



The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOLUME III No. 1

APRIL-1946

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

EDITOR: Sam Brooks 985 Anderson Ave. New York, 52, N.Y.
ASSOCIATE: Forrest L. Ellis 2120 E. Tremont Ave. New York, 62, N.Y.
MANAGING EDITOR: Harry M. Konwiser, 181 Claremont Ave. N.Y. 27, N.Y.
Secretary of The Masonic Stamp Club:
Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, 61-23 Roosevelt Ave. Woodside, Long Island, N.Y.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

With this issue, The Masonic Philatelist begins its third year of publication. Frankly, when we first began to publish this paper, we were not very optimistic about our chances of keeping it going. However, two years and twenty issues have passed and like Johnny Walker, we're still going strong. During this period, we have brought to you many fine articles on various aspects of stamp collecting. We have also greatly activated the growing field of research and study of "Free Masonry in Philately."

However, there remains one "fly in the ointment" - the cost is rather high. After all, our circulation is confined to our members, stamp publications and several Libraries that have shown their interest. Several members when told of this have suggested that a "Publication Fund" be raised, and have indicated their willingness to subscribe to this Fund. We are open to suggestions and would like to hear from all of you. After all, it is your paper. And while we're on this subject, we do need your assistance in many other ways. Send us items for publication: club news, personal items, articles on various forms of collecting, and especially items that tie up stamps with Masonry. We should have a backlog of material, but actually we must scrape for material for each issue. Won't you help?

Thanks to all who have helped in any way. We ask your continued aid in making the Masonic Philatelist a better paper. ---The Editors

— o —

The frame of George Washington stamps is completed. Presentation to the Tappan Shrine Committee will be made as soon as plans for programme are completed. All those who participated may well be proud of their contribution to this work.

— o —

MEETINGS

MARCH 29th Past Presidents Night

APRIL 5th Annual Members' Exhibition

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

AN OLD TIMER

RENEWS HIS

PHILATELIC YOUTH

by

William C. Michaels

Bro. William C. Michaels was raised Nov. 8, 1892, in Horton (Kansas) Lodge No. 328. That was Election Day. He was then working for the Santa Fe Railroad in Kansas City. "I killed" writes our friend "two birds with one stone that day, voting for Ben Harrison (who lost to Grover Cleveland) and acquiring my Master's Degree." It is also a fact, he says, that he caught a cold, lying on the floor! Bro. Michaels sold his Philatelic Library last year, and sold most of his stamps about the same time. He writes "I still have four albums of covers," and is having fun filling up spaces in his boyhood International Album. ----H.M.K.

Bro. Michaels is a prominent Kansas City Attorney, chief of the Michaels, Blackmar, Newkirk, Eager & Swanson offices, Kansas City, Mo. ----S.B.

A number of years ago I found myself in New York attending a meeting of the Association of Life Insurance General Counsel. It so happened that during that week the Collectors Club held a banquet and, since I was a member of the Club, I attended. Seated with me at a round-table were several dealers and "just collectors." Some-one started a discussion as to how long an average collector remained a collector or "what was the philatelic life of the average collector?"

Of course, there was not then and there is not now any statistics on the point; the discussion was chiefly among the dealers. One dealer for twenty-five years or more stated that, from his experience, he should say that the average philatelic life was from five to eight years. Another said he thought the average might be ten years but certainly not over fifteen years; another said that, from his experience, the average would be five years. Others expressed their views. Four years was the lowest estimate and ten to fifteen years was the highest. An average of those estimates would be, I should say, about seven years. All of the dealers related cases or collectors losing interest in two years or three years after starting to collect; and they related instances of handling the same collection or groups of identical stamps two or three times within ten years.

I chipped in my mickel's worth by stating that the bug stung me in 1881 when I was ten years old and that I had had a continuous fever ever since then, and I told them that, while nearly every boy in my classes at school collected stamps, I was the only one who persisted after the adolescent period; and I remarked about the large turnover in membership of the Kansas City, Mo. stamp club. And someone pointed out the static condition of the A.P.S. membership roll and the constant list of resignations and "drops" which just about equalled each year the number of new members, and he thought that if someone should study these lists and the statistical information provided over a period of, say, twenty years, he could come pretty close to answering the question then under debate.

