

The Masonic Philatelist

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK



VOLUME IV NO. 3

OCTOBER, 1947



PROGRAMME FOR 1947-1948

- Oct. 31 Competition U.S. and Possessions (40 pages or 15 minutes)
Nov. 7 Sylvester Colby - The Statue of Liberty on Stamps
Nov. 28 Spot Auction Sale
Dec. 5 Visit To Veteran's Hospital, Kingsbridge Rd., Bronx

1948

- Jan. 2 Trading and Swapping
Jan. 30 To be announced
Feb. 6 Four speakers to show their way of mounting (25 pages each) (Discussion and criticism by members)
Feb. 27 Competition - Great Britain and Colonies
March 5 Masonic Philately
March 26 No meeting (Good Friday)
April 2 Annual Members Exhibition
April 30 Four members (20 minutes each) who have never shown at the Club before
May 7 To be announced
May 28 Competition - Whole World except United States and Great Britain
June 4 Air Mail Night
June 25 Annual Meeting - Committee Reports; Election of Governors

• Meetings •

FIRST AND LAST FRIDAY EACH MONTH - COLLECTORS CLUB BLDG., 22 E. 35th Street

- Oct. 31 COMPETITION U.S. AND POSSESSIONS
(40 pages or 15 minutes)
Nov. 7 SYLVESTER COLBY - THE STATUE OF LIBERTY ON STAMPS

THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

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of
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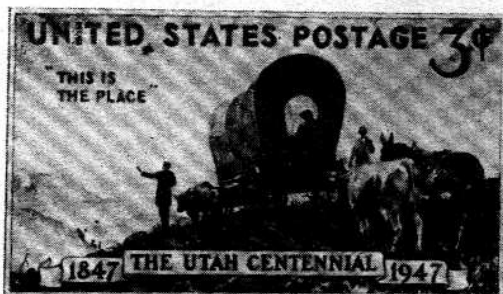
THE MASONIC CACHET

At our last meeting, Brother E. Milnor Peck Chairman of the Cachet Committee, submitted his final report to the Club. A very modest gentleman, he had little to say, preferring to let his deeds speak for him. All that Brother Peck did was to get up the designs, procure cuts, have the printing done, do the advertising, take in the money, do all the "First Day" work, mailing envelopes all over the world, keep an accurate account, and then..... turn over to the Club a check for twelve hundred (1200.00) dollars. Not a bad job for one of the nicest fellows we know. Deservedly he was accorded a rising vote of thanks. Well done, old man!

Brother Allison M. Severe of Baltimore, Md., is working on a Masonic stamp collection, in the course of which he has happened upon a strange fact. He asks: "What Mason has had his portrait on more printed stamps than any other person, place, or thing?" We have the answer from Bro. Severe, but can you solve it? Put on your thinking caps and send your opinion to the Editor. The answer will appear in next month's issue.

SOME NOTES ABOUT THE NEW UTAH STAMP

by Sam Brooks



Many of you will recall various articles written for the "Masonic Philatelist" on the subject of a "Masonic stamp collection". We promised you would be rewarded in many ways for your efforts in building such a collection. However, you must do some research of your own. And Brothers, nowhere is it better illustrated than in obtaining material for the Utah stamp.

When we first saw the advance photo of the new stamp, which commemorates the Centenary of the colonization of Utah, we were struck by the sentence, "This is the place", which was spoken by Brigham Young when he first saw what he and his followers called "The Promised Land".

We once read somewhere that Brigham Young was once a member of a Masonic Lodge. Hoping to add a new page to our collection of Masonic Philately, we set out to get our facts. At an opportune time we visited the Grand Lodge Library on 23rd Street and with the helpful assistance of the Librarians, we secured some books and frankly we were unprepared for what we found.

It is not our plan to enter into a discussion on the general subject of Mormonism and its relation to Freemasonry. But we'll wager that not ten percent of the members of the Craft are aware of any relationship at all. This article will attempt to give only some general information. You must read the items mentioned later on to obtain a better viewpoint. And when you have read these books it would be interesting to learn your views on the advisability of adding this stamp to our collection.

Briefly here is the story: In 1830, near Palmyra, New York, a young man, Joseph Smith, was said to have spoken to an Angel, who directed him to search in a stated place, where he would find certain tablets on which were written the Word of God, and called the Book of Mormon. In these revelations to Joseph Smith, he was directed what to do with these tablets. His story spread, and he soon gained many converts to his new religion. His brother Hyrum, and others of his followers, including perhaps Brigham Young, were members of the Craft; and recall too the time was just after the "Morgan

episode"; the location, not far from the place of that ill-starred mystery. These facts must be remembered when reading the entire story of the birth of Mormonism.



BRIGHAM YOUNG

Large numbers followed Joseph Smith, the "Prophet", and the group left to seek the "Promised Land". With stops on the way, they finally reached a place in Missouri, and like many others after him, Joseph Smith had difficulty in "showing the Missourians". In fact his preaching caused such a furor, that he and his group were driven out of the State. They crossed the Mississippi, and settled in a place in Illinois, which they called Nauvoo.

Here, apparently, they prospered, for it was estimated that at one time there were 10,000 people in the town.

The Freemasons in the group, desired to form a Lodge, and they addressed a request for a Dispensation to the Grand Lodge of Illinois. This was granted and the Grand Master, himself, went to Nauvoo to install the Officers. It was then that Joseph Smith, was made a Mason "at sight".

This Lodge and others which followed (there were five in all) grew in such numbers as to raise a question as to the regularity of the work. In fact, an investigation by a Grand Lodge Committee, proved that Joseph Smith and his followers in the Lodges, were adding many innovations of their

own and were disregarding the Ancient Landmarks of the Craft.

The dispensation for the Nauvoo Lodge was granted on October 15th, 1841. The Lodge was set to work March 15th, 1842, and on August 11, 1842, the dispensation was suspended until the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. It was not until October 1843, that Grand Lodge refused Charters to four Lodges and revoked the Charter of a fifth Lodge. The Lodges continued to work, flouting the authority of Grand Lodge, upon which they and their members were declared to be clandestine.

At this point it is well to refer the reader to the following books: "Mormonism and Masonry", by S.H. Goodman, Past Grand Master of Utah, and published by the Grand Lodge of Utah, August 1921. From your Grand Lodge Library, you may borrow an article published in the "Master Mason" in 1927 called "The Land Called Deseret" by

Bro. Wil' m M. Stuart. For the other side of the story, read "The relationship of Mormonism and Freemasonry" by Anthony M. Ivins and "Mormonism and Masonry" by E. Cecil McGavin.

During the period in question, the town grew and Smith gained in power. This made the Mormons many enemies. Soon charges were filed that the leaders of the religion were mishandling the affairs of the town to the detriment of non-mormon citizens. They prevailed on the State authorities to arrest Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum. By that time mobrule took over and one night the brothers were shot to death.

The colony soon broke up and with Brigham Young as their leader, started on another trek to look for the "Promised Land". At long last their search was rewarded and on July 24th, 1847 they reached the Great Salt Lake valley where Brigham Young declared, "This is the place".

Nearly everyone is familiar with their story from this point on. How they tilled the soil, and with irrigation made the desert bloom. How they developed great industries, mines and mercantile establishments. And to-day, they are one of the wealthiest groups of its kind.

Of necessity our story is rather sketchily told. The entire story has filled many books. Read these books and decide for yourself whether we

may place the Utah stamp in our Masonic stampgallery. We welcome your comments and will publish them in later issues.

Brigham Young was born on June 1, 1801 at Whittingham, Windham County, Vermont. He married in 1824 and resided at Aurelius, Cayuga County, New York. He died August 29, 1877 at Salt Lake City, Utah.



BUSY BROTHER FREED

R.A. Freed, Jr., of Youngstown, Ohio, member of Youngstown Lodge, No. 615, is one of our new members and in request to information on himself, from the philatelic angle, writes he is 'a cover bug, not confining himself to any particular types of covers' and, also, collects adhesive postage stamps. He reports doing business with a stamp dealer in Denmark who is a member of the Craft - a Mason in good standing in The Grand Valley Lodge, of Ontario, Canada, where he lived at one time.

Brother Freed is preparing a paper to be read at a stamp club meeting showing his tie-up, in covers, with Masonry and brotherly love, as well as relief. He has been assured of help in preparing this paper (with stamps) by eight Blue Lodge members. This paper, it is hoped, will be printed in this paper soon.

H.M.K.

MORMON STAMP CLASSIC FAKE

by Harry M. Konwiser

"The Mormon stamp (illustrated) is one of the classic frauds of the earliest period of stamp collecting". Fred J. Melville, made that statement in a British stamp paper quite a few years ago, and it remains a statement of fact today.

This stamp came into notice in 1864 when it was recorded in the "Standard Guide to Postage Stamp Collecting", by Bellars & Davie (London, England, 1864). It was listed as follows:

UTAH MORMON TERRITORY 1852

Octagonal Head of Brigham Young to left in circle, rude ornamentation on sides. Above, "Utah", "Postage" below. 5 cents, dull blue.

In the year 1852, Brigham Young issued an octagonal gold coin, and soon after a postage stamp of the same shape. The execution is very rough, the impression apparently being taken from a woodblock. It seems to have been cut or punched out by an octagonal die. The stamp was intended for prepaying letters from one part of the Great Salt Lake Valley to another, or to or from Salt Lake City, the Capital. Some letters, however, with these stamps upon them, found their way to the United States, and

were immediately repudiated by the postmaster at Washington. They at once fell into disuse; but at the present day a system of posting from one part of the Mormon colony to others is employed. This and some other attempts at independent government on the part of Brigham Young and his followers caused the Washington authorities to dispatch a military force to the Great Salt Lake, for the purpose of restoring order and allegiance. It met with but ill success however.

So much for the 1864 Stamp Catalogue. An examination of the facts indicates the Catalogue Editor was not familiar with a copy of the stamp, obviously receiving his information from some person unfamiliar with the stamp. The stamp is octagonal in design, as stated, but is not punched out. The value (denomination) is clearly seen as "FIVE" and "CENTS" at left and right and there are colors as rose-mauve and yellow green.



The Catalogue story is a fable. It was so proven by a letter publicized by Melville. This letter, as addressed to H. Sam Knight, Montpelier, Vermont, was written by Brigham Young, June 18, 1864, and stated clearly that Brigham Young had at no time issued an adhesive stamp and assumed every citizen

knew the Federal Government controlled all postal affairs.

Melville's story -- which makes this article possible -- noted that the Stamp Collector's Magazine (New York, November 1864) noted receipt of a copy of the Mormon stamp issued by Joseph Smith, the owner (Isaac M. King) writing "I have the honor to hold ten genuine copies, besides two in my albums ****"

The English Journal of Philately (again from Melville) in 1875 interested itself in the stamp, and sought information at Salt Lake City. They were told, by Brigham Young's secretary, under date of January 21, 1876, to say the story on the stamp was an error, since no such stamp had been issued.

Mekeel's Weekly, in 1906, mentioned a set of three "used" Utah stamps, in denominations of 2, 5, and 8 cents, obviously pure fakes. George Sloan, in 1936, commented on seeing the 5 cent design in red and green, and the 8 center in mauve. (This is exactly what I've seen. - H.M.K.). (These appear to be "something new" to the Fake File).

In 1938 the Deseret Stamp Club, on the occasion of its first banquet, March 2, 1938, issued a set of four Souvenir Stamps. The design followed the original fake. The central design supposed to depict Brigham Young seems not to show a good likeness of Brigham Young. It might be that of Joseph Young.

Martin Ismert, writing in Postal Markings (a now defunct monthly), some years ago discussed the Brigham Young Express Company. This brings Brigham Young into the Postal History picture.

In the fall of 1856, a mail contract was awarded to Hiram Kimball, who became associated with Brigham Young. They formed the Brigham Young Express Company. Stations were established, mules bought, and by June 1857, they were prepared for service from Salt Lake City, to Independence, Mo.

The first mail Eastward was sent from Salt Lake City (Ismert writes) February 8, 1857. Before the operation could get into swing properly the United States Army began its activities against the Mormon Colony and the B.X.Y. Company went out of business.

STAMPS FOR HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

For some time, some of us have been sending old stamp magazines and stamps to the Veterans Hospital on Kingsbridge Road in the Bronx, where an active stamp group is meeting. At our last meeting, a committee was appointed to arrange for a visit of our Club to the Hospital. Naturally we want to take along stamps, catalogues and magazines for the Veterans. Bro. Harry Henneman of the

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SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Masons Beat Stamp Dealers

One of the featured sporting events at the July 26, annual outing of the Masonic Stamp Club, at Tappan, N.Y., held in conjunction with the American Stamp Dealers Association, was a Twenty-One Point Horseshoe Pitching Contest. It was won by "Doc" Yarry and Gordon Shoop, who were teamed up against John Nicklin and Phil Robbins. (John is a member of the Masonic Stamp Club, by the way). The score for the representatives of the stamp dealers was 8. There is a slight possibility that some of the brethren are not "old enough" to appreciate horse shoe pitching as an outdoor sporting event, and for such youngsters we say the "rule" - as established prior to play - calls for making 21 points, the first team making this number acquiring the winning toga, likewise the applause of the crowd.

