



THE MASONIC PHILATELIST



PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK
HARRY M. KONWISER & SAM BROOKS, Editors

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GREETINGS

to all Members and freinds of the Club. I hope every one spent a pleasant summer. At the Annual Meeting on June 30th, the Board of Governors honored me by re-electing me President of the Club for another term. I accepted with the promise to try to make each meeting a pleasant gathering. Your Program Committee has worked hard during the summer and gives you a meeting schedule which should satisfy the varying collecting interests of the members. Let's start the ball rolling and attend every meeting of your Club during the coming season. Please remember our meetings begin at 8:00 P.M. but you and your non-Masonic friends may come early to meet your fellow-members for a smoke or a chat. I would like to see you on September 29th.

Dr. George Camnitzer

Lt. Col. R. S. Doscher
0-245080
80th General Hospital
A.P.O. # 928
c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.

writing from New Guinea, Aug. 24th, 1944, says he would be particularly interested in receiving some subject matter relating to Masonry and stamps. He says "am the Chairman of the Entertainment Committee for the North Shore Army and Navy Masonic Club of New Guinea. Always looking for speakers and material to talk about. I am a member of Pacific Lodge No. 136 F.A.A.M. in San Francisco. Have visited the Australian Lodges here in New Guinea. The work is fundamentally the same the the phraseology, Decidedly different."

MEETINGS

September 29th--Old fashioned Get-To-Gether. Come and tell a good story, or listen to one.

October 6th---The Battle of the D.D.S.'S. Dr. Camnitzer versus Dr. Yarry. They'll show and speak about their collections. You're the Judge.

MEETINGS FIRST AND LAST FRIDAY
COLLECTORS CLUB BUILDING, 22 EAST 35th STREET

(CIRCULAR 1 OF 1895.)

COUNTERFEIT POSTAGE STAMPS.

Post Office Department,

OFFICE OF THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

DIVISION OF POSTAGE STAMPS, STAMPED ENVELOPES, AND POSTAL CARDS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 10, 1895.

Postmaster at

Baton Rouge
La

STORY ON PAGE 4
Circular Courtesy R.J. Hummel
Photo Courtesy Dr. K.H. Cooper-Smith

SIR:

There are in circulation counterfeit two-cent ordinary postage stamps of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing design, as described at the bottom of page 940 of the January, 1895, Postal Guide (trigonal ornament in upper corners and pale carmine tint.)

This is one of the spurious stamps:



At the first blush, it has the lighter look of more open engraving but, under a magnifying glass, it will be found that this is attributable to the broken lines, thus instead of the continuous lines, thus of the genuine steel engraving; suggesting a recourse to the photo-lithographic process in securing the counterfeit resemblance and imprint. These counterfeits are, so far as discovered, well perforated and printed in sheets of five stamps, only, wide.

You will impart this information at once to your subordinates who handle stamps more especially stamped matter received for transmission, and instruct them to scrutinize carefully the stamps thereon, and, so far as possible, identify persons mailing any matter with spurious stamps upon it. The attention of yourself and subordinates will not be confined to these stamps of the Bureau design but will extend secondarily TO THE TWO CENT OF THE 1890 ISSUE which has no ornament in the upper corners, and to ALL DENOMINATIONS OF BOTH ISSUES.

Upon the discovery of important information under these instructions, you will take active measures, and, having by the most expeditious means advised the nearest Post Office Inspector, notify this office. [See Secs. 1418 to 1422, inclusive, of the 1893 Regulations.]

This letter, with the attached stamp, will be carefully preserved, as you or your successor may be called upon for it.

Very respectfully,

KERR CRAIG.

Third Assistant Postmaster General.

MASONIC LODGE USED

BOYD SERVICE

Major T.M.Parks, U.S.Air Forces, reports owning a Boyds Dispatch post adhesive (one of the Mercury series) as used, neatly cancelled "Boyd's City Despatch / Paid / Dec. 6, 1881 / 1 Park Place". (lines as indicated) in oval. The interesting part to our Masonic readers is that the corner card at upper left, reads: "If not delivered in five days return to Sylvan Grove Lodge No. 275, F.&A.M. 6th Ave. and 23rd St. New York."

