

# *The Masonic Philatelist*

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK  
ENTERED



VOLUME IV No. 8 March-April 1948



## FIFTY YEARS OF MASONIC SERVICE

On Friday, March 19th, at Sagamore Lodge, Masonic Hall, New York, N.Y.: W: Frank M. Pond, one of our old members, received the "50 year" medal, of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. After the presentation, this fine craftsman was greeted by several members of the Masonic Stamp Club. W: Harold Mathers, a Past Master of the Lodge was accompanied by Jacob S. Glaser, Harry M. Konwiser, and M.W. Charles H. Johnson. All hail to this grand gentleman. We salute you Frank, and wish for you many more years of good health and happiness and useful service to our Fraternity.

Perhaps many of you are wondering what happened to our Membership List. Well, it's on the way, and it may be delivered with this issue of the MASONIC PHILATELIST. Your comments when you receive the list, will be appreciated. We think the Committee, composed of Morris Strauss, E. Milnor Peck, and Harry O. Henneman, deserve a great, big, hand!

Incidentally, when you get the list, don't just file it away! Start the ball a'rolling. Write, WRITE and keep on writing. Remember, you have much more in common with all on the list, than just stamps. Make use of the list.

## • Meetings •

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

April 30 Four members (20 minutes each) who have never shown at the Club.

May 7 FOURTEENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

# THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

## COMMITTEES

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

EDITOR  
Sam Brooks, 985 Anderson Ave.,  
New York 52, N. Y.

### OFFICERS

Jacob S. Glaser	President
Charles H. Johnson	1st Vice-Pres.
Ferrars H. Tows	2nd Vice-Pres.
Irwin M. Yarry	Secretary
61-23 Roosevelt Ave.	Woodside, N. Y.
Harry M. Konwiser	Treasurer
181 Claremont Ave.,	New York, N. Y.

### Board of Governors

1948  
Dr. Chas. H. Johnson  
Dr. Irwin M. Yarry  
Sam Brooks

1949  
Bert Ehrenberg  
Gordon G. Johnson  
Russell B. Roane

1950  
Harry M. Konwiser  
Ferrar H. Tows  
Richard S. Bohn

### MEMBERSHIP:

Carl E. Pelander (Chairman)  
Charles W. Brooks

### PUBLICITY:

Franklin R. Bruns, Jr. (Chairman)  
Carl H. Pihl  
Harold Matters

### CORRESPONDENCE & EXCHANGE:

Diego Quintero (Chairman)  
Morris Strauss  
Harry O. Henneman  
E. Milnor Peck

### ENTERTAINMENT:

Harold Matters (Chairman)  
Robert M. Pech  
Dr. Irwin M. Yarry

### PROGRAM:

Harry O. Henneman (Chairman)  
Dr. George Camnitzer  
Carl H. Pihl

### EXHIBITION:

Dr. George Camnitzer (Chairman)  
Harry O. Henneman  
Carl H. Pihl

### AUCTION:

Henry M. Friedman

---

Brother A Wesley Zollers of Trappe, Collegeville, Pa., writes that he collects only U.S. singles and blocks, mint and used. He expects to attend our dinner with Brother Biehl. You're assured of a fine time, Brothers.

---

And while we're on the subject of the Dinner, have you made your reservation? Better hurry! And this is not the usual publicity hokey! Remember this- the room will hold only 75. That's all Brothers!!! Know what? Harry Henneman in charge of ticket sales, at our last meeting- thats April 2, turned over to Treasurer Harry Konwiser, about \$160 for paid up tickets. Figure it out. At \$3.50 per ticket, thats full payment for 46 members. Actually there were 52 tickets sold up to the close of the meeting. If you can attend this Dinner, do so and send your check NOW to Harry O. Henneman, 28 E. 31 St. New York, N. Y. Don't put it off. We want you there and you're guaranteed a swell time, good food, good fellowship and something nice to remember the evening, besides pleasant memories. See you on May 7th.

## THE POST MARKS OF THE BELGIAN CONGO

Arthur I. Heim

The postal history of the Congo is replete with interest to the philatelist. Much has been written in the European press regarding the fascinating stamps of this country, but unfortunately little has appeared in English. The names of the towns themselves are intriguing and a study of the various cancellations of these towns requires considerable research.

One of the visitors at CIPEX last May was M. Andre de Cock, who will be remembered as one of the judges at the show. M. de Cock's book on the Postmarks of the Belgian Congo is a classic on the subject. Written in French and published in Brussels, it has been out of print for some time and is exceedingly hard to locate. Most of the information which follows is taken from M. de Cock's book, together with some valuable information kindly given the writer by Mr. Ray E. Morrison of Chicago.

