

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST



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SAM BROOKS, Editors

\* FORREST ELLIS  
Circulation

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

No. 6

October 1944

## MASONRY AND PHILATELY

It seems rather strange now, in looking back, how important a part Masonry has played in my life before I ever became a part of it. It was something I was sort of reared on - two of my uncles being very active and an aunt being in the Eastern Star. They used to talk to me often of Masonry, and it was always my hope that some day I would be accepted.

When I became Stamp Editor of The Sun I had taken no steps in that direction other than DeMolay, and really thought little of the connection when I was befriended by such men as Sidney "Sid" Barrett, Harry Lindquist, Arthur "Zim" Zimmerman, the late Ralph A. Berry, Harry Konwiser, Arthur Deas, Emil Bruechig and Carl Pelander. Of course there were others, among them Hugh Clark, Vahan Mozián, Adolph Klingenstein, Nicolas Sanabria and James Reel, but when I became aware of the fact that all of these men in the first group were Masons it served to strengthen the desire I had to affiliate myself with that organization.

The close link between Masonry and my hobby then developed into something I had never dreamed of. The Secretary of Gramatan Lodge (No 927), who came to the preparation room while I was readying for the Entered Apprentice degree was Mont M. Mathes, a stamp collector. My father-in-law, who proposed and raised me, is a stamp collector of sorts. At dinner, before taking my Fellowcraft degree I learned that W Lester A. Stothof, active in the Lodge, specialized in U.S. Commemoratives, and later I found that the then Senior Deacon, now Junior Warden, Chester "Chick" Jacobi, was also a fellow-hobbyist.

This has caused me to wonder - aren't there a lot more Masons interested in stamps not yet affiliated with the Masonic Stamp Club, and could n't a canvass be made of the various metropolitan lodges issuing direct invitations to attend meetings and perhaps join up?

Another thought was dropped by Carl Pelander, specifically, could there be a stampic degree team, to operate whenever a fellow-collector or dealer was taking his Master Mason degree? There are certainly enough active stampic Masons - can it be done?

Franklin R. Bruns, Jr.

## MEETINGS

- |         |                                                                                                      |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 27 | Franklin R. Bruns Jr. Philatelic Editor of the New York Sun will speak and show from his collection. |
| Nov. 3  | Members Competition- U.S. Postage stamps only.<br>Limited to 40 pages or 15 minutes each.            |

MEETINGS FIRST AND LAST FRIDAY EACH MONTH COLLECTORS CLUB BUILDING	22 East 35th St. N.Y.
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September 29th

The opening meeting of the Masonic Stamp Club on Sept. 23th, 1944, was held at the Collector's Club. The informal nature of meeting resulted in a round table discussion, devoted entirely to good and welfare. The members present, relaxed in comfortable easy chairs, gave some real healthy suggestions for making the coming season interesting both for attending members, and through the "Masonic Philatelist", to those members who are unable to attend.

Our president, Dr. Camnitzer, welcomed the members numbering about twenty-five. Sam Brooks, co-editor of the "Masonic Philatelist", asked the members to send in articles relative to Masonry and there by increasing the interest in our publication. The fact that some of our articles are being republished in other magazines, is a good omen. Dr. Yarry sent in an article, which is in this issue concerning "Ft. James in Antigua". "Jake" Glaser asked the members to make use of the research facilities of the library, with the finest philatelic literature extant, to promote study in our hobby. He also reported on the improved condition of our esteemed brother members, Arthur Deas.

The final thought imparted was that the Masonic Stamp Club has the nucleus in its membership to make our club a factor both in Masonry, which is our sacred bond, and Philately, our chosen hobby.

— Reported by Dr. Irwin M. Yarry

#### YOU ARE WELCOME

Several officers and members of Gramatan Lodge No. 927 (Bronxville, N.Y.) will attend the Masonic Stamp Club meeting of October 27. The Worshipful Master, Nathaniel M. Aycock planned to, but will be out of town then and so can not be present. Those coming include the Junior Warden, Chester Jacobi; the Treasurer, W. Chester A. Garfield (father-in-law of Franklin R. Bruns), the Secretary, Mont M. Mathes, and W. Lester Stoothof. The added possibility is the Senior Warden, Carl Gage the only non-stamp collector.

