



The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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Er. Irwin M. Yarry, 61-23 Roosevelt Ave., Woodside, Long Island, N.Y.

At our meeting on November 28th, we conducted another very successful "Spot Auction Sale." Henry Friedman, as usual, conducted the Sale, to the satisfaction of sellers and buyers. Dr. George Camnitzer set a pattern, which was followed by Harry Konwiser and Sam Brooks. The proceeds from the sale of stamps offered by these Brothers, were donated to the Club, thus enriching our Treasury by \$9.00.

Which reminds us: "Dies time" is now here. Please mail a dollar bill to our Treasurer, Harry M. Konwiser, 181 Claremont Ave., New York 27, N.Y. and receive your new 1946 Paid up Card. Postage costs will be reduced if you act at once.

The George Washington stamps required for the presentation frame, for the Shrine at Tappan, are coming in slowly. Some of our resident members have made handsome contributions, but we need more. Missing of course, are the early numbers. Won't some of you "out-of-towners" help us?

The following numbers are wanted:

9X1, 29, 35A, 36, 52, 54, 68, 69, 70, 72, 115. This project is worthwhile! Help it along.

Another in the series of Competitions was held on Dec. 7th, bringing out a nice crowd to view the Latin America collections of several Members. Our Program Chairman Charles Brooks, appointed the following Judges: Jose Rueff, Russel Roane, and Dr. George Camnitzer. Certificates were awarded to these winners: First-Jacob Glaser, Scadta Airmails; Second-Charles Zenker, Commemoratives; Third-Dr. Irwin Yarry, British Colonies in Latin America.

MEETINGS

Jan 4th Members' Competition Any other foreign country.

23rd Visit to Scandinavian Collectors Club.

25th Alex Watts will show from his famous collections.

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

COLORADO'S FIRST POSTMASTER WAS A MASON

We are ahead of our story, however, for there was no Colorado in 1859. The destination of the thousands who had rushed headlong westward following the cry of "Gold!" was known variously as the "Gold Regions of Western Kansas," the "Pike's Peak Country," or the edge of the "Great American Desert."

Although there had been minor discoveries of gold within the area later to become Denver, the metropolis of the Rocky Mountain region, the "Pay-Dirt" that inflamed the East, was found some forty-five miles to the northwest -- more than one hundred miles from Pike's Peak.

Two settlements had come into being in 1858, on opposite sides of Cherry Creek, just south of its union with the South Fork of the Platte River. (Edwin S. Knapp, in his "Pony Express," scrambled the location somewhat). On the east bank of Cherry Creek was Denver City, which first had been known as St. Charles. A similar cluster of cabins and tents to the west, separated by the usually dry Cherry Creek, was known as Auraria.

There was intense rivalry between business interests of the two towns as to which would survive -- to become the outfitting point for the mining region and eventually to become the leading city of the region.

The nearest postoffice was Fort Laramie, two hundred miles to the north. Various means had been employed during the winter of 1858-59 to carry mails between the Cherry Creek settlements and Fort Laramie. Denver City won the first round in the struggle for supremacy when the first coaches of the Leavenworth & Pike's Peak Express arrived on May 7, 1859, direct from the Missouri River. Announcement was made that Denver City was to be the headquarters of the express.

There was consternation in Auraria.

Auraria found the man of the hour in Henry Allen.

It was at his cabin, On Nov. 3, 1858, that had gathered "the first seven Masons who had ever met in Colorado, having in contemplation the application of a charter." By Christmas, twenty-six Masons were attending the informal gatherings St. John's Day was observed by a dinner held in a sixteen-foot cabin. The guests sat on dry goods boxes around a table covered with sheets. The menu consisted of pork, beans, wild game, biscuits and coffee."

Another Masonic newcomer was William H. Byers, who had arrived from Omaha to set up a printing plant. Byers had attended a meeting of Masons the first night of his arrival, April 17, 1859.

Henry Allen went into action at once. Soon there appeared in The Rocky Mountain News, weekly newspaper published by Masonic brother Byers, the following notice:

"Mail Notice -- please inform your readers that I have made arrangements with Mr. Willis, one of the employes of the United States Express Co., to carry the mails from AURARIA to the Missouri River, the contract to commence on Monday next and continue to depart every Monday morning until further notice. Therefore, three cents postage will convey the letters to the States, and the same back, as soon as the agent gets through. -- H. Allen, P.M."

As the L. & P.P. Express Co., operating out of Denver City, was charging 25 cents for carrying letters to the Missouri River (outside of the mails), the three-cent rate quoted by the Auraria postmaster must have shocked Denver City business interests. The balance swung toward Auraria.

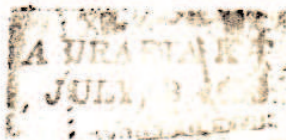
Postmaster Allen and Auraria are given Round Two.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

Besides being one of the most popular men in the town, Henry Allen was no novice in the postoffice, for he had been postmaster at Council Bluffs before coming west.

He seems to have gone into conference with brother Byers, for soon Auraria was equipped with a straight-line postmark -- made from type from the Byers printing plant.

**Straight-line marking
of AURARIA, K.T.**



So the Masonic fraternity may claim it not only provided Colorado (as the region became known later) with its first postmaster but its first postmark.