The first postage stamp of the Congo was issued July 1, 1885. There were not many postoffices in existence at that time. The larger towns, 22 in all, used a straight line cancel which just consisted in the name of the town, generally all caps (fig. 1) or in a few instances upper and lower case (fig. 2). Following the system used by M. de Cock, these are type I. They were only used for a short time and are fairly hard to find. The classic example is VIVI, a rather obscure town that was only in existence for five months from January to July 1886.

Postmark type II (fig. 3) and consists of the town name and date without an enclosing circle. This form of cancellation was used by only eight towns, but these towns have used the postmark continuously right up to the present time. However, the fact that it was used continuously does not mean that for each of the eight towns it was an exclusive cancellation.

Early in 1886, the first postmark appears which included the time of day as well as the date.

Enclosed in a small circle, it was used by well over 100 postoffices. The normal arrangement of this type III (fig. 4), with the date below the name of the town, then the month, then the time (M for A.M., S for P.M.), with the year at the bottom. Variations of this type occur with the different arrangements of the date, month and time shown (figs. 5, 6 and 7).

The change from type III to type IV occurred in 1903. It came about through the issuance of a postal bulletin and merely consists of the change in the method of indicating the time, which was now done by showing the actual hour on a 24-hour basis, thus 14-15. The normal arrangement is shown in fig. 8, with the variations in figs. 9, 10, 11 and 12. Fig. 13 shows the short year date variation and figs. 14 and 15 show the use of roman numerals for the month.

Type V consists of a circle enclosing the name of the town at the top and a five-pointed star at the bottom, with the date and time in the center. The normal arrangement is with the data in a straight line, the month being indicated by a roman numeral and the year by the last two numbers of the date (fig. 16). Thus, 22-IX-25 14 means 22 September, 1925, 2 P.M. Variations are with the data arranged vertically (fig. 17) and with the arabic numeral for the month (fig. 18).

Type VI is much the same as type V, except that there are two stars instead of one. Fig. 19 shows the normal arrangement and fig. 20 the use of the arabic numeral for the month, while fig. 21 shows the year in full.

The next type VII, shows the usage of three stars instead of two. Figs. 22 and 23 show the normal setting and the use of the arabic numeral for the month.

Type VIII consists of a circle with the name of the town enclosed, below which is the date data, and the word "POSTES" at the bottom, with a star at either side of the word. The normal setting is as in fig. 24. Fig. 25 shows the usage of a

# BANANA

## LÉOPOLVILLE. I

LUKOLELA  
10  
JUL  
17-18  
1923

POBOCABACCA  
18  
SEPT  
6-M  
1896

KINSHASA  
7-8  
28  
JUN  
1916

IBEMBO  
FEVR  
3  
7-M  
1900

NYANGWE  
10-M  
DECE  
27  
1900

BASONGO  
16  
DECE  
5-6  
1903

ELISABETHVILLE  
14-15  
5  
DECE  
1911

SAKANIA  
15  
7-8  
FEVR  
1914

THYSVILLE  
18-19  
AOUT  
14  
1914

MUSHIE  
DECE  
10  
11-12  
1911

LUKAFU  
15  
JUN  
6-7  
09

UVIRA  
21  
VI  
9-10  
1920

TSHIKAPA  
8-9  
13  
V  
1923

LOANGO-DUKULA  
24-XI-22  
1885  
★

USUMBURA  
9-10  
7  
IX  
22  
★

KIKWIT  
16-5-29 10  
★

BANDUNDU  
16.XI.27.15  
★ ★

KONGOLO  
-7-1-25-15  
★ ★

PONTHIEVILLE  
26.V.1924 14 m  
★ ★

ABA  
17.II.25-16  
★ ★

BUKAMA  
24-8-26-3  
★ ★

BOENDE  
12.3.28.14  
★ ★  
POSTES

ALBERTVILLE  
29-1935-15  
★ ★  
POSTES

TSHIKAPA  
-1.5.26.10  
★ ★  
POSTES

STANLEYVILLE  
24.11.33.12  
★ ★  
POSTES

COOUMATVILLE  
17-9-27.11  
★ ★  
POSTES

full year date and fig. 26 shows the variation without the stars.

