

# The Masonic Philatelist

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Dear Brother Philatelist:

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The Masonic Stamp Club meets at the Collectors Club building at 22 East 35th Street. You are welcome to visit our meetings on the first and last Fridays at 8 P. M. The Collectors Club building is holding "Open House" during the Exhibition.

The Show offers interesting events each day for your entertainment as well as for the ladies.

We, of the Masonic Stamp Club, want to be of every assistance to you. Visit our Lounge and permit us to assist you in any way possible.

Fraternally yours,

Jacob S. Glaser, Pres.

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MEET YOUR FRIENDS AT THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB LOUNGE AT THE  
BIG SHOW

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## • Meetings •

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BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND THE POST OFFICE by Harry M. Konwiser

Benjamin Franklin did not invent the American Post Office. As the representative of the English Crown, as its Deputy Postmaster General for the American Colonies, he operated a postal system in an orderly business-like manner. Many of the improvements observed in the 19th century postal services lead directly towards Benjamin Franklin.

Elliott Benger, who had been deputy postmaster for the American Colonies, died in 1753, and Benjamin Franklin--then postmaster at Philadelphia as well as "Surveyor for the Posts" was appointed Deputy Postmaster for the Crown. The headquarters at the same time appointed William Hunter, and so Hunter and Franklin shared the honors, as joint Postmasters-General for the Colonies. Each was allowed 300 pounds per annum to come from the profits of the Colonial postal system. When Hunter died in 1761, Thomas Foxcroft was appointed in his place, and he served until the outbreak of the Revolution.

Franklin and Hunter had their work cut out to earn their salaries. The Crown had not made a penny from the American Colonial post office operations, and many quickly predicted none would develop; but Franklin, running true to form, established business-like practices and employed energetic activities, putting the office in better financial condition; in modern terms, "putting it out of the red."

Franklin instituted the delivery of letters, in Philadelphia, by a penny post service, and began advertising letters remaining uncalled for in the Philadelphia office. Franklin developed the postal route from Maine to Georgia with express routes at many necessary points. As Supervisor, (officially "Surveyor") he visited every Post Office in the Colonies, working for the success of the service--early seeing its far-reaching effects toward the progress of the people.

Philadelphia, in the early Franklin period, had become the center of the English Colonies, and with its 1755 population of five thousand inhabitants, with William Penn in control, had the regard of almost every American of the day. There were many houses of brick, but the roads--the streets of today--were ungraded, only the post roads having markers to keep travelers from getting lost.

Mail out of Philadelphia, as also into the same place, was not entirely pleasing to the citizens of the period, as might be evinced from a notice in a New York newspaper:

(continued next page)

"Whereas, the late Severity of the Weather has occasioned an Irregularity of the Stage between this place and Philadelphia; Publick Notice is hereby given, That an especial Messenger with the Mail for Philadelphia will be dispatched from the Office at Ten of the Clock this ferenoon, in order to bring the Stage right again. Alexander Colden, Post Master."

Had Franklin complained to the New York Postmaster? The Boston-New York-Philadelphia- mail began to "go faster" in the Franklin period due to route changes. Franklin was the pioneer in the day and night postal service, the riders up to his time having been put up at convenient hostleries for the nights. By 1764 day and night service was in regular order on the Boston-New York route as well as on the New York-Philadelphia route.

Franklin was interested in ship mail, that is in letters to and from England. (This interest is discussed elsewhere in this publication).

Franklin was in England from 1757 to 1762 as lobbyist for the American Colonies, and upon his return to the Colonies in 1763 made a tour of inspection before returning to England where he remained for the next eleven years--with side trips to Paris and other places, as recorded by historians. While at London, Franklin tried to have the Stamp Act repealed. This is the Act that, in due time, brought about the American Revolution and the loss to the British Crown of the American Colonies.

In 1761, the Franklin-Hunter management, having profited, sent the London office 499 pounds as net profit for the year. (Quite a number of Post Office chieftains have been trying to duplicate the 1761 results!) The 1769 profits were 1,859 pounds, while in 1774 it was three thousand pounds.

The Sons of Liberty--as every schoolboy knows or should--made a number of pronunciamientos relating to imports of teas. One not so well known related to letters from Europe. The Bostonites insisted that ship captains must deliver their letters to coffee-houses instead of to the post office as the Crown Post Office required.

Franklin's Post Office was located at Market and Henry Sts., and Thomas Pratt was official carrier "for all stations between Philadelphia and Newport in Virginia." The office advertised its services, attesting to the faithfulness and reliability of Pratt.

(continued next page)

Franklin was dismissed from the Crown's services by letter addressed to him by the Secretary of the Post Office. It read as follows:

General Post Office  
Jan. 3, 1774.

To Dr. Franklin,

Sir: I have received the command of his Majesty's Postmaster General to signify to you that they find it necessary to dismiss you from being any longer their deputy for America. You will therefore cause your accounts to be made up as soon as you can conveniently.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

Anthony Todd,  
Secretary.

Franklin's dismissal did not please all the Americans of the day, least of all those who hoped the Colonies would not be guided by the "hotheads" of the day who urged complete separation from the Crown.

The American Colonial Post ended, in manner of speaking, with Franklin's dismissal. Following many activities, independent of actual government, the Continental Congress, by resolution created the Post Office, May 29, 1775, through a committee consisting of Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Lynch, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Willing, Samuel Adams, and Phillip Livingston. On July 26, 1775, Franklin was made Postmaster General for the United Colonies with a salary of one thousand dollars per year.

The Pennsylvania Historical Society has, in its collection, a broadside described as "Directions For Keeping Post Office Accounts. Directions to the Deputy Postmasters For Keeping Their Accounts\*\*\*(signed) B. Franklin." The Library of Congress has a Philadelphia-printed broadside of 1775, relative to the current rates, signed "B. Franklin Post Master General."

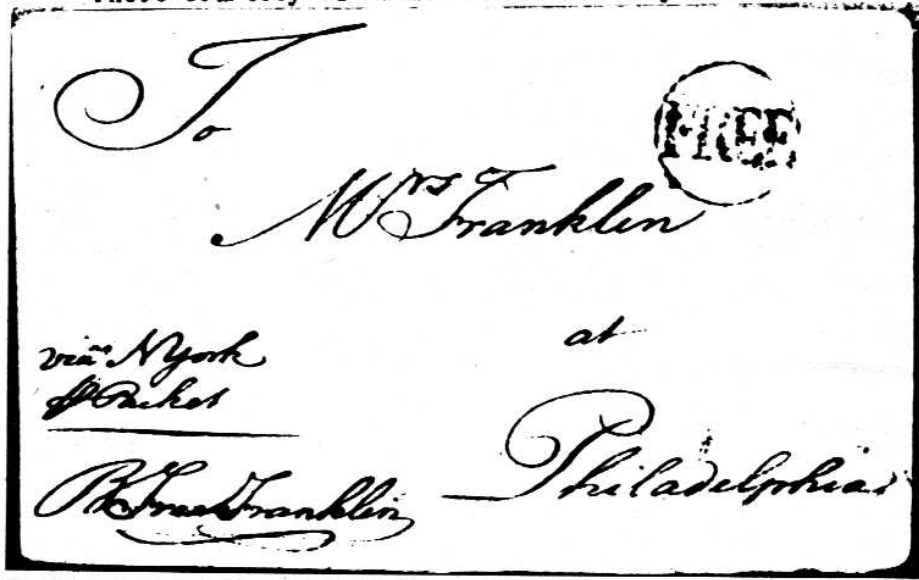
When Franklin was sent to France to represent the newly formed Republic as its Diplomatic Representative, Richard Bache, his son-in-law, who had been Comptroller of the Post Office, was made Postmaster General. Ebenezer Hazard, who had been the Revolutionary period postmaster at New York, was made Surveyor-General, succeeding Bache in 1782.

This is not an attempt to cover the Franklin postal activities in detail. The telling and writing would take too long and require much more space than is at present  
(continued next page)



available. Many books on Franklin note some of his postal activities, more do not. Your writer has many of the facts here stated from what writing folks call "the record." (These facts were put into a book, "Colonial and Revolutionary Posts," published by Dietz Printing Co., Richmond, Va., 1931). Data as stated was then fully accredited to various sources as: Albany Committee of Correspondence, American State Papers, New York State Historical Society Files, Hugh Finlay's Journal, Herbert Joyce's History of Post Office, Sampson's U. S. Postage Rates, Woolley's Colonial Post Office, Rich's History of the U. S. Post Office, and last but not least The Minutes of the Continental Congress.

Photo-courtesy of Edward Stern & Sidney Barrett



(See Story on Page 15)

## WASHINGTON IN POSTAL HISTORY

by Harry M. Konwiser

George Washington took an active interest in the post office in the early days of his active career, especially in the Winter of 1787-88, when the excitement was running high over the possible rejection or adoption of the new Constitution. It was charged that Postmaster General Hazard was holding back newspaper deliveries.

The opponents of the Constitution blamed the Federalist postal system for their defeat, alleging the suppression of information had damaged their cause. Hazard denied interfering with the news developed as the citizens were considering the new Constitution, and evidence, adduced at the time and later indicates Hazard was not interfering with the delivery of the newspapers. The post offices delivered almost all of the newspapers in this period, and many newspaper publishers were postmasters (or vice versa).

Ebenezer Hazard was appointed to receive and forward mail by the New York Provincial Congress on May 3, 1775. On July 26, 1775, the New York Provincial Congress passed a resolution, addressed to the Continental Congress, that Hazard should be made Postmaster at New York. Hazard, in November 1776, wrote Congress asking for an increase in compensation, stating that he was not able to employ an assistant; that he was "obliged to leave the city of New York to keep near the headquarters of the army, who are almost the only persons for whom letters now come by post."

Hazard, in his communications to the Continental Congress, recited the extraordinary difficulties and fatigues to which he was subjected by the frequent removal of the army, and his having been obliged for want of a horse, which could not be procured, to follow the army on foot from place to place, apparently with his post office sack carried by a servant.

Naturally, Washington was fully aware of the Hazard activities, in the Revolutionary period, since Hazard was a Surveyor-General, and then became the head of the Post Office department in 1782. Hazard remained in office until September 26, 1789, six months after Washington was inaugurated. Was Washington playing politics in 1789 in not appointing Hazard to the office he was serving so well? No doubt Hazard reacted like most public officials of today when they are not reappointed.

Washington was well acquainted with the postal system since he objected, the record would indicate, to the changing of some coach routes to horse routes. Hazard declared

(continued on following page)

## WASHINGTON IN POSTAL HISTORY (continued)

he was acting for the best interests of the service in taking the horse rider against the coaches, citing the costs for services were reduced by the use of horse and rider as against the coach routes. Hazard was of the opinion the poor roads of the period made horse rider service faster.

Washington's interest in the postal system began in the War period, as early as 1776, for he received a letter from Richard Henry Lee, a well known patriot of his day, in this letter, dated June 13, 1776, Lee wrote Washington "that a certain Mr. Eustace, now in New York, but some time ago with Lord Dunmoor, is acquainted with the practice of taking letters out of the Post Office in Virginia and carrying them to Lord Dunmoor for his perusal." Lee, then a member of the Continental Congress Post Office Committee, asked Washington to give him in writing "all the knowledge he has about this business."

