

The Masonic Philatelist

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK



Vol. V No. 7 February 1949



The Square & compass Stamp Club of Los Angeles, of which our member H. Holbrook Harvey is President, have begun the publication of a new club paper MASONIC STAMPCRAFT. This came along with a nice letter from Brother Harvey, who is editing the new bulletin.

Good luck to you all in Los Angeles!

Brother F.T. Anderson, a member of Ornam Lodge #26 Spencer, Nebraska, and a resident of Lincoln, has promised us an article on the recent "Four Chaplains" stamp. Brother Anderson has done some work on this stamp and found that one of the Chaplains was a member of the Fraternity.

Brother Joseph A. Ferola was a surprise visitor to our last meeting. It was good to see Joe, who was last heard from while in a Marine Hospital. Joe has had a tough time recovering from war wounds., but is back on his feet. Good for you Joe, lets see you often.

DUES!!!

We have heard a rumor that several members are to be dropped for npd. Don't let that happen to you. If you are in arrears, pay up. Send your check to Harry Konwiser, NOW.

• Meetings •

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

Feb 25 Visit by Scandinavian Collectors Club.

March 4 Masonic Philately -- Sam Brooks
All members are invited to bring material of Masonic philatelic interest.

THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

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MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

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Henry W. Holcombe	1939-41	Jacob S. Glaser	1946-48
Carl E. Pelander	1941-43		

Names marked with a star (*) indicates deceased.

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BRETHREN IN ARREARS

There are, according to our Treasurer's records about 15 members who have not paid their 1948 dues. These members are requested to pay up-OR ELSE. "Or Else what?" Just that they will not receive the Masonic Philatelist. These 15 owe 1949, too.

BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND STAMPS

by Ralph A. Freed, Jr.
Youngstown Lodge No. 615 F.&A.M.
Youngstown, Ohio

As a stamp and cover collector, my interests are fortified by my worldly occupation-teaching social studies to high school level bits of future American citizenry. Being interested in the Scandinavian countries, I was also interested in First Day Covers of those nations.

For some years now, I have kept file cards on foreign collectors that have had their many articles in Linn's weekly Stamp News a fine Ohio Buckeye philatelic product. It was from this paper that I made a file card for a man in Roskilde, Denmark-Fred Arndt by name. Little did I know of the pleasure that that card was to add to the future of my collecting.

Following the next natural step in the matter, I wrote to Mr. Arndt inquiring about possibility of my obtaining some F.D.C.'s from his homeland. One such cover that I requested was worth some nice piece of change not always carried in the watch-pockets of school teachers, and I had to arrange payments. Trusting soul that I am, I asked for time arrangements. Acting in the best interests of Mr. Arndt, I told him how I could pay him.

"I will not cheat, wrong, or defraud you as I really want the cover." Such was my opening into our friendship. As fast as airmail could get to me, a letter from Denmark was on my desk. The first paragraph was just the usual routine matters pertaining to my previous inquiries. Here was a bit of his letter; "I see by your letter that you have-----". Then he told me where I had been and that he had experienced the same situations in Scott No. 421 in Canada. This was the jackpot that told me the kind of man that I was to know better in future days.

From that day several years ago, I have enjoyed a written kind of friendship that has helped us both

Since rationing over there is worse than it ever was here in the States, I would send boxes packed with scarce items that had long since flown from the available list there. In return, I have added some very fine covers from Denmark. That is why my article is named as it is. Now, I wish to get a small fortune collected together in one pile and fly over this summer. Quite a silly whim for a school teacher but I can have the most fun dreaming about the trip. If I work hard for the next ten years or so, I MAY be able to swing a deal on a whale boat or maybe a fine Chris Craft.

So, my Brothers, the powers of Freemasonry have entered into a fine friendship for me and I am looking toward keeping the date to attend lodge with him in the near future. It is fine to have things in common with someone else, but it is nicer to have two things to share. I fell into a nice thing through desiring covers from a foreign country and I wish you all the same kind of luck.

(Editor's Note: Bro. Freed is a teacher in the Youngstown, Ohio School system.)

FIRST AMERICAN BIBLES

Isiah Thomas, Postmaster at Worcester, Mass., who was Grand Master of Masons, State of Massachusetts in the early United States period, was an eminent colonial period printer. Isiah Thomas published the first edition of the Greek New Testament.

