

The Masonic Philatelist

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK



Vol. V No. 6 January 1949

MEETING OF JANUARY 10th.



The first meeting of the new year breuht out a nice group who came to listen to Harry M. Konwiser show some of his stampless treasures, and totake part in the Spot Auction. After a short business session, the meeting was turned over to Henry Friedman, who conducted the sale. Henry called the lots and the money and records were handled by the "Brooks Brothers", Charles and Sam (no relatives).

The bidding started on alot of stampless covers which sold for five dollars, because the money went to the fund to buy stamps for the kids at the Masonic Home and for Veterans in the Hospitals.

We have a lot of fun at these sales and we should have more of them. Total sales amounted to \$30.70, of which \$13.55 went to the Club funds. Then some of the purchasers returned stamps and covers to be distributedto the kids and Veterans. Donations of stamps and money were made by Charles Fish, Carl Pelander, Harry Konwiser, Harry Henneman, Charles Brooks Irwin Yarry, George Wray, Jake Glaser, Sam Brooks, and an un-identified member, who left stamps and did not leave his name. So if it was you or you, thanks and our apologies.

This was a fine build-up for Harry M. Konwiser, who is the first person thought of when you discuss stampless covers. Harry brought a representative group of fine items and told some interesting stories. The covers and other interesting papers of the stamplessperiodwere passed around for all to see. They were enclosed in heavy celluloid envelopes sothat no harm could come to them. Harry closed by answering questions and a fine time was had by all.

• Meetings •

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

Jan 28 Past Presidents Night

ARTHUR DEAS- George Washington Postal Cards.

Feb 4 Competition- Gt. Britain & Col. (40 pges or 15 min)
CHARLES BROOKS- 19th Century U.S. stamps.

THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

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MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

OFFICERS 1948-1949

Ferrars H. Tows	President
Charles H. Johnson	President Emeritus *
Russel B. Roane	1st Vice President
Arthur I. Heim	2nd Vice President
Dr. Irwin M. Yarry	Secretary
61-23 Roosevelt Ave.	Woodside, N.Y.
Harry M. Konwiser	Treasurer
181 Claremont Ave.	New York, 27, N.Y.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
Bert Ehrenberg*	Richard S. Bohn	Forrest S. Ellis
Harrold Matters	Harry M. Konwiser	Carl H. Pihl
Russel B. Roane	Ferrars H. Tows	Morris Strauss

PAST PRESIDENTS

Arthur W. Deas	1934-38	George Camnitzer	1943-45
Ralph A. Barry*	1938-39	Sam Brooks	1945-46
Henry W. Holcombe	1939-41	Jacob S. Glaser	1946-48
Carl E. Polander	1941-43		

Names marked with a star (*) indicates deceased.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

<u>Membership:</u> Carl E. Polander	<u>Exhibition:</u> Dr. George Camnitzer
<u>Program:</u> Carl H. Pihl	<u>Entertainment:</u> Harrold Matters
<u>Publicity:</u> Arthur I. Heim	<u>Auction:</u> Henry M. Friedman
<u>Correspondence & Exchange:</u> Harry O. Henneman	

Sol Glass of Baltimore was a surprise visitor to the Bruns meeting, and it was pleasant to have him with us. Sol is active in several stamp groups and as a director of the American Air Mail Society will officially receive the first sheet of the new 6¢ airmail stamp to go on first-day sale January 18. Brother Glass is a noted writer on stamp topics and has promised to write an article for the MASONIC PHILATELIST at an early date.

CLUB DELEGATION ATTENDS BRUNS INSTALLATION

The last car of the 7:40 train to Bronxville from Grand Central station in New York, was the rendezvous for a group of members of the Masonic Stamp Club, Monday evening January 10

The purpose of the trip was to visit Gramatan Lodge #927, to witness the installation of our good friend Franklin R. Bruns, Jr. as Worshipful Master for 1949.

Arrived at the Lodge hall, we were joined by more members so that we presented a delegation of fourteen. Present were: George Carnitzer, Harold Matters, Gordon Shoop, Sid Weissman, Harry Konwiser, Sol Glass, Sam Brooks, Jake Glaser, Charles Fish, Sylvester Sigler, J. Milton Peck, Herman Herst, John Nicklin, and Arthur Zimmerman.

Spending a very pleasant evening, we were permitted to leave early to get the 10:38 train back to New York. This allowed the Manhattan group to get home at a reasonable time, but some of the Brooklyn and Queens boys must have reached their homes quite late. Brothers Peck and Herst had a long ride up Westchester way to their homes.