In 1936, type TX came into use and is the postmark in use today in most towns. The only difference from type VIII is that a posthorn has been substituted for POSTES. (fig. 27). There are many variations of type IX, principally in the design of the posthorn.

This discussion has included only the regular types. There have been many special cancellations some quite rare. As with most countries, there are Paquebot and other similar usages. The telegraph cancellation is the octagonal one seen fairly often. Although intended as a telegraph cancellation, its use to cancel mail was not uncommon. Some few towns had their own special cancels and in some instances where the town was too small for a regular post office, manuscript cancels were used.

Although the catalog does not reflect it in most cases, many of the stamps of Congo are harder to find with genuine cancellations than mint. Consequently faked cancellations are frequently encountered. One with which the market is being currently flooded is shown in fig. 28. This cancellation has been quite evidently copied directly from the illustration in M. de Cock's book. It always has the same date, 17 Sept., 1927 and will be found on stamps that had been withdrawn long before 1927, as well as on stamps that were issued years after the type IX cancellation came into use in Coquilhatville in 1937.

---

Jan Masaryk, 32°, attended a joint communication of Golden Rule Lodge No. 770 and Elbe Lodge No. 893, New York City, June 10, 1942. He was the guest of honor and the principal speaker. M. W. Bro. William F. Strang, Grand Master, did the introducing.

-J.A. M.

Francis Scott Key-- There is no record to show that he was a Mason -- "Builder," November, 1922, page 355.

-J.A.M.

## FACTS ABOUT SEYCHELLES

BY Henry M. Friedman

This is a group of 92 islands situated in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Africa, 600 miles from Madagascar and 970 miles from Zanzibar. The total area is 156 square miles and from all accounts this group is one of the earth's most favored spots, for droughts, hurricanes, fevers, noxious insects and reptiles are unknown.

There are five post offices in Seychelles--Victoria, Anse Royale, Grand Anse, Bay St. Anne, and La Dique. With the exception of Victoria, stamps with the other cancellations are rare. The largest island is Mahe, which is 16 miles long and from 3 to 4 miles wide. The only communication between Mahe and the other islands is a government motor launch between the islands with bi-weekly trips.

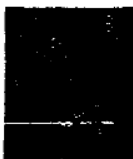
Seychelles became a dependency of Mauritius in 1815. The stamps of Mauritius were used in Seychelles until 1890 and the post mark "B 64" used for identification. On November 10th 1903, Seychelles was proclaimed a separate colony, with its own stamps.

England has for years maintained in Seychelles a home for captured African Kings who had been deposed for their country's good. Each ex-king has a comfortable home, a nice allowance and freedom, EXCEPT, that they cannot leave the islands.

On the island of Curieuse there is a leper hospital maintaining many hundreds of patients. Several hotels have been built on Mahe for tourists, who come chiefly from East and South Africa.



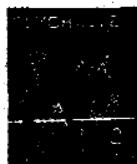
Queen Victoria



Giant Tortoise



King Edward VII



Coco-de-mer Palm



King George V



You can add the Mississippi Territory (April 7) stamp to your Masonic collection.

by John A. Mirt

The following information is gleaned from "History of American Union Lodge No. 1, F. & A.M. of Ohio," by Charles S. Plumb, 33°, Historian of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. (American Union Lodge is one of the famous military lodges of Revolutionary Days)

Major Winthrop Sergeant of the Massachusetts Line was made a Master Mason, March 13, 1776. (p.81); he also is listed as one of the original signers of the rules and regulations adopted Feb. 20, 1776 (p. 18), which strangely is before he was raised. (While the name is given as "Sergeant" in these and other places, references leave no doubt that he was the same Winthrop Sargent, first territorial governor of Mississippi. The author explains discrepancies in names (page 78) are due to the secretary apparently having guessed the spelling in some instances.)

"Sergeant" was active in the early history of the Lodge, and on June 20, 1776, at a meeting in Waterman's Tavern, Roxbury, Mass., was elected Junior Deacon.

The book gives an account of "Sergeant Winthrop's" activities after the war, citing him as being active in the formation of the Ohio Company a group formed in Massachusetts to settle Ohio. It also calls him "Secretary of the Northwest Territory." This definitely establishes "Sergeant" to have been "Sargent" because the latter was involved in the Ohio company and was secretary of the Northwest Territory. Furthermore, "Sargent" married Rowena Tupper, daughter of Benjamin Tupper (Dictionary of American Biography). Tupper (page 93 of A.U.L. history) was one of the Master Masons who met in Marietta, O., June 25, 1790, to consider reviving American Union Lodge there and was Master in 1791. The Lodge has become dormant after the war because its membership was widely scattered.

