



The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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FEDERAL POSTMASTERS OF BOSTON WHO WERE MASONS

#2 Edwin Curtis Bailey

On September 21, 1853, President Pierce appointed Edwin Curtis Bailey, Postmaster of Boston, to replace George William Gordon, who was serving his second term. This appointment made Bailey Boston's sixth Federal Postmaster. Bailey was born in New York, N.Y., June 10, 1816 and lost his life in the great Railroad disaster at Quincy, Mass., August 21, 1890.

The records of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts show that Edwin C. Bailey joined Winslow Lewis Lodge May 28, 1858.

Postmaster Bailey rose from the ranks. He entered the service under his Uncle, Nathaniel Green, the first Boston Postmaster to sell United States Government Postage Stamps sometime in August 1847. In 1848, Postmaster Green placed Bailey in charge of General Delivery. Under Postmasters Hayden and Gordon, he served as Chief Clerk, and as Postmaster 1853 to 1857.

Bailey was a member of the Boston Common Council in 1847 and during his term as Postmaster he became owner of the Boston Herald which he sold in 1869. He then was associated with the Boston Globe as editor from 1878 to 1879 and The Patriot at Concord, N.H. in the same capacity. He died in 1890 as noted above.

----Frank I. Morse

MASONIC P.M. BELFAST, MAINE

According to Williamson's "History of Belfast" (Maine), Hiram Chase was appointed Postmaster at Belfast, Maine, 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 prominent Mason, and was Grand Master (Maine) in 1854. The second Masonic Lodge in Belfast was named "Timothy Chase Lodge."

---H. W. R.

MEETINGS

Jan 25th Alex Watts will show from his collections.

Feb 1st Masonic Philately Night
Sidney Barrett and Dr. S. Duffield Swan

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

NEWS AROUND THE CLUB

Monday evening January 14th, a group of nine members journeyed Bronxville, N.Y. to attend the installation of Bro. Franklin R. Bruns, Jr. as Senior Deacon of Gramatan Lodge No. 927 F.&A.M.

Spending a very pleasant evening were: Bert Ehrenberg, Jake Glaser, Herman Glasser, Harry Konwiser, Charles Lott, A.E. Herman, Gordon Shoop, Edwin Finnegan, and Sam Brooks.

We want to take this opportunity to congratulate the new officers, and wish for them a very happy year in their stations. Several of the officers, including W: Charles O. Jacoby the new Master, are stamp collectors and prospects for our Club. To Frank Bruns, our best wishes for success in his very important job.

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The Treasurers bank account and the Club coffers are filling up.

The stampede is on to pay DUES!!! About 75% was in by January 10th. HMK will appreciate that dollar from the 25% who are late, so that he can close his books and relax for another year.

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Many sent a little note with the "buck", from which we glean;

George Hendrickson who lives up Bristol, Conn. way, resolves to stay out of New York City. Says we don't know how to live, in the "Big Town". Can you imagine, the guy actually raves over a "REAL" snowstorm. Good luck to you George. Drop in to the Club when you do get to town.

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W.R. McCoy, is on our roster as "William" McCoy, to which W.R. definitely objects. O K, W.R. We'll make the change.

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Walter E. Koons writes: "and now this year I find myself Master of Independent Royal Arch Lodge, No. 2, also Captain of the Host in Jerusalem Chapter, and Standard Bearer of Coeur de Lion Commandery. Just a bit too much at one and the same time." What a Man! Good luck to you, Worshipful Sir.

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Fred Wendell, although he can't visit with us, sends his dues with a note on the stationery of Naval Lodge No. 69, from which we learn that Fred is Chairman of the War Chest Committee. That's quite a job, and every Brother should contribute to the Grand Master's Victory Chest, for the rehabilitation of returning Service men.

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Julius Windner of Philadelphia, writes that he has been ill since mid-July, spending two months in the hospital after a serious operation. He is still house-bound and may have to return to the hospital again. We are indeed sorry to hear this, and we all join in wishing for Brother Windner a speedy recovery.

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We have heard that Joseph Ferola is in a Naval Hospital after a plane crash, while serving with the Marines. Will someone try to help obtain his address.