Whatever the philatelic life of the average collector might be, I know that mine has tended to pull up the average since I have been in the game now for about sixty-five years. But I have not been constant as to the classes of stamps collected. At first, of course, I collected and pasted down flat in my first "album" (a discarded ledger) anything and everything that looked like a stamp; foreign revenues, envelopes (cut round), locals and what have you.

I had learned about hinges the next year and I then soaked off and remounted my collection in a blank copybook. Nearly four years after I started I gathered together enough money to buy a Scott's International Album, Seventh Edition (1884-85). I still have that album.

It is before me as I write. It contains seventy-eight pages and provides spaces for every postage stamp then known: it also contains spaces for envelope

stamps and "newspaper bands." There are no spaces for postal cards or revenue stamps. But it did contain spaces for locals including 116 varieties of the Hamburgs. In 1888 my interest in foreigners was waning and in that year I bought a Scott's National Album for U.S. only. I transferred from the International to the new album all of my U.S. and thereafter, only occasionally and rarely, did I add any foreign stamps to the foreign collection in the International.

In 1895, while I was attending the Law School at the University of Michigan, I had a local binder make me up a blank album and into that book I transferred all of my U.S., except the Revenues, from the National Album. Later on through the years until about five years ago all of my U.S. were transferred into twenty-five Oriel type albums. During this period the collection of foreigners in the old International Album was practically abandoned, and to a local collector in 1920 I traded some British Colonies for some U.S. Revenues I needed.

In 1923 I lost interest in U.S. 20th Century, also in Revenues, stamped envelopes, tax paid and Departments (I had the Departments complete). Except for the great rarities I was complete in the 19th Century U.S. And by 1940 my interest in all U.S. (except early covers) lagged, and I began selling my U.S. holdings, chiefly by the auction route. And now about everything I had in U.S. (except some early covers) has been marketed and nearly all of my pre-stamp covers have gone the way of the adhesives.

As stated, my interest in foreigners was dormant from about 1890 until two or three years ago when I returned to what might well be called "my first love," the foreigners. Now I am, with more or less youthful zeal, filling up the spaces (and there were a great many of them) in that old 1884-85 International Album. There are, of course, no spaces for any stamp issued after 1884, and so I have no interest in any stamp for which there is no space provided in the old book. During the past four years I had a lot of fun disposing of my U.S. and I am now having a right good time filling the spaces in that old International.

As kids back there in the eighties, we never paid any attention to condition; a stamp was a stamp even if a corner was gone or it had tears and holes or was badly centered. All was grist that came to the mill. And counterfeits! Yes, indeed, that old book contains many of them, bought direct from the famous S. Allen Taylor. I am leaving all of those boyhood items in the book, and when I get a genuine copy or a copy of a stamp in better condition than the one now there, I just hinge the new acquisition over the old one. Those old boyhood things link me to my youth and I cannot bear to tear them up or to discard them.

And I am no condition crank now. Anything not too bad I will take if it fills a space. No, I am not buying for investment. It is quite a matter of indifference whether the stamps I have and am now getting ever sell for as much as they cost me. That's not the point. I am merely having a lot of fun gratifying an old boyhood ambition. I will not reach; I am in no hurry about anything, and I have done reasonably well with my bids at auctions. And occasionally I buy a stamp or stamps I need from dealers.

That old International Album was not made for specialists. For example, a perforated stamp was not considered a variety differing from the imperf of the same design. Shades are disregarded, and so on. Let me point out how things have changed since the Eighties. The present catalogue lists 91 main varieties of Ceylon down to 1884 and it also lists 7 sub-varieties; but there are only spaces for 30 varieties in my International. 109 varieties and sub-varieties are listed under Canada down to 1884, whereas there are only spaces for 31 varieties in my album. 141 varieties and sub-varieties are listed under Egypt, but my old album has spaces for only 30 stamps; and so it goes through the catalogue. Altho I can point out that, for example there are six spaces for Mack-Strehlitz and the present catalogue lists only six main and one sub-variety; and there are a few other countries with only a very few spaces up to 1884.

— 0 —

OUR PAST PRESIDENTS

Arthur W. Deas, first President of the Masonic Stamp Club, was Raised in Richmond Lodge #66, Port Richmond, Staten Island, October 1892. He is a Past Master of the Lodge and is an Exempt Member of the Syracuse, N.Y. Consistory. Other activities included terms as President and Secretary of the Collectors Club of New York, President of the New York Numismatic Society and President of the Bronx Coin Club.

