



# AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

Room 703 • 810 - 18th Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C., 20006

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
DONALD C. RILEY

October 8, 1964

To: Members of the Board of Directors of the  
American Statistical Association

From: Donald C. Riley

Subject: Special Medal in Honor of Samuel S. Wilks

I received a rather unusual telephone call during the last week from Major General Leslie E. Simon (retired), who headed the Aberdeen Proving Ground Statistical Organization during the War and who is a Fellow of ASA. Many of you know him. He had tried to reach Al Bowker and Allen Wallis, and when he called me, I promised to check with the Board of Directors at once.

He has given the American Statistical Association a firm offer that we act as administrators of a small fund and the choosers of a committee to arrange for the selection each year of a person to receive a medal in memory of Sam Wilks for outstanding contributions, especially in the area of design of experiments. It is a rather unusual proposal but I have checked so far with two members of the Board of Directors, namely, Seymour Geisser and Frederick Mosteller, and both of them feel that it is high time that there be more medals in our field and that this sounds very appropriate.

This grows out of the work of Sam Wilks and more recently Frank Grubbs. Before Sam's death, a Georgia planter at Thomasville, Georgia, who has long had a hobby in the small arms field, got rather detailed help from Sam Wilks and later from Frank Grubbs in applying statistical analysis to the pattern of small arms fire. Colonel Kenneth Bull, Executive Secretary, Army Scientific Advisory Panel, Office of the Chief for Research and Development, Department of the Army, became very much interested in it. As you may know, the Department of the Army has, for the last nine years, had an annual Conference on Design of Experiments and for those nine years Sam Wilks was its chairman. The Georgia planter, Mr. Philip G. Rust, would like to turn over, in the form of a foundation, \$3,500 to \$5,000 for investment by ASA. From this an annual medal would be struck and an honorarium to the medalist provided. The next Conference is to be about November 3 in Washington at the Statler Hotel and approval by ASA of this arrangement before then is urgently requested. It would be too late this year to have the medal ready by that time but the award would be made during that Conference and, I presume, annually at that Conference or at the Annual Meetings of the American Statistical Association. At any rate, it is understood that ASA would appoint an administrative and selecting committee and, if you approve, I would suggest that this committee be appointed by the President of the American Statistical Association in consultation with General Simon. The medal would not be confined to analysis of small arms fire but to

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scientific problems in many areas not confined solely to those of primary interest to the military.

As I pointed out above, both Mr. Geisser and Mr. Mosteller believe the idea to be an excellent one and I can see no special bugs in it. In fact, I believe it is not inappropriate to quote Mosteller that he is enthusiastic and believes more of this sort of thing should be done.

A card is enclosed in which you can express your positive or negative reaction. You may also wish to write me or President Bowker further. Because of the pressure of time, I am suggesting a deadline for replies of October 20.

Encl.

cc: Leslie E. Simon  
Kenneth Bull  
F. Frishman

P. S. If this proposition is accepted by a majority of the Board of ASA, I am sure President Bowker will appreciate receiving suggestions from Board members for persons to serve on the selection committee.

JAGA 1964/4740

SUBJECT: Wilks' Award Endowment

TO CRD

FROM TJAG

DATE 8 OCT 1964

COMMENT NO. 2

Maj Zalonis/53315

1. There is no legal objection to the establishment of the Samuel S. Wilks award as proposed by Maj Gen Simon, USA Ret, in his letter of 3 October 1964 addressed to the Executive Secretary, Army Scientific Advisory Panel.

2. A legal question could arise in the event the Samuel S. Wilks Medal and honorarium were awarded to an Army member or civilian employee for meritorious work performed in the course of his official duties. Title 18, United States Code, section 209, generally prohibits an officer or employee of the Executive branch of the United States Government from receiving any salary or any contribution to or supplementation of salary from any source other than the Government of the United States as compensation for his services rendered to the Government. Thus, should the sole criterion used in making the award to such an individual be the recognition of the tangible or intangible value to the Army of the work he has performed in the course of his employment, the officer or employee would probably be precluded from accepting the award. However, if the criterion used is the recognition of an individual's personal, intellectual contribution to the advancement of scientific knowledge, which contribution might only coincidentally have benefited the Army, and if the award were made and accepted, not with the intent of supplementing salary but rather with the intent of recognizing intellectual accomplishment, there would probably be no violation of the criminal statute. In this regard, it is suggested that paragraph f of the inclosed paper "Obligations of the ASA" be changed to read:

"f. Annually, see to it that an appropriate existing committee is selected (or appointed) to select the awardee, based on the criterion that he is a person whom the committee regards as deserving of the award, based primarily on his contribution (either recent or past) to the advancement of scientific or technical knowledge, ingenious application of existing knowledge, or successful activity in the fostering of cooperative scientific efforts which has only coincidentally benefited the Army. The award shall be made with the intent of recognizing the personal, intellectual accomplishments of the individual and shall not be given with the intent of supplementing

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the individual's salary, providing him with compensation, or advancing the interests of the donor or trustee of the endowment."

3. If the problem discussed in paragraph 2, above, arises in a specific case, the matter should be referred to this office for a legal opinion.

FOR THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

[SIGNED]

l Incl  
nc

WILLIAM M. NICHOLS  
Lieutenant Colonel, JAGC  
Chief, General Law Branch  
Military Affairs Division

Design of Exp.  
Conf.

19 October 1964

Mr. Philip G. Rust  
Winnstead Plantation  
Route 3  
Thomasville, Georgia

Dear Mr. Rust:

General Simon has informed me of your generous offer to establish an award for statisticians in memory of Professor S. S. Wilks. This offer is greatly appreciated. I understand that the American Statistical Association is considering the administration of the award.

It is my understanding that the initial award will be presented at the Army's Tenth Design of Experiments Conference to be held on 4 - 6 November 1964 at the Statler Hilton Hotel. This Conference has been dedicated to the memory of Professor Wilks in recognition of his many contributions to the Army.

You and your family are cordially invited to attend the Conference and the banquet, planned for the evening of 5 November, as guests of the Army. In addition, it would be most fitting for you to present the award.

Inclosed is a preliminary agenda of the Conference. I do hope you can participate.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Incl  
as

Willis M. Hawkins  
Assistant Secretary of the Army (R&D)

Comeback - Phys Sci Div  
ARO



# AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

Room 703 • 810 - 18th Street, N.W. • Washington 6, D. C.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
DONALD C. RILEY

October 22, 1964

Major General Leslie E. Simon  
1761 Pine Tree Road  
Winter Park, Florida

Dear Les:

Word came to me from Colonel Bull's office that you thought it might be a good idea to look over remarks you have asked me to make just before Mr. Rust makes the first Sam Wilks award. As I understand it, I would speak immediately after your speech which begins at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 4 at the Statler Hilton.

I would appreciate any pencilling up that you might want to make in this draft. If I have duplicated, unnecessarily, any of your remarks, I want you to say so. I believe you asked that I speak for about five minutes and I think this draft would fall within that compass. I may have missed certain things that should be said or said certain things that are unnecessary. Please let me know. I will certainly be at the hotel before 9:30 and will try to register for the Conference the day before.

May I repeat that it is very good to be working once more with you. I believe we first became acquainted in the early part of the Second World War.

Sincerely yours,

Donald C. Riley

Encl.

cc: K. Bull  
V. R. Herschner, Jr.

DRAFT  
10/22/64

Brief Remarks by Donald C. Riley, Executive Director,  
American Statistical Association, Thursday Morning, November 4  
Tenth Annual Design of Experiments Conference

Many other members of the American Statistical Association, as well as myself, are glad to be present at this, the Tenth Annual Design of Experiments Conference. This is a very special occasion and the American Statistical Association is glad to participate during a uniquely auspicious time in its long history. This year is the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of the American Statistical Association which has been discovered, in recent research at Stanford, to be the second oldest national professional society in the United States.

The American Statistical Association has always worked closely, although usually quite informally, with agencies of the Federal Government. For example, during the year it was founded, 1839, it began to press for the improvement of decennial censuses and its representatives played a major part in the design for four of the six census schedules in 1850. As statistics and statistical methodology have proliferated vastly since that time, almost all areas of research have felt the impact and certainly the whole area of design of experiments has had the closest association. The annual Design of Experiments Conference has become an institution. General Simon has reminded you of the very close association of Professor Samuel S. Wilks with this Conference. Most of you know that close association by heart, I am sure. Sam lent his aid readily and unstintingly in many areas. This was part of the genius of the man.

I should note also that Wilks was President of the American Statistical Association in 1950 and that he had always done much for the Association. He also helped to carry on in another area the close relation between the Association and the Federal Government. Just the day before he died he participated as a member of the Advisory Committee on Statistical Policy to the Office of Statistical Standards in the Bureau of the Budget which requires consultation at a very high level in its work as the central statistical coordinating body of the Federal Government. This Committee consists largely of former ASA Presidents and Wilks was one of its "founding fathers".