On page 110 of the American Union Lodge history,

Note: He signed his name "SARGENT" so this was the correct spelling. CLM, 2014



we find:

"The earliest Marietta home of American Union Lodge was at Campus Martius, where for three years it held its sessions in the home of Major Winthrop Sergeant, which is thus described by Dr. Samuel Hildreth (The Pioneer Settlers of Ohio, Vol. 2, 1866)

"In the center of the west front was a chamber surmounted by a tower. This chamber projected over the gateway like a block-house, and was intended for a protection to the gate underneath in time of assault. It was occupied for several years by Hon. Winthrop Sergeant, Secretary of the Territory, as an office. This room, then was about ninety feet from the southwest corner of the fort -- the corner now marked by a stone planted under the direction of the New Century Historical Society."

"Major Winthrop Sergeant was one of the Charter Members of American Union Lodge, having signed the Rules and Regulations adopted February 20, 1776. His official duties took him away from Marietta, and for that reason we do not find his name in the records made at Campus Martius, but he showed his interest in the cause by furnishing the Brethren with a room."

("Dictionary of American Biography" confirms that Sargent was a busy man, saying that he "assumed the executive responsibilities" during frequent and prolonged absences of Governor Arthur St. Clair)

Mississippi Territory (according to Dictionary of American History) was organized under an Act approved April 7, 1798. Sargent was named its first territorial governor, and served until 1801. He retired to a southern plantation and died Jan. 3, 1820, on a steamboat near New Orleans. He has been born at Gloucester, Mass., May 1, 1753, and had served with distinction in the Revolutionary War, advancing to the rank of major.

In "History of Freemasonry in Ohio" by W. M. Cunningham, Major Winthrop Sargent was named secretary at the formation of the Ohio Company,

which further confirms "Sergeant" and "Sargent" are one and the same.

(Editors Note: A very fine article on the subject was published by The American Lodge of Research in their Transactions-Volume IV Number 2, Oct. 20, 1944-December 18, 1945. This article, "The Beginnings of Masonry in Mississippi" by the Rev. and Bro. J. Allen Cabaniss, Grand Historian, of the Grand Lodge of that state. In view of Brother Mirt's article, it is interesting to note that Bro. Cabaniss does not mention Governor Winthrop Sargent as being a member of the Craft.)



---

There's a new Baby (the first) at the home of Brother Richard Pollick. The new Daddy was with us at the last meeting (first night out). Dick- all of us wish for you, your grand wife, and the Baby, the best of everything. Good Health and Happiness to you all.

---

Brother Paul J. Kitsko, of Indianapolis, was married a few months ago. The same to you and your bride, Paul.

---

Dick Dahlem of Dover, New Jersey, hopes he can get a night off so he can be with us on May 7th. So do we Dick. Have'nt seen you since the big show.

---

The suggestion has been made that a page of the PHILATELIST be devoted to listing the wants of members. Also that a listing of dealer-members be made available. What do you think? These are important matters and deserve your attention. Your views are wanted. Write the Editor.

April 2, 1948

The Annual Members' Exhibition was held at our last meeting and proved to be one of the finest meetings held by the Club. Attendance was excellent, the number of exhibitors large, and the quality of exhibits, the best we've seen in a long time.

It was advertised as an "Oldtime stamp exhibition" and it proved to be that. Some real old time members were there and many brought their stamps to show. The entire evening was a tribute to our President Jacob S. Glaser, and to Harry O. Henneman our Program Chairman.

Most exhibitors arrived early and mounted their collections in the wall frames and additional frames provided by the Committee. After a short business session the Judges were asked to make their selections.

The Judges were John J. Britt, International President of Aerophilatelists Inc., and William H. Matgomery and Henry Goodkind of the same organization. While they were deliberating, some of the exhibitors spoke of their collections and explained the highlights.

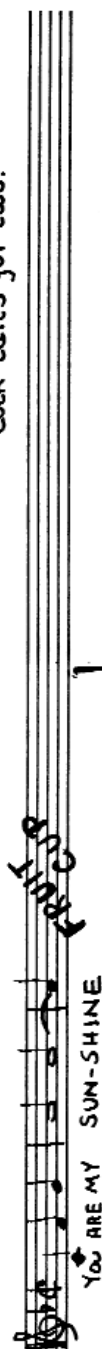
The Judges then returned and Mr. Britt announced the following winners:

First Prize - Arthur Heim - Belgian Congo  
Second Prize - Carl Pihl - Norway  
Third Prize - Irwin Yarry - Gt. Britian used abroad  
Fourth Prize - A.T. Koominoff - Bulgaria  
Fifth Prize - Daniel Brengel - Haiti  
Sixth Prize - Harold Matters - Mint U. S.  
Honorable Mention - Russel Roane - Post War Phillipines  
Honorable Mention - Forrest Ellis - Columbian Envelopes

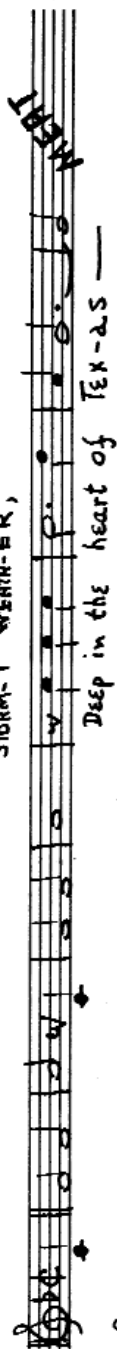
The results were well received and after thanking the Judges, Brother Henneman called on the other exhibitors to talk about their showings.

Harry then spoke about our next meeting which will bring out for Competition collections which were never shown before at the club. - S.B.

# BILL of FARE.



YOU ARE MY SUN-SHINE



**The preceding page covers both pages 12 and 13 in the original document.**

## BARNABAS BATES

(Barnabas Bates, who organized and led the fight for cheap and uniform postage in the United States was a Mason. The facts relating to Bates, as stated here, are from the story (in pamphlet) by Van Dyck MacBride, 744 Broad Street, Newark 2, N. J., permission to use any part having been graciously accorded by Mr. MacBride.-H.M.K.)

Bates led the fight in the 1840s and later, and the 5 and 10 rates resulted from his activities, together with those of Joshua Leavitt, Pliny Miles Lysander Spooner, and John Hill. Mr. MacBride also includes Daniel Webster as among those who saw the benefits to accrue from lowering the postage rates of the 1840s.

The 1840 rates, as made in 1816, were: Not over 30 miles, 6 cents; 31 to 80 miles, 10 cents; 81 to 150 miles,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents; 151 to 400 miles,  $18\frac{3}{4}$  cents (as increased in 1825); over 400 miles, 25 cents. These rates were "per piece" letters.

The 5 and 10 rates became effective July 1, 1845. The 5 and 10 stamps were issued in 1847.

Bates has been called "the Rowland Hill of America."

Bates was born in Manchester, England, but came to the United States when very young. Following studies at Phillips Academy, Exeter, N.H., Bates settled in the Ministry in Massachusetts.

Mr. MacBride's pamphlet illustrates the newspaper story, from the New York Atlas, April 18, 1847, same being a portion of The Diary of Barnabas Bates. From the Diary we learn that Bates, early in 1838 furnished Hunt's Merchants Magazine with an article in favor of cheap postage. The article Mr. MacBride points out, might be in error as to the date, since the March 1840 issue of Hunts carried the story entitled "Post Office Reform-Cheap Postage".

Other newspapers of the period indicate the Bates fight was meeting with approval.

*New York Atlas*  
*April 18, 1847.*



**BARNABAS BATES, Esq.,**  
THE ADVOCATE OF CHEAP POSTAGE.

We give to-day the portrait of one of our citizens, who is well-known in this city, and in the United States, for his unwearied and successful exertions in carrying through the great and benevolent measure of cheap postage, and who has not been unsaply styled "the Rowland Hill of America."

Mr. Bates was born in Manchester, England, but came to this country when very young, and commenced his classical studies at the celebrated Phillips Academy, Exeter, N. H., then under the presidency of the venerable Dr. Abbot. Alexander H. Everett, our present minister to China, was then one of the tutors. Among the classmates of Mr. Bates were the Rev. Dr. Blake, of this city, and Edward Everett, late minister at the Court of St. James, and now President of Harvard University. In 1814, the corporation of Brown University conferred on Mr. Bates the honorary degree of Master of Arts.