October 6th

At the regular meeting of the club on Oct. 6th, Dr. George Camnitzer presided over a rather disappointing turn out of only 15 members.

Arrangements were made for the visit of our club to the Teaneck Stamp Club on November 16th. The president requested that he be notified not later than the next meeting (October 27th) of those going, so that transportation may be arranged. The members will meet at an appointed place and proceed by auto to Teaneck.

The program committee chairman, Charles Brooks, introduced an interesting novelty. Dr. George Camnitzer, displayed 36 pages, set up in the wall frames. This consisted of Mulready's, German States, and a complete collection of Cameroons. Dr. Yarry showed 4 frames, about 48 pages, devoted to stamps of British West Indies. The purpose of the displays was to show methods of mounting collections.

Dr. Camnitzer, wherever possible, mounts both stamps and covers. Most of the pages were hand-illustrated with maps and sketches and included explanations of the stamps and covers. Photographs were also used to explain various items.

In direct contrast, Dr. Yarry followed conventional lines. His pages were not written up, but displayed stamps in singles, blocks, sets, and on cover.

The purpose of the display was to elicit comment from the audience about both styles of mounting. And the comment was forthcoming. It was agreed that both styles were effective and serviced to illustrate the flexibility of philately. It was also mentioned that crowded pages should be avoided.

A pleasant time was had by all who were present.

— Reported by Arthur Heim.

It is also very probable that, before election, there will be a Red Cross Blood Plasma stamp. An announcement of this stamp is expected very soon.

— F.R.B. Jr.



## COLLECTING METERS FOR PLEASURE

by Althea Harvey

The desire of collectors to keep abreast with philately pertaining to the war has drawn their attention to patriotic meter slogans.

It was over twenty years ago that the Post Office Department authorized the use of metered mail, but interest in collecting lagged until a national meter society was formed in 1938. Continued publicity in the philatelic press has helped to popularize the hobby, although some editors have been slow to realize that their readers enjoy meter news.

Mr. Komwiser has asked me a question, "Why Should Meters Be Collected?" We collect for the pleasure we derive from it, and it is merely a matter of personal preference what we select. The novice starts saving stamps and finds it is fun. If he becomes a serious student, it is more than likely he adds one or two philatelic sidelines to his original hobby. Precancel fans and postal markings enthusiasts often drift into meter collecting as a natural sequence.

The percentage of postal revenue from metered mail increases each year, to such an extent in fact, that metered covers cannot be overlooked. High denomination postage is frequently seen on metered tapes, which come into the supply of high value stamps.

The best reason I know for saving meters is a maximum of enjoyment for a minimum financial outlay. Nearly everyone has a few friends who have access to some business mail. If there are stamp collectors in the office, they usually discard the metered cover; so here is a nucleus of a meter collection. Then, the next step is trading duplicates with other fans, and in a very short time the meters accumulate.

There are various types of meters which provide an opportunity for careful study, and there are meter slogans or meter-ads which lend themselves to select as it is a mammoth undertaking to collect both.

For the ambitious, there are history and research in types, as several companies have manufactured meter machines during the past twenty years. Many collectors have made discoveries, and these as well as allround meter information can be found in Steiger's meter handbook.

The first meter slogans were used by Pitney Bowes Postage Meter Co. in Stamford and read, "X Adhesive Stamps are out of Date" and "Metered Mail Saves Time and Gets Attention". A meter slogan is an excellent form of advertising at a minimum cost, which is the reason there are thousands of different meter slogans. All slogans are not advertising, for there are non-commercials and institutionals. Examples of these are safely slogans, such as those which appeal to Mr. Deast and telephone slogans.

The possible subjects for topicals are unlimited, for there are animals, maps, foods, movies, etc. At the present time, however, the patriotic reign supreme, and a nice collection of these is well worth having. The stock designs have been common, but many of the commercial patriotic are difficult to secure. Some months ago, I had about 700 different U.S. Patriotics, but I would estimate there are at least 1000. The odd part of it is that no two collectors have the same items, for there are many different sources of supply. Foreign countries such as Canada, Australia and Great Britain all have used patriotic meter slogans.

To your editor, I would say: Collect meters for recreation, for enjoyment and for new friends, as there is nothing like a common hobby for building up pleasant friendships which are priceless.