Ralph W. Barry (deceased) our second President, was a Past Master of Polar Star Lodge, New York. He was active in many Philatelic groups and was noted as Editor of the Stamp Page of the New York Herald-Tribune.

Henry W. Halcombe, third President of the Club, was Raised March 1928 in Corinthian Lodge #448, New York. He was Master of the Lodge in 1937 and District Deputy Grand Master of the Fourth District of Manhattan in 1942. At the present time, he is High Priest and Prophet in Mecca Temple, New York. He also holds membership in Phoenix Chapter #2, Columbian Council #1, and Columbian Commandery #1.

Carl E. Pelander, was fourth President of our Club. He was Raised in Braidablick Lodge #880, New York, October 1920. He is a Charter Member of Northeast Lodge #995, Buffalo, N.Y. and was Master in 1925. He is a member of Aurora Grata, Scottish Rite, and Kismet Temple, Brooklyn, N.Y. His Philatelic activities include, Honorary Member of the Scandinavian Collectors Club of New York, Member of the Collectors Club of New York, Honorary Member of the Finnish Philatelic Society of Helsinki, Finland, Treasurer of the American Stamp Dealers Association, and Member of the Executive Committee, of the Association for Stamp Exhibitions.

Dr. George Camitzer, our Junior Past President, was Raised May 1931, in Humboldt Lodge #512, New York. He is a member of Aurora Grata, and Kismet Temple, Brooklyn, N.Y. He is Chairman of the Admissions Committee of the Collectors Club of New York, and a Director of the Association for Stamp Exhibitions.

— 0 —

"Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone you may still exist, but you have ceased to live." - Mark Twain

Hang on to your illusions, they may lead you to become a collector. It does not matter what you will collect, it may be coins, stamps, fine china, cut glass, antique furniture or dolls. I do not mean live ones, unless they are your own.

If you choose stamps and you become interested, you will be rewarded handsomely. You may say "but it costs too much to collect stamps." I say you are wrong. You can get most of your stamps for a few cents each. If you have friends in the Export or Import business or know some one in the offices of large banks or large corporations, you can get current stamps just for the asking. I know, I got most of mine that way.

My friend Arthur, who is nearing 80 years young, has collected stamps for a long time. A few years ago he sold a very fine U.S. collection for a princely sum. His collections in recent years includes stamps, cancellations and any kind of postal junk that he can get for nothing. I do not think his collection costs him more than \$25 in cash, yet he held the interest of a packed meeting at the Club for a whole evening. He would not know what to do with himself all day long if he did not have a hobby. He has several, the "lucky guy." He still has illusions. So do not part with yours. — Jacob S. Glass

Alvin R. Meissner, member of the Craft

Designer at the Bureau of Engraving & Printing, Washington, D.C., August 1, 1925 to April 30, 1945. Chief Designer from July 1, 1933. First exclusive design; five cents bi-color air mail stamp of July 25, 1928, last postage stamp designed, Vermont, issued March 4, 1941.

Stamps designed exclusively by Meissner-

5¢ bicolor air mail,	Arkansas
Edison,	Oregon
Braddocks Field,	Navy, 1,2,3,4,5¢,
Von Steuben,	Northwest Terr,
Pulaski,	Constitution,
Bi-cent, 1,4,5,7,10¢,	Hawaii,
Winter Olympic,	Delaware,
Arbor Day,	Iowa,
Newburg,	Inauguration,
Maryland,	Trans-Atlantic air mail, 30¢,
California-Pacific,	Statehood,
Michigan,	Wyoming,
Trans-Pacific air mail, 20, 25, 50¢,	Vermont,
Texas, 1936,	
Rhode Island,	

It seemingly being the policy of the Bureau to recognize the Chief Designer, the part played by Meissner as Co-Designer is not entirely clear as to how much of his designs was used in the make up of the stamp.

Following is a list of stamps co-designed with C.A. Huston-10¢ Lindbergh; 5¢ winged globe; 65¢, \$1.30, \$2.60 and 50¢ Graf Zeppelins; 2¢ Vermont, Aeronautic, Massachusetts, Charleston, and Red Cross.