Mr. Bates first settled in the ministry in Barnstable, Mass., and while residing there war was declared by Congress against Great Britain, and that town, being situated on the sea board, was continually exposed to the attacks of the enemy. On one occasion, a vessel loaded with cotton, belonging to one of his parishioners, was chased into the harbor of Hyannis by a tender of one of the British frigates, cruising in Vineyard Sound. The signal was given, which had been agreed upon by the inhabitants of the village, that the enemy was approaching, when Mr. Bates, and about thirty of his congregation repaired immediately to the shore and commenced discharging the cargo, and drawing the cotton bags on the banks as a defence against the attack of the tender. Two large barges, filled with armed men, were dispatched from the tender, under cover of a 15 pounder, which was directed against the citizens on the shore. As the barges approached, three cheers

(Photographed by Stanley B. Ashbrook)



Bates was postmaster at Bristol, Rhode Island, from 1817 to 1820.

Mr. MacBride points to the ATLAS newspaper story, which says Bates - during his residence in Bristol was elected Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island (seven years service), and was for five years Chaplain of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter. During these years he officiated at many installations in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

--H. M. K.

Through the courtesy of Brother Wendel Walker of the Grand Lodge Library, we present the following regarding the Masonic history of Worshipful Barnabus Bates:

Admitted- Saint Albans Lodge, No. 6, Bristol, 1815 (p. 284)

Chaplain Same (p. 304)

Master Same 1819 (p. 375)

Grand Chaplain- Grand Lodge. 1816-1822 (p.299,320,330,332, p.344, 347, 369, 371, 373, etc.)

June 25, 1821: A grand procession was formed and proceeded through several streets to the Benevolent Congregational Meeting House, where the Throne of Grace was addressed by the W! Grand Chaplain... (p. 14)

Page references are to Reprint of the Early Proceedings R.I.

---

The following advertisement appeared in "Freemason's Monthly Magazine," Vol. II (1852):

#### STAMPS OF ALL KINDS.

And especially POST OFFICE STAMPS, Manufactured at lowest prices--approved--by E.S. Zevely, Postmaster Pleasant Grove, Allegany County, Maryland, whom please address. Stamps for post offices sent by mail "Free."  
Nov. 1851.

---

If any of the boys are wondering about the affiliation of Joel Chandler Harris (stamp scheduled for Dec. 9), the following from "Dictionary of American Biography" will answer the question: "Two weeks before his death, which was caused by cirrhosis of the liver, he was baptized into the Roman Catholic Church."

--J.A.M.

Some Masonic facts about Wisconsin (statehood centennial stamp, May 29) for information of club members:

by John A. Mirt.

On Dec. 27, 1823, a group met in a farm house at Green Bay, Wisconsin, and decided to petition the Grand Lodge of N.Y. for dispensation for a Lodge. On Sept. 2, 1824, "Menomee Lodge," named after a tribe of Indians, was opened at Ft. Howard. All of the members, excepting three, were officers of the Third Regiment, United States Infantry, stationed there. The Lodge ceased to work in 1830, when the members scattered. ---From The Ashlar, October, 1857.

Col. Henry Dodge, first and last governor of Wisconsin Territory (1836-41 and 1845-8) and one of first two Senators when Wisconsin was admitted to statehood in 1848, serving to 1857, was made a Mason in Western Star Lodge No. 109, Kaskaskia, Ill., Dec. 6, 1806, and afterwards served as its Master. He later became a charter member of St. Genevieve Lodge, Mo., working under a charter from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Ft. Dodge was named after him.

Wisconsin became a state in 1848, under the administration of President James K. Polk, a Mason.



A note in MEKEELS, advises us that Bro S. Duffield Swan, has been elected President of the U. S. CANCELLATION CLUB. Also that Bro Ralph C. Huntington of Baltimore was named First Vice-PRES. and Brother Burleigh E. Jacobs of Milwaukee, to the Board of Governors. Congratulations, Brothers!

Marcus White of Worcester, sends his regards to all the members of the Club and hopes that he can be with us on May 7th.

## Additional Notes on Early California Masonry.

We are indebted to G. L. Geilfuss, of Ventura, California, a friend of H M K, who submits the following notes from the book "California-A Guide to the Golden State", Page 465.

"The Site of Benton City is marked by a concrete monument and a dugout, formerly a cellar. Peter Lassen laid out a town here in 1847 on his 26,000 acre Rancho Bosquejo. To round up settlers, Lassen went to Missouri, in honor of whose expansionist senator, Thomas H. Benton, he named the place. He returned in the summer of 1848 with the first group to come overland to settle in the uper Sacramento Valley. With him he brought a charter, granted by the Grand Lodge of Missouri, for the first Masonic lodge in Calif. Western Star Lodge No. 2. But the discovery of gold depopulated Lassen's embryo city and the lodge was moved to Shasta in 1851".