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we write these notes, we are re-reading the Programme of a Ladies Night and Philatelic Exhibition, given by The Philatelic Lodge No.552, A.F.&A.M.,Victoria,Australia,on Friday,November 16th 1945. This was sent to us by our good friend Wor.Bro.Haden Henshelwood,Secretary of the Lodge.

" THE SQUARE AND THE STAMP

What has Freemasonry to do with Philately? Much in many ways. Silent communication, secret information, and sustained service, are ideals of the Craft closely related to the mission of the Postage stamp. The Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences- viz., G.R.L.A. G.W. and A.; the hidden mysteries of Nature and Science; the diversity of objects that decorate and adorn Creation; the beneficent laws of the Almighty Creator; the four Cardinal Virtues; and the noble orders of Architecture are well illustrated by this universal symbol of communication. History, Geography, Biography- Life's Humanities- take on a new meaning when read within the glow of the Stamp and the Square.

Some find it difficult to relate the one to the other. Of course you must be initiated into both these branches of progressive science. The Masonic Stamp Club about to be formed with the approval of Grand Lodge, will endeavour to initiate the uninitiated into Philately; will seek to give interested Craftsmen fuller opportunities for Philatelic Fellowship; and at the same time will hope to bring to the Craft a new field of intriguing research. Membership will be open to all Freemasons. INTERESTED?"

The formation of a new Masonic Stamp Club is of considerable interest to all of us. Bro. Henshelwood has suggested that arrangements may be made for trading with their Members. If you like the idea, drop me a line and I will convey your interests to them.

-----S.B.--

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This week we received stamps from several Brothers which brings us nearer to completion on this project. Among others received were # 115 # 68 and Confederate # 212. We hoped to complete the frame this month but will have to wait for a few more stamps. By-the-way if you have proofs of some of the numbers needed, you may send them. Next month we hope to tell you of the completion of this project and will print a list of the contributors. Please look over your duplicates and help us make a good job of this frame.

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James R. Arnold, son of Bro. A.S. Arnold of Metuchen, N.J., is the recipient of a Certificate of Service and a silver lapel pin for his contribution toward the development of the Atomic bomb, as a research chemist. He is a graduate of Princeton University, and worked with that unit for 23 months in the Frick Chemical Laboratory at Princeton. His work was largely concentrated on "heavy water".

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Why Masonic Markings On Dead Letter Office Stationery?

The Dead Letter Office had its beginnings in the U.S. Postal System in 1782, statements to the contrary notwithstanding, according to the story of "The Dead Letter Office and its Markings - 1782 - 1944" which appeared in the S.P.A. Journal of May 1944 and later issues. This story was written by our Treasurer Harry M. Konwiser.

The Continental Congress in 1775 paved the way to that branch of the Postal Service by making provision for "an inspector of dead letters" who was expected to examine all letters that could not be delivered. The salary for this job was \$100 per year.

Readers who interested in this phase of early postal history are referred to the original article as noted above. From this story we learn that beginning about 1860 official envelopes of the dead Letter Office of the Post Office Department, were imprinted with various symbols. These were - a six-pointed star (a triangle superimposed on another in reverse), an equilateral triangle, a square, a circle, and a five-pointed star within a circle. Each symbol indicated the contents enclosed in the envelope, as follows:



indicated negotiable contents or valuable matter



enclosure was considered ordinary correspondence



indicated the letter was of minor importance



enclosure was ordinary mail



enclosure was ordinary mail

The student of Freemasonry will readily understand the symbolic meaning of each of these emblems. If he is also interested in the postal history of our country, the question will arise, "why were these five symbols selected for that purpose?" We know that these and other Masonic symbols were used as cancelling devices in various towns during the years from 1851 to 1897 or even later. But those cancellations were affixed by individual Postmasters who were given wide latitude in the design to be used for this purpose. However, in the case of the Dead Letter Office markings, the designs are printed on official envelopes and are used for identification purposes.

Here is a nice job for some of you inquisitive fellows. Dig into early records. We want to know who was the official in the Post Office Department who originated these designs, and the big question-- was he a member of the Craft? The answers to these questions will assist materially in our study of Masonic cancellations.

Chris Zoylner has promised us a story for early publication. P.S. We've had a lot of these promises and we expect some of them to materialize soon. Yes! we mean you.
