

The Masonic Philatelist

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Vol. IV No. 7 February 1948



GREENFIELD, MASS.

2¢ 1861

34 1861

RUTLAND, VT.

1882-1883

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Brother Richard S. Bohn, one of our Board of Governors, was elected President of the Collectors Club at their annual meeting. Brother Bohn deserves the cooperation of all members of the Masonic Stamp Club in his activities as president of the Collectors Club.

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Our own President, Jacob S. Glaser, has been elected to membership in the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

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Norman Lee and Janice Lee, grand-children of Jacob S. Glaser our president, received prizes at the Hackensack show held in the Hackensack Armory in January. Norman received first prize in the Junior division for German Zepps, and Janice received third prize for animal stamps in the sub-junior division.

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Brother C. Max Lentz of Youngstown Ohio, notes reference to Brother Ralph Freed of Struthers Ohio, and since that town is only a 20 minute bus ride from Youngstown, why Brother Max intends visiting Brother Ralph. A pat on the back to M.P. for bringing these Brothers to-gether.

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• Meetings •

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

Feb 27 Competition - Great Britain & Colonies

Mar 5 Masonic Philately

THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

COMMITTEES

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of
The Masonic Stamp Club of New York

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New York 52, N. Y.

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1948

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1949

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Henry M. Friedman

One of our members recently approached the junior Past Master of a Lodge in New York City, and suggested that since he collected stamps, he might join the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. The reply indicated this Past Master bought a few blocks with plate numbers of "all the new stamps as issued," and beyond that knew nothing about philately or its activities towards increasing the interest of the public in the adhesives he was buying "as a safe investment," as he put it. (P.S. And he didn't want to seek knowledge).

SPRING AND FISHING SEASON SOON

If you are a devotee of Ike Walton, or just a plain ordinary fisherman or seek to catch fish via pole and line plus some sort of hook, get in touch with G.B.Dills of Garrett, Ind. G.B.D. is a member in good standing and is the maker of the famous PIKIE MINNOW, guaranteed to catch more fish. The very next time the Treasurer goes afishin', he says, he will surely add a Pike Minnow to his bait assortment.

New Officers

For some time it has been evident, that because of illness, M.'W'. Charles H. Johnson, our First Vice-president could not visit with us and give us the benefit of his wise counsel. To carry on the work of the Club, the Board of Governors decided to elect a new Vice-president. At a meeting of the Board, Brother Gordon G. Johnson was elected.

To Gordon we wish much happiness in his new office. We know he will fill it with credit to himself and to the Club. To Charlie, all we want is for you to get well so that we can have you with us again. To insure your contact with us, you have been elected by acclamation President Emeritus. We know it's just another honor added to the many you now own. But Chief, we like you and we want you to be with us for a long time. May God grant that you will be well again soon.

Brother H.L.DeVall of New Brunswick, N.J., writes that he enjoys reading our monthly bulletins and wishes he could attend meetings and get better acquainted with the Club members. He hopes that transportation difficulties will ease soon and permit him to visit with us. So do we, Brother.

Brother Clarence Hennan of Chicago has been appointed as Western United States representative of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. We congratulate our member for this opportunity of greater service to all stamp collectors.

Our Treasurer, Harry M. Konwiser (have you paid your dues yet), has presented to Aero Philatelists, his valuable file of reference material pertaining to airmail stamps. Harry was editor of the first Scott Airpost Catalog, and of the first Sanabria Catalog. This donation comprises the largest single accumulation of this type of material.

We visit the Scandinavian Collectors Club May 12th.

Our good friends who collect the Scandinavian countries, have again kindly invited us to visit and exhibit at their meeting on Wednesday May 12th. Please note this date and join us to meet these nice people.

Brother John A.Mirt of Chicago, likes our last issue and is happy to be numbered among the members of our Club. John hopes to visit with us soon and is assured of a cordial welcome. How about May 7th, John?

MASONIC SIGNALS

by

Col. A. C. Townsend

They met in Italy during the war; and it was only about a month later when, sitting on a bench in the moonlight, the Corporal said to the Sergeant softly, "Sergeant, may I call you Grace?" And in another month they were engaged, waiting for discharge and planning happily for the future. Fred was to go back to his old job in the electrical firm until he could set up in business for himself. "I'm a pretty good electrician," he said to Grace, "and with the experience and training the Army has given me I know I can handle and repair any car made and do almost any electrical repairing they can hand me."

"Of course you can," replied Grace proudly. "And I'll go back to the old home and get a position, if I can get that lady to still stay and take care of Auntie, and we'll bank all the money we can until you find the proper opening and buy a business of your own. How wonderful it is that we are from the same city and neither of us have parents! You'll have to take a room somewhere until we can marry, but then you are sure you will be satisfied to come and live in that old house? It's awfully old and rather shabby."

"It will be perfect," Fred said. "It will save us a lot of expense and make our money pot that much larger in a short time." And then he took a mean advantage of her. "Attention, left dress!" he commanded his superior, and when she dutifully turned her head left and sat rigid he kissed her in a most ~~un~~military manner, and then they went on planning happily for their future.

But it didn't turn out quite right. Grace was discharged first and went home. She wrote him happy letters; Auntie was in pretty good shape for a woman of over ninety, but was living a lot in the past. She could remember names and vivid details about events half a century ago, but often called even her by the wrong name, and always referred to him as "Joe." It was comical; correct her and she would say, "Oh yes; Fred." And five minutes later she would ask something more about Joe! The lady was glad to stay with them until the wedding, and Grace had a good position and

started their bank account, putting in his remittances and her small savings.

And then Fred got his discharge and hurried home and was stunned to find that his firm had recently sold out to another concern and he had no good job waiting for him. He quickly got a pretty fair position but at lower starting pay, and was very blue over it. "Race cheered him nobly, was willing to be married at once anyhow, but he insisted he wanted to be settled in a life business before he asked her to share his lot and uncertainties. It was hard to wait, but Fred was firm that it would be better so.

One night he came to the house highly enthused, as well as cast down. A friend had come to him with the proposition that they set up an electrical store themselves in a good location he had found, a well located hardware store that could be bought out, and they could put in a line of electrical supplies. It looked like a sure field but required \$1,500 on his part to match his friend's investment--and he only had about a thousand.

They talked and talked. Couldn't he get a GI loan? Probably so, but it took too much time unwinding red tape and the place was sure to be sold very soon. Auntie listened and chipped in with a few bright tales of Ed Peters and Harry Jenkins who had each started in business with only about a hundred dollars and had both become wealthy. But that was back in the 1850's! And other such tales with minute details, but that didn't help.

She finally decided she had better go to bed, but as she rose she exclaimed, "Oh Martha, you were going to ask Joe to bring down that old trunk from upstairs so we could empty it. That was Jenny's grandfather's trunk, Joe, and it has been sitting up there since about 1868 and hasn't been open for I don't know how many years. Would you get it down, Joe, so we can empty it and get rid of the old things and pack some winter clothes in it?"

So Fred lugged the old curved top and hooped trunk down to the livingroom and Auntie sat on a hassock and began dragging out this, that, and the other thing, exclaiming over items and giving long and minute details regarding them. It was pretty hard for the young folks but even Fred loved the dear old lady and they let her ramble on. It was quite a while before she uncovered and pulled out quite a

bunch of letters and sat back and scinted at the address and the corner card on the top one.

"I do declare! Here are all those letters your grandpa used to get from his chum Howard Matthews. They were close friends for years and went into Masonry together and then Howard got interested in the oil field that was being developed around some Pennsylvania town--Corry, I'm almost sure it was--and he packed up and went up there to make his fortune. He used to write glowing letters to Papa about things there at first but then he gave up the oil business. He said it was all in the hands of two real big men and there was no show for a little fellow, so he got a job in the post office. Papa kept all his letters because they were so interesting and because Howard made up some Masonic cancelling stamps to use on his letters to Papa. I remember Papa used to chuckle over their cleverness and he used to show them at the club or camp or whatever it was. Howard died suddenly of a fever about 1869 and Papa put all the letters away. And they have been lying in that trunk all--What is it, Joe? Have you got to go?"

For Fred had risen to his feet, his face alight with interest. "May I look at those letters, Auntie? I used to be a stamp collector and some of the boys at the office are now. One of them was talking to me the other day and gave me a stamp paper to look over at noon and I saw something about a Masonic Stamp Society of folks who are nuts over those cancellations."

