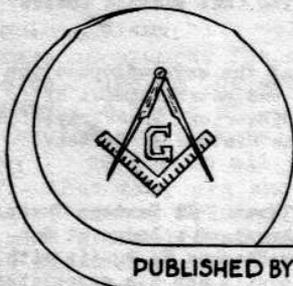


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The MASONIC PHILATELIST



VOLUME I NO. 10 FEBRUARY 1945

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

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Address them at 22 East 35th Street New York, on matters relating to this publication. Masonic Stamp Club Secretary...
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VISIT OF THE TEANECK STAMP CLUB

January 26th proved to be a gala night, with the visit of the Teaneck Stamp Club. After opening the meeting, Dr. George Cammitzer introduced Bro. Gordon Johnson, president of the Teaneck club, who introduced his officers and members. The meeting was then turned over to Mr. DeKruif, Program Chairman, who started things rolling with some good stories. The exhibitors were:

FRED LOELIGER -showing the Pro-Juventute stamp of Switzerland.

FRED KINDLER -U. S. Telegraph stamps.

HAROLD PERRY -U. S. 50 and 100 years ago.

HERBERT SKINNER-Postal History of Great Britain.

STANLEY HARZFELD -a highly specialized showing of the Postage Dues of Netherlands and Colonies.

The meeting exhibited a fine spirit of good-fellowship and was closed with the distribution of pocket stock cards suitably inscribed as a memento of the visit. These cards were presented by courtesy of Mr. Robbins the genial gentleman in the office of Carl Pelander.

SHOWING OF MASONIC PHILATELY

Our meeting of February 2nd brought out an enthusiastic group to witness the showing of part of the famous Masonic Philatelic collection of Dr. S. Duffield Swan. Dr. Swan's collection is mounted on pages enclosed in celophane so they could be passed around without injury. The members saw fine Masonic cancels on cover and off cover together with related material. A very pleasant evening indeed.

MEETINGS

FEB. 23rd MEMBERS COMPETITION, MASONIC PHILATELY

MAR. 2nd VISIT FROM SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB

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

TEXAS FREE MASONRY NOTES

Dr. S. W. Geiser, of Southern Methodist University, Texas, made a valuable contribution Anent Masonic Lodges in Texas, in noting that Masonic Lodges were time-indicators of a town's prosperity.

One of the most striking phenomena of the advance of the wave of population in the settling of the frontier was the chartering and establishment of Masonic Lodges", says Dr. Geiser, in Southwestern Historical Quarterly, for Jany. The Quarterly is published by the Texas State Historical Society, Austin, Texas.

Dr. Geiser points to the beginnings of Masonry in Texas. In Mexican Texas, Masonic interest was first created in the establishment of a lodge at San Felipe. This was the "Lodge of Union" organized by Stephen F. Austin with six other York Rite Masons on February 11, 1827. Austin and his associates applied to the Grand Lodge of Mexico for a charter.

Stephen F. Austin is credited with being the leader of Masonry in Texas. (See Dallas Morning News, April 9, 1933).

Holland Lodge No. 36 (Louisiana) was chartered at Brazoria, Texas, in 1835, and the Grand Lodge of Texas was instituted in 1837. During the days of the Republic, twenty-four lodges were chartered.

Dr. Geiser discussing the declining towns, shows that their periods of prosperity affected the lodges, and points to Cincinnati, a town in Walker County. The lodge there was chartered in 1846, and in 1861 suspended. This period was that of the greatest prosperity of the settlement. Other towns showed similar trends.

Texas historians and students of Texas Masonry as well, will find Dr. Geiser's List of Masonic Lodges in Texas of great value.

-----HMK

LAFF-A-DAY



"Please try to save my stamp collection, my new smoking jacket, my stuffed moose head and my wife!"

"Philadelphia Bulletin"
Courtesy of Bro. Julius
Winndner.

MASONIC CANCELS

Masonic (and other cancellations) were featured in the H. R. Harmer auction Feb. 5, 6, and 7, 1945. Some of the "Masonics" were as follows:

"Keep Cool Hiram" in Ms. on 3 cent 1851, sold for \$7; Square & Compasses on 6 copies 3 cent 1861, one blue, others black, sold for \$30; Square and Compasses, blue strike, tied, on cover from Brattleboro, Vt. sold for \$15; Beautiful striped Square and Compasses, on cover from Oregon, Ohio, sold for \$50--Roman "G" from Greenfield, Mass., on 1 cent Scott No. 92, with "Paid" on another and a Rosette on another, lot sold for \$15; Lot of four, 3 cent 1869, two bearing Square and Compasses, others Shields, sold for \$20.

-----HMK

KEEP BUYING WAR BONDS

THE LOUISIANA LOTTERY STAMPS WITH MASONIC EMBLEM

George D. Qabot



Masonic emblems have seldom appeared on either postage or revenue stamps. The outstanding example of such use is to be found in the set of revenue stamps issued in 1866 by the State of Louisiana for collecting the state tax on lottery tickets, but the stamps are so scarce - not over 60 or 70 copies in all seem to have survived out of the thousands used - that they are known to but few except the collectors of state revenues. Printed in light blue and imperforate, and all in the same general design as the stamp shown, these stamps were required to be affixed to all lottery tickets sold in Louisiana, in the amount of 5% of the face selling value of the ticket. Of the proceeds from their sale, the first \$50,000 went to the New Orleans Charity Hospital, and the remainder into the general state fund. The known denominations are 5¢, 6½¢, 7½¢ and 12½¢.

