

The Masonic Philatelist

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

VOLUME IV NO. 6 JANUARY 1948

TEANECK VISITORS WILL SHOW

Our friends from the Teaneck Stamp Club

will visit us at our next meeting, and show items from their collections. The delegation will be headed by their president, Arthur M. Stewart, a member of Kosmos Lodge 896 F. & AM Chicago. We are informed that the program will include the following:

Philatelic Miscellany
Swiss Air Mails
Denmark
APO Items
Netherlands & Colonies

Frank Benedict
Fred Loeliger
Niels Zierau
Leon Dickinson
Johannes de Kruyf and
Stanley Harzfeld

Many of our members will recall the good fellowship which prevailed when we exchanged visits with the Teaneck Club several years ago. A fine turnout is therefore expected to again welcome this group.

THE MISSING QUESTIONNAIRE

Many complaints have reached us regarding non-receipt of the blank form sent out some time ago. To assist the Committee in its work, another form is enclosed. IF YOU HAVE NOT SENT IN YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE, please fill in the enclosed blank and mail it AT ONCE to Brother Peck.

NEW MASONIC STAMP CLUB IN LOS ANGELES

We are advised by THE MASONIC NEWS of Los Angeles, of the formation of a new Club to be known as the SQUARE & COMPASS STAMP CLUB, meeting at 11016 South Main St. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Further information may be secured from Albert J. York, 649 East 99th St., Inglewood, California.

• Meetings •

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

JAN 30 VISIT OF TEANECK STAMP CLUB

FEB 6 Four members to show their way of mounting.
(25 pages each) Discussion and criticism.

THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

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

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New York 52, N. Y.

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MASONIC STAMP CLUB DINNER MAY 7

This date is still some months away, but it is hoped that in the intervening time many of our distant members will make whatever arrangements are necessary to be in this vicinity for the occasion.

It goes without saying that an all-out attendance of the New York and suburban members is counted on, but we are especially anxious to meet those members whom we now know only by name. The dinner should provide a fine opportunity for that meeting, and for a grand get-together of the entire Club membership.

The dinner will be held in the Masonic Club restaurant in Masonic Hall, 71 West 23rd Street. The food will be of the best, and the cost reasonable. Do not wait for your official notification but write and tell us that you are coming.

--- Gordon G. Johnson, Chairman.

DEALER MEMBERS ELECTED

Ision J. Fifield, on our roster since 1938, was elected President of the American Stamp Dealers Association at the recent annual election. Irwin Heiman, also a member of the Masonic Stamp Club, was elected Vice-president; and John A. Fox, as well as John W. Nicklin, also members in good standing, were selected as directors. Carl E. Palander, for many years Treasurer, decided to withdraw from his activities, and urged the selection of Herbert F. Reuben. None of these "jobs" are honorary; all require time and thought, and since the dealers' activities are directed towards the betterment of the hobby, the Association should have the thorough support of every collector. It may not be amiss to state that the newly-elected offices, as noticed here, together with Peter Keller, the Executive Secretary, will listen to any statements made by members of the Masonic Stamp Club, as made for the improvement of Stamp Collecting as a hobby.

Sidney Barrett, one of our photogenic brothers, was recently televised by Walter Law who conducts the Saturday morning stamp club of the air. Our cafe reporter says that Sidney went over in fine manner, that he showed a few Masonic cancellations on postage stamps and covers with uncommon markings, explaining these to the unseen public.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES

The Treasurer reports that well over 75% of the brethren have paid their 1948 dues--two dollars. The balance will oblige by remitting two one dollar bills or a bank check or a postal note or current unused commemoratives (U.S.) or advise the Treasurer they disapprove of dues-paying early in 1948 because their membership began in May or later in 1947. The Masonic Stamp Club has its dues-paying period in January, the system known to all of us. The Treasurer, Harry M. Konwiser, 181 Claremont Ave., New York 27, N. Y., looks forward to depositing your payment to the Club account in the Chemical Bank and Trust Co., New York.

We regret to learn that both our President, Jacob S. Glaser, and our First Vice-president, Charles H. Johnson, are on the sick list. We earnestly pray that both will be restored to health by the time you read this.

THE ANTI-MASONIC STAMPS OF SERBIA AND THEIR BEFUDDLED INTERPRETATION

by Allison M. Severe

On October 22, 1941, Serbia, while under Nazi domination, issued a series of four stamps in connection with certain anti-Masonic demonstrations given on the same day. While this series was an issue of Serbia, it is reasonably certain to believe that it originated in Berlin or some such center of Nazidom. It being a favorite charge of the Nazis, Falanges and Communists to link Masonry with other organizations that were equally unpopular with them, this series was inevitably issued.

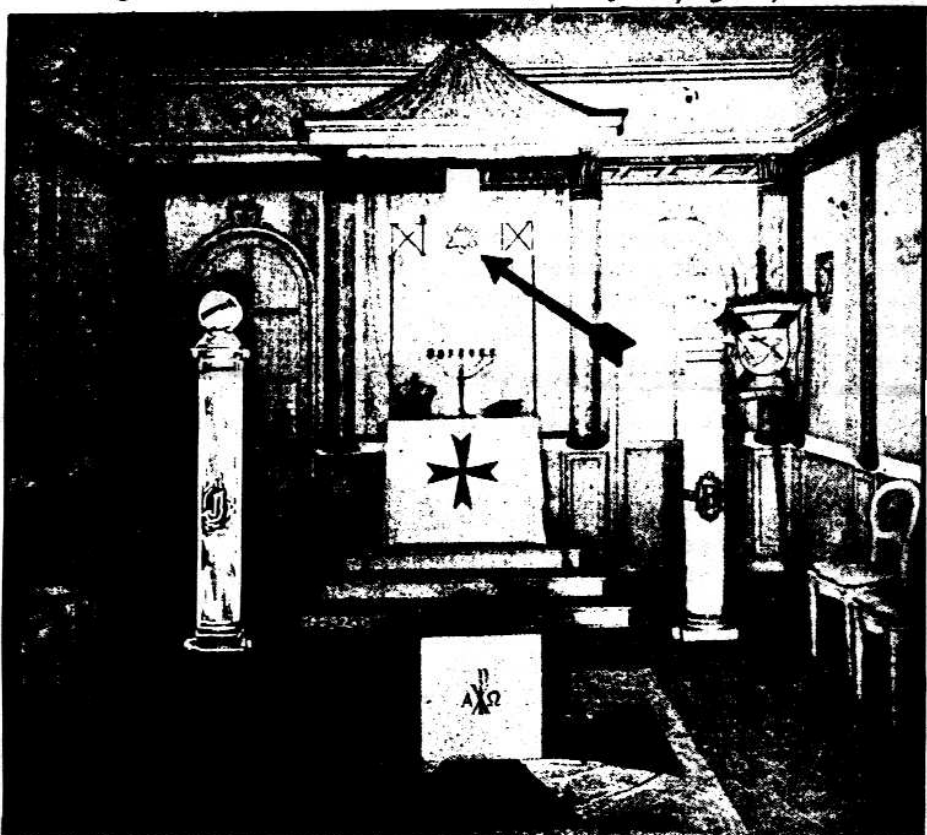
The Nazis, ever on the alert to exterminate the Jews, Catholics, Communists, and Masons, felt it would be smart to link them together and use each to discredit the other. Especially noticed was the attempt at linking the Jew and the Mason. Evidence of this is seen in Nurnberg, Germany, where the Nazis fostered a "Masonic Museum." Here a supposed Lodge room was established showing the Star of David superimposed at the junction of the Christian Cross. The combination, as far as religious aspects are concerned, is ridiculous.

However, this trick of linking one to the other to discredit each other was one that could be effective only with the uninformed, and with the issue of such a series of stamps along with certain demonstrations, such as the purported procedure of a lodge in session held publicly to show the tortures given one of the Craft who had disclosed secrets, etc., more than likely did the job intended in a country where there are very few Freemasons and probably few lodges in existence.

But, to the informed, such as members of the Craft, this series is in itself a ridiculous and fruitless waste of time, effort, paper and good ink leaving only a foolish result with a misinformed and befuddled interpretation. Had not Freemasonry been dedicated to maintaining lofty principles of humanity that would have interfered with the carrying out of the Nazis' barbaric practices, it is certain that Hitler and his henchmen would not have charged that Freemasonry was subservient to the Jews for political, economic and ulterior aims, and would not have been given such wide ludicrous publicity by those in high places.

This, however, not being the case, Masonry and the Jew were hopelessly linked as "the fly in the ointment."

In every Nazi country some sort of anti-Jew, anti-Masonic, anti-Communist, anti-Christ, anti-God, and anti-something or other was going on. In Serbia, in 1941, the Nazis issued this series of stamps, the first of which shows Masonry, allegorically clad as a hooded figure wearing an apron with a Star of David upon its bosom. This hooded figure is shown cringing from a strong ray of light which emanates from a circular cabalistic design apparently representing the forces of anti-Masonry. (see page 6)



An interior view of the Nazified Masonic Museum at Nurnberg as published in "Das Freimaurerlogen Museum in Nurnberg", a propaganda brochure issued by the Nazis to discredit Freemasonry, showing the Star of David at the Junction of a Cross (see arrow). Inscribed on the star are the Hebrew letters for Jehovah. It surely is evident to anyone but a moron that Jewish tradition would not use the Cross of Christ as a symbol of Judaism.

Nowhere in Masonry, at least as far as this writer has sojourned, does a hooded figure appear. Also, any Mason could readily see the fallacy in the "cringing from light" did not we beg to see light at one time or another? Then, too, the attempt to link Jewry with Freemasonry is oh, so evident by the Star of David on the figure's bosom, although the Star of David does play a part in the long list of signs and symbols of the Order. Yes, this stamp would only bring a smile to the lips of one who has stood in the northeast corner and been properly invested and informed.

The second stamp of the series shows a hand emanating from a similar ray of light, as in the first stamp, and grasping the neck of a huge viper whose head rests on a square and compasses. This viper or snake is clothed in a number of Stars of David rather than the scale of nature. The design is misleading to the uninitiated in that it too, like the hooded figure, is not used or seen in and among the symbols of Freemasonry. Even though, Biblically, the snake or serpent represents the forces of evil, the attempt here is to show that the forces of evil (Jew and Masons) are being stopped by the hand of anti-Masonry (Nazism) or can it be that that hand is purposely placing that snake which has been doctored and painted with Stars of David in its position on the stamp, rather than being held back or stopped?

The third stamp shows a sheaf of wheat superimposed on a cross which has a point-like lower leg. This point is shown splitting a large star (probably another Star of David although not positive by the writer because of the acute perspective) upon which rests a hammer and a sickle. Members of the Craft will note that the cross and the sheaf of wheat are both symbols of Freemasonry and that if the



intention is to show the possible destruction of Communism as indicated by the hammer, sickle, and star--Freemasonry is in there pitching! However, because of the nature of this issue, it is evident that the sheaf of wheat was not intended to be used as a symbol of the Craft but that of anti-Masonry and the cross happens to be a part of the cabalistic symbol of these anti-Masonic forces. This, all tied together, attempts to show that the Jew, the Mason, and the Communist are alike in spirit and ideal if not one and the same.

The last stamp in this series shows a Star of David upon a curved surface between two pillars which are being rent asunder by a zealous modern Serbian Sampson. These pillars presumably refer to the "two pillars of the temple of Solomon" (Masonic symbols and Solomon, a Jew but in no way resemble either the Biblical or the Masonic descriptions of these structures. They are rather like two plain posts, not pillars. On each is superimposed a large letter, on one the letter "B" and on the other the letter "J." If, by chance, these letters are representative of the initials of the names given the pillars of the temple of Solomon as described in the Holy Bible, first book of Kings, Chapter seven, verse twenty-one, they are decidedly backward or reversed.

This series of stamps, although anti-Masonic by inscription, is actually anti-Semitic as is shown by the inference of the Star of David on every stamp--first, cringing in fear, second being represented by a snake and being choked out of existence; third, stabbed by the cross (supposedly Christianity), and fourth and last, trampled by an overwhelming invader who casts down the pillars of the temple.

Those of the Craft are apt to smile and pass it off as a bad attempt to discredit the Masonic order and link it with the so-called corruptible "Jewish-Masonic-Sovietic" plot against mankind, as so the Nazis claimed; but actually this series was more anti-Jew than anti-Mason--not anti-Masonic as the Nazis would have us believe, but rather anti to the men who begat Masonry--the Hebrews, the chosen people of God, also anti-God, the All-Seeing Eye, the unseen Host at every meal, the silent listener at every conversation and to those of the Craft, the Supreme Architect. ##



FREEMASONRY
IN
CALIFORNIA
IN
"GOLD RUSH"
DAYS

BY

SAM BROOKS



January 24, 1848, at Sutter's Mill, in California, gold was discovered by a man named Marshall who was in the employ of John A. Sutter. To commemorate this event the Post Office Department will issue a new stamp exactly 100 years later.

The story of the finding of gold and the following "Gold Rush" has been told in the press and may be found in every school history book. Our interest lies in the story of Freemasonry in California in the period prior to and just after the discovery of gold. The full story has been ably written in several books, notably "Fifty Years of Masonry in California" by Edwin A. Sherman, and "Masonic Beginnings in California and Hawaii" by John Whicher. These books are available in your Grand Lodge Library. We here present some of the facts to enable you to write up a page for the new stamp.

As always when a new territory was opened up, Freemasons were among the pioneer settlers.

Early in 1843, a Philadelphia Mason, Carter M. Carew, arrived in Yerba Buena (now San Francisco), and in a letter to his brother, also a Mason, dated June 14, 1843, advised him of his arrival and of conditions in and near the town. He wrote that some Americans had spoken to him about forming a "Society of Freemasons", but he advised against it at that time. He stated that most of the trading was with the priests of the Missions, and that they would probably resent it. He added that some day there would be a strong "Society of our Order here". How prophetic were his words! The Grand Lodge of California was organized only seven years later, in 1850.

Brother Carew wrote another letter to Philadelphia on June 27, 1848. However this time conditions were different. Gold had been discovered early that year, and now San Francisco was deserted. Carew was a trader, but could not dispose of

his cargo. What was wanted were blankets and shovels and food. And the (gold) madness was upon him. "I go to a Godless place", he wrote, "and one where I shall doubtless need all the teachings of our great Brotherhood to walk uprightly among men amid the madness of this land".

According to Grand Lodge records, the first Master Mason to settle in California, was Abel Stearns, from Salem, Mass. He resided at the pueblo of Los Angeles in 1829. In 1842 he shipped the first gold mined in California, to the Philadelphia mint. This gold find apparently created little interest.

Other known Masons of the period, were Kit Carson, who carried the first overland mail from Taos, New Mexico to Monterey, in 1842. He also was with Fremont at the Capture of Sonoma in 1846; George Yount, an Associate of Kit Carson, built the first log fort in California; John K. Barton and Hillard P. Dorsey were active in organizing Los Angeles Lodge No. 42; Benjamin D. Wilson, Mayor of Los Angeles in 1851; Myron Morton was active in writing the Constitution of California; Robert Semple was Editor of the first newspaper published in California. He was the first Treasurer of Benicia Lodge; Commodore John D. Sloat raised the American flag at Monterey July 7, 1846; Lieutenant Joseph Warren Revere, a grandson of two Grand Masters, Paul Revere and Joseph Warren, had the honor of lowering the Bear flag and raising the American flag at Sonoma on July 9, 1846; Colonel John W. Geary was appointed Postmaster of San Francisco and took his post on April 1, 1849. He later was Governor of the Territory of Kansas and in 1866 was elected Governor of Pennsylvania. He was the first Secretary of California Lodge No. 13.

Peter Lassen, who came to California in 1840, is generally credited with bringing the first Masonic charter to California. However it is believed that this honor rightfully belongs to Saschel Woods who organized Western Star Lodge from a charter dated May 10, 1848, issued by the Grand lodge of Missouri. Both Lassen and Woods left their marks on the early life of California.

Folk was President when the news arrived of the gold strike and he soon appointed two aides to take care of the postal facilities in the new territory. Both were members of the Craft. These Brothers applied for and received a charter for the formation of California Lodge No. 13, from the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. It was dated Nov. 9, 1848.

Other charters and dispensations were brought into the Territory and on April 17, 1850, at Sacramento a meeting was held to form the Grand Lodge of California. The next day, officers were elected with Jonathan D. Stevenson as Grand Master. Freemasonry in California was in good hands, and has prospered during these 100 years.

It is interesting to note that John A. Sutter, the proprietor of Sutter's Mill, where gold was first found, was elected to receive the degrees in Marysville Lodge No. 9, September 1, 1853, but so far as known was never initiated.

When a new town formed at the seat of a gold strike, it was not long before a lodge was organized. Many of these lodges closed when the mining activities ceased, and the town reverted to one of the so-called "ghost towns." A list of extinct lodge towns includes the following names:

Indian Diggings, Iowa Hill, Kanzanita, Mokelumne Hill, Newville, Oro Fino, Pilot Hill, Poor Man's Creek, Quartzburg, Rough & Ready, Fiddletown, Gold Hill, Tombstone, Gold Run, Drytown, Virginia City, Duncans Mills, Bidwells Bar, Chinese Camp.

Have you any covers or postmarks from these towns?