Soon, however, the Auraria postoffice was discontinued, the two towns became united, and Brothers Allen and Byers joined others in building a great Western state.

Allen became the first Master of a Masonic Lodge in Colorado. The newspaper that Byers founded continues to this day.

By Emerson N. Barker
Paul Revere Lodge No. 162 F&AM
Denver, Colo.



From The Freemasons' Monthly Magazine by W. Moore, Grand Secy. of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Boston, Vol 111 No. 10 Page 309 August 1, 1844. "The Nativity of St. John the Baptist was celebrated in Portland, Maine by a Procession through the Streets, to the Rev. Dr. Nichols' Church. After hearing the reading of the Scriptures, a most elaborate, eloquent and highly instructive Oration, and Hymns, the Brethren repaired to a Hall in the Exchange, where 300 sat down to a sumptuous dinner. Among the visitors was R.W. Brother Teulon, a member of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas.

The Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine, proposed the following sentiment:

"Our Masonic Brethren of Texas--no political or legislative act of Annexation is necessary to bind us together as Brethren."

R.W. Brother Teulon in his reply, remarked:

"despotism and Masonry never can long agree, nor both prosper in the same landTo most of you the actual condition of Freemasonry in Texas is unknown--yet there is a Grand Lodge of Texas with thirteen lodges under its jurisdiction. It is computed that there are over 500 Masons in Texas, certainly a large number when we consider that the total population of the Republic does not exceed 100,000. Texas is emphatically a Masonic Country; all of our Presidents and Vice-Presidents, and four-fifths of our State Officers were and are Masons; our National Emblem the "Lone Star" was chosen from among the emblems selected by Freemasonry to illustrate the moral virtues--it is a Five Pointed Star May it ever bind us in the holy Bond of Fraternal Union and govern our social, Masonic, and Political intercourse."

— S. B.

THE FIVE-POINTED STAR OF CUBA

During 1935 the United States commemorated the centennial of Texas independence and featured a five-pointed star as part of the design; and during that same time the Republic of Cuba commemorated the centenary of the birth of Major-General Maximo Gomez. One of the stamps of the series, 5 centavos, featured the Cuban flag with a five-pointed star in the field, and the word "independence" in the bottom tablet.

Now that the United States is commemorating Texas Statehood and the five-pointed star is again featured, it is of interest that the flag of Cuba was copied from that of Texas.

A very well put together article in the March, 1931, issue of the MASONIC OUTLOOK by Charles A. Brockaway, gives this information as follows - "Although it is widely known that the flag of Texas displays a Masonic emblem, how many are aware that there is a national flag in whose design Masonic emblems played an important role? Early in June, 1849, Narciso Lopez, who was to lead an uprising in Cuba, met with a few close friends in Warren Street, New York. Among them were Miguel Teurbe Tolon, Poet of Cuban Independence, Cirilo Villaverde and his wife, Emilia Cassanova de Villaverde, who was no less ardent than her husband in furthering the cause of Cuba Libre. "On Lincoln's Birthday, 1873, Senor Villaverde wrote a letter describing the events of that evening in 1849: 'Now, Brother Tolon', said Narciso Lopez, 'let us design a flag under which Cuba shall be free. This is my idea: Symbolism underlying the design of the American Flag is the most beautiful to be found in any national emblem. Let us design a flag for Cuba that shall express at once her past, our faith in her Cause, and our hopes for the years to come. The three colors of Liberty are red, white and blue. Now let us take three stripes to represent the Military Departments in which Spain divided Cuba, just as the Americans use thirteen stripes to represent their Thirteen Colonies. But we must not make a meaningless modification of the American flag, so we cannot use red and white stripes, nor can we use three white stripes separated by blue, because the white of the outside stripes would become lost at a distance.' Therefore three horizontal blue stripes were separated by white, 'For white,' said Lopez, 'represented the purity of purpose in a republican form of government. But what shall we do with the red? Neither a square nor an oblong in red makes a pleasing addition to the blue and white stripes.' 'Then,' said Lopez, who was a Freemason - 'Let us take the equilateral triangle, for besides its Masonic significance, it is also a striking geometrical figure!'; - and then he said, 'Let us take the Five-Pointed Star of the Texas flag because it also carries a symbolic meaning.' This was then drawn by Tolon and immediately illuminated with the three Colors of Liberty, and behold a beautiful flag sprang forth - the flag which was to see Cuba free.

"The three blue stripes represent the military rule under which Cuba lived from the day of discovery, rent asunder by the white of purity and justice. The equilateral triangle represents faith in God, while the Five-Points on the red field represent Fellowship under God, and in that faith and fellowship, Free Cuba rising from her blood-stained fields to the glory of an independent nation. That same evening doña Emilia stitched together some pieces of silk and made the first Cuban flag, which she presented to Narciso Lopez. Senors Villaverde, nee Emilia Cassanova, was the 'Betsey Ross' of Cuba and the original flag made by her is now in the possession of Narciso Villaverde of Havana, a son of Cirilo Villaverde. The first Cuban flag of this design to fly publicly in America was raised over the offices of the Sun, at Nassau and Fulton Streets, New York, by Moses Y. Beach, the publisher of that newspaper."

----Forrest L. Ellis



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR