

The Masonic Philatelist

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK



VOLUME IV NO. 5 DECEMBER 1947

STAMPS FOR THE WOUNDED



A small group of members of the Masonic Stamp Club made their first visit to the Veterans Hospital in the Bronx, Friday December 5th. And all agreed that it must not be the last. It was a bad night to be out, but each visitor received more by his attendance than the value of time or stamps that was given to the boys at the Hospital. "It truly is more blessed to give than to receive." Bert Ehrenberg, Gordon Johnson, and Sam Brooks displayed parts of their collections. Then Harry Konwiser, Gordon Shoop, Dr. Zuckerman, Dr. Camnitzer, Dr. Popkins, Dr. Yarry and our leader, Harry Henneman, distributed stamps, covers, hinges and magazines to the boys present. All material was contributed by members of the Club. If you had a small part in making some lonely Veterans happy, be assured that you have the thanks of all of them.

This is the list of Veterans present. If you care to send anything direct to them, address them by name in care of the Stamp Club, U.S. Veterans Hospital, 130 West Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, 63, N.Y.

Eric Light, US cancels And First Day covers.

Benjamin De Hart, U.S. Chris C. Brown, General.

Earl Jacobs, U.S. Frank Lutt, U.S. Greece.

Charles Olenik, General Fred Mirti, Americas & B.Col.

Ed Smalle, Precancels, U.S. Canada

John Samida, Americas, Ships & Water Scenes.

There they are. Now its up to you. And you fellows out-of-town, don't forget there may be a Hospital near you that you can visit. Get a real kick out of helping these Boys.

--S.B.

• Meetings •

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

A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

NEXT MEETING JAN 2nd TRADING AND SWAPPING

THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

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The Ralph A. Barry Publication Fund
of
The Masonic Stamp Club of New York

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Henry M. Friedman

Brother William L. Henry of North Hampton, Ohio, regrets that distance prevents his coming to meetings; but he likes the Masonic Philatelist, so he sends along a nice check for our Publication fund. Thank you. By the way, Bill, the book you want is "Famous Masons and Masonic Presidents" by H.L. Haywood. Another good book to read to help your Masonic collection.

Most worshipful Charles H. Johnson, Past Grand Master of New York, acknowledges our Club check for the George Washington Masonic Shrine at Tappan, N.Y. There's more coming, Charlie. And say, why haven't we seen you at our meetings lately? Hope you feel well enough to visit us real soon.

Brother Ralph A. Freed, Jr. of Struthers, Ohio, is a high school teacher who uses stamps to teach his World History class. At the present time, Greek stamps are being used to illustrate the language, important people, and historic events of the Greeks and Persians of the time of King Darius. Sounds good, Ralph.

Once more the SUPREME ARCHITECT has knocked on our door and
alled one of our Brothers.

We mourn, with his family and friends,

Brother Frank E. Lawrance

of Interlaken, N.J.

May his Soul rest in Peace.

Dr. ALBERT H. FEINERMAN, has his office in the Masonic Temple
Building, Macomb, Illinois.

GORDON JOHNSON, superior craftsman in woodworking, via his
well-equipped cellar workshop, has been turning away business
due no doubt to being quite busy at his daily vocation with
the telephone switchboard engineers. and his neatly mounted
U.S. stamp collection.

WILL HENRY, of North Hampton, Ohio, in remitting 1948 dues
sends his best wishes to the Brethren in the Club.

SEVERAL MEMBERS, for the moment unnamed, have still to make
good on their promises (implied to the Editor) to write a
stamp story for this publication.

THANKS TO OUR good friend SY COLBY, the Masonic Home at Utica
N.Y. received a very large package of printed matter relat-
ing to stamps- just before Christmas. This was a really fine
lot containing catalogs, booklets, some old periodicals, some
current publications, etc. The Express company said the box
weighed sixty pounds. This large package has been acknowl-
ged by Brother Charles G.P. Knight, who supervises the stamp
club at the Home on behalf of Dr. William T. Clark, the Super-
intendent. Which reminds us _____ have you sent anything to
the children at the Home, recently? Address-- Masonic Home,
Utica, 2, N.Y.