In the 1776 period, the service to the army was severely criticized by General Anthony Wayne ("Mad Anthony"), by General Gates, and others. In Pennsylvania, the Tories were troublesome to mail deliveries, and General Gates, writing to Congress, said that while mail was free to soldiers in the service, the officers were not enjoying this privilege, and he wrote "as gentlemen and officers, we expect it."

Reading the Continental Congress minutes, as must be done to know the early postal history of the United States, one comes across reference to Washington's comment on "the want of money to support the express." (The term "express" referred to the post). The Maryland division of the service was complaining about the lack of money for the riders, making it extremely difficult to forward letters throughout Maryland.

General Knox, in February 1784, in commenting on the Washington correspondence from Mount Vernon to New York and Philadelphia, showed a slant on the service of the day, not akin to the Herodotus reference\* to letter carriers. Knox wrote: The bad weather and the great care which the post riders take of themselves prevented your letters of the 3rd and the 9th of last month from getting into my hands till the 10th of this month."

(continued on following page)

\*-Herodotus, the Greek historian, wrote (in 484 B. C.), no doubt mindful of some of the letter carriers known to him: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." The quotation was carved on the facade of the New York Post Office building at the suggestion of President Woodrow Wilson.



## WASHINGTON IN POSTAL HISTORY (continued)

Following the beginnings of the United States, at least from April 30, 1789, on, Washington was in daily touch with the postal system. As the first president of the newly-created republic, he was familiar with the Hazard record, was made aware that contractors who had operated mail routes did not rate Ebenezer Hazard a blood brother; Washington appointed Samuel Osgood to head the post office operations, September 26, 1789, and appointed Timothy Pickering to succeed Osgood, August 12, 1791. The latter served in the second Washington cabinet until June 2, 1794, at which time he was succeeded by Joseph Habersham, who took office on February 25, 1795.

Congress was, of course, showing proper interest in the postal system and discussing rates--first in 1789, doubling the then current rates, and in 1790, doing an about-face by reducing the rates to half of the pre-war rates. Cornwallis surrendered on October 19, 1781. On the previous day, Congress created the first actual rates for all distances in the new republic--as follows:

For distances not exceeding 60 miles, one pennyweights light grain; upward of 60 and not exceeding 100, two pennyweights; upward of 100 and not exceeding 200, two pennyweights, 16 grains; and so on, increasing 16 grains for each 100 miles. Single letters (one sheet letters) could be sent to Europe for 4 pennyweights, while letters to and from members of Congress were carried free.

Rates were changed many times by Congress until the advent of the "5" and "10" rates of 1845, which developed first many "PAID & 5" as well as "PAID & 10" handstamps. Prepayment by use of adhesive postage stamps was made compulsory in 1856, on domestic mail.

The postmarks of the "Washington Period" are featured by straight line postmarks as "NEW YORK" in two lines, and "PHILA DELPHIA" in two lines. There were about 75 post offices in operation in 1789, and readers who might seek the postmarks of letters of the 1789 period may find it difficult to acquire some town handstamps. (A number of these are on display at the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition, May, 1947).

Washington named post offices--other than Washington City (now Washington, D. C.)--appear on the official records as being at Pennsylvania, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Georgia. These are on the 1789 list. Many of the "eastern states had county names honoring Washington. The 1809 list of Washington named post offices lists offices, as previous, likewise similar named offices in New Hampshire, Virginia, Mississippi

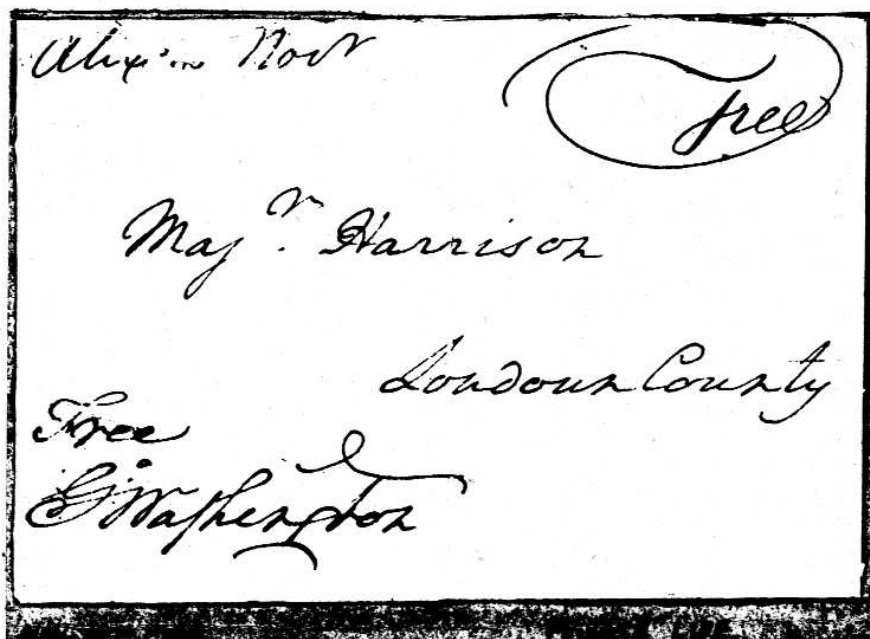
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WASHINGTON IN POSTAL HISTORY (concluded)

Territory, and New Jersey. There are many more today, of course. Which was the first after Washington City? Georgia historians put up a good battle for this honor a few years ago, with Washington, New Hampshire putting up a good argument, since its incorporation as a city seemed to give it priority over the Georgia dates of organization. Neither of these protagonists were debating which was the first Washington named post office, and therefore your writer left the field of battle without opinion and prejudice, deeming the entire verbal dispute as being immaterial, etc., etc., as the lawyers avow when other words fail them.