The losers, in the contest had two horse shoes, exactly as the winners. In fact they had the same shoes to pitch. There probably is some sort of psychosis that makes one a better horseshoe pitcher than the other fellow. The proper attitude for any previous non-loser, it is said, is NOT to pitch, thereby retaining the standing of never having been beaten at horse shoe pitching. It might be noted that Gordon Shoop won the Open Pitching

Derby, beating a dozen or more, and that like winners he received a Metro-Lite, courtesy of the Metro-Lite makers, acquired through Bob Pech. Some of the other contests had nothing to do with this Department and so will not be mentioned.

-- NON-HORSE-SHOE-SPORTSMAN

FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH ESTABLISHED BY NEW YORK MASONS

A conference attended by leading medical men today launched the establishment of the Masonic Foundation for Medical Research. Announcement was made that the new Foundation's first world-wide project will be the study of Rheumatic Fever.

This news was unanimously approved by participating deans of medical schools and heart specialists of the East who pointed out that investigation into the cause, cure and prevention of Rheumatic Fever answers the greatest need in medical research at the present time.

Sponsored by the Free and Accepted Masons of New York, 1,038 lodges throughout the state will carry on a campaign to raise funds for the support of the Foundation. The money will be given to medical schools, other foundations, and individuals who are doing research in this field. Help will be given where it can be used to greatest advantage, and assistance will be provided wherever needed, with no bars to race, religion, or color.

Further information about the Foundation and Rheumatic Fever research will be presented on the Mason's first statewide radio broadcast which will be aired over 17 stations of the Mutual network from 10 to 10:30 P.M. Sunday evening, October 26th. Some 300,000 Masons and their families will listen to this broadcast at fireside gatherings.

Of particular interest to the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, is that two of our members are actively engaged in the promotion of this project. Brother Walter E. Koons is Chairman of the Broadcast Committee and is being assisted by Brother Harry L. Lindquist.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART TO ISSUE POSTER STAMPS

Many of the famous art treasures in the Museum have been reproduced in a series of 24 colored stamps, 2 x 2½ inches. The stamps may be put to many uses, but of interest to stamp collectors are included Christopher Columbus, Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. Other sets are in preparation, and no doubt many of our readers will want to have these poster stamps. The cost is \$1.00, which includes an album in which the stamps may be pasted. The album has notes on the life of the artist and the historical and artistic qualities of the object. To obtain these stamps, send your dollar to: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 5th Ave. at 82nd St., New York 28, N. Y.

H.M.K. FAIRLY BUSY CHAP

Harry M. Konwiser, in addition to his labors as Treasurer of the Masonic Stamp Club, now and then properly helping the Editor of this paper; doing a Postal Markings Column for Stamps, the top stamp weekly; writing on Postal History for the twice-each-week periodical, The Western Stamp Collector; doing stories, now and then, for some of the other stamp periodicals on request, found time in recent weeks to prepare the United States Stampless Cover Catalog, Centenary 250 page edition; and likewise the American Philatelic Dictionary. The latter is a compendium on the postage stamps and postal history of the United States and is not to be confused with definitions on Perfs, Grills, etc. (which are, of course in the Dictionary). The Dictionary is being distributed by the publisher, Jacques Minkus.

- Sam Brooks

(continued from page 7)

committee requests that you bring or send such material to our next meeting (Oct. 31st). Members of the committee will package all such gifts so that the largest number may benefit. Won't you help this worthy project? Thank you.

James Harold Bruns is the name of the new son of Bro. Franklin R. and Priscilla Bruns. Bro. Bruns is the well known editor of the stamp column in the New York Evening Sun. Young James was born on September 17, 1947.

FEDERAL HALL ASSOCIATES
SPONSOR HISTORICAL CACHETS
OF NEW YORK CITY

To assist in the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the consolidated City of New York in 1948, The Federal Hall Memorial Associates will sponsor a series of cachets to be mailed from a special Post Office in Federal Hall.

All cachets will commemorate events in the history of the City, many of them of National importance. Freemasons are especially interested in some of the events and will want to obtain covers.

Listed below are the dates and events represented in the cachet series.

