



Mr. John Gover

T. A. Stewart Memorial Award, 1984

Mr. John Gover of the Canterbury Rose Society, New Zealand, was awarded this high honour for 1984.

John Gover first officially became associated with roses in 1951 when he joined the Auckland District Rose Society, and upon his transfer to Christchurch, in 1954, he became a member of the Canterbury Rose Society.

In 1956 Mr. Con Holyoake asked him to write the Cultural Notes for the first nationwide National Rose Society Bulletin. In 1951 John was elected Secretary of the Canterbury Rose Society, a position he held until 1962, with another stint from 1981-83.

His first venture into serious rose journalism was in 1958 when he established the Canterbury Rose Society's monthly Bulletin. He set a high standard right from his first edition, so making the Canterbury Rose Society Bulletin a model for other New Zealand District Rose Societies to emulate. John continued as local Editor until 1968.

During these years John was particularly active on the local scene, taking part in pruning demonstrations, giving illustrated talks to garden clubs and horticultural groups. He was often Canterbury's delegate to the National Rose Society's Annual Meetings. John was a great advocate in those early years of the roses just making their way on the market scene, the floribunda and miniature roses.

On the wider New Zealand scene John's pen was busy too. He wrote the rose cultural notes for the South Island for a nationwide circulating garden magazine; as well as articles on floral art and horticultural photography. In 1968 he took charge of the programme department of the National Rose Society of New Zealand, making up many of these himself.

In 1969 John was asked by the National Council to be Editor of the new quarterly paper, "The Rosarian", as well as Editor of the New Zealand Rose Annual. His first "Rosarian" appeared in June 1969 and his first Annual in 1970. He set the "Rosarian" on its feet, handing over editorship in 1972. He edited the Rose Annual faithfully until 1979. During these years John set the standard for this publication making it the book the National Rose Society of New Zealand is rightly very proud of.

The National Rose Society of New Zealand is gratified that Mr. Gover is the recipient of this, the highest honour that can be conferred upon a rosarian in Australasia.