

# 1996 General Tools Award Presented to PATRICK M. MALONE

The following citation was read by SIA Vice President Fred Quivik at the SIA's Annual Business Meeting, Sacramento, Calif. The award consists of this citation, a commissioned sculpture (the famous plumb bob), and an honorarium of \$1,000.

Patrick M. Malone's resume exhaustively documents "sustained, distinguished service to the cause of Industrial Archeology," which is what the SIA's General Tools Award was instituted to recognize. He has devoted his life and career to the field, and has advanced it through his teaching, consulting, management, writing, and participation in professional associations.

Pat's impressive resume is too long to recite here, so I will highlight some of his more noteworthy contributions to our field. As an administrator for fifteen years at the Slater Mill Museum, he was that institution's director and principal fund raiser. He ably continued building one of the nation's earliest private institutions devoted to the preservation and interpretation of an industrial site, so that it is also one of the nation's most significant. Though historical reconstruction was a venerable activity before Pat directed the Wilkinson Water Wheel Project at Slater Mill, that undertaking set standards in its design process, based on exhaustive archeological and primary research, and in its ingenious application of modern engineering. At the time, the half-million dollars Pat raised for the water wheel was perhaps the largest allocation ever of private-sector money for a purely educational IA activity.

Pat has led efforts to establish IA in some very important forums, where acceptance has come grudgingly. One such forum was the U.S. Congress, where Pat's testimony provided substantive, authoritative grounding for the establishment of the Lowell National Historic Park. He has since made significant contributions to the development and interpretation of the park. Pat also fought to validate IA in perhaps a more hostile forum, at a meeting of the Society for the History of Technology. In 1979, he organized and chaired SHOT's first session ever devoted to material evidence. It was a controversial session, and Pat courageously faced strong skepticism from some of SHOT's mandarins. But through his efforts, the issue is now largely moot, as material evidence is widely held as a valuable source from which we can interpret and understand the history of technology and our history as an industrial people.

The criteria for making the General Tools Award stress that the recipient's contributions to the field of industrial archeology must be other than academic writing and publication. Pat is clearly deserving of this year's award according to those criteria. That having been said, he must also be recognized for the *Texture of Industry*, which he co-authored with our own Robert Gordon. The



Patrick Malone (L) receives the Society's General Tools Award from Fred Quivik (R)

Patrick Harshbarger photo



JUNE 1, 1996, SACRAMENTO, CA

## Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting

(continued from page 5)

Tools for making IA such a rewarding activity.

Prior to reading the citation for this year's General Tools Award, Fred thanked those who submitted nominations; thanked the General Tools Mfg. Corp., and the Abraham & Lillian Rosenberg Foundation, which sponsored the Award; and urged members to continue submitting high-quality nominations for the Award in coming years. The other members of the award committee are Carol Poh Miller (1994-1997), who now chairs the committee, and Emory Kemp (1995-1998), who also is the first recipient of the award.

President Hay said he had been asked to make another recognition for lifetime achievement by the Canadian History and Heritage Comm. This year's award recipient is Bob Passfield, who chose to be at the SIA rather than at a CHHC meeting. To applause, Bob stood for recognition and thanked President Hay for passing along the news.

**Elections.** President Hay thanked the board members rotating off the board this year: Tina LeCoff, Gerry Weinstein, Carroll Pursell, and Amy Federman. President Hay invited the Chair of the Nominations Comm., Susan Appel, to give the results of this year's elections. She said that this year's spirited contest was a mark of the excellence of the candidates, and she thanked both the membership at large for their nominations, and the candidates for running. Results:

Nominations Committee: **Patrick Malone**

Directors: **Jack Bergstresser, David Simmons, and Ann Steele**

Vice President: **Sandy Norman**

President: **Fred Quivik**

President Hay congratulated all the newly elected officers, and asked how he and Fred Quivik might make a peaceful transfer of power. Incoming president Quivik assumed the chair of the meeting formally to thank outgoing president Hay.

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Richard K. Anderson, Jr., Secretary

*Texture of Industry*, published in 1994 by Oxford University Press, is the first real textbook surveying and giving context to American industrial history using IA resources, methods, and theory.

Pat Malone is a pioneer of our field, and his contributions endure on several fronts. His numerous other writings have been influential. He is a distinguished teacher, and many of his former students at Brown [University] now make substantive contributions to IA. He is a founder and past president of both the Society and its Southern New England Chapter. He has helped organize conferences and tours for the Society. He has contributed immensely to the preservation of historic resources in his home state of Rhode Island through membership in the Technical Committee of the State Planning Council. His impact has been both local and national. It is our field's good fortune that Pat is one of our most visible and effective ambassadors. The General Tools Award is a token of the esteem and appreciation we owe Patrick Malone. ■