(cont.)

The American Statistical Association has been asked to select a committee to administer the special award which, I believe, will be made when I finish these brief remarks. It has been asked to invest the funds so generously turned over to it for this purpose and I am sure that its Board of Directors, which has given its whole-hearted approval, feels honored in being asked to join in honoring Sam Wilks. ASA will need to consult very closely with those of you who have helped to develop the annual Design of Experiments Conferences in the selection of an Annual Sam Wilks Award Committee. I hope that Dr. Albert H. Bowker, the President of the American Statistical Association this year, will be able to announce this Committee shortly.

Incidentally, I will be unable to attend the banquet here tomorrow evening because I long ago agreed to attend the inauguration ceremonies in New York of Dr. Bowker as Chancellor of the combined Universities of the City of New York which was organized a few years ago.

ASA will want to continue to advise closely with the Conference and will be glad to ask its auditor to render a brief auditing report each year if this seems satisfactory to those who have been so close to Sam Wilks, General Simon and especially Mr. Philip G. Rust, who has been so generous and public spirited in making the award possible. I should like to join in thanking him most profoundly.



# AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

Room 703 • 810 - 18th Street, N.W. • Washington 6, D.C.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
DONALD C. RILEY

October 23, 1964

Mr. Philip G. Rust  
Winnstead Plantation  
Thomasville, Georgia

Dear Mr. Rust:

This will acknowledge, with great appreciation, your check in the amount of \$5,000.00 to establish the Wilks Memorial Award, to be administered by the American Statistical Association in accordance with the instructions and limitations listed by General Simon in his correspondence with us.

I understand that you will be at the presentation ceremony on the first day of the Design of Experiments Conference, to be held here in Washington in the Statler Hilton Hotel on November 4. I shall also be there and shall look forward to meeting you and expressing in person our appreciation. Your action has been in the best scientific tradition.

And now to more immediate things. It occurs to me to remind you that your remittance is deductible on your income tax return, as a contribution to the American Statistical Association, which is a nonprofit, professional, scientific society and exempt under the Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (3).

We would like to consult with you from time to time as this project gets under way. I am sure that the President of the Association will want to appoint a committee that has full representation in the field in which you, General Simon and Wilks have expressed such great interest. As you may know, we have already had a number of suggestions for the committee from General Simon and other members of the American Statistical Association with whom we have consulted.

I shall look forward to seeing you on November 4.

Sincerely yours,

Donald C. Riley  
Executive Director

cc: Leslie E. Simon  
Albert H. Bowker  
W. Allen Wallis  
J. R. Herschner, Jr.

1761 Pine Tree Road  
Winter Park, Florida  
October 27, 1964

Mr. Donald C. Riley  
Secretary - Treasurer and Executive Director  
American Statistical Association  
810 18th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Don:

It is most kind of you to invite me to comment on the draft of your address. I think your remarks are excellent, especially in view of the fact that the audience should be made more aware of the ASA and the fine work it is doing. However, I cannot pass up an opportunity to make suggestions. I think you should say three more things, and offer the following:

Delete the first sentence on your page two, and in lieu thereof substitute: "As mentioned in General Simon's address, the ASA has recently had the opportunity to be of further services. By joint agreement between representatives of the Army, Mr. Philip G. Rust and the ASA, the Samuel S. Wilks Award has been established. The Award will consist of a medal and an honorarium. The ASA has accepted the obligation of administering the Award in accordance with guidance and criteria which are consonant with law and with the wishes of Army representatives, Mr. Rust and the ASA." These are substantially summarized in a single paragraph that I quote,

"f. Annually, see to it that an appropriate existing committee is selected (or appointed) to select the awardee, based on the criterion that he is a person whom the committee regards as deserving of the award, based primarily on his contribution (either recent or past) to the advancement of scientific or technical knowledge, ingenious application of existing knowledge, or successful activity in the fostering of cooperative scientific efforts which has only coincidentally benefited the Army. The award shall be made with the intent of recognizing the personal, intellectual & accomplishments of the individual and shall not be given with the intent of supplementing the individual's salary, providing him with compensation, or advancing the interests of the donor or trustee of the endowment."

Then, delete the first word of the second sentence; and in lieu thereof substitute, "the ASA" --- and continue to the end of the first paragraph of page two.