According to Bruce M. Metzger, Associate Professor of New Testament, Princeton university, Thomas was self-taught, reprinting the so-called Textus Receptus of the Greek Testament, at Worcester, Mass. in 1800. Prof. Metzger, in a New York Times Jan. 24 letter, says the Latin title of his copy reads, "Novum Testamentum Juxta Exemplar Joannis Millii Accuratissime Impressum, Editio prima Americana. Wigorniae, Massachusetten si. Excudebat Isaias Thomas, Jun. Singulatim et numero eo vendita officinae suae, April-1800."

--H.M.K.

HAMBLETONIAN/TROTTING RACE

Recent comment, in this periodical, relating to our member, Bro. Henry Jonas, of Goshen, N. Y., indicated a desire to accept a box for the forthcoming race meet at Goshen, featured by the annual Hambletonian Race. Obviously, we can agree the Goshen race meeting will be enriched by the wagers that will be made by the brethren who use the box. The wagers may not be large, but these are certain to establish better odds, in the mutuel machines, for the winners! Our boys will not play the favorite, being members of the "Knock Down The Favorite Club."

In addition, the Masonic Stamp Club of New York might be induced to support the House bill to issue a special stamp in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the birth of the Hambletonian, "The Father of the Trotting Breed." Representative Katherine St. George of the 29th Congressional District, New York, introduced a bill for the stamp, Jan. 5, 1949.

Perhaps our friend Peter Keller, of Tappan, same Congressional district, favors the stamp, and will join us at the box, for the Hambletonian.

--H.M.K.

Czechoslovakia recently issued an 8k black (#360) in tribute to the late President Eduard Benes. Dr. Benes, who was a member of Lodge "Pravda vitezi-Veritas vincit," throughout his life was an ardent advocate of individual freedom and liberty. He was one of the founders of the republic. He resigned as President rather than to do the bidding of the Communists who had seized power. His foreign minister, Jan Masaryk, son of the first President of the Republic, died by his own hand rather than to live under Communist domination. Masaryk was a Scottish Rite Mason and had visited Masonic lodges in New York -- Mirt.

A SHORT STORY ON U. S. AIRMAIL STAMPS 1918-49

by Henry M. Goodkind, Editor, Aero Philatelists.

The field of air mail stamp collecting has come a long way since the first governmental stamp was issued in 1917 by Italy. For some years, collectors interested in this field, have had two specialized air post stamp catalogs available in this country---the unabridged Sanabria and the more conservative Scott. If one collected all the stamps listed in the latter catalog, his collection would now number about 6,500 stamps, whereas a complete collection by the Sanabria listings would run over 10,000.

We cited this just for comparative purposes, as we would like to concentrate upon the panorama of the U.S. airmail stamps issued from 1918 up to the present, a period of 31 years. Here below is a short analysis in a statistical manner of these stamps.

37 issued for airmail purposes and various rates
4 issued for special flights (Zeppelins)
2 commemoratives (Lindbergh and N.Y.City Jubilee)
1 coil stamp
2 issued in booklet panes
3 airmail special stamps
Total-49 different U.S. airmail stamps 1918-49



According to our methods of tabulation, there were 21 changes in the domestic and foreign airmail rates during this first 31 year period of U.S. airmail. Thus we can logically conclude that the prime factor, by far, for the number of stamps was caused by rate changes. One has only to recall the most recent years since world War II terminated. Our domestic airmail rate went from 8-cents to 5-cents and is now 6-cents per ounce. Foreign airmail rates, quite complicated for many years since the start of our airmail service abroad,

were simplified in 1947 at 10-cents for the American countries, 15-cents for Europe and the Near-East, and 25-cents for Asia based upon a $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce weight.

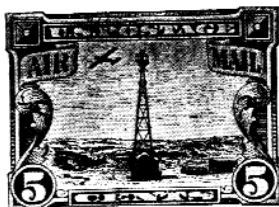


It is interesting to observe that the very first domestic rate in this country was 24-cents per ounce, which started on May 15, 1918. In a little over six months, this rate was reduced to 6-cents, effective December 16, 1918, the same rate we are now paying.