- November 1, 1683 - British Colonial act named New York capital of Province and County.
- November 11, 1796 - Final New York State Assembly session in Federal Hall, adjourning to move State capital to Albany.
- November 17, 1807 - Fort Clinton erected in Battery Park.
- November 25, 1783 - British evacuation day and reestablishment of American possession of old City Hall.
- December 15, 1783 - New York established as first American city chartered by Congress.
- December 23, 1784 - Continental Congress selects New York as first United States capital.
- January 1, 1898 - First session of City Council under new State charter consolidates Greater City of New York.
- February 2, 1653 - New Amsterdam (later New York City) proclaimed capital of Dutch Colonial Government.
- February 20, 1948 - Fifty Years of Business Progress Exposition to open under auspices of American Institute of the City of New York.
- February 22, 1842 - Sub-Treasury Building dedicated on site of Federal Hall.
- March 4, 1789 - Continental Congress first called into session in Federal Hall.
- March 26, 1946 - United Nations meets in Hunter College establishing New York as "Capital City of the World."
- April 6, 1789 - First Electoral Congress announces Washington unanimous choice as first President.
- April 23, 1789 - Washington welcomed to New York City and Federal Hall.
- April 30, 1789 - Inauguration of Washington as first President on Federal Hall balcony.

Collectors desiring commemorative covers with the special cachets on the above anniversary dates may send a reasonable number of covers, self-addressed to themselves and/or others, with 3¢ stamps affixed, and mail in a large envelope to the Federal Hall Memorial Associates, care Federal Hall Station, New York 5, N. Y.

To facilitate the proper handling, covers for each event must positively be sent under separate enclosure, conspicuously marked on the face to show date of cachet and cancellation desired.

William H. Workman

1344 Dogwood Avenue
Vancouver, B. C.

As you will undoubtedly know by this time, I have recently become a member of the Masonic Stamp Club, and Bro. Konwiser has asked me to write you with regards to my stamp interests.

I might say to start off with that though I am not exactly a novice, having collected for some ten years, neither am I an expert or an advanced collector. My interests lie in British Colonials, Iceland, Sweden, French Semi-postals and of course, the United States. I am fairly strong in the latter, except for the higher-catalogued values, but also lack many of the lower-priced items. I can also use any of the higher-cataloguing airmails and semi-postals of almost any country. I have a fairly good stock of duplicates for trading, and would certainly like to correspond and exchange stamps with any of the other members who feel so inclined.

Our Lodge is expecting a really big night on November 29th. when the Bremerton, Wash. Lodge is coming up to pay us a visit. Our Lodge visited them down there early in the year, and they gave us a really royal reception. I also had the pleasure of listening to the representative of the Grand Master of Washington recently, on the occasion of the 40th. Annual visit of the Bellingham Bay Lodge to the King Solomon Lodge in New Westminster. I think these interchange of visits of Lodges across the border is a very fine thing, and we are certainly looking forward to the visit of the Bremerton Lodge.

I only wish I could sit in on some of the meetings of the Club in New York, but will be with you in spirit at least. Will you please convey to all the members my sincerest good wishes, and I hope some of them will find time to drop me a line.

JAMES BUCHANAN



One of the Presidential series to honor the Chief Executives of the United States, this stamp was issued in Washington, D.C. October 13, 1928. The design is from a photograph of the bust by Henry Dexter in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Born at Mercersburg, Pa., April 23, 1791.

Died at Wheatland, Pa., June 1, 1868.

Raised January 24, 1817, in Lodge No. 43, Lancaster, Pa. He was Junior Warden in 1820-21. Elected Master December 23, 1822, and District Deputy Grand Master, December 27, 1823.

Graduated from Dickinson College in 1809, he was admitted to the Bar in 1812. After the War of 1812, where he was a Volunteer, he was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He served the State from 1821 to 1831. Buchanan then served two years as United States Minister to Russia. A year later he was elected to the U.S. Senate. In 1845 President Polk appointed him Secretary of State, in which capacity he served until 1849. President Pierce sent him as his Minister to London in 1853. In 1856 he was elected the fifteenth President of the United States and served until 1861.

His Vice-President was Jack C. Breckenridge, who was raised in Des Moines Lodge No. 1, Burlington, Iowa, in 1842. Later he affiliated with Good Samaritan Lodge No. 174 of Lexington, Kentucky, where he also was elected Master of the Lodge.

Among several Committees appointed by your President is the Correspondence and Exchange Committee. To aid in their work it has been decided to compile a complete Roster of the Club containing names, addresses, Lodges and philatelic activities of each member. This list will later be printed for the private use of each member.

The value of this project is evident, but depends entirely for its success on the active co-operation of each member of the Club. Included with this issue is a questionnaire to be filled in by you and returned at once. Please do not delay, so that the work of the Committee may be speeded.

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