A MASONIC POSTAL HISTORY can be formed, says one of our mem-
bers, by seeking postmarks named for the Masonic Presidents,
and others known to Freemasonry. Beginning with Washington,
if you prefer the arrangement by succession, you will find
that- in 1798- there were already post offices named "Washing-
ton" respectively in Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and
Pennsylvania. Plus this, there was a "Washington City" and
there were many places, not then post offices, named Wash-
ington. By 1831 there were 23 post offices named Washington,
and the 1863 total was well over the 30 mark. Perhaps it mig-
ht be the better part of philatelic valor to show Washington
in Postal History and let the other fellow take a few other
craftsmen who headed the United States for four years or More.

THE TREASURER SPEAKING

Dues Cards have been sent out, in informal manner, to all Members. These brethren will now give the proper paying sign via personal check made payable to the Masonic Stamp Club, or to Harry M. Konwiser, Treasurer. Postal notes should be made payable to the Treasurer- for the convenience of all concerned. Many members put a Two Dollar Bill (or two ones) in an envelope to facilitate deposit in the bank. At any rate- please try to remit now. Mail 1948 dues to Harry M. Konwiser, 181 Claremont Avenue, New York, 27, N.Y.

THESE PAID---and like it

C.N. Overton of Monticello, N.Y. writes: "Just received 1948 dues card. The first one I ever received before paying dues. I consider it a clever idea. Am usually very dilatory in paying dues. This is being forwarded by return mail".

Paul Rosner of Brooklyn N.Y. can't come to meetings because time will not permit. However he sends his regards with a check for dues.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM A PAST PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB

Dear Brother Peck:

Enclosed is the questionnaire received with the October issue of the Masonic Philatelist.

I want to take this opportunity of adding my warmest commendations on the job you did as Chairman of the Cachet Committee. With most attractive covers and the wide publicity you put the project over in a big way. Heartiest congratulations on a job well done with credit to yourself and for the benefit of the Masonic Stamp Club.

Sincerely and fraternally,

HENRY W. HOLCOMBE.

We have just learned that our good friend Charlie Johnson is ill with a cold and is away having treatment and rest. If anyone needs a rest, it is this wonderful Gentleman, who as Grand Master And then as Grand Secretary, has helped more people - in and out of the Craft- than any person we know. May the Good Lord spare him for many, many, years.

F.M.K. ADDS TO HIS COLUMBIAN STORY

Walter C. Brink, of Genesee Depot, Wisconsin, is probably the Number One Specialist Collector of Columbian stamps. Beginning some years back, the specialization on the two-cent stamp is now housed in 17 volumes. Brink has proofs, essays, mint sheets, first and second day covers, and others for the markings. The specialization includes a Calendar, consist

ing of date cancellations from the second day in January 1893 through April 30, 1894, with not more than six dates missing.

HERMAN HERST OF SHRUB OAK, N.Y. one of our Westchester County members, recently drew our attention to a group of three William Henry Harrison letters circa 1835-1838, which referred to the political Anti-Masonic activities of the period. It is suggested that some of our readers interest themselves in this project by doing a little research work in the subject. This, of course, to be published here and generally through the Masonic press.

The Anti-Masonic Party was an outgrowth of the agitation following the infamous Morgan case, with which most Masons are familiar.

Below we reproduce excerpts from the letters, as sent to us by Brother Herst;

Cincinnati 25th Nov. 1835. To William Ayres.

An important political letter of well over 1200 words, in which Harrison refuses to go along with the demands of Thadeus Stevens, that if Harrison should be elected president, he would appoint no adhering Mason to office in Anti-Masonic States. He writes ". . . Could any President make the declaration that he would be governed by that principle & decline to act upon the converse proposition in states where the Anti-Masons were in a minority? . . . No person who would avow such principles can possibly be elected to the Presidency. He would not get an Electoral vote in one of the Western States . . . Mr. Steven's course here is attributed to his Federalism, & that he had determined to support Mr. Webster under any circumstances or any other person but any old Jeffersonian Democrat like myself. I however thought that he is really sincere in saying that he would have preferred me if I could have come up to his standards of Anti-Masonry . . . Perhaps Mr. Adams might — but what earthly chance could he stand to succeed . . . I refer to my conduct during the 13 years of my Government of Indiana & the North Western Territory as furnishing some grounds by which to ascertain what it might be in the discharge of a somewhat analagous trust. . . ."

Cincinnati 27th Nov. 1837. To Thadeus Stevens. (Harrison's Copy of a letter sent to Stevens, which copy he sent to William Ayres) Over 800 words.

On the same theme William H. Harrison writes very strongly on the subject of a candidate for the presidency's attitude towards the subject of the times; vs. The Anti-Masonry feelings. He writes: ". . . I gave no opinion in relation to any action upon the subject of Masonry by the State Authorities, my objections was confined to those of the U. S. . . . My votes and opinions are recorded. My acts in Executive or Military trusts are to be found in the annals of the times, and if not considered authentic, there are thousands of living witness, to correct them. . . ."

Fine, Lengthy and Important Letter, reading:

..... I have, for a considerable time, been aware of the hostility of Mr. Stevens. Notwithstanding the professions which I understood he made when he was appointed a Delegate to the National Anti-Masonic Convention, I had taken up the opinion that he intended to defeat my nomination if it were possible. It struck me that the Resolution adapted by the Convention to exclude all the candidates who resided in States that sent no Delegates to the Convention was one of the projects of Stevens to defeat me. I can see no good reason for its adaption and there are certainly many very good ones why it should have been rejected. A person every way acceptable to the Anti-Masons might reside in a State where there were few or none. Or he might not be the favorite of those living in the State with him and they might defeat his nomination by declining to send a Delegation altho' all the other Anti-Masonic States might be favorable to him. But between ourselves it appears to me that the Conyention had no Authority to adopt such a Resolution. Such a restriction upon their choice it appears to me

TEXAS REPUBLIC NOTE

Robert Barr, postmaster general in the Sam Houston cabinet (first Texas administration) was a member of the Craft. Several other members of the Sam Houston cabinet were also Masons.

CHARLIE LOTT writes our Treasurer from Niagara Falls, N.Y., wondering if the Club has "folded" because he left Town, and the Secretary's letters haven't caught up with him yet. No, Charlie, everything is fine, but we do miss you. Charlie continues his letter: "I believe we have a Stamp club here in Town, the Niagara Frontier Stamp Club, but I haven't made contact yet. However I don't believe I will enjoy it as much and I don't look forward to getting acquainted with a fine group of stamp collectors with the same Fraternal spirit as we have in the Masonic Stamp Club and I sure miss it. Give my best regards to all the boys and hope to make a meeting once in a while."

THE TEMPLE STAMP CLUB of Milwaukee has graciously consented to our use of their Ritual for the "Master of Philately" Degree. Will those members who received the Degree last May please send a note to Sam Brooks, and advise if you will assist in this work by our Club. Arrangements will be made to confer the Degree sometime this Spring.

MARCUS WHITE of Worcester, Mass., writes "Brother Peck did a swell job on the cachet. I received my covers in fine shape and I thank him. Congratulations and three cheers".

OUR QUESTIONNAIRE

Many of our out-of-town members have expressed the thought that our new Roster is a good idea. Especially to get acquainted with other members. That's the idea, Boys! Make it a better idea. Return your Questionnaire now!!!

Brother WILLIAM DABEL of San Francisco, a Precancel enthusiast writes: "would like to attend one of your meetings but 3000 miles is too far. Have gone over 300 miles to attend Lodge any times, as distances mean nothing in California".

Members will oblige by assuring their friends that copies of THE MASONIC PHILATELIST are mailed to Members only; that there is no desire on the part of the Mailing Division of the publication to add non-Masons to the labor; that members who want extra copy or two need only apply to the Secretary for same, providing postage for return, and these "for free" copies can be passed out to non-members.