Auntie handed over the packet and said, "I hope they may be of some value, Howard. If they are they belong to Jennie--I mean to Grace--and it would be splendid if they brought you in a dollar or two just when you need money so much. I'll go to bed now."

"I'm almost afraid to look," said Fred as he carefully untied the packet, fortunately nicely squared up and tied with the old flat red tape in use so long. "That chap told me that Masonic cancels were worth from ten dollars up if they were clear and the letters not spoiled in opening them."

"Good heavens!" Grace exclaimed. "I had no idea of that. Oh wouldn't it be wonderful-- Sit down at the table here and hurry up." She snuggled up against him at the table as he carefully untied the package. The first half dozen bore 3¢ 1861's with ordinary cancellations but then came another

with a beautiful square and compass in blue, squarely on the stamp and a little over on the sides to tie it on. "Ten dollars," he whispered as he handed it to Grace. "And another, and another!" The next one had a queer cancel. "Looks like a trowel," he said to Grace.

"Do you think it is any good?" she asked. "I'm afraid to say yes, but it ought to be some sort of Masonic symbol or emblem or whatever they are called. We'll hope so." Then he laid aside two more with common cancels, and gasped as he saw the next one. The cover bore three 1¢ stamps and another queer cancel, apparently a walking stick with a large dot on each side of it, and it was carefully impressed in red on each stamp, making a lovely cover. "I don't know what it is, but it must be Masonic with all the trouble he went to. Isn't it a beauty?"

There were more walking sticks and trowels and more of the square and compass, and one of the last was another strip of three and the cane cancel in red, and staring at it Fred saw that the stamps were grilled. He explained to Grace that they were several times as valuable as the other 1¢ and with that cancel might be quite valuable. Counting the ones they only hoped were Masonic, Fred took them to the office with him next morning and later in the day Grace was surprised to get a telegram from Fred. "Going to New York; wait up for me."

About midnight he hurried in. His friend had enthused over the covers, had told him of a man on Claremont Avenue in New York who he was sure would buy them, and Fred had taken the afternoon off and gone to see him. And then he produced and showed Grace a check that astounded her. They could meet his friend's \$1,500 and buy the store, and the future looked like a bed of roses.

. . .

A nice letter from Brother Charles H. Copestake suggests that the new Utah stamp be included in a Masonic stamp collection. He writes, "To the list of books you mention might be added "Joseph Smith and his Mormon Empire" by Harry M. Beardsley. This book contains much of Masonic interest--Masonry at Nauvoo, pp 235, 244-45, 382-83; Anti-Masonry, pp 43, 87-88, 382 383; and in addition it gives a very good account of the Mormon migration". Thank you, Brother Copestake, we'll have to read that book.

C. Corwith Wagner, a member of the Craft, with the assistance of some historic-minded citizens of Missouri, is hopeful of creating sufficient interest in a piece of unique Americana, i.e., the preservation of the original Pony Express building, St. Joseph, Mo. This starting-off place for the Pacific Coast can be preserved if the citizens of St. Joe drop their pennies in a hat, etc. Harry M. Konwiser started the publicity on this campaign at the suggestion of Ezra Cole. The American Heritage Association may be asked to help promote the idea of preserving the St. Joseph building.

Latest information on the Masonic Stamp Club Dinner--May 7th

Place - Masonic Club Restaurant (Private Dining Room)
9th Floor, Masonic Hall, 71 West 23rd Street.

Time - Friday, May 7. Try to be there at 6:30 for a preliminary get-together. Dinner at 7:00 sharp.

Dress - Informal

The Dinner - The food will be of the best.

Toastmaster - President Jacob S. Glaser.

Speeches - They'll be very short.

Entertainment - Committee members Harold Matters and Harry Henneman are working on this. It will be OK.

Souvenir of the Occasion - Under development.

Subscription - \$3.50 includes EVERYTHING.

This will be a stag dinner. Attendance must be limited to seventy-five, the capacity of the room. Please make every effort to attend as it will be a worth-while event.

Send reservations early (with check) to the Dinner Chairman Gordon G. Johnson, 185 Selva Ave., West Englewood, N.J.