No doubt a collection of Washington town marks might be a collectors' item; it might fit into the planning of any philatelic library, or any place housing Washington material, (as the George Washington Shrine, Tappan, N. Y.). This Shrine features a frame containing United States stamps depicting Washington. The framed stamps were presented to the Washington Shrine by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York.

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GEORGE WASHINGTON  
Solider - Statesman - Mason  
by  
SAM EROCKS

To attempt to do justice to the subject of our article, would require much more space than is available to us. At any rate, many books have been written about various phases of Washington's life, and every school-boy could tell the story of his life if called upon to do so. However, very little has been written about Washington's Masonic career.

On Saturday evening, November 4, 1752, at a regular stated meeting of "the Lodge at Fredericksburg," George Washington was made an Entered Apprentice Mason.

In the Lodge ledger, now bound with the early minute book, is recorded under date of November 6, 1752 "Received from Mr. Geo. Washington for his entrance L 2.35."

This book, together with the Bible upon which our Brother was obligated is still carefully preserved, and is exhibited by the Lodge upon special occasions.

In the minutes of March 3rd, 1753, is recorded "George Washington passed a Fellow Craft." And again on August 4th, 1753, is written, "George Washington raised a Master Mason."

The Lodge records indicate that Washington attended a meeting on September 1st. He is next present on January 4, 1755. During this period, he was away most of the time attending to military duties.

Late in 1753, he was sent by Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia to order the French out of the Ohio Valley. And in 1754 he headed a relief expedition to Ft. Duquesne, but was besieged in Ft. Necessity and compelled to retire. In 1755 he helped to save the remnant of Braddock's army after the ambush and defeat by the French and Indians. After this period, Lodge records are missing.

Meanwhile political events were taking place which eventually brought on the Revolutionary War, and the emergency of Washington as a soldier and patriot.

In April of 1775 the first battle of the war took place at Lexington-Concord. In Philadelphia the Second Continental Congress was in session and on May 10th, voted to raise 20,000 men for defense, and chose George Washington to lead them.

(See Page 14)

Fellow-citizens and Brothers,  
of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

I have received your address  
with all the feelings of brotherly affection  
mingled with those sentiments, for the  
Society, which it was calculated to excite

To have been, in any degree, an  
instrument in the hands of Providence  
to promote order and union, and erect upon  
a solid foundation the true principles of  
government, is only to have shared with  
many others in a labour, the result of  
which let us hope, will prove through  
all ages, a sanctuary for brothers and  
a lodge for the virtues. —

Permit me to reciprocate your  
prayers for my temporal happiness,  
and to supplicate that we may all  
meet thereafter in that eternal temple  
whose builder is the great Architect  
of the Universe

G. Washington

Fac-simile of Brother George Washington's

"REPLY TO THE ADDRESS PRESENTED TO HIM DECEMBER 27, ANNO LUCIS 5796," BY THE GRAND LODGE OF  
PENNSYLVANIA, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INTENDED RETIREMENT FROM PUBLIC LABOUR,  
AS ANNOUNCED IN HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS.

From the original in the Archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

Ledger of St. John's Lodge, Philadelphia, PA.			
June 24	To Wm. Button date receipt		2
	To Thomas Hunt farmer		2
	To Saml. nicholas		2
	To Tho. Hunt date warrant		2
	To Henry Pratt		2
		<u>£</u>	<u>12</u>
	To J. D. Hanson amount of		2
July 5	To Wm. Allen Esq. for absence this day of the Quota		1
	To Saml. nicholas for D <sup>o</sup> Lo: 1/6		1
	To Tho. Hunt farmer D <sup>o</sup> - - - 3-6		3
	To Henry Pratt - - - D <sup>o</sup> - - - 3-6		3
	To Tho. Rodman - - - D <sup>o</sup> - - - 3-6		3
		<u>£</u>	<u>7</u>
			<u>6</u>
		<u>£</u>	<u>31</u>
			<u>7</u>
July 12	To the Cash on hand for which was in the for amount		18
	To Thomas Hunt farmer		3
	To Thomas Hunt		3
	To Henry Pratt		3
	To Henry Pratt		4
	To Saml. Joyce		10
	To Thomas Rodman		2
	To John Hobart		3
	To Thomas withamorph		2
		<u>£</u>	<u>31</u>
			<u>18</u>
	This is the whole sum of money paid in to the Stock of St. John's Lodge to this day of June 1773		8
	out of which L <sup>o</sup> 16 is the sum of the books of Station		16
	So that this day of June 1773 remains in the Stock		<u>£</u>
			<u>7</u>
			<u>15</u>
Sept 6	To the Stock for monthly Dues this day		6
	By Capt. John Tompson		6
	John Hobart		6
	Thomas withamorph		6
	Saml. Joyce		1
	Wm. Pringle for two months		2
	Henry Pratt for one month		6
	Thomas Hunt date warrant		6
		<u>£</u>	<u>7</u>
			<u>19</u>
			<u>18</u>

LEDGER OF ST. JOHN'S LODGE, PHILADELPHIA, PA.  
 The oldest Masonic Document in the Western Hemisphere.  
 Note the Benjamin Franklin entries.



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Then followed the various battles of Long Island, Harlem Heights and White Plains, compelling Washington's retreat across to New Jersey and then to Pennsylvania.

In 1777, a convention met to form the Grand Lodge of Virginia. It was recommended that "His Excellency General George Washington as a proper person to fill the office of Grand Master." Being off with the Army, he could hardly accept the office.

Busy as he was during the next few years, it is known that he sought relaxation by attendance at Masonic meetings held by various Army Lodges.

In 1779 a movement originated at a meeting of American Union Lodge held in Morristown, N.J. to select a Grand Master over all the Brethren in the United States. January 13, 1780 the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania voted on this question and suggested George Washington as General Grand Master. However the matter was dropped when the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts objected.

