

Lawrence Richard Harlow 1927-2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Richard Harlow, the founder of the of the Italy & Colonies Study Circle.

Richard was a late conscript in WWII and was posted to Italy between 1945 - 1947. He met his future wife Pia whilst in Udine and fell in love with both Pia and Italy.

His interest in Italian Philately began soon after the end of the war, resulting in many superb collections.

After the war Richard spent many years as a police officer, retiring in 1977. Richard was also involved with several auction houses and acted as a philatelic consultant.

He formed the Italian & Colonies Study Circle in 1974 with prominent philatelists, including Roy Dehn, Denis Vandervele, Cecil Teall, Alan Becker, Grahame Lindsey, Michael Harlow, Enrico Forte, Bill Soulsby and John Davies. From an initial 30 members, the Study Circle grew to over 200 worldwide members.

Richard with his noted background in Philatelic auctions ran the auction for the Study Circle with quarterly auctions of around 800 lots, all knocked down usually in less than 90 minutes.

He was instrumental in organising member trips, mostly to Italy, but also to the British Virgin Islands and the USA. Most of the trips and the experiences are still relived among those members still alive.

The quarterly *fil-Italia* journal became an award winning journal and is highly regarded by its members and philately in general.

In 2014 (ICSC 40th anniversary) Members presented and awarded the "Richard Harlow Trophy" to Richard for his unstinting efforts in running the Study Circle. This trophy is awarded annually to competition winners or members whose service to the Study Circle requires special acknowledgement.



On 23 November 2019 the Italian Federation of Philatelic Societies celebrations of its centenary at Verona's most popular national Stamp Exhibition and Trade Show included the elevation of The Italy and Colonies Honorary Secretary Richard Harlow to "Meritorious Member of the Golden Roll of Italian Philately".

He will be missed by all those involved with Italian Philately
Richard is survived by his wife Pia and sons Michael, Mark & Paul