Even though Meissner was credited for his own designs, 1928-1931, in 1932 this policy was changed so that any designer was solely given credit for his accepted design.

Meissner also made many designs that were not accepted-3¢ Penn, Webster, Oglethorpe, Century of Progress, Byrd and Mother's Day. 1¢ Century of Progress and 7 and 10¢ Parks. Where he was credited as designer he also made extra designs.

In 1928 he designed, for private use, a post card depicting the Graf Zeppelin over Washington, D.C., October 15, 1928. The Bureau Issues Association's seal was designed by him in 1935. According to Sol Glass, he designed the reduced sized notes, now in use, and all of the present Series E and F War Bonds, also many governmental securities, commissions, citations and diplomas.

----Forrest L. Ellis

Masonic Stamp Club of New York

OFFICERS 1945-1946

President	Sam Brooks
1st Vice-Pres.	Charles H. Johnson
2nd Vice-Pres.	Ferraro H. Tows
Secretary	Dr. Irwin M. Yarry
Treasurer	Harry M. Konwiser

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Program	Charles W. Brooks
Membership	Carl E. Pelander
Publicity	Dr. George Tammitzer

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1948	Charles H. Johnson
	Dr. Irwin M. Yarry
	Sam Brooks
1947	Harry M. Konwiser
	Henry W. Holcombe
	Ferraro H. Tows
1946	Charles W. Brooks
	Jacob S. Glaser
	Carl E. Pelander

LASSEN'S RANCH
By C. Corwith Wagner
St. Louis, Mo.

Peter Lassen, a native of Denmark and by profession a blacksmith, came to America about 1822 when he was 29 years of age. In 1839 he journeyed overland to Oregon and went from there in 1840, down the coast by boat to Fort Ross, which had been established by Russia in 1811, north of San Francisco Bay. This establishment was sold to General Sutter in 1841.

After landing at Fort Ross he went to Pueblo de San Jose where he spent the winter of 1839-40. Ranching at Santa Cruz in 1841 and we find him at Sutter's Fort in 1842-43. In 1843 through the influence of General Sutter, Rancho Bosquejo, comprising about 26,000 acres of excellent farming land, located in what is now called Tehama County, California, was granted to him by the Mexican Government. In December (1843) he started for Rancho Bosquejo but he did not reach his destination until the following February as high water forced him to camp at the Sutter Buttes. Upon his arrival he promptly established a trading post near the mouth of Deer Creek, on the east side of the Sacramento River on what was to become known as Lassen's Ranch, and thereby became one of the first white settlers in the upper Sacramento Valley.

In 1847 Lassen laid out a town on his ranch, calling it Benton City, in honor of Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri. That same year Lassen returned to Missouri to induce settlers to come to his ranch in California, and to obtain a charter for a Masonic Lodge which he wished to establish in the new town. This charter granted on May 10, 1848, is the earliest granted for a Masonic Lodge in California. In the summer of 1848 Lassen returned to his ranch with a party of settlers the first to come into California over the famous Lassen, Trail, and the first to come with the intention of settling in the upper Sacramento Valley. The party's destination was Benton City, but the discovery of gold in the spring of 1848, disrupted the entire plan and caused the dissolution of the proposed settlement.

In 1852 Lassen conveyed his remaining lands to Henry Gerke, a German, who settled there in 1869. In 1881 Senator Leland Stanford purchased from Gerke 9000 acres of the original Lassen grant. Subsequently Stanford purchased additional lands, all of which were included in the famous Vina Ranch of 55,000 acres which the Senator conveyed to Stanford University by the Founding Grant, November 11, 1885.

About five miles south of Susanville and three miles west of Janesville, at the upper end of Elysian Valley, a monument was erected by the Masons on June 24th, 1862, over the grave of Peter Lassen. An inscription on the tablet reads:

"In memory of Peter Lassen, the Pioneer,
who was killed by Indians, April 26, 1859.
Age 66 years."

All of which brings us to a rare little cover dated Sept. 30th, 1851, addressed to Hamilton, California, located about 45 miles south-west of Lassen on the Feather River, bearing the manuscript post-mark Lassens Cal. Oct 1st." This letter was found by your correspondent among the correspondence of Elisha Seymour, of Kaskaskia, Illinois, who went to California in 1849 and returned to Kaskaskia probably in 1853.