Although the War ended with Cornwallis' surrender on October 19, 1781, the Treaty of Peace was not signed at Paris until September 3, 1783. General Washington then resigned his commission and returned to private life.

In June of 1784 he was elected an Honorary Member of Lodge #39 at Alexandria, Va. This Lodge was working under a charter granted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

By this time the Grand Lodge of Virginia was formed, and Lodge #39 petitioned this Body for a charter under their jurisdiction. In this petition George Washington was selected as Worshipful Master, so that the charter granted as of April 28, 1788, named him as Master. The Lodge was named Alexandria Lodge and given No. 22. This Lodge continues to work although the name was changed in 1805 to Alexandria-Washington Lodge.

Meanwhile Washington was elected President of the United States and prepared to journey to New York for his inauguration.

On April 30, 1789, on the balcony of Federal Hall, the oath of President was administered to Washington by Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, who was then Grand Master of Masons of New York. Major Jacob Marton, Master of St. Johns Lodge No. 1  
(See Page 18)

THE EVOLUTION OF THE 1847 STAMPS  
by Andrew P. Rasmussen

This being the 100th Anniversary of the issuance of the first two United States Postage Stamps, the commemoration of which is receiving worldwide attention at this time, we as Masons, especially those of us who are philatelists, should pause during the period allotted to refreshment following our labors and think back upon some of the interesting incidents connected with the raising of these two pillars of strength and beauty, and our illustrious brethren so fittingly portrayed thereon.

First, however, let us go back some seven years prior to their appearance and pay some small tribute to the first adhesive postage stamp ever issued in the World, the penny black of Great Britain, whose centenary was all too briefly observed at the proper time due to the tense war situation. Fortunately, this holocaust has been terminated in time to avoid any interference with the international observance of the centenary of our own first issue this year, which will center about the Philatelic Exhibition to be held at Grand Central Palace, New York City, May 17th to 25th, 1947. This show has generously dedicated itself, also, in a measure, to belatedly honor the penny black which was deprived of its glory in the dark years recently passed through.

The exquisite portrait of Queen Victoria on the penny black, which was taken from the Wyon medal and executed in line engraving, centered on a tessellated background, flanked by columns of lathework surmounted by Maltese crosses, and brief wording, makes an attractive stamp, and its beauty compares favorably with any issued since its advent in 1840. The black ink used, however, proved itself impractical because of its almost indestructible quality, which did not prevent unscrupulous persons from employing bleaching acids to remove cancellations of less permanent inks from the stamps and reusing them a number of times, thus defrauding the British Post Office of much revenue. Therefore, eventually the world's first postage stamp lost its beautiful cloak of black for one of brick red.

The cornerstone for the building of our temple of philately can be considered as having been well laid, when seven years after the appearance of the penny black, the two first U. S. stamps were authorized by an Act of Congress, and subsequently issued. The originals used and unused are now quite rare and the possession of good copies is the paramount object in the minds of all serious collectors, especially

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those specializing in the fascinating issues of our own Glorious Nation. Our Government, through the Bureau of Engraving and Printing of the Treasury and the Post Office Department, is now making it possible for even the collector with very limited funds to possess "faithful reproductions" of these coveted stamps, and they will be placed on sale to the public at the face value of the two stamps of Fifteen Cents upon the opening of the Centenary Exhibition at Grand Central Palace.

Since almost everybody interested can now possess and examine these reproductions of the Five and Ten Cent 1847 U. S. Postage Stamps, let us delve into some of the whys and wherefores of the subjects and incidents concerning the engraving and printing of the originals. Instead of engraving new portraits of Washington and Franklin on the two dies from which the stamp printing plates were to be made, Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson, the bank note engraving concern which received the contract, searched through their files of stock portrait dies for those of the subjects chosen, which, especially as to size, were appropriate for stamp use.

Impressions were taken on soft steel from the hard steel portrait dies under great pressure, and by cutting away unwanted portions of this impression, then hardening and retransferring, the small ovals of the portraits were obtained on soft steel, permitting the added engraving of the surrounding framework, lettering and numerals thereon necessary for the complete stamp design for each value. Proofs were then taken, any necessary touching up done, acid etching applied where required, until proofs taken indicated the required degree of perfection had been reached, after which this master die for the stamp design was hardened. From this master die through further transferring processes any number of plates could be made with the desired number of subjects for the printing of the stamps as we know them, each stamp of the printed sheet being practically identical.

The use on the stamp dies of the two existing portrait dies, which had been engraved many years before postage stamps were known, for use on bank notes and other securities could hardly have been improved upon, and it is highly questionable whether a complete engraving of entirely new portraits for use with the newly engraved stamp frames would have produced a set of stamps more pleasing to the philatelist, or as rich in possibilities for research.

It was the practice in the period of the stamp issue for the bank note companies to use their stock dies again and

on the notes they produced for banks in the towns and cities throughout our young and prosperous country, and so it is not unusual for us to find the identical 1847 portraits, line for line exact, used on a great many bank notes. We illustrate here a classical example of such a note, both portraits having been used together, showing how impressions from the original stamp portrait dies appeared as compared with their cut-down use on stamps.

There has been much controversy in the philatelic press during the past as to the original sources of the portraits as far as the artists who depicted them are concerned until now the consensus of opinion is that the Washington portrait is from Gilbert Stuart and the Franklin portrait from J. B. Longacre's "drawing." An engraved reproduction in octavo of the latter can be found in the National Portrait Gallery published before the advent of the stamps. However, it would appear that Longacre obtained his impression from the Duplessis portrait, which is almost identical, and could very well have been the original source of the five cent 1847. An original of the Duplessis portrait may be seen at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.