It is possible that other denominations existed, for only three copies of the 5¢ are known and the 6½¢ was entirely unknown until about nine years ago; it was brought to light by Harry M. Konwiser while corresponding with an elderly lady in New Orleans about Civil War covers and old postage stamps. Amongst other items, she submitted to him a half-sheet (18) of these 6½¢ stamps which had been given to her by her father when she was a little girl and had in the back of her small stamp album for almost 70 years. Although the collection had been looked at by various people many times, nobody paid any attention to them or know what they were. She also mentioned that the other half-sheet had been given to her sister at the same time, and search brought that also to light. The two halves fitted together perfectly and, with full margins all around, showed that the complete sheet had been 36 stamps (6 x 6). This is the only large block of the stamps ever discovered, and H.M.K. was the discoverer. Half has since been broken up so that some collectors might complete their sets, - the other half still rests in my personal collection.

The reason for the use of the Masonic Emblem has never been satisfactorily established, despite much correspondence with the New Orleans Grand Lodge and considerable search by them. It is possible that the Charity Hospital had a Masonic background, or perhaps merely that some Member of the fraternity happened to be on the committee which had charge of the preparation and printing of the stamps. To those interested, a much more complete story of the stamps and of the famous Louisiana State Lottery may be found in "Stamps" of 3/28/42.

COLONIAL POSTMASTER

Isiah Thomas, one of the famous early New England printers, publisher of the "Massachusetts Spy", was an enthusiastic votary of Free Masonry. He was Grand Master of Massachusetts for several terms. He was appointed Postmaster at Worcester, Mass. in 1775, after he had succeeded in obtaining the establishment of a Post Office there.

-----HMK

NEW MASONIC STAMP PUBLICATION

Congratulations to the Temple Stamp Club of Milwaukee for Volume I, No. 1 of the "Temple Stamp News", dated January, 1945. It is a newswy, well written paper, and a credit to the Editorial Staff. Good luck.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Our Treasurer reports, as of January 27th, 77 members paid their "buck" for 1945. NOT BAD! NOT BAD! But how about you fellows who haven't paid? Come on, make it easier for Brother Treasurer by paying now. Use one of the new Postal Notes in remitting.

THE MAN ON THE COVER

GEORGE WASHINGTON

Born--Feb. 22nd 1732, Westmoreland County, Va.
Died--Dec. 14th 1799, Mount Vernon, Va.

Raised--Aug. 4th 1753, Fredericksburg Lodge, #4.
Charter Master Alexandria Lodge # 22, Apr. 28, 1788.



William's Portrait (1794)

To Americans the month of February means the month of Washington and though the stamp on the cover has nothing in common with February it does commemorate the 200 years of the birth of Washington. When the Bi-Centennial series was first announced and designs prepared, stamp designs other than those issued did not feature "Washington the Man" but rather places and events associated with his life. The nine cents value later chosen for the stamp design in discussion featured the Tomb of Washington. However, the series was changed to feature portraits only.

On December 11, 1930, Peter Gouled wrote to Postmaster-General Walter F. Brown suggesting that a portrait depicting Washington as a Mason, a painting by William Williams be included in the series. He received an answer that owing to certain rules no individual could be shown on the postage stamps of the U.S. in a fraternal capacity. Mr. Gouled, on receiving this answer from the office of the 3rd Assistant Postmaster-General, Frederic A. Tilton, again in February of 1931, wrote that the portrait could be used in such a way that the regalia could be omitted and that Washington would appear as he did in his later years. With this letter he also sent a photograph of the portrait with the lodge jewel removed, this portrait then met the Postmaster-General's approval and on March 13, 1931, the Third Assistant-Postmaster General Tilton notified Mr. Gouled that his suggestion would be adopted.

The nine cents value was chosen to illustrate the portrait and as three designs had been prepared with the same frame design for two, C.A. Huston, Bureau artist redesigned a new stamp with the modified portrait.

The rejected designs were two with the Athenaeum portrait and one with a portrait of Washington by Rembrandt Peale. The photograph submitted by Mr. Gouled was of a painting done in Philadelphia in 1794 by William J. Williams on the order of Washington's own lodge No. 22 at Alexandria, Va. where it still hangs.

On the back of this painting the following is inscribed, "His excellency, George Washington, Esq. President of the United States, age 64, Williams Pinxit and virum in Philadelphia, Sept. 18, 1794". The age quoted there does not correspond with the accepted age of Washington at that time which would be 62.

Williams, though a Catholic, also was a Mason, as were many of that faith in those days. He painted Washington as he was, not as a flattering portrait. His lodge was St. Johns No. 3, of New Bern, N.C.

The stamp vignette was engraved by L. S. Schofield, the frame of lettering and numerals was engraved by E. M. Hall.

----- F. L. Ellis

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We understand that on February second, Carl Pelander was obliged to pay off an election bet in the form of a new hat..... Dr. Irwin Yarry was seen at the last meeting sporting a new fedora.

On March second we will be honored by a visit from the Scandinavian Collectors club. This live organization numbers among its members several of our own Brothers. Come out and welcome this group of specialists and the fine stamps they show.