Probably a unique early California post-mark, from what is now a "ghost town" yet the location of one of our country's greatest Universities and the cradle of Masonry in California.

— o —



WE CANNOT QUIT NOW. GIVE TO YOUR RED CROSS

*Lafayette
Oct 1st 5*

5
*Mr. E. Seymour
Hawthorn
Butte County
California*

— o —
PAST PRESIDENT HOLCOMBE WRITES

"I greatly enjoy the monthly appearance of The Masonic Philatelist and the editorial board deserve a credit indeed for their fine work. After reading it I feel that I am in closer touch with the members and at the same time have learned something of worth. My hearty congratulations to the editors who are doing such a fine job on behalf of the Club.

Have noticed the project of a frame of Washington stamps. Regret my collecting does not make it possible to contribute regular postage issues. However, among the March & Medicines there were three or four on which the Washington profile was used - identical as I recall. Among my duplicates I find the enclosed - which may be used in the project, if it fits. (Thank you! Ed.)

Have made a note on my calendar to be on deck on March 29th and barring the unforeseen I will be. Unfortunately my attendance has been poor indeed. The fact is the Club meetings most always coincide with my Lodge nites and on off-Fridays am often booked for other Masonic affairs. It seems to be a popular nite.

— Henry W. Holcombe

— o —
Bro. ANSEL BRIGGS, FIRST GOVERNOR OF IDWA (1846-1850)

Brother Briggs was born in Vermont, Feb. 3, 1806. In 1830 he and his parents moved to Cambridge, Ohio, where he entered the Stage Coach business. He pioneered to Iowa in 1836, establishing Stage Coach routes between Dubuque and Davenport, and Dubuque and Iowa City. Later extensions included other cities, forming an extensive system of considerable importance in those days.

Entering politics, he was elected Governor in 1846, becoming the first Governor under Statehood. As Governor, he was an early advocate of the Public School System, as well as other enlightened reforms.

Where Brother Briggs was Raised is not known, but proceedings of the Nebraska Grand Lodge for 1860, indicate that he was one of the Founders of Nebraska Lodge #, F. & A. M. at Bellevue, Nebraska.

He died May 5th, 1881.

(The information in the foregoing article, is based on an article published in October, 1933 by the Grand Lodge of Iowa, and was sent to us by Brother Volney M. Platt, of San Antonio, Texas, a member of Ottumwa Lodge No. 16, Ottumwa, Iowa.)

WILLIAM MULREADY, R.A.

By Dr. George Camitzer

When I was asked to write about some items of my collection, which would be of interest to all, I decided to give a brief outline of the life of the man and artist who has been held solely responsible for the failure of his letter sheets and envelopes, namely William Mulready, R.A.

Thinking of Mulready today links his name immediately with this tragic postal stationary, forgetting his more important work and the tremendous influence he had on the development of the art during his lifetime.

Let it be remembered that it was quite possible for the stern Rowland Hill to have dictated his wishes and ideas about the design when the work was contemplated, further let us bear in mind that the design was approved not only by Rowland Hill, Richard Cole, and Francis Baring, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but also by a committee of the Royal Academy and the Queen herself!

Born on April 1, 1786 at Ennis in County Clare to poor parents, the family moved in 1792 to London where his Father worked as a leather breeches maker. Although he had shown some artistic ability at an early age and his parents tried to encourage his trend, they were in no position financially to pay for his artistic schooling. His fine pencil drawings attracted the attention of a sculptor named Thomas Banks, under whose guidance he studied and labored, until in 1800 he was offered a studentship at the Royal Academy School and received an award from the Society of Arts in 1802.

It was about this time that he decided to abandon his studies to better enable him to help his parents financially. He took up book illustrating, painting sceneries, and teaching drawing. The latter he continued through his entire life and had a great influence in the development of many young artists of his time.

Mulready did not resemble by any means the common conception of an artist; he was a robust youth, full of fun and humor, with a special love for boxing, which brought him to a close friendship with the famous water color artist, John Varley. Although he received much inspiration from his friend Varley, it also injected sadness into his life. His marriage to John Varley's sister at the age of 18 lasted only 6 years, during which time they had 4 children.

He devoted more time to landscape painting, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1804 and the following year illustrated a book for children, "The Looking Glass; based on the first 15 years of his life.