Benjamin Franklin was chosen to appear on the five cent stamp as he was the first Postmaster General of the United States and was previously connected with the Posts during the Colonial Period. He was responsible for many Postal Service improvements. He was a dynamic personality and his personal efforts on a trip to Paris was responsible for the obtaining of financial and other aid from France which was of considerable help in the victorious execution of our struggle for independence.

Washington was rightfully decided upon for the ten cent stamp as he is the most heroic American figure. He was Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, First President of the United States and it is well phrased that he was "First in War, First in Peace and First in the Hearts of His Countrymen."

Both Washington and Franklin were shining lights in American Masonry.



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provided the Lodge Bible for the oath. This Bible is carefully preserved by the Lodge.

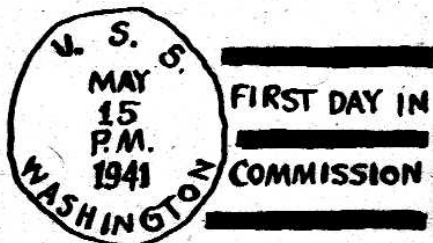
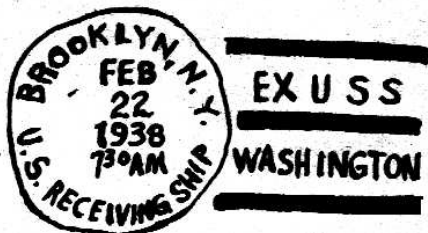
It is significant that our First President, took the oath of office on a Bible belonging to a Masonic Lodge, administered by a Grand Master and while he was Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22.

Washington was reelected President in 1792 and at the end of this term retired to private life.

On September 18, 1793, the Corner Stone of the Capitol of the United States was laid by George Washington in a beautiful Masonic Ceremony. Taking part in the ceremonies, were the Grand Lodge of Maryland, and Washington's Lodge, Alexandria No. 22.

On Saturday, December 14, 1799, after a brief illness Washington passed away. He was buried with Masonic honors, under the supervision of Members of his own Lodge.

It is nearly 200 years, since in that little Lodge at Fredericksburg a candidate for Freemasonry did indeed dedicate his life to the service of God and became a true and faithful Brother among us.





The following article on ships of our Navy named Washington and Franklin was prepared by Bro. Donald A. Yontz. The naval data was supplied by Joseph A. Frayne of Orange, N. J. Data on the cancels was supplied by Deane C. Bartley of Seattle, Wash.

#### U. S. S. WASHINGTON

There have been five vessels bearing this name.

- (1) The first was a galley; 8 guns; 80 men. In a running fight to the southward, Oct. 13, 1776, on Lake Champlain, the WASHINGTON was captured off Split Rock by the British after severe losses.
- (2) The second was a ship of 32 guns; built at Philadelphia in 1776; burned in Delaware Bay by the British in 1778; had never received her armament.
- (3) The third was a ship of 2250 tons, carrying 74 guns and 750 men; laid down at navy yard, Portsmouth, N. H., in 1813; launched July 1814; cruised in the Mediterranean and various stations; broken up in New York in 1843.
- (4) An armored cruiser of 14500 tons, authorized by act of Congress dated July 1, 1902; named for the state of Washington; built by the New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N. J. KL 9-23-03, L 3-18-05; FDC 8-7-06; name changed to Seattle for the city in Washington, 11-9-16; attached to cruiser and transport force as flagship during World War I; departed Hampton Roads on 10-12-07 as pathfinder for the battleship fleet on the trip around the world in 1907 (Dec.). At Amapala, Honduras, March 1909, she got her first taste of "protecting American interests." At Seattle in May 1909, she welcomed the Japanese squadron repaying the battleship fleet's visit to the Island Empire in 1908. Returning to the East coast in 1910, she joined the Fifth Division-Atlantic Fleet; being reviewed by Pres. Taft in New York on Nov. 2, 1911. From May 1 to July 7, 1912, she relieved the Connecticut as fleet flagship, then joining the Portsmouth reserve. She was receiving ship at New York from July 7, 1913, to April 15, 1914, when she was initiated into the service as receiving ship which occupied her time until recent retirement to the scrap heap. In 1914 she was in Mexico and San Domingo and in 1915 she was in Haiti, whereat she landed Marine reinforcements. Decommissioned at Puget Sound on Feb. 14, 1921 where she remained inactive until recommissioned March 1, 1923, when she became the flagship of CinC, U. S. Fleet, holding this spot until relieved by the newly modernized Texas on July 15, 1927. Her later years were spent in ease as the receiving ship at New York until the date of her retirement, being stricken July 19, 1946.
- (5) Work was suspended on the fifth Washington (BB47) Feb. 8, 1922, upon the signing of the treaty limiting naval armaments, in view of the probable (continued next page)..

scrapping of certain capital ships, when she was 75.9% completed. Sunk by submarine explosions and gunfire. Nov. 25, 1924.

