



The MASONIC PHILATELIST



VOLUME II No. 7 DECEMBER 1945

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

EDITORIAL BOARD... Harry M. Konwiser, Sam Brooks & Forrest Ellis
Address them at 22 East 35th Street New York, on matters relating to this publication. Masonic Stamp Club Secretary...
Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, 61-23 Roosevelt Ave., Woodside, Long Island, N.Y.

ARTHUR DEAS HONORED

October 26 a large group of friends gathered to pay honor to the first President of the club--that grand fellow, Arthur Deas. All the frames in the club room were filled with types of collections that are Arthur's specialties. Then Arthur spoke, and it was a real treat to listen to a gentleman who has collected for so many years. Several friends presented Arthur with stamps, covers and tokens, and the club presented him with a beautiful pen and pencil set. Good luck, good health, and God bless you.

NOVEMBER 2

Irving Black took first prize and Gordon Johnson second prize in a splendid showing of Scandinavian countries. Both exhibited Norway. It is too bad that more of our members could not be present to witness the efforts of these brothers.

Henry Friedman will officiate at the spot auction sales on November 30 and December 28. There will be plenty of time for swapping too! On December 7, Latin-America night, we hope to see collections by Jacob Glaser, Jose Rueff, Fred Wendel and others. Hope to see you there.

Next issue:

"COLORADO'S FIRST POSTMASTER WAS A MASON"

by EMERSON N. BARKER

MEETINGS

DEC. 7th Members' competition- Latin American Countries.
(limit 40 pages or 15 minutes)

DEC. 28th Spot Auction Sale- Trading and swapping.

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

THE FIRST LONDON AUCTION SALE

Dr. Irwin M. Yarry

In a previous issue, an account of the first auction sale ever held was described. It may interest us to tell of the first auction held in Europe.

Early in 1872, J. W. Scott opened a branch office in London, and to stimulate and advertise their new establishment, an auction sale was held on March 18th of that year. Prior to this, several sales had been held in the U.S. under the same auspices. The idea of an auction sale did not impress the staid Londoners, who were most skeptical of this method in disposing of stamps, especially when it consisted mostly of American locals and Confederate issues, which were not very well known in England; and also because it was the property of J. W. Scott.

The auction sale was conducted by the firm of literary auctioneers, Messrs. Sotheby & Co. of Wellington St.; Strand. The sale comprised 270 lots mounted on cards for the sake of display during the sale. These passed around as each lot was announced.

The first ten lots were U.S. Postage and brought very little response. Lot #12 was a Brattleboro. Then followed sets of St. Louis Bears in 3 types; these brought about 20/ each. A 20¢ St. Louis brought 130/, which was purchased by J. W. Scott. The audience looked at these goings on with suspicion for very obvious reasons. Lot 34 and 35 were the Blood's Dispatch and sold to J. W. Scott for 50/. Another lot of the same went for 20/. A Jefferson Market in pink, stunned the audience when it was knocked down for 100/. Then followed Messenkope's, Floyd's, Kidder's, Gordon's and Pomeroy's, that averaged from 10/ to 20/ each. A unique item, a Boyd's City Express, stuck over a Pomeroy, went for 155/ to an American buyer. The lots that followed were more familiar to the audience. A fine British Guiana magenta went for 28/. A 2¢ Provisional 1862, sold for 12/. Philippine #1, a 5¢ orange sold for 50/. A #T. Naples Arms went for 40/. Four Sydney Views unused of the 1d., 2d (2 copies); 3d. sold for 84/. Lot 159 a 13¢ Hawaiian was run up to 130/.

The lots that followed were Confederate issues and the bidding was brisk. A Lynchburg brought 23/. A 5¢ grey Nashville was bought by Mr. Pemberton for 100/. A mint Rheatown for 65/. A Marion unused was greeted with skepticism and sold nevertheless for 100/. A lot of U. S. envelopes sold for 40/. Thus wound up the first London sale.

It may be of interest to note the comments on this occasion. The auctioneer, who never had any interest whatsoever in stamps, was amused by the proceedings. The few casual visitors who could not understand all this ado about bits of paper even to engage auction rooms for such a purpose. Many of the leading amateur collectors and dealers were present including members of the philatelic press. The evident feeling of distrust as to the authenticity of the lots seemed to influence the bidding. The fact that most of the rarities were bought by J. W. Scott for some American clients unknown to those present was looked upon with distrust.

(This article was condensed from the Stamp Collector's Magazine, #111--Vol. X 1872).

MASONIC POSTMASTER, BELFAST, MAINE

According to Williamson's "History of Belfast" (Maine), Hiram Chase was appointed Postmaster in 1861. He was a prominent Mason and was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine in 1857-58. His father, Timothy Chase, was also a foremost Mason and was Grand Master in 1854. The second Masonic Lodge in Belfast was named "Timothy Chase Lodge." --- H.W.R.