Obviously the 1881 lodge officials preferred the Boyd service to the U.S.P.O. for mailing their meeting notices. Possible this saved money for the Lodge and likewise was the quicker service.

Boyd's City Express was established in 1830. In its beginnings the operation serviced business houses dissatisfied with the poor U.S.P.O. service of the times. In 1844 Boyd became a definite local mail-carrying service, competing with the U.S.P.O.Dept. They continued to operate as a mail carrier in opposition to the Federal postal system until 1883. Local posts were abolished about that year, due to the fact the Courts decided all the contests against the independent organisations. Too, the Federal system was beginning to shine forth towards the glowing days of today.

Getting back to Sylvan Grove Lodge perhaps the Secretary found it convenient to use the Boyd box. Possibly there was one at the front door of the Masonic Temple, or maybe it was in the building? Boyd had mail boxes around town. All you had to do was own a few Boyd adhesives, apply one to an envelope and place it in the Boyd pick-up box, and feel sure it would get proper attention.

The Boyd business still goes on-mailing and mailing lists, that is their present business. And they still are on 23rd street.

SPY STAMPS OF WORLD WAR I

At the beginning of 1918, the British Government decided to open a propaganda campaign against Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Leaflets and miniature newspapers were distributed to the Home Front as well as to the soldiers. In order to get them into enemy countries it was necessary to employ Dutch agents to obtain the large quantities of 10 and 15 Pfg. stamps. Soon the suspicion of the Authorities was aroused and one of the agents was arrested. It was then that the printing of the Spy Stamps of Propaganda Forgeries of the 10 and 15 Pfg. Germania design, was begun in London. They are excellent forgeries as far as design is concerned; but paper and gum are too white. How many of these stamps were printed is not known, but must have run into millions.

Besides the 2 Germania type German Stamps, 5 and 10 Heller of Austria and 5, 10 and 15 Pfg. of Bavaria were also counterfeited and used for the same purpose. All are still obtainable in Mint, but if anybody has a copy of these on the original piece, he certainly has a good item.

Dr. George Camnitzer

STAMP COLLECTORS TO AID WOUNDED SERVICE MEN.

The A.P.S. and S.P.A. have named Ernest A. Kehr, Stamp Editor of the N.Y. "Herald Tribune", as chairman of "Stamps for Wounded". This group will solicit stamps, albums and accessories from all sources, to be turned over to hospitalized service men.

In this connection, we have a request for stamps from

LIEUT. EDWIN JOHNSON
U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

If you can assist Lieut. Johnson, send stamps directly to him.

ARTHUR I. HEIM

UNITED STATES P.O. CIRCULAR

The United Post Office Circular (as illustrated in this issue) refers to the most famous counterfeit of a U.S. stamp, the 2-cent issue of 1894. George B. Sloane, recognized authority on U.S. stamps, referred to this "stamp" in STAMPS in 1939 as "the most famous" and one doesn't debate with George; at least when he is 100 per cent correct, as he is regarding this "stamp."

This "stamp" is by no means common today, and when occasionally made available is said to bring a fancy price. (No doubt our Charlie Brooks would fancy a copy, nicely centered, bright color, no perfs missing, etc.)

It is believed the late P.M. Wolsiefer, a dealer of the old school, first brought the "stamp" to the attention of the U.S. P.O. Dept. This followed the appearance of an ad in the Chicago TRIBUNE reading:

WE HAVE \$115.00 U.S. TWO CENT STAMPS which we cannot use here; will send by express C.O.D. privilege of examination for \$100.00. Canadian Novelty Supply Agency, Hamilton Ontario, Canada.

Wolsiefer was a stamp advertiser in the same column, offering to buy or sell collections.

Bartels, in discussing counterfeits (in STAMPS 1938) says this forgery originated in Canada; that "the subject is too short vertically and the impression rather weak." The color, Bartels notes, "tends to the pinkish."