### Page 553:

"With the decline of mining, Shasta lost its importance. Then, when the California-Oregon railroad was planned, it was decided that Shasta lay three miles too far west...and today the brick buildings of which The Courier boasted (1855: "There are 28 brick buildings with a cash value of \$225,000") stand deserted and crumbling. Only two are in use; one is the Masonic Hall, the first in the state, in whose vaults repose the first charter of Western Star Lodge No. 2, brought from Missouri by Peter Lassen in the early 1850's by ox train; the other is the Litsch Store, built in 1853. This old-fashioned general store, in addition to serving as a post-office, houses "Litsch's Free Museum of Historic Pioneer Relics".

### Page 574 on Benicia:

"California's oldest Masonic Hall stands on West J. St. near 1st St.; it housed the state legislature on its ground floor in 1853 when Benicia was the state capital" (Which means that official state mail came through a Masonic Hall.)

The California State Chamber of Commerce booklet says:

"Oct. 30, 1849-- First Lodge of Ancient Order of Free and Accepted Masons in California, Western Star lodge, founded at Benton City."

Mr. Geilfuss adds: "Western Stamp Collector shortly will carry my story--I hope--on C.L. Ross, a San Francisco merchant, who, when the regularly-appointed postmaster failed to appear, officiated as the first postmaster of San Francisco (pro tem). His counting house long remained the postoffice and it was the spot described in Bayard Taylor's "El Dorado". I understand Ross was a Mason, although I distinctly forward this merely as a "tip". My yarn merely makes passing mention of him. His brig, the "Laura Ann" carried the first mail FROM California after official establishment of the postoffice."

---


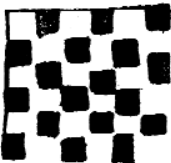
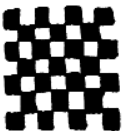




















### STAMPS OF AFGHANISTAN

























The first issue of postage stamps of Afghanistan appeared in 1870-71 (1288 Mohammedan Era), during the reign of Sher Ali, and was succeeded by several annual issues, till his deposition in 1878. These are all of circular design, with a Lion (Sher) in the centre (in reference to the Amir's name). In all of the early issues the words: "Kingdom of Kabul" are employed, showing the title used by the Amirs up to that period.

In the stamps of 1892 (1309 Mohammedan Era) Abdur Rahman first used the term: "Afghanistan." All the Sher Ali stamps were lithographed, each stamp being drawn separately, and differing in detail from every other on the plate.

--Gordon E. Wheeler



			 BRIDGEWATER, PA 1869
34 GREEN	34 GREEN ST. LOUIS MO	34 1861 NEW YORK NY	
			 PITTSBURY, PA. 1869
GREENFIELD, MASS.	GREENFIELD, MASS. 1861	#65	
			
ST. LOUIS MO 1872 74 COVER GERMANY	1861	34 1861 BOSTON 304 WAR	24 1883
			
JACKSONVILLE ILL. 64 1873	1863	34 1861	BUD, MISSOURI 24 1884 ENTIRE
			
	1894	DEERFIELD, MASS. 1869	
		On 3c 1857 Black	 NORFOLK VA. 34 1861

 <p>1851-57-61 CHICOPEE MASS</p>	 <p>1861 RUTLAND VT.</p>	 <p># 94</p>	 <p>34 1861 MILFORD CONN.</p>
 <p>NORWICH CONN.</p>	 <p>OREGON PA.</p>	 <p>34 AMHERST MASS.</p>	 <p>#158 BLUE LEROY N.Y.</p>
 <p>34 INTERIOR</p>	 <p>#88 PHILA. PA.</p>	 <p>WATERBURY CONN.</p>	 <p>34 1851</p>
			
 <p>34 GREEN</p>	 <p>34 GREEN</p>	 <p>34 GREEN</p>	
 <p>1870-1873</p>		 <p>34 1861</p>	 <p>34 1861</p>



Masonic Temple, Tegucigalpa

Republica De Honduras  
The 1¢ Stamp of the 1935 Issue.

by Forrest L. Ellis

In the November, 1944 issue of the Masonic Philatelist, mention was made of the stamp that pictured the Masonic Temple in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, information is now on hand relative to the building pictured thereon.

An article on Masonry in Honduras by Russell Raymond Voorhees, in THE SQUARE & COMPASS, of August, September, and October, 1930 and an official Grand Lodge decree of the Grand Lodge of Honduras (1942) help to build up a story that may be of interest.

