for some means of conveying our recognition in a specific manner to persons who, from time to time, were deemed to have performed outstanding service for either the genus liliium or the N.A.L.S. After much discussion it was decided to instigate an award to be known as the "E.H. WILSON MEMORIAL AWARD" which would be given, (not necessarily each year but as the society should see fit,) as the ultimate in recognition and honour at the disposal of the Society. Approval was given to the suggestion that a medal be designed and a number struck. G.A. (Sandy) Best was commissioned to have this done by the same Canadian silver craftsman that designed and executed the Isabella Preston Trophy with which you are all familiar by now. It was later found out that the cost of having medals struck would be far beyond our financial capacities due to the heavy initial cost of having the "die" made. In consultation with Sandy Best the craftsman suggested that we use a plaque instead of a medal as this would not entail a "die" and could be produced for a much more reasonable cost. It was decided to go ahead with this plan and those of you who were at the Madison show and saw the beautiful plaque will agree that it is something of which each recipient, and the Society, can be justly proud.

For the benefit of those who were not able to be at the show I will try to give a description of the plaque for you - mounted on a dark mahogany wood backpiece was a stem of liliium with several blooms delicately worked in silver and standing out in relief with the petals, stamens, and anthers all depicted in three dimensional aspect, under this was a silver ribbon strip on which the name of the award will be engraved and below this again a silver panel for the name of the recipient. It will be retained permanently by each person to whom it is awarded, a new one being made for each new award. As you know there are many people whom it would be a pleasure to honour and the selection of the first person to receive this award was no slight task. In the absence of Dr. Binsweller, who was overseas at the time, it fell to Dr. Frank Palmer to chair the selection committee - after consulting his committee they came

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up with the name of Prof. Geo. A. Slate as the recommendation to the Society as the first person to be recognized with this award. There was no question but that the recommendation of the committee was wholeheartedly endorsed by the members at the Annual Meeting and Prof. Slate was presented with this Memorial Award "in absentia" at the Annual Banquet. (We were all sorry that George was not able to be present to receive it in person) The selection of Prof. Slate to receive this award carried a sentimental "overtone" because, as many of you know, he is married to the daughter of the great plant collector whom the award commemorates and I am sure that it must have brought much pleasure to Mrs. Slate that the first recipient of the award in memory of her father was her husband.

Geo. E. Holla nd,

Canadian Vice President.