Before concluding, we would like to briefly mention the U.S. airmail postal stationery, which has, as we view it, received far more support from the public than from philatelists. We have issued many different airmail stamped envelopes, one of a commemorative nature (1947 CIFE), the 10-cents Air Letter Sheet for universal use, and the recently introduced 4-cents airmail postal card. Here is a field to which few collectors have devoted any serious specialization but which should gain more and more interest in the future.

Therefore, the field of U.S. airmails in this relatively short span as far as philatelic history is measured, has already offered us a most interesting and varied field.



PAST PRESIDENT'S NIGHT

Jan 28th, we celebrated our annual Past President's Night. There were present Arthur Deas, Carl Pelander, George Camnitzer and Sam Brooks. Henry Holcombe and Jake Glaser were absent but sent their regards to the members.

We were especially pleased to see Arthur Deas. Arthur spoke of his post-card collection of George Washingtoniana which has grown to over 250 items. (If you have any such material send them on to Arthur).

In making this collection, Arthur has read much of the available material about G.W. In commenting on various phases of Washington's career, Arthur illustrated his talk with appropriate picture cards. He suggested that the Club raise funds to purchase books about Washington and other Masonic Presidents.

It was real pleasant to have Arthur with us and we do hope to see him on many such occasions.

Carl Pelander then spoke briefly about the St. Louis Bears that recently were sold for the benefit of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.. Carl showed one of these covers as well as other covers with historic markings and stamps. These included California covers routed by way of Panama and Clipper ship. An interesting and expensive phase of our hobby.

George Camnitzer had a beautiful display of his collection of Mulready envelopes- the postal stationery of 1840. These included originals, used and unused, counterfeits, and caricatures. He also had a group of the 1854 Penny Post propaganda covers.

Sam Brooks, in keeping with the spirit of the evening, showed the first minute book of the Masonic Stamp Club and read some of the items of fifteen years ago when the club was organized. This led to a general discussion about the old days of the club with some good stories and anecdotes.

Arthur Deas, although our first President, gave credit to Harry Lindquist as the man responsible for the formation of the Club.

A very pleasant evening for all.

Meeting of February 4th.

Brother Morris Strauss, who is charge of our trip to Utica, has arranged to make the trip on Friday May 13th. This will allow us a full day at the Home to visit with the children and help them with their stamps. If you intend coming, please drop a line to Morris Strauss, 224 Riverside Drive, New York, 25, N. Y.

We were advised by our Chairman that Arthur I. Heim was elected by the Board of Governors to serve for the unexpired term of the late Bert Ehrenberg, as a member of the Board.

The meeting was then turned over to our Programme Chairman, Carl Pihl, Who presented Charles Brooks. Charlie then proceed to show as fine a collection of U.S. stamps in the most immaculate condition, that any of us has seen. From stampless covers through locals, postmasters, regular issues, including source material of the original dies, and all properly arranged and written up. It was a real treat to see this collection, for we remember when Charlie's stamps were not as nice. We sure do learn!

Elliot Nordheim started the competition with a nice showing of Great Britain 19th century stamps and covers. Elliot explained the various postmarks of the period and gave every indication of having learned a lot since the days when he was "saving" prettypictures on stamps.

Then Dr. Irwin Yarry showed his Great Britain used abroad. These included cancellers for the various colonies, consular offices and other places where British stamps were used. It was a nice group of stamps, but the Judges, Harry Konwiser, Charles Lott and Charles Brooks gave first award to Elliot

For the collector of Masonic emblems on postage stamps: A new 10f stamp of Algeria shows a square. The compasses are to be found on the 70¢ Argentina stamp issued recently. -- Mirt.

EARLY MASONRY IN RUSSIA

The following item, concerning early Freemasonry in Russia and which can be illustrated with Russian stamps of the 1913 series, is taken from the November, 1945 (103 years ago) issue of "Freemasons' Monthly Magazine."

"Although it is known that in the year 1731, during the reign of Ann I, Phillips of the Grand Lodge of England was appointed P.G.M. and founded a lodge in Moscow, yet so secret were the meetings that (until, 1762, when the Emperor Peter III ascended the throne) nothing is known.

"The Empress Catherine II (Scott #94), hearing of the Order, instituted rigid inquiries and having made herself acquainted with all particulars concerning them named herself their protector. The Lodge Clio in Moscow received her especial favor.