He was a very slow worker, giving attention to every fine detail. This conscientious way of laboring naturally resulted in fewer paintings, but in the satisfaction that every finished work was as perfect as he was able to produce. It is little surprise then that he had great difficulty in supporting his family.

In 1811 he moved his family to Kensington, and met Sir John and Lady Swinburne, who showed great interest in his work and bought several of his paintings, among them "Punch" which he had exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1813. Financially he seemed to have had great assistance from these friends.

In 1815 he was elected Associate of the Royal Academy and became an R.A., a position he held faithfully with great interest until his death.

In 1827 he moved from Kensington to Bayswater, and it was here on December 13, 1839, that Richard Cole called on him to discuss drawings for the new envelopes. Two days later, Cole called again and reported: "I found that he had produced a highly poetical design which was afterwards adopted."

By this time, Mulready's fame was already well established, and it is almost certain that he accepted the commission only for his interest in the work. While it is not known how much he received as a fee, it is stated by some that was paid 200 pounds.

In his later years he lived a lonely life, devoting his entire time to his students and his paintings, retired from all social activities. He was teaching at the Royal Academy School the evening before he died, on July 7, 1863. One of his paintings is at present for sale at the Art Sale at Gimbels, where we can see how precise he was with the smallest details in every little flower, etc., striving for perfection. The oil painting is about 8 x 10 inches, and is offered for the small sum of \$698.00.

Today William Mulready is forgotten by many and misunderstood by most philatelists.

AL BURNS, TOMMY GIBBONS TRAINER

Al Burns, now editing the Western Stamp Collector, a member of The Masonic Stamp Club, some years ago, worked in Tommy Gibbons camp for two summers. Tommy Gibbons showed his pugilistic mettle for a number of years, as boxing fans know.

Following an inquiry, Al wrote:

"Yes, I worked in the Gibbons Camp for two summers, and worked out with Tommy and Mike Gibbons, and other pugs at Gibbons gymnasium in St. Paul, while I lived in Twin Cities (1922-25). Then I quit, because my leg work wasn't so good any more, but I still like to give amateurs some pointers when I can. We have some good timber around here and I might brighten my old age by trying to help some of them get into the professional class. Bud Taylor, former bantam-weight champ, got his first training with me and others in my old man's woodshed in Terre Haute. Bud quit after killing a couple of fellows in the ring at New York City and is now running a tavern in California. Expect to get down to see him, now that I'm within about 700 miles of his night spot."

Al, per his friends, never claimed to be a first-rater, but was regarded as a good work-horse. He was said to have a jaw "that could take it". With that and proper ability to protect his mid-riff, Al Burns could slug it out for six to ten rounds, as long as his legs held out.

Along at about the age of 32, Al quit before he could acquire cauliflower ears, scars and a broken nose. This is the accepted penalty for boxing too long.

---H.M.K.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB

is open to every Mason in good standing in his Lodge, who is interested in any phase of stamp collecting. The cost is low, dues are one dollar per year and the entrance fee is one dollar. If you have a friend who is interested, have him complete the application form and send it with two dollars to Carl E. Pelander, Chairman of the Membership Committee.

Masonic Stamp Club of New York
22 East 35th St. New York, 16, N.Y.

Name _____ (Print)

Address _____

Name of Lodge _____ No. _____

Proposed by _____

Date _____ Applicant's Signature _____

**YOU ARE THE
RED CROSS!**



REPORT OF MARCH 1st MEETING :

MEMBERS' COMPETITION - UNITED STATES AND POSSESSIONS

Brother Charles Brooks as Chairman introduced the Judges, Brothers Harry M. Konwiser, George Lott, and Gordon Johnson.

The report of the Judges was as follows:

The First Prize, the Masonic Stamp Club Certificate of Award went to Bro. Roger A. Seebe for the splendid collection of United States Stamped Envelopes. The Second Prize Certificate of Merit was presented to Bro. Herman Herst, Jr., for his original source material and covers, tracing the Postal History of the State of Oregon. He also showed some "Anti-Masonic" covers of philatelic interest.

The Third Prize Certificate of Award was given to Bro. Bert Ehrenberg for his fine assembling of Philippine Islands material, covering recent issues and including Japanese Occupation covers.