Masonry's start in Central America goes back to the year 1870 when the Supremo Consejo Centro-Americano was organized in San Jose, Costa Rica. The organization embraced the five republics of Central America; Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. This Supremo Consejo Centro-Americano received and held at that time, Jurisdiction for Central America, this jurisdiction having been received from the Supreme Council of the 33° and Last Degree, Ancient and Accepted Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A. The original idea was that each republic would be, in seven years rotation, the headquarters of the Supremo Consejo, the first seven years to be in San Jose, Guatemala the next seven and so on. At the end of fourteen years, Guatemala refused to turn over the management to the next in line. The first Masonic lodge of the Consejo was formed in Honduras in the Capital, Tegucigalpa. Some time later a second lodge was formed in the city of San Pedro Sula, a third was formed at La Ceiba. On the occasion of the three lodges it was then possible for Honduras to form a grand lodge, but this was not done until after 1924, at which time, to stop the growth of a group of rival lodges, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and comprised mostly of Americans members.



The list of lodges under the Grand Lodge of Honduras is as follows; "Igualdad" no. 1 of Tegucigalpa, "Miguel Paz Barona," no. 2 of San Pedro Sula, "Agustin Desdier" no. 3 of La Ceiba, "Libertad" no. 4 of Santa Rosa de Copan, "Estrella del North" no. 5 of Puerto Cortes, "Terencio Sierra" no. 6 of Tegucigalpa, "Fraternidad" no. 7 of Tela, and "Firmeza" no. 8 of Danli. The Grand Lodge at Tegucigalpa.

If one used a power glass a well defined square and compass will be seen over the clock tower of the Temple on the stamp. Directly under the eaved front the words "Libertad, Igualdad, Fraternidad" are also plainly seen.

The stamp, one of a set of four regular and seven air mail stamps, printed by the American Bank Note Company, also features two broken columns. The 2 centavo stamp features a portrait of the President of Honduras, Dr. Y Gral Tiburico Carias A. (Andino) and the 6 centavo stamp a portrait of Tomas Estrada Palma, the first Postmaster General of Honduras and the first President of the Republic of Cuba.

At the time of the later years of the Spanish dominion of Cuba, 1890 to 1898, Masonry was suppressed to an extent that to declare ones membership was to court death, but after American intervention, Cubans were free to do what ever they pleased and Masonry came into it's own. In 1902 the Republic was formed, Palma being it's first president. He was a member of a lodge in Bayamo, Cuba where he was initiated in 1868; during his term of office the reorganization of Masonry was carried out to a great extent.

Estrada Palma Lodge, Colimbria, Marianao, Cuba was named after him.

Will L. Henry, writing from home grounds, North Hampton, Ohio, Dec. 2, with his 1948 dues--beating the gun, of course--extends best wishes, regretting his inability to attend meetings held at New York. No doubt, some of these days, the out-of-New York members will nominate a slate and the New York members will be expected to attend meetings at some place other than New York City!

Here are a few notes in passing, gleaned from going through some old magazines--some a century old:

The cornerstone for the monumental canopy over "The Rock" at Plymouth, Mass., where the Pilgrims landed, was laid with Masonic ceremonies on Aug. 2, 1859. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts performed the work. (The landing is shown on the 2¢ stamp of the Pilgrim Tercentenary commemorative issue of 1920.)

---

James Hoban, noted architect who designed the White House and worked on the U.S. Capitol, was first Master of Federal Lodge No. 15 (now No. 1), Washington in 1783. (Several stamps applicable.)

---

The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia laid the cornerstone of the Smithsonian Institution, May 1, 1847. Sealed in the stone, among other articles, are Masonic records and proceedings.

---

There are two interesting philatelic items to be found in the October 1871 issue of Harpers Monthly Magazine (your library should have it). A story of the New York postoffice will be found on pages 645-663. An article on Postage stamps and their origin will be found on pages 741-750.

---

Since Czechoslovakia is in the limelight these days and that country on Feb. 15, issued three stamps showing the portrait of Benes. It may interest members of the Masonic Stamp Club to know that Benes is a member of Lodge "Pravda vitezi--Veritas vincit." Jan Masaryk, by the way, was a 32° Mason. This is just another example of Masonic leadership in the fight against forces of evil.

---

This is not a pun--but I'd like to put in a plug for the Pikie Minnow; it's really a killer-diller when it comes to getting the fish. I know, I keep a supply in my tackle box and use them on my trips into the North woods. Glad to know the maker is a fellow club member.

John A. Mirt