(6) BB-56. Built at Philadelphia Navy Yard. KL 6-14-38, L 6-1-40, FDC 5-15-41; sponsored by Miss Virginia Marshall, great-great-granddaughter of John Marshall, first chief justice of the Supreme Court. Her first assignment was operating as a unit of the British Home Fleet, then based at Scapa Flow, providing heavy support for Murmansk convoys from Iceland and Scapa Flow as far north as Spitzbergen, where the crew was initiated into the Ancient Order of Bluenoses. From Sept. 14, 1942 to May 7, 1943, she operated as flagship of Task Force 64, flying the flag of Rear Admiral Willis A. Lee, USN, Task Force Commander. She covered the reinforcement of troops on Guadalcanal; the occupation and capture of the Solomon Islands; participated in the third battle of Savo; supported landing operations in the northern Solomons; occupation and capture of the Gilbert Islands; bombarded the island of Nauru; engaged in a pre-invasion bombardment of the southern group of the Kwajalein chain of the Marshall Islands; participated in the battle of the Philippine Sea; occupation and capture of Pelelieu and Anguar; participated in raids on Okinawa Jima, Formosa, Luzon, Camranh Bay, Saigon, Hong Kong, Canton, Hainan, Nansai Shoto, and Tokyo. Her commanding officers have been: Captain H. H. J. Benson, USN, from 5-15-41 to 7-25-42; Captain G. B. Davis, USN, from 7-25-42 to 4-27-43; Captain J. E. Maher, USN, from 4-27-43 to 4-23-44; Captain T. R. Cooley, USN, from 4-23-44 to 11-16-44; Captain R. F. Good, USN, from 11-16-44 to 6-5-45; and Captain Francis X. McInerney, USN, from 6-5-45 to date.

#### U. S. S. FRANKLIN

There have been four vessels bearing this name; the first three were named to honor Benjamin Franklin and the fourth was named to commemorate her three predecessors.

(1) Armed schooner, 70 feet length and mounting 8 small guns. One of six fishing schooners purchased at Boston by General George Washington under Act of Continental Congress dated Oct. 5, 1775. After fitting out, she departed Marblehead in command of Captain John Selman, who was relieved by Captain James Mugford. Under the latter command she captured the HBMS Hope, loaded with 1500 barrels of gunpowder and a great quantity of armament and intrenching tools destined for the British Armed Forces then assembling near Boston. The contraband seized proved of invaluable assistance to General Washington in his siege of Boston. After Captain Mugford delivered the Hope into Boston, he was intercepted leaving the harbor by the British fleet, causing him to beach his ship. However, in the engagement which (continued next page)..

ensued, Captain Mugford lost his life but his junior officers and crew succeeded in saving his ship which was later commanded by Captain Samuel Tucker. There is no record of the final disposition made of this heroic vessel.

(2) Brig, 155 tons, mounting 8 guns. Purchased at Trieste on April 27, 1805. Came home in November 1805 under command of Midshipman Charles Robinson, USN. Made two cruises to New Orleans with men and supplies in January and May 1806 under command of Master John Earle, USN, and Lieut. P. C. Wederstrandt, USN, respectively. Sold out of service at New Orleans on March 21, 1807.

(3) Ship of the line, 2257 tons, mounting 74 guns. Built at Philadelphia Navy Yard. L 8-21-1815. Departed Philadelphia on her maiden voyage on October 14, 1817, and carried Mr. Benjamin Rush as our minister to England. She then became the flagship of Commodore Charles Stewart, USN, in the Mediterranean, returning to New York in 1820. In 1821 she departed for the Pacific, again the flagship of Commodore Stewart, and returned to New York in 1824. For the next 19 years she lay in ordinary at the New York Navy Yard. In 1843 she was towed to Boston Navy Yard where she was employed as the receiving ship. In 1852 she was towed to Portsmouth Navy Yard to test the floating deck and in 1854 she was broken up. In the same year the keel of the frigate FRANKLIN was laid there and built from funds supposedly allotted to "repairs" of the old FRANKLIN 74. The new Franklin was, however, built from the keel up with not very much of the old ship about her except her name. Launched 9-17-1864, FDC 6-3-1867 at Boston. Upon rebuilding, she became a frigate, 3680 tons, 50 guns. Following her commissioning, Admiral Farragut hoisted his broad pennant on her and made a memorable cruise in European waters, being received everywhere with most distinguished honors. She remained in active service for many years, terminating as the receiving ship at Norfolk in 1921.

(4) CV-13. Built by Newport News SB&DDCo., Newport News, Va. KL 12-7-1942, L 10-14-43, FDC 1-31-44. Sponsored by Lieut. Comm. Mildred H. McAfee, USNR, director of the WAVES. Severely damaged by enemy kamikaze planes on March 19, 1945, off Okinawa, at which time Capt. Arnolf Jay Isbell, USN, lost his life.

From the Franklin that was a frigate, we find cancels of type 1 & 2 (Locy chart), and four different types have been recorded from the carrier CV-13.

The first three Washingtons have had no postmarks recorded from them; the fourth, the armored cruiser, had six different types of cancels recorded; while none are recorded from the fifth (BE-47). Numerous cancels and cachets are recorded from the sixth Washington now in commission

J.Ferguson, Alberta, Canada  
J.A.Perola, St.Albans, N.Y.  
E.J.Fifield, New York City

W.E.Koons, New York City  
L.Krieger, Reno, Nevada  
E.Krummel, New York City  
F.Lawrence, Ineerlaken, NJ  
F.Leach, Noroton, Conn.  
H.Lederer, New York City  
M.Lentz, Youngstown, Ohio  
H.Lindquist, New York City  
L.Livingston, E.Orange, N.J.  
C.A.Lott, New York City  
H.Mandeville, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
S.Maranov, Rockville Center, NY  
H.Matters, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
W.McCoy, New York City  
W.Michaels, Kansas City, Mo.  
W.Morris, W.Cummington, Mass.  
W.Murphy, Hicksville, N.Y.  
A.Nathan, New York City  
J.Nicklin, New York City  
H.Nielson, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
E.Nordheim, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
P.Panagioton, Athol, Mass.  
R.Pech, New York City  
M.Peck, Briarcliff, N.Y.  
C.Pelander, Woodside, N.Y.  
C.Peterson, Belmont, Mass.  
R.Polick, Elmhurst, N.Y.  
F.Pond, New York City  
F.Post, Arcadia, Calif.  
D.Quintero, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
P.Rankin, New York City  
A.Rasmussen, Bronx, N.Y.  
G.Rasser, New York City  
E.Reggel, New York City  
R.Rhoades, Ardara, Pa.  
R.Roane, New York City  
P.Rosner, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
J.Rueff, Flushing, N.Y.  
R.Saffin, New York City  
J.Sampson, San Anselmo, Cal.  
F.Sasso, New York City  
P.Savage, Worcester, Mass.  
N.Schlemeyer, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
F.Schloz, N.Y.