Now for some of the high-lights of this Exhibit of well-presented philatelic collections all thoroughly representative of an unusual amount of research on the part of our members who showed their highly-specialized material in their individual fields of stamp collecting.

"Harold Jay -- will you please cover this Competition for the Masonic Philatelist," -- this from our President, Bro. Sam Brooks. Well, sirs, he left us literally in the dark -- the only light in the meeting-room being focused on the Exhibition Platform. Such being the case, we had to put down our notes in nearly sheer darkness. However, the brilliancy cast by the respective collections shown was somewhat compensating. And, the fact that we sat between those two stellar Masonic lights, Bros. Ferras Tows and Bro. Fred Wendel, helped some. (F.T. gently whispered, not to take our assignment too seriously; besides, reminding us to put a bit of "persiflage" into our reportings). He must have read our last write-up.

It would be appropriate to call our March 1st meeting: "Know Your Country's Stamps Night." The exhibitors certainly dug up data and information we never had known before about our United States stamps. And, to think that we have been messing around with postage stamps since 1892 (the year we got our first impression of this cock-eyed world, when a somatologically-inclined Medico of the Mauve Decade perforated our umbilical cord, and then proceeded to give us a "first-day cover" of olive oil).

Let us get on with our story. In the words of that illustrious American (Scott No. 367), "the stampic world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but who can forget" the engendered enthusiasm that greeted Bro. Seebe as he turned page after page of his unmatched collection of United States Stamped Envelopes, used and unused, cut-squares and entire, the common ones and the rarities, in multi-colored designs and dies. He told us that stamped envelopes were first authorized by an Act of Congress on August 31, 1852, and were placed on sale July 1, 1853. He had us mesmerized and "Nesbittized" by specimens of Ladies' Note Sizes and Sheets. The "Reay" issues had us raving for more -- until he revealed his "Plimpton" issues that left us non-plussed. Then, he showed us those printed by the American Bank Note Co. He told us that every four years Uncle Sam changes his envelope designs, colors and stamp embossings. Bro. Seebe received a round of applause for his excellent array, and deservedly carried away First Prize. We are now thoroughly "Thorpized" on U.S. Stamped Envelopes.

Then our attention was arrested by Bro. Fred Kohn who, with the able assistance of two cronies, "derrickized" into position the world's largest, (elephant size) album. He was Exhibitor No. 2. Now what do you think he had stored in that gargantuan-like book? You're right, a set of the famous Farley's Follies sheets of 400, resting peacefully, and so pristine-looking, since the day they left the printer's press in Washington. Just freakish, fantastic, philatelic

etelic favorites of an "official" who gave the collectors of America some fun and a run for their money. Don't fool yourself, say we, for Bro. Kohn has some fine stampic property in that collection. Thanks just the same for the little Farley caused you in getting that album. No sacrifice is too great for Lady Philatelia!

This was the first occasion we had to see "The Profile" in action -- none other than Oregon's favorite philatelic son. Here is a guy who is as regular as a Seth Thomas clock. In a way, we envy him. For H.H., Jr. has made his avocation his vocation. What better set-up can one wish for! He fools around with stamps, and at the end of the year declares himself some handsome dividends out of 116 Nassau. Double H. Junior carried away Second Prize for his unusual collection of Oregonic-Americana. Since he claims Oregon as his birthplace, Bro. H. Has given first place in his philatelic interests to the Postal History of the State where those big, delicious apples come from. His collection of Oregon-originated covers, stamped and stampless, depict the founding of the City of Portland, historically and pictorially. Most of the specimens exhibited were written and mailed by the pioneers and founders of Oregon way back in the Roaring Forties and Fifties. A beaut shown was an early "Benjamin Stark" cover, founder of the City of Portland. His comments sounded like a dime thriller, for he reeled off such history-making places like Salem, Boise, Idanha, Umatilla, The Dalles, Shemult, Eugene, Roseburg, Medford, Bend, Pendleton, Huntington, and Klamath Falls. Oh, for the privilege of hitting the wagon-trails with those frisky frontiersmen. Thank you Brother Herst! Old Scout!

