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**John F. Andrews**  
Carlsbad native honored by the British Empire

## Carlsbad son receives British honor

By Valerie Cranston  
Current-Argus Staff Writer

CARLSBAD — From Carlsbad roots to a recent recognition as Honorary Officer of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire, hometown boy John F. Andrews has made his mark in the world.

Andrews’ nomination for the prestigious O.B.E. (Order of the British Empire) Award was made by David Blagborough, director of U.S.A. of the British Council, a cultural arm of the government, he explained.

However, it was his wife Jan, also a native New Mexican, who quietly conspired and provided the necessary background information so he would be completely surprised, he added.

“I was totally surprised when I found out that I would be honored and the ceremony would take place,” Andrews said, explaining

the ceremony was held at the residence of Sir Christopher Meyers, British ambassador in Washington, complete with a chauffeured ride in a Rolls Royce.

“It’s not called an induction, it’s called an honor,” he added during a telephone interview. “As I understand, two rosters of honors are bestowed annually by Buckingham Palace, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. One is given around the New Year and the other about this time.”

“It (the ceremony) was a very nice occasion — a very nice ego trip,” Andrews stated with a laugh. “I can’t think of a better way to take an ego trip than in a Rolls Royce.”

Reading the list of Andrews’ accomplishments may seem overwhelming and his credentials intimidating, but he’s just a regular guy with a sense of humor and a longing to

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### Honor

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catch a flight to visit his hometown of Carlsbad.

Once here, he explained, he’d soak up some sunshine, gaze at the blue skies and clouds and take his favorite hike up Guadalupe Peak.

“It’s fun to be on top of Texas,” he said. “I just love that mountain. I love sitting on it and I loved drawing it like many other artists.”

Andrews was born in Carlsbad in 1942 to Frank and Lucille Andrews. Ever since he can remember, he’s had an interest in the arts, although a more visual interest during his youthful school days. This visual interest resulted in sign painting for Odorless Cleaners, Fordtown and even a highway sign, he said.

During his school days in Carlsbad his eighth-grade block teacher, Harry Tatarian, made a lasting impression on him.

“Mr. Tatarian had a certain warmth about him and he had high standards,” explained Andrews. “He gave me an assignment once because he thought I was watching too much television. I did a paper on the Civil War and my interest has continued with the Shakespeare connection to the Civil War.”

Andrews graduated valedictorian of Carlsbad High School’s Class of 1961 and then went on to receive his bachelor’s degree from Princeton, master’s degree from Harvard and his doctorate from Vanderbilt.

Through his career, Andrews has taught at several universities, among them Tennessee, Florida State, Catholic, Georgetown and George Washington.

Today, Andrews is an editor, author, lecturer and educator



Photo courtesy of John F. Andrews

This photo, taken Jan. 16 at Middle Temple Hall in London, shows Carlsbad native John F. Andrews, second from left, with three recipients of the Gielgud Award. From left, Dame Judi Dench (1999), Sir Derek Jacobi (1997), and Kenneth Branagh (2000).

with extensive experience as an administrator, producer and consultant in the field of arts and humanities.

Andrews founded “The Shakespeare Guild” in 1987, which is a non-profit global organization to foster a deeper appreciation of the English-speaking world’s most influential writer. After securing the blessing of its namesake, the Guild established the Sir John Gielgud Award for Excellence in the Dramatic Arts in 1993.

“The purpose behind the guild was to create a large and more appreciative audience,” Andrews explained, referring to the works of William Shakespeare. “The main reason I think I received this O.B.E. honor is for the last several years we (the guild) have presented annual awards in honor of Sir John Gielgud and this year the 2000 Gielgud Award was given to Kenneth Branagh in London.”

“Elaine Mead-Murphy came to

our London event,” Andrews added. “I understand she’s living back in Carlsbad now.”

Andrews never loses contact with his childhood best friend, Michael Rosenberg, who lives in California and manages world famous and Olympic ice skaters.

“Johnny was always a nice little boy and really nice to have around,” said Nadine Rosenberg, mother of Michael. “I was glad Michael had him as a friend. Johnny was honest, smart and polite.”

“His parents were wonderful and he’s someone to be proud of as a son,” she added.

While living in Washington, he visits periodically with two other hometown friends, Dwight Picaithley, who is chief historian for the National Park Service, and Mary Gant, who is a lobbyist for the National Institute of Health.

Wherever Andrews travels or lives, it would seem that a hometown connection is always within his reach.

Other accomplishments of John F. Andrews

■ **1974 to 1984** — Director of Academic Programs at the Folger Shakespeare Library. While there, he redesigned the “Shakespeare Quarterly” and raised more than \$4 million to help organize and promote a touring exhibition called “Shakespeare: The Globe and the World.”

■ **1979 to 1985** — Chairman for America’s National Advisory Panel for “The Shakespeare Plays,” the BBC/Time-Life television canon and then became one of WNET’s creative principals for “The Shakespeare Hour.” He then became one of WNET’s creative principals for “The Shakespeare Hour.”

■ **1984 to 1988** — Deputy Director of Education Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

■ **1985** — Andrews published a widely acclaimed three-volume Scribners reference collection called “William Shakespeare: His World, His Work, His Influence.” He engaged in research for “This Our Lofty Scene,” a Viking book about Shakespeare’s role in the Lincoln assassination, a preview then appeared in the October 1990 issue of “The Atlantic Monthly,” and later the material was highlighted in Ken Burns’ PBS epic on “The Civil War.”

■ **1988 to 1992** — Andrews edited a 19-volume annotated set of complete works, “The Guild Shakespeare,” for Doubleday Book and Music Clubs.

■ **1992 to 1993** — Andrews was a consultant to the Office of Postsecondary Education at the United States Department of Education.