BRITISH EMPIRE'S FUTURE

by

Henry M. Friedman

What is the future of the British Empire? With so many changes taking place and many more in prospect, we can visualize many important philatelic changes.

The Dominion of India and the Dominion of Pakistan will probably soon issue stamps of their own. It is also possible that some of the Native States may not join either of the two new dominions, and may, as independent states issue their own stamps. By treaty India participated in the affairs of Bahrain and Kuwait, and both used surcharged stamps of British India. Since both Bahrain and Kuwait are Moslem, they will object to using the stamps of the Dominion of India which is mostly Hindu. Use of the new Pakistan stamps may cause dissatisfaction in India and it will probably be up to Britain to decide the stamps to be used, with or without surcharge. It does seem certain that new stamps for Bahrain and Kuwait will be issued to conform to the adjusted conditions.

Some time ago Burma was separated from India in anticipation of the change of Burma to a Dominion. This change was foreshadowed by the set of Burma, imprinted "Interim Government".

All of these changes may have some effect on the plans as to what form of Government will eventually be given to Malaya. This may take the form of a new federation, similar to the former Federated Malay States. If this occurs, it may include all of the Straits Settlements and might even include Brunei, Sarawak and North Borneo. Whatever the eventual outcome, it does seem certain that there will be many changes in the stamps of all the countries mentioned.

Now that the old Empire of India no longer exists, the King of England's title of Emperor of India is gone. If and when the title of Emperor is officially dropped, it will render obsolete the Cypher G.R.I. This will mean at least three new British Colonial stamps which have designs incorporating the Royal and Imperial Cypher. These three stamps are the 1/4 pence of Malta, the 10 shilling of Grenada and the 10 shilling of St. Lucia.

Gordon Johnson has been appointed by our President Jake Glaser to head a new Dinner Committee. It is planned to hold this event May 7, 1948. Plenty of time to work out a nice program and for you to have your ideas considered. Write to Gordon in care of the Club.



King James I

A45

JAMES I (1566-1625)
He ascended the English throne as King on March 24, 1603. He is said to have been a member of a Lodge at Perth, Scotland.

In reference to the Lodge of Scoon & Perth there was information that by his own hand James VI of Scotland had been "entered Freeman, Mason and Fellowcraft". (Gould p333)



Kings Charles I, George VI, Assembly Chamber and Mace

A22

CHARLES I
Upon the death of James I, his son, also a Mason, was unhappily diverted by the Civil Wars. After the Wars the Royal Family was restored and true Freemasonry was likewise restored.

Nelson Centenary Issue.



Lord Nelson Monument

A10

LORD HORATIO NELSON (1758-1805)
The famous Admiral of the British Navy, was a member of Union Lodge York #331.

THE ROSE, THE THISTLE, and THE SHAMROCK
These three were worked in gold and used as badges on the grand Chapter apron belonging to the Earl of Zetland, who was First Grand Principal of the Royal Arch in England in 1841 to 1870, as well as Grand Master. The apron is shown in the English Museum at Freemasons Hall, London.



Rose, Thistle and Shamrock

A3

These three flowers are symbolic of England Ireland, and Scotland. SEE NOTE BELOW:

Brother Stanley J. Golwen of Bayonne, N.J. returns his questionnaire with a note that he is working on a collection depicting "Masonry on stamps" along ritualistic lines. He now has over 770 stamps which may take about 82 pages to display. This is an invitation to Bro. Golwen to send parts of his manuscript to the "Masonic Philatelist". We are certain it will be of considerable interest to all. Come on Stanley, we all want a look at what appears to be something good.

The Club now has its membership list on stencils! This means that the Secretary is no longer required to hand-address the 200 plus list. Likewise the Mailing Clerk, for meeting notices and copies of the "Philatelist". The Treasurer, too- can use the stencils for sending out requests for 1948 dues.

NOTE: The three flowers as were seen on Royal Arch regalia for ornamentation were simply used as an inspiration for the stamp design. The flowers could have been on anything. They are not Masonic in nature.