**H.M.Popkin Jackson Hts. N.Y.**  
**W.L.Henry North Hampton Ohio**

F.Kohn, New York City  
T.Konicoff, Brooklyn, NY  
H.Konwiser, New York City

W.Schumacher, W.Nyack, N.Y.  
J.Schwamer, Scarsdale, N.Y.  
R.Seebe, New York City  
G.Shoop, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
E.Shuster, Kenmore, N.Y.  
G.Slawson, New York City  
H.Snyder, New York City  
C.Southall, Richmond, Va.  
W.Staecher, New York City  
I.Staton, Portland, Oregon  
G.Stemper, New York City  
E.Stowetts, Amsterdam, NY  
M.Strauss, New York City  
W.Struss, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
S.Swan, New York City  
G.Temple, Irvington, N.J.  
F.H.Tows, New York City  
E.Unthank, Dayton, Ohio  
G.Urlaub, Bellaire, N.Y.  
F.Vander Beck, Brooklyn, NY  
A.Vollman, New York City  
A.Wardwell, Brooklyn, NY  
A.Waters, Scarsdale, N.Y.  
A.P.Watts, New York City  
H.Weideman, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
M.Weilins, Woodhaven, N.Y.  
L.Weiller, L.I.C., N.Y.  
M.Weintraub, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
S.Weissman, Bronx, N.Y.  
F.Wendel, New York City  
M.White, Worcester, Mass.  
L.Williams, Hartford, Conn.  
R.Williams, Fair Haven, NJ  
A.M.Wilson, New York City  
J.Windner, Philadelphia, Pa.  
A.Wittick, Garden City, NY  
N.Worley, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
I.Yarry, Woodside, N.Y.  
E.Young, Bellaire, N.Y.  
F.Zeltman, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
C.Zenker, Seaford, N.Y.  
A.Zimmerman, New York City  
E.Zirke, New York City  
C.Zoylner, New York City  
**G.H.Pihl Brooklyn N.Y.**  
**W.H.Dabel San Francisco**

## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN - MASTER MASON

by  
SAM BROOKS

Revolutionary patriot, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Ambassador to France, author and noted statesman and philosopher. He was born in Boston, Mass., January 17, 1706; died in Philadelphia, April 17, 1790. This is the short story of one of the greatest figures, not only in American history, but in the history of the world.

At the same time, he was perhaps the greatest Freemason of his time, and it is with that aspect of his career that we are now concerned.

One writer reports that to write the complete history of Franklin as a Freemason is virtually to chronicle the early Masonic history of America. In a short article, the best we can do is to give a chronological record of his Masonic life.

He was initiated in St. John's Lodge, Philadelphia, February, 1731. In June of 1732 he drafted a set of By-Laws for the Lodge. That month, he was elected Junior Grand Warden and on June 24, 1734, he was elected Grand Master of Pennsylvania.

August 1734, he published his "Mason Book," a reprint of Anderson's "Constitutions of the Free-Masons," the first Masonic book printed in America. From 1735 to 1738 he served as Secretary of St. John's Lodge. June 10, 1749, he was appointed Provincial Grand Master by Thomas Oxnard of Boston. March 13, 1759, he was deposed as Provincial Grand Master and immediately appointed Deputy Grand Master by William Allen, Provincial Grand Master.

November 17, 1760 he was received by the Grand Lodge of England as Provincial Grand Master. In 1776 he affiliated with Lodges in France, being elected as a member of Loge des IX Soeurs (Nine Sisters or Mises).

February 7, 1778 he assisted at the initiation of Voltaire. On November 28, of that year he officiated at the Masonic funeral services of Voltaire.

In 1782 he was elected Venerable (W.'M.') of Loge des IX Soeurs. During the next few years of history in France, he was elected to membership in other Lodges and every Masonic honor was conferred upon him.

(Continued on Page 24)



(Continued from Page 23)

On April 17, 1790 he passed to the Grand Lodge above.

This is the Masonic record of "an illustrious Brother whose distinguished merit among Masons entitles him to their highest veneration."

To those of you who are interested in the Masonic Life of this great Craftsman, we would suggest a reading of the "Memorial Volume - Franklin Bi-Centenary Celebration - 1906" Published by the Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of Pennsylvania. This beautiful book, no doubt, may be procured from your Grand Lodge Library. To read it, is to receive an education in the early history of the Craft in America. We, Freemasons should learn more about our early leaders. This book will really fascinate you. Read it.

*Meet your friends at the MASONIC STAMP CLUB Lounge*

JAMES KNOX POLK

Born - Mecklenburg County, N.C. - November 2, 1795  
Died - Nashville, Tenn. - June 15, 1849



Raised September 4, 1820 in Columbia Lodge No. 31, Columbia, Tenn. He was Junior Deacon in October 1820 and Junior Warden in December 1821. With elaborate Masonic Ceremonies, he laid the cornerstone of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. on May 5, 1847.

Spending most of his life in Tennessee, he represented the State in Congress from 1825 to 1839. In 1839, he was elected Governor of Tennessee, and later became the 11th President of the United States, serving from 1845 to 1849.

His Vice-President, George M. Dallas, was initiated in Franklin Lodge No. 134 of Philadelphia, Pa., on March 21, 1818. He was Senior Warden in 1819, and Master in 1820. He held several Grand Lodge offices and was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1834.

It was during this administration that our first stamps were issued.