

HENRY B. FRIED

(1907–1996)

Henry Fried's first horological job, that of apprentice watchmaker, began in 1921 when he was 14 years old. His teaching career began in 1938 during the Depression. Having recently graduated from City College of New York, he was selected out of a pool of 200 applicants to become the first teacher of watchmaking and clockmaking at the George Westinghouse Vocational and Technical High School. He held that position for 35 years and spent his life working for the advancement of horology. He was certified as a Master watchmaker and clockmaker by the AWCI, and was a Fellow of the American Watchmakers Institute and British Horological Institute. He authored works on watch repair, bench practices, watch escapements, electric watch repair, principles of ultrasonic cleaning, watches with odd beats and timing devices, as well as numerous others. He developed educational programs on topics such as chronometers, liquid crystals, cylinder escapement repair, and famous inventors who were watchmakers and clockmakers, and wrote a collector's guide to antique watches.

He was a horological contributor and consultant to the *Random House Dictionary* and *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary*, and was the Question & Answer column editor for *The HIA Journal* and *Horological Times*. Beyond being a watchmaking instructor, Henry was a model maker, toolmaker, and innovator. He has three patents, including one for a watch and clock jewelers tool.

Henry joined the NAWCC in 1943 and was member #26. He was one of the first to be honored as an NAWCC Fellow when that award was created in 1959. In 1976, when the Silver Star Fellow Award was developed, he was one of only three persons to be given that honor. He was the manager of the *Bulletin's* Answer Box for seven years and delivered lectures to members at Chapter, Regional, and National meetings. He authored more than 200 book reviews for the *Bulletin* and more than 27 *Bulletin* articles. It is actually unknown exactly how many articles he authored for the *Bulletin*. In the early years of the Association, Henry was under contract to write articles under his name for only the *Jeweler's Circular Keystone* magazine. So great was his involvement in sharing horological information that during those years when he was under contract, he contributed articles that were published in the *Bulletin* without his name. In at least one instance, Henry allowed another person's name to be placed on a *Bulletin* article that Henry had authored!

Henry never held an elected position in the NAWCC, not that he had never been asked to run for different positions. He never accepted a nomination for an elected office within the Association, because in his own words, "I strongly feel that such an Association founded by amateurs in the strictest sense should not be governed by people in the professional sector." The Association was fortunate that he agreed to serve in appointed positions: the NAWCC Museum Library Committee and as President of the Old Timers and Fellows Chapter 22.

There is no higher accolade in watchmaking than being compared to Henry B. Fried. Future recipients of this award have been provided with a lofty standard to live up to.