At this point, I suggest that you introduce a new paragraph of the following sort:

"As Executive Director of the ASA, I have the honor to announce that Dr. Frank E. Grubbs of the Army's Ballistic Research Laboratories has been selected to receive the "initial", not the first, Samuel S. Wilks Award. As is not unusual in the initial award of an honor, Dr. Grubbs was selected not by the process governing the first and subsequent recipients, but rather by unanimous agreement of those concerned with the establishment of the Award. He is so selected because of his close working relationship with Wilks, and especially because of his contributions along with Wilks to solutions of and clarification of simple measures of dispersion, which are deemed useful to riflemen, ballisticians, and statisticians in general.

I have no medal to present ot Dr. Grubbs, because the medal has not yet been struck; but it will be presented at the earliest appropriate opportunity, after it is available. 29

I then suggest that you might omit next to the last paragraph. Of course, I expect you to edit my suggestions or omit them to whatever degree you deem appropriate. They are merely suggestions.

It is contemplated that the presiding officer will introduce the speakers in the following order: Simon, Riley, and Mr. Rust. Mr. Rust will present Grubbs with the honorarium and make a very brief address. If there is anything that you deem inappropriate, or that you would like changed, please telephone me. I expect to be at home until noon, November 3.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie K. Simon  
Maj Gen USA(Ret'd)

Copy to:  
Colonel Bull

xxxx RDRE-12

7 February 1972

US Army Aberdeen Research &  
Development Center  
ATTN: Dr. Frank Grubbs (AMXRD-XRA)  
Chief, Operations Research Analyst  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005.

Dear Frank,

I have just received your letter of 27 January 1972 and am taking this opportunity to respond to it and to respond also to what was written in your 4 November letter.

I inclose an edited copy of my letter of 10 May 1971 to you, in which I attempted cumbrously to give some history regarding the establishment of the Samuel J. Wilks Memorial Medal. As I stated therein, I was the Action Officer who was tasked at the Department of the Army level with taking appropriate action on Mr Rust's proposal to establish such an award. Thus, most (if not all) of the correspondence emanating from the Pentagon on the award were my creations.

To get to the point, if memory serves me correctly (i.e. the files are in my office in Washington), the criteria of "only coincidentally benefited the Army" was introduced by Army legal personnel in order to permit Army employees to receive the Medal. As a result, we were able to select you for the initial award.

The above is history. We have also as history the fact that Mr Rust requested that the Army give the award - the implication here is that Award winners would be those who have performed a service to the Army.

If the two comments in the preceding paragraphs are partially contradictory, it is because circumstances forced the contradiction in order to permit awards to be made to Army employees. However, the basic thought was to give due recognition to those

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leaders in the statistics profession who also assisted the Army. One can, of course, broaden this to include service to the Federal Government. In this latter connection, the December 1964 article on Professor Wilks just touched on some of the Federal agencies that he assisted.

Now, we have that the Wilks Award is to be given to someone who has done or is doing at least one of the requirements specified:-

- a. Contributing to the advancement of knowledge.
- b. Ingenious application.
- c. Fostering co-operative efforts.

Interestingly enough, Professor Wilks possessed all these qualities. In addition, he gave of himself in an unstinting manner to assist many Federal agencies. This latter quality of assisting others was to have been specified as a criterion but was deleted for the reasons given in my second paragraph.

When I look at previous Award winners, I find that many of the winners have satisfied all four criteria. However, some have had little contact with the Army or with the Federal Government. For my part, I shall continue to look for and to vote for those who satisfy all four criteria, since I feel that only then would I be fulfilling both Mr Rust's basic desires and giving due homage to the memory of Professor Wilks. I find myself unable to vote for outstanding statisticians, say, who do not satisfy the other three criteria.

Since I must vote my conscience and not that of previous (and well-respected) members of the Committee, I must object to your plan to "keep the two in Column A and to select two from Column B". My feelings are that the Award is "up for grabs" each year. I feel that a descriptive vita should be made available on each of the leading 10, 12 etc. candidates. I can, however, accept the notion that these 10 or more were selected from previous committee deliberations; but to the list should be added candidates proposed by new members of the Committee. I think that a sub-set should be selected after an initial vote but only after the initial vote of the members of the Committee.

Further, I do not think that I should be required to rank any individual/s if I choose not to. Alternatively, if I must rank him/them, I would prefer to rank them all as "10" or whatever the last ranking is.

RDRE-12

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In closing, if it is felt that I am, or will be, a disruptive influence, I will accept ~~the~~ hint and resign. But, please make awards to those who in some sense resemble Professor Wilks.

Most sincerely,

FRED FRISHMAN

cc: Members of Wilks Committee  
Past President Eisenhart,