PAYING DUES, PELANDER STYLE

Our Treasurer reports that at least one member, naming this brother as Carl E. Pelander, has the right idea for the conservation of the Treasurer's time, etc. In paying 1948 dues, he said: "Here's two five dollar bills, credit me for five years." This is a repeat for Carl. Sidney Barrett did the five-year planing in 1946, and has also responded to every call for help in Club labors. William C. Michaels paid ten years dues in 1944. It is believed the Treasurer will accept \$10 for five years from one and all now--even if the brother has paid 1948 dues.

DR. CLARENCE W. HENNAN "PROFILED"

In a recent issue of WESTERN STAMP COLLECTOR, of which Bro. Al Burns is Editor, we read that the December issue of MEDICAL ECONOMICS devoted three pages to the collecting activities of our popular Chicago member. Dr. Hennan is very active in Chicago stamp circles and is nationally known for his fine medal-winning collections.

GENERAL DOUGLAS MacARTHUR

February 3, 1948, the Phillipines will issue a set of stamps commemorating the liberation of the Islands by General MacArthur.

Brother John A. Mirt of Chicago, suggested that the Club get out First Day covers for this event. However this plan is not feasible to the time element involved. No doubt many of you will obtain these stamps and the following may be of interest to you.

Douglas MacArthur was born at Army Barracks, Little Rock, Arkansas, January 26, 1880. His father, after service in the Civil War, remained in the Army. After the Spanish-American War, he became the first American Military Governor of the Phillipines. It was then that the young MacArthur acquired a deep affection for the Phillipines.

The young man entered West Point in 1899 and four years later graduated at the head of his class. A varied Army career followed, through World War I. Following a short period as Superintendent of the Military Academy, he was sent to the Phillipines to command the Manila district. In 1941 he became head of the Far Eastern Command and in 1942, Commander-in-Chief of all United Nations Forces in the Pacific area. What has happened since then is current history.

Now for our Brother's Masonic history:

Douglas MacArthur was made a Mason AT SIGHT by M.'W.' Samuel R. Hawthorne, Grand Master of Masons in the Phillipines, on January 17, 1936. The ceremony was a brilliant one, participated in by many Past Grand Masters, and by a group of Past Masters, Veterans of the Phillipine Insurrection, who served under the candidate's father Brother General Arthur MacArthur.

Brother Douglas MacArthur is now a member of Manila Lodge No. 1, and has affiliated with other Masonic bodies. On December 7, 1947, (the 6th anniversary of Pearl Harbor) the General received the 33rd Degree. These ceremonies took place at the American Embassy in Tokio.

No doubt you favor some country's stamps, or its postal history, or its revenue stamps, or charity stamps, as do others. The Editor would like a few hundred words on your favorite item in philately.

GREETINGS TO ALL FROM--

Edward J. Whiting--who also advises that he has moved to Lehigh, Pa., from Ithaca, N.Y. Best of luck in your new home, Ed.

Herman Herst of Shrub Oak, N.Y.---who also invites the Club to hold their next picnic at his home. He offers all kinds of games, swimming, target shooting, and a general good time to all. Referred to the proper committee, Pat, and thanks!

William L. Henry (Secretary, please note proper spelling) of North Hampton, Ohio, promises to write something for the Philatelist soon. Thanks, Bill; we like to hear from you.

Charles A. Lott--now in Niagara Falls, N.Y., sends his regards and wants to know what happened to Harold Snyder. So do we all, Charlie. Our best investigators are checking on Harold's whereabouts.

That grand fellow, Arthur W. Deas, writes: "My association with the members of the Club is one of my greatest satisfactions." Thank you, Arthur. Our only regret is that we don't see you often enough.

Jose Rueff of Flushing, N.Y., has not met with us recently due to a siege of illness. Now that he is on the road to recovery, we hope to see him soon. Get well, Joe.

James W. Anderson of Kansas City, Mo., is with us in spirit and offers to all of us: "May 1948 bring each of you the things you hoped for in 1947 and failed to achieve." Thanks for all of us, Jim.

Dr. Warren P. S. Hall of Toledo, Ohio, is secretary-treasurer of the Ohio Federation of Public Health Officials and writes that he enjoys the Philatelist and that it is well worth the membership fee.

Fred C. Post of Arcadia, Calif., is interested in the work of the Club and is looking forward to the new exchange program.

(Editor's note--The foregoing comments were accompanied by two dollars for DUES. Have you paid yours?)