Frank was pleased over our visit as well as one from his colleagues on the New York Sun. We all felt fine in helping to honor a real nice fellow. Gramatan Lodge has an active group of earnest Craftsmen and there is no doubt that Frank will derive much satisfaction from his year in the East.

Masonic Philately

Following a small showing of United States stamps depicting Presidents who were Masons, Sam Brooks, Past President of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, and editor of The Masonic Philatelist, decided to delve further into the subject of Masonry on United States Stamps.

As a result of careful research in Masonic Archives, Mr. Brooks has formed a collection of United States stamps that depict Masons. Mr. Brooks has placed his knowledge in a booklet, entitled "Masonic Philately." This 64-page booklet contains 54 illustrations of stamps, all but one being United States. The exception is the stamp issued in 1947 by Brazil in honor of President Truman's visit to Brazil.

The booklet is in three parts—the first depicting stamps showing the Masonic Presidents beginning with Washington. Biographical data on the Chief Execu-

tives, Masonic and other activities is included. The references are clearly stated, are objective, are not quotations from other writers, but are the result of many hours of research.

Part Two of the booklet illustrates and discusses Franklin, Oglethorpe, Braddock, Lexington-Concord stamp with its figures of Revere, Hancock, Warren and Washington, Greene, Declaration of Independence, Kosciuszko, Burgoyne Campaign, Putnam, Signing of Constitution, and other stamps. Part Three illustrates Marshall (stamp of course), as well as Mark Twain, and others—all for their Masonic interest.

The stamps used can be described as "easily had". Each stamp has a page of its own. Mr. Brooks has added reference material, in form of books to be read for further interest in the Masonic Careers of the persons depicted on U. S. Stamps.

—Harry M. Konwiser

MEKEL'S WEEKLY

"Enclosed please find check for \$2.00....."

These welcome words have been reaching our Treasurer HMK, in increasing numbers. Harry has a unique system. He sends you a bill with a PAID-UP dues card. Gets results and helps our treasury. Did you send your \$2.00? And how about writing a word or two as did the following:

JOSE RUEFF, whom we've missed at our meetings, sends best wishes to all for the New Year (as did nearly everybody else). He also enclosed a contribution to the Ralph A. Barry Fund. Thanks Jose. How about visiting us some Friday night?

ALLISON M. SEVERE writes that he has made another move- this time permanently. His new address is 4711 Forest View Avenue, (no forest but lots of view) Baltimore 6, Maryland. Allison is a busy man with his art work and the Baltimore stamp club. Say-- how about designing an emblem for the Masonic Stamp Club.

DR. S. DUFFIELD SWAN writes from York Pa. that he hasn't done a thing with stamps since moving to York. He suggests that he no longer is a bidding rival 'on the floor' of local auctions. "Doc" was active at many auctions seeking new additions to his very fine collection of Masonic cancellations and covers.

HENRY K. FRIEDMAN explains his absence from meetings as being due to much illness at home. Henry, however, didn't let us down at our last meeting and presided over the Spot Auction with his usual efficiency. We can't say how much this is appreciated by all. We do hope that Henry and his dear wife will enjoy a larger share of good health and happiness in the coming year.

A.H.GOODS doesn't want to be bothered with bills so he ups and sends our treasurer a check for five years in advance. We'll have to set up a trust fund if this keeps up. How about it, Charlie Brooks?

THOMAS J. WARD of San Francisco sends along his new address. Make a note of it, Boys. It now is 1080 Bush St., zone 9. Hope all you fellows that are moving are getting into better homes. Can't be done in this town unless you're a billionaire (almost anyway). Good luck in your new home, Tom.

Here is another new address from ALEC P. WATTS, now at 422 West 42 street, New York 18. Say Alec, we haven't seen you in a long time. Come on, pay us a visit.

GUS FABIAN of Hempstead, N.Y. in sending his check notes a slight(?) error in the Masonic history of Benjamin Franklin as printed on the insert of the FirstDay CipeX cover which the Club sponsored. Franklin was born in 1706, yet the card states that he was appointed Junior Warden June 24, 1932. As Gus so aptly states, "he was an old bugger". Brother E.Milnor Peck, take notice.

WILLIAM DABEL writes from San Francisco "I have been fortunate in securing the Ferras H.Tows precancels of Hawaii. (This is from the famous sale of the philatelic holdings of our club president, conducted by Brother Carl E. Pelander. Edit.) His added to mine gives me a very outstanding collection in this field. There are many minor varieties that I am chasing now. I do hope to take a trip to New York this year and take in a meeting. Also to gather up some Hawaiian precancels, singles and blocks. Regards to all the members". We'll be glad to see you, Bill.