Fred Irion, in commenting on this forgery (in WESTERN STAMP COLLECTOR) quotes the 1894 report of the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General who said:

"Counterfeiters have plied their vocation for many ages and in many forms, but never until the last year have they directed their attention to the manufacturing of spurious postage stamps... A bold scheme to defraud the government by means of counterfeit stamps... This scheme was operated from Chicago and Canada. The counterfeiters, having produced a supply of bogus stamps, established headquarters in Hamilton, Ontario, under the title of "The Canadian Novelty Supply Company."

"Ads were inserted in various papers... stamps were offered at the rate of \$115 worth for \$100. (Under direction of an inspector \$100 worth was ordered, examined and found to be counterfeited... Several packages of them, then in an express offices, were seized."

Investigation soon located the perforating machine and other paraphernalia used by the counterfeiters and resulted in the arrest of Charles O. Jones, Tinsa McMillan (alias Mrs. Mack) and Warren T. Thompson.

It appears the counterfeiters were made by some process of photolithography from a block of stamps, Type 1. The genuine is 19 x 22, while the counterfeits vary from 19½ to 19 x 23 to 22½ mm. The perforations were made with the correct gauge 12, but the spacing between the rows was irregular, since the perforating machine could perforate but one row at a time.

According to Irion, the counterfeits were extensively distributed throughout the Middle West. The Postal Authorities said less than 100,000 of these counterfeits were produced; and the greater portion was confiscated.

George B. Sloane said, Federal Officials after seeing these fakes, decided that henceforth watermarked paper would be used for the printing of U.S. stamps. Within a few weeks such postage stamps were issuing from the Post Office Department.

As previously stated, these counterfeits are scarce -- to collectors. It is probable some were used, but no copies are known as used on cover.

H.M.K.

THE MAN ON THE COVER

BARON FREDERICK VON STEUBEN
Born-Nov 15, 1730 Magdeburg, Prussia
Died-Nov 28, 1798 Steuben, N.Y.

Was a member of Trinity Lodge #12,
New York. In 1789 was made an
Honorary Member of Holland Lodge #8,
New York.

Was one of a group of Foreign Soldiers
who so ably assisted the Colonists in
their struggle for Independence. He
was known as the "Drill Master of the
Revolution" and the "Master Builder"
of the American Army.

The Treasurer received a nice
note from Bro. Paul Jensen who is
with an oil company at Aruba, Curacao.
Paul likes the Bulletin and states
that stamp activities are low due to
mail restrictions. He hopes to visit
the Club early next year. We'd like
to see you Paul.

MASONIC PHILATELIC RESEARCH

Under this heading we present the
name of a person whose portrait
appears on a U.S. stamp and whose
claim to Masonic affiliation is
doubtful. If you have any infor-
mation on this subject please write
the Editors.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Born-Jan 11, 1757 at Nevis, B.W....
Died-July 12, 1804 at New York.

His constant association with
Washington and other Masonic leaders
of the Revolutionary period, indi-
cates that he may have been a Mason.
However all Masonic writers state
that he is "supposed to have been
Raised at a Lodge near Valley Forge
during the winter of 1777-1778."
There is no definite information on
his membership.

COLLECTING BRITISH WEST INDIES

by Dr. Irwin M. Yarry

The interest contained in the stamps of this British colonial group lends itself admirably to most fascinating study. Actually it is almost impossible to completely explore any one aspect of its many ramifications. However, the British West Indies and its postal paper are closely associated with us both as to geography and language, thus providing another source of interest.

I have been collecting used colonials for about fifteen years, and at no time has my pleasure in collecting them diminished. The more I delve into the group, the more enjoyment I derive.

In collecting used stamps, one must acquire an extensive philatelic library in order to become familiar with postmarks and postal history. Stamps can be counterfeited, but how much easier it is to forge a postmark! Therefore, a great deal of caution must be exercised in acquiring additions to my collection. A new issue service will supply mint stamps, but where can you obtain the older stamps with proper cancellations--especially since each different postal marking provides a new item for your collection? The inclusion of postal history, postal marking, ship cancellations, etc. aids in exhibiting all the interesting details of philatelic study. The stamp is only a label until it acquires the dignity of a postal marking.