We had the privilege of seeing the Third Prize winner's collection of Postal Issues of the Philippines, assembled so scientifically and sensibly by Bro. Bert Khrberg. He, too, has an eye for the unusual in philatelics. On the whole, he sticks to the landmarks in stampic array. Bert picks his stamps for fine color, perfectly-centered copies, placed in well-designed pages. He also has a fine sense of completeness. What we saw was only a fragment of his universally-minded collecting proclivities, arranged all in order and in good taste. Recent emissions, on account of World-War II doings, in the insular areas of the Far East and Oceania, filled his album sheets with some choice and rare items, such as First Day covers, Victory Issues, Emergency issues, Air-Mails, and covers with Japanese Occupation overprints. Well done, Brother Bert!

A fine Exhibition of U.S. Commemoratives was shown by Bro. Sam Brooks on behalf of his brilliant son. This lad very cleverly worked each stamp into pictorial backgrounds of unusual artistry, all illustrative of a very fertile and imaginative mind. We predict big things to come from the heart and hand of Brooks, Jr. We all felt encouraged to know that the younger generation of stamp lovers and collectors have the imagination and interest to carry on where the old-timers are leaving off.

Once again, our hats off to Bro. Charles Brooks for his challenging exhibition of U. S. Government Printings. His authoritative remarks on each issue indicated that our Club is mighty proud of Bro. Brooks' ability to search out facts and data that are really startling and so historically accurate. It seems as if he were in on every move the artist, the engraver and printer made in the processes and printings of each issue since the Bureau was founded and organized. Thank you again Bro. Charlie Brooks!

— O ———Harold Jay Snyder

On Friday, January 25th, many friends and colleagues of Brother Marcus W. White, tendered him a Testimonial Dinner on completion of 39 years of service as Purchasing Agent for Norton Company, Worcester, Mass. The dinner was held at the Sheraton Hotel, Worcester, and was attended by officials of many large firms. Brother White is noted for his fine collection of the Postal Stationery of the United States. We all join in wishing for Marcus many more years of useful service to his company and the community.



During the early part of the year, 1942, there appeared in the philatelic press the information that a series of four stamp had been issued in Serbia, featuring Anti-Masonic designs. Because of the war ban on enemy postage stamps, little was known regarding them until the war was over and these stamps were imported to this country. The whole story regarding this issue and its back-ground is still unavailable, it seems and the writer can only interpret the designs as they are shown on the stamps.

Anti-Masonry, Anti-Semetic and Anti-Communism is the basis of these designs and the stamps were issued as semi-postal, the surtax being used for Anti-Masonic propaganda. Just why this country out of all the countries then under the influence of the Facist nations, should single out the Masonic fraternity and connect it with Communism is unexplained as Communism is never at any time tolerant to Masonry.

Common with each stamp is a symbolic character consisting of a greek cross with Cyrillic letter S in each corner of the four divisions of the cross. According to Scott's "Axis Issues of Europe" this is from the Serbian coat of arms and is the initial letter of the words "Samo Sloza Srbina Spasala" (Only unity can save the Serb"), also a date "22 - X - 41".

The stamps are as follows, Scott's numbers-

2NBL5 SP5 50P plus 50P, yellow brown;

Here we find a black robed and hooded person cowering from light rays coming from the Serbian character aforementioned. This person wears a Masonic apron, bears a sword and has a symbol, a six pointed star, variously called, "Shield of David; King Solomon's Seal and superimposed triangles". Why the black robe and hood? This is not Masonry.

2NBL6 SP6 1D plus 1D, dark green;

The design depicts a strong hand and forearm gripping a snake by the throat and thereby also pinning down a square and compass. The snake has a pattern of its body a number of six pointed stars.

2NBL7 SP7 2D plus 2D, rose carmine;

Anti-Communism seems to be the theme of this stamp, an enlarged Serbian coat of arms, with a sheaf of wheat, denoting plenty, bursting through a red star of Communism with hammer and sickle. No Masonic symbols depicted.

2NBL8 SP8 4D plus 4D, indigo;

A person, presumably a Serb, with rays of light in background, pushing and tumbling two masonic columns, one marked "B" and the other "J", and stepping with his right foot on a six pointed star. Also as on three of the stamps, the world is represented by a top of a globe, showing the Fascist intention of world wide animosity to Masonry.

Although Scotts gives the perforations of the stamps for this issue as 11 1/2, all the writer has seen are 11 3/4.

----Forrest L. Ellis.