WILLIAM L. HENRY of North Hampton, Ohio, writes he has nothing much to report on his stamp-collecting activities, but Special Field Agent No. 23, reports Bill Henry collects U.S. in singles, blocks and First Day covers, U.S. coins and Xmas seals. "I still need a lot of things in all these categories" says Brother Bill, who is active in New Carlisle Lodge No.100 New Carlisle, Ohio.

This is one of those "Washington-named" lodges-- that is, Bill tells us, It was one of those lodges named George Washington, but not being the first so named, was compelled to change its name , by order of Grand Lodge.

The Postmaster at New Carlisle is a Past Master of the local Lodge and he does co-operate with stamp collectors. The New Carlisle Childrens Home gets attention from Brother Bill and some of his friends from the stamp angle.

E.A.NATHAN is associated with the Silvercrest Clothing Co. at 141 Fifth Avenue . New York.

ADDRESS WANTED---

Who can furnish the present address of **MAX A. WEINTRAUB** ? Mail addressed to him at 803 Midwood St., Brooklyn, N.Y., is being returned. His previous was Lebanon, Conn. Max was a regular attendant at our meetings in early 1948.

W.R.McCOY is so busy with Philatelic Congress activities that he for-goes our meetings. Come soon and tell us about Plate-Number collecting.

Charles Lott — Amateur Genealogist

Charles Lott, District Engineer for Ramapo Niagara Falls, is an amateur genealogist. In pursuit of his hobby he once wrote



to a clergyman for information concerning the family tree. The clergyman replied that he was interested in where he was going, not where he came from.

Mr. Lott is interested in where he is going too, but has found that his hobby of finding where he came from is a gold mine of intimate and fascinating facts of early America.

With these limits to amateur research, being a genealogist might seem to be an easy hobby. However, it is anything but that. Mr. Lott has spent ten years, part time, in charting his own family tree back to the original Dutch settlers in the New York area in 1625. In his studies he has consulted innumerable sources, including old family bibles, which in his family run back to 1742. Besides frequenting public libraries and historical association files, Mr. Lott has found that tomb stones in early cemeteries are one of the most important "records" of vital statistics we have today.

Mr. Lott constantly runs into many obstacles in his research such as happened when he discovered that one of his family names had sixty-seven different spellings. But, he says, things like this make genealogy one of the most fascinating hobbies he knows.

BRAKE SHOE NEWS,

Just received a note from Charles that he has been elected a director for '49 by the Frontier stamp Club Good Luck!



George Wray, the man whose profile we print today, was born in Apollo, Pa. on August 15, 1882. Don't stop to count how old he is, because when you come up with the answer you will be wrong. We grant you that he has lived a substantial number of years, but in energy and knowledge he is forever growing.

We believe that more people in office furniture know him than any other one person. He is a walking encyclopedia of office furniture knowledge. He knows more about who makes what and why and where than any individual we have ever met in the business.

He has done much for the growth of NOFA. He was one of its first adherents and has remained a loyal and hard-working leader in it.

He is obliging and accommodating—not only to his customers, but to anyone who seeks information from him.

His hobby (as most of us know) is coal mining, which he lets others do for him. Another hobby is stamp collecting, with which he lets no one interfere.

He is the friend of all young women in all of the offices. We think George can get in to see more people because of his friendship with secretaries, switchboard operators, bookkeepers, etc. than any man in the industry.

It is our belief that no one is ever more welcome and no one brings as much life and color into a room as does George.

We hope that all of us will be privileged to have him come and go among us for many years to come.

The NOFA Bulletin DECEMBER, 1948

FRED BARCVICK of Brooklyn, asks to have the membership list corrected, since his 'foist' (ala Brooklyn, per the wits) name is not Frank, as recorded. Fred is a stamp dealer and uses a letter head which shows a background in the form of a music sheet. This indicates the song is "Andante con moto" with the opening line reading "Kde do- mov muj, kde du-mov muj? Vo-da-hu, etc". And for the benefit of those who do not understand these words, this is not "Buttons and Beaus" nor "Aslow Boat to China". Fred deals in Miniature Sheets and Souvenir Sheets, in a large way. (Don't blame the Staff for the musical interlude above. Perhaps Harry Henneman will translate for us at the next meeting).

COLONEL A.M.WILSON, residing at the Hotel Lucerne, New York, sends greetings to all. We remember the days when the Col. was an active participant at all our meetings. We do miss him as well as some of the other old-timers.

Dr.RUDOLF HOLZ is on the mend, we are happy to report and may be expected to attend meetings very soon.