PERFORATIONS

A London news reporter, Charles Fowler, accidentally originated the idea of perforating stamps, according to "The Western Stamp Collector". Fowler, who was free-lancing at a penny-a-line, was covering that city in the 1840s for several out-of-town papers and each evening repaired to the Red Lion Inn to write up and send out the day's news. One night in the autumn of 1847 he was in his usual "office" and had just finished the folding of his news letters when to his annoyance he found he had neither scissors nor knife to cut the necessary stamps from the sheet he had bought at the postoffice. He tried to cut them with the point of a pin but that scheme not working he got the idea of punching holes close together and then tearing the stamps apart.

Fowler thought no more about the occurrence but one Henry Archer who had watched the proceeding took the idea home and three weeks later approached the authorities at Somerset House with a proposal for a machine to pierce holes in the gutters between the stamps by means of which they could easily be torn apart. A committee was appointed to inquire into the matter, and in due time reported "that the perforating of postage stamps would be of great convenience and advantage to the public". The report was in time adopted and Archer's machine purchased by the government. Great Britain began issuing perforated stamps in 1854 and the other stamp issuing countries adopted the idea.

---Charles D.Carpenter



OVERPRINTS

The above example is the first overprint on any adhesive used. The Regent Empire stamp encyclopaedia, page 160, States that this overprint was issued to the then "Oxford Union Society" in 1859, and continued to 1879, on the then one penny current issue, and overprinted O.U.S. on front reading upward or downwards and sometimes on the back.

---Charles D.Carpenter

BOSTON'S SECOND FEDERAL POSTMASTER A MASON

by Frank I. Morse

On July 1, 1808, Harvard graduate Aaron Hill became the second Federal Postmaster of Boston under the Constitution. Previously he had seen service as a Revolutionary soldier, as a Selectman of Cambridge from 1795 to 1805, and as town clerk and member of the Massachusetts legislature until 1808. From that year to 1829 he administered the Boston Post Office. As concerns his Masonichistory, the records of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts show he was raised by Middlesex Lodge July 16, 1802.

His first act as Postmaster was to move the equipment to a new location on State St. and to open a new post office. Business increased in volume until he was forced to rent larger quarters at Congress and Water Sts. Here, for the year ending September 21, 1821, his report shows a net expenditure of \$2,825.66 for six clerks, \$300 for rent, \$94.30 for fuel and light, \$67.72 for incidentals, and for himself \$1881.74— with no mention of the salary paid to one letter carrier. The latter's remuneration was probably covered by the two cents charge per letter received by Hill.

Receipts for 1826-27 showed a considerable increase to \$52,057.31.

Aaron Hill resigned in March 1829 with the honor of holding the second longest term of any Crown, Continental, or Federal Postmaster of Boston. (The longest term was that of Jonathan Hastings, first ~~General~~ Postmaster.)

LOUISIANA PURCHASE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS—ISSUE OF 1904



In 1801, when Jefferson became President, Spain sold to France the great Province of Louisiana, which extended from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. Jefferson tried to purchase New Orleans which had been closed as a port of entry, and sent James Monroe to assist Robert R. Livingston, our Minister to France, in the negotiations.

Much difficulty was encountered, until difficulties arose between France and England. Napoleon, much in need of money, conceived the idea of selling the entire Territory to the United States. After several meetings Livingston and Monroe, decided to make the purchase, and the treaty was signed calling for the payment of \$15,000,000. By this one act the territory of the United States was doubled and as Livingston said to Monroe, "That which we have done today, will stand out as the noblest work of our lives".

On March 10, 1804, the actual transfer of the Territory took place. In a ceremony at St. Louis, the flag of the U.S. was raised by Captain Amos Stoddard first Governor of the Territory, assisted by Captain Meriwether Lewis, Secretary to President Jefferson. Captain Lewis was later, the first Worshipful Master of St. Louis #111 in the Territory of Missouri.

The Territory was originally attached to Indiana Territory and it's laws were framed at Vincennes. The three Judges of the Territory were headed by Henry Vanderburgh who was Raised in a New York Lodge. Another Freemason, Frederick Bates was Secretary of the Territory. The Book of Laws, was compiled by Bates and printed by Charles, also a Mason. Of the Pioneer settlers, it is known that a very large number were members of the Craft.

T.T. Crittenden was the Attorney General, William Clark, head of the Militia, Silas Bent, Pierre Chouteau Jr., and Bernard Pratte were Judges.

Rufus Easton, the first Postmaster, was a member of Roman Lodge #82 in New York.

Other outstanding Masons, were Kit Carson, Capt. Zebulon Pike, Senator Thomas H. Benton, Edward Bates, later Attorney General under Lincoln and General Henry Dodge.

The 1¢ stamp shows a portrait of Robert R. Livingston, who for some years was Grand Master of Masons in New York and who administered the Oath of Office to Brother George Washington in 1789.

The 3¢ value shows James Monroe who was Initiated Nov. 9th 1775 in Williamsburgh Lodge No.6, Williamsburgh, Va.

The 5¢ stamp is of William McKinley. He was Raised May 3rd 1865 in Hiram Lodge No.21, Winchester, Va.

Buy Victory Bonds