(Miss Harvey is a regular Contributor to several Stamp Papers and is very active in the Meter collecting field. She would be glad to trade or buy meter slogans.

Address her at 4 Park Avenue Windsor, Conn.) Edit.

This article by a non-member is of general interest. Members are urged to contribute similar items, especially about your collection. Ed.





## PORT JAMES IN ANTIGUA

St. James depicted on the 3rd George VI stamp was erected on a piece of

land given to Charles II by Col. Vaughan and fortified in 1704-5. It is chiefly worthy of notice for its foundation stone, which was laid with full Masonic honors, a most unusual proceeding in the case of a purely military building. The inscription on the stone can still be deciphered though it was nearly obliterated by some mischievous treasure hunters who hoped to find something beneath it. The inscription reads:

THIS (FIRST STONE) WAS LAID BY  
(I) SAAC MATHEW  
THE RIGHT WORSHIPFULL  
(THE) PROV(INCIAL) GRAND MASTER  
WITH HIS (GRA)ND OFFICERS  
AND  
THE RIGHT W(OR)SHIPFULL THE MASTERS  
AND  
THE WARDENS (AND) BROTHERS  
OF  
THE THREE LODGES (OF F)REE  
AND  
ACCEPTED MASONS OF ANTIGUA  
NOVEMBER 15, 1739

The three lodges referred to were "Perham" Lodge constituted Jan. 3, 1737; "Bakers" Lodge March 14, 1738; and "Court House" Lodge, Nov. 22, 1738.

\_\_\_ Dr. Irwin M. Yarry

(Photo courtesy of the Scott Catalogue)

## THE MAN ON THE COVER

### GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN

Born-Berwick, Maine Feb. 14, 1740  
Died-Durham, N.H. Jan. 23, 1795

Raised Dec. 12, 1768 in St. Johns Lodge #1, Portsmouth, N.H.  
Wor. Master Dec. 1779. Elected first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire April 8 1790.

Noted especially for his rout of the Indians in central New York State after the Wyoming & Cherry Valley massacres. Later he was Governor of N.H. and also U.S. District Judge.

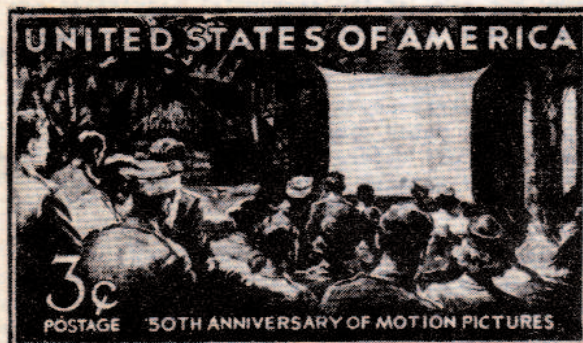
Please address all mail for  
Harry M. Konwiser  
181 Claremont Ave.  
New York, 27, N.Y.

Philately has now reached the high distinction of serving as a theme for one of those detective thrillers that are so avidly read by the American public from office boy to bank president.

A short mystery story entitled: "The One Penny Black" appeared lately, depicting some high handed proceedings among certain stamp dealers. It is full of suspense and surprise, and cleverly solved by that master detective Ellery Queen. Have you read it?

---Charles F. Zenker---

## MOTION PICTURE DESIGN



Reproduced here is the design of the new 3-cent stamp to be issued October 31 marking the fiftieth anniversary of motion pictures,

Special to THE NEW YORK SUN.  
The New York Sun Bureau,  
Washington, Oct. 31.

Postmaster-General Walker announced this week that the new 3-cent-postage stamp, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of motion pictures, will be placed on first-day sale at New York City and Hollywood, Cal., on October 31.

The design will be in harmony with the recent series of postage relating to war activities. The central subject represents a motion picture showing in the South Pacific before an audience of members of the armed forces.

Collectors desiring first-day covers may send not more than ten addressed envelopes to the postmasters at Los Angeles, 52, Cal., and New York, 1, N. Y., with remittances to cover the cost of the stamps which are to be affixed. Other details regarding the new stamp will be announced later. While Hollywood is a branch station of the Los Angeles post office, a special cancellation will be used on covers reaching Hollywood, Cal.