FRED SCHLOZ, one of our 'fast-remitting-annual-dues' members wants to be remembered to the members. Why didn't you bring the dues in person, Fred?

HENRY JONAS, one of our 'oldest Members'--as on the roster--got his name into the Metropolitan Press recently, when his son (and the son's wife) acquired the "INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN", the Goshen, N.Y. weekly newspaper, said to be the oldest Democratic weekly published in New York State. The buyers, Harold J. and Jeanne Jonas, native Goshenites, are well qualified to maintain the standard of the weekly. Harold is a member of Goshen Lodge F.& A.M. as is his father but is not a stamp collector. Our Henry is one of the oldest residents of Goshen.

P.S. A box to the Hambletonian (next May) will be acceptable and will be used.

WARREN P. S. HALL of Toledo, Ohio, is Secretary-Treasurer of The Ohio Federation of Public Health Officials and in his spare time helps with the activities of the Masonic Stamp Club of Toledo. We hear this new club is making much progress. Good luck to all of you Warren.

LOUIS KRIEGER, formerly of New York, now operates the "CIRCLED.K.RANCH at Steamboat, Nevada. Say Lou, how come the name Steamboat, in a desert area? Give us the story.

From Charlie Carpenter's Scrap Book.
Dates are not known. Can you supply the data ?

At its organization meeting on January 13 the Masonic Stamp Club, of New York, elected A. W. Deas president; Charles H. Johnson, vice-president; Herbert Walwyn, secretary; Fred Wendel, treasurer, and the following board of governors: Harry M. Konwiser, Theodoré Kemm, A. D. Cohan, H. W. Holcomb and R. A. Barry. The next meeting will be Thursday, February 15, at 8 p. m., in the Masonic Library, Twenty-third Street and Sixth Avenue. All Masons are invited to attend.

Masonic Club Winners

An exhibition by club members was held at the last meeting of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Twenty-first Street and Sixth Avenue. H. M. Friedman won first prize with his Seychelles items. M. F. Lozano took second place with his showing of the Montserrat issue of Spain, and Charles D. Carpenter was awarded third prize for Great Britain and colonies. An auction sale will be held at the Friday night meeting.

Masonic Club Elects—Ralph A. Barry, stamp editor of the Herald Tribune, was elected president of the Masonic Stamp Club this week. Other officers are Dr. Charles H. Johnson and Henry W. Holcombe, vice-presidents; Sam Brooks, recording secretary; R. B. Roane, corresponding secretary; Fred Wendel, treasurer, and Charles Carpenter to the board of governors to fill the unexpired term of Col. A. M. Wilson, who resigned. Chairmen of the standing committees are Carl E. Pelander, program; R. B. Roane, publicity; George Nyland, sales and exchange; Henry M. Friedman, auction; Arthur W. Deas, membership; Charles Carpenter, exhibition.

Tows Wins Masonic Award

Ferrars H. Tows, with a collection of early Philippine stamps, won the first award in the Masonic Stamp Club annual exhibition last Friday. George S. Goodrich, with Netherlands stamps, was second. Sectional awards went to Ferrars H. Tows (1) and Charles W. Gram (2) in United States and possessions; Henry Freedman (1) and Dr. George Camnitzner (2) in British Empire; George S. Goodrich (1) and D. M. Bull (2) in general foreign, and F. J. Zeltman (1), George V. Orban (2) and Manuel Lozano (3) in air mails. Charles D. Carpenter was chairman of the exhibition. The judges were Prescott H. Thorp, E. E. Elkins and F. R. Bruns.

Masonic Stamp Club—The Board of Governors of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, on January 5th, announced that Henry W. Holcombe was appointed to the office of president and Henry M. Friedman appointed to the Board. Both appointments to be for the balance of the club year to fill vacancies created by the passing of their late president, R. A. Barry.

Calendar of Coming Events of the Masonic Stamp Club for the First Half of 1940—January 26th—Guest speaker, J. B. Krafner, Sr. (U. S. Match & Medicine); February 2nd—Members Annual Exhibition; February 23rd—Guest speaker, Stephen G. Rich (Zululand); March 1st—Members competition, 25 pages per member; March 29th—Bourse; April 5th—Guest speaker, George Ewing (U. S. 19th Century); April 26th—Auction; May 3rd—Swapping; May 31st—Guest speaker, Ferrars H. Tows (Danish West Indies); June 7th—Annual meeting, collation.

The Masonic Stamp Club meets the First and Last Fridays of each month at 71 West 23rd St., N. Y. C. Visitors welcome.



The profile likeness on this medallion is that of Arthur Deas