

Awards of Merit and Certificates of Commendation from American Association for State and Local History

The *Certificate of Commendation* is given for outstanding achievement by an individual or an organization in the field of state, provincial, and local history, but with that achievement judged in the light of local limiting circumstances rather than on a basis of overall excellence in the United States and Canada as a whole. The certificate is a pat on the back and says to the individual or organization that receives it: "We think you are doing a wonderful job in your area, and we want to recognize you for it." Such recognition was made in Indiana in 1976 to Dorothy June Williams for her work in Hancock County history.

The *Award of Merit* was the original award of the American Association for State and Local History and is still the backbone of its competition. It is given for excellence of accomplishment or program in the field of state, provincial, and local history and is in no way judged relative to local limiting circumstances. The giving of the Award of Merit is the same as saying to everyone: "This is public acknowledgment by the American Association for State and Local History that this accomplishment or this program, in comparison with all similar accomplishments and programs in North America, deserves the adjective excellent." The Indiana award for 1976 was made to Karl J. R. Arndt for his contribution to the history of New Harmony.

Nomination forms are available from Gayle Thornbrough, executive secretary, Indiana Historical Society, 315 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202. Miss Thornbrough is chairman for nominations from Indiana for 1977. All nominations must be made on the "Awards Nomination Form" and *postmarked by not later than May 21, 1977*. Each nominator must include a supporting letter which is explicit in indicating why the award or certificate seems merited. Each nominator is also responsible for making certain that at least two or three other persons send similar statements *directly to the state chairman*. Finally, each nominator should send relevant supporting material such as pamphlets, newspaper clippings, programs, scripts, and books.