I am not attempting to justify my own collecting habits, for anyone can find his own interest in any of the many facets of our hobby...from speculation to specialization; but these are my views.

The stamps of the British West Indies contain an ever-changing panorama of passing events. One can select a single colony, such as St. Vincent or Bermuda, and spend a lifetime of study on it. The adhesives of Jamaica are of especial interest from the historical standpoint. Stamps of the Leeward Islands can be separated into specialized units for each island, or grouped as part of the presidency.

The field is wide open for the specialist. There are so few handbooks on the subject that the student can really delve into it with the same adventurous spirit that abounds through these islands . . . They are the Virgin Islands!

Occasional Notes. *London Philatelist*
March 1902

PROPOSED PHILATELIC LODGE OF MASONRY.

ME have pleasure in giving prominence to this proposal, and to request members of the Philatelic Society, London, who are active Freemasons to communicate with Mr. Gordon Smith, Philatelic Society, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, London, W.C., with a view to the formation of a "philatelic" lodge.

The Temple Stamp Club of Milwaukee

KENWOOD MASONIC TEMPLE

2648 N. Hackett Avenue

The Temple Stamp Club of Milwaukee was organized June 21, 1939, for the purpose of bringing together those of the Craft who were interested in Philately. By the end of our first year we had a membership of 68 and have continued to average around that number each year since then. We are not connected with the Masonic Organization in any way, except that anyone joining our Club must be a Master Mason in good standing.

Our fiscal year begins each June 1st. We hold nine regular and three special meetings each year. Our regular meetings are held in Masonic Temples, with one of the Lodges being our host, through arrangements made by one of the members of our club. Due to our meetings being scheduled only a month or two in advance, each member receives by mail a monthly meeting notice.

Our special meetings are held in other than Masonic Temples. July, August and December being the months in which they are held. These are open meetings and any of our members may bring his collector friends whether they be members of the Craft or not. The December meeting has always been a Christmas Dinner Party and in keeping with the Season, each person attending is requested to bring some philatelic item as a gift and receives one in exchange. In addition to having an out-side speaker, we also conduct a stamp auction. Worthwhile door prizes go to some of the lucky ones present. Buying, trading and selling stamps is permitted at any of these open meetings, but at regular meetings we are limited to trading.

After our business meeting we have a program, which may be a Stamp Quiz or a talk by one of the members or an out-side speaker. The exception being when we have our annual meeting and election in the month of May, or when we confer our degree of "Master of Philately" upon new members.

Our Club is a member of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs, the Milwaukee County Council of Stamp Clubs and this year we have joined the American Philatelic Society as a Chapter Club and are listed as Chapter No. 201.

Melvin E. Newman
Secretary-Treasurer
3065 N. 51st Street
Milwaukee 10, Wis.

OFFICERS 1944-1945

President	Dr. George Camnitzer
First Vice-Pres.	Dr. Charles H. Johnson
Second " "	Sam Brooks
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THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

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 New York 52, N.Y.

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 Bronx, N.Y.

Gleaned from "The Posthorn", published by the Scandinavian Collectors Club, and edited by Carl Pelander.

Sol Glass, whose specialty is U.S., also has a fine Scandinavian Collection. Ferrars Tows is becoming an expert in the fine art of Dominoes. At a recent "Information Please" session at the Collectors Club, Carl Pelander was interlocutor and among the experts (?) were Ferrars Tows and Harry Konwiser. Sid Barrett and Harry Lindquist are gaining reputations as "seven card stub players", whatever that is. Our own Charley Johnson was again re-elected as Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of N.Y. Carl Pelander has been elected to Honorary Membership in the Finnish Philatelic Assn.

Masonic Stamp Club of New York

If you have a friend who is interested in joining our Club you may use a form similar to this in presenting his name.

Name _____ (Print)

Address _____

Name of Lodge _____ No. _____

Proposed by _____

Date _____

Applicant's Signature _____