"From this time all the buds flowered freely in the empire. In 1786, fifteen Russian lodges were known to exist, and even in 1794, when the empress (from information received that many political clubs had been formed who called themselves Freemasons) found it necessary to withdraw her countenance, the Lodges continued to assemble....

"When the Emperor Paul (#98) succeeded to the throne, and his love to the Order became proved, efforts were strenuously made to induce him to become the protector, and to raise their Order to the pinnacle of fame. But the Duke Littear, Knight of Malta at that time in St. Petersburg, persuaded him to become Grand Master of his Order on the 16th of December, 1798, and that caused for the time the downfall of the Craft. The Czar forbade the assemblage of any and all secret societies without mentioning Freemasons. . . . From that time Freemasonry slumbered and only a few of the most wary and respected met in secret.

"In 1801, Alexander (#96) ascended to the Czar's

place and ratified Paul's edict against secret societies. But, in 1803, he allowed Bober, Director of the Corps of Cadets, to persuade him to withdraw Paul's Ukase and to permit himself to be initiated in the Order after an inquiry."

The item goes on to tell how a number of lodges were formed, adopting the Swedish work only to discover "the worthlessness of it." In 1815, it was decided to constitute two independent grand lodges. One, Astraa, had regulations approved by the government.

"Thus the position in Russia was advantageous and honorable until Alexander's order on the 12th of August, 1822, came suddenly upon the body, commanding the suspension of all Freemasonry," the item continues.

The theory was advanced that "upon the whole it appears that education had not sufficiently progressed to admit the Russians generally into the Craft." The lodges, it was pointed out, "were for pleasure only and Masonry became an expensive toy wherewith to kill time." -John A. Mirt

Copeland Southall, one of our Charter Members, writes he now resides in Richmond, Virginia, as a matter of fact has lived there for quite a few years, and more important-sad news indeed-"Cops" has retired from the stamp hobby field. Bro. Southall has kept up his membership in The Masonic Stamp Club for "sentemental reasons." Our friend lives in Richmond, but really works in Norfolk, managing to spend week-ends at Richmond, by taking the 4:30 train from Norfolk, reaching Richmond 7:15. Then on a workday, which comes fast, the former new Yorker (by residence) leaves for work at 5:15

All of which indicates "there is a driving force" and his alter ego is Copeland Southall, 2327 Stuart Avenue, Richmond, Va., who uses up Sundays to write letters. At least he suggests he would like to resign his membership, in a recent Sunday letter. It is doubtful if he can get away with this, since the Treasurer may "forget" to pass on the letter seeking resignation, to the next and following meetings.

-HMK

MARQUIS OF LAFAYETTE



Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee for 1825, when, on Wednesday, May 4, Lafayette visited the Grand Lodge, he stated, he had been, he said, long a member of the order, having been initiated, young as he was, even before he entered the service of our country in the Revolutionary War. He was made a Royal Arch Mason in Jerusalem Chapter # 8, New York City on Sept. 12-1824. He was made a Knight Templar in 1824, in Columbian Commandery #1 of New York City. Morton Commandery #4 of New York City also claims the honors. He received the Scottish Rite degrees in New York City during 1824-5.

Oct 10, 1830, the officers of the Supreme Council of the Grand Orient of France, gave a fete in honor of Lafayette. Sunday, Nov. 28, 1824, Lafayette was present at the Fredericksburg Lodge #4. Va. He was made an honorary member. In the Historical Society of Chicago, there is a Lafayette room, wherein lies a Special Communications of the Grand Lodge of Delaware. It is dated from New Castle, 23 Sep. 1824, and sent to and requesting the attendance of Daniel Van Slyke at a meeting being held to welcome Bro. Lafayette. In the same room was a New York paper dated June 26, 1834. It made mention of a parade to be held in honor of Lafayette, after his death. The Grand Lodge of New York occupied the right of the French residents in the park, Castle Garden. In France he was a member of the Lodge "Contrat Social" and the Supreme Council, A. & A. Scottish Rite.

Marquis of La Fayette, born Marie-Joseph Motier at Chavagnac, France, in 1757. He took active part in the American revolution and later fought as a liberal royalist in the French Revolution in 1789. He was partly responsible for dethroning the Bourbons and aiding the line of Louis-Phillipe to ascend the French throne. His career was very turbulent, having suffered much, in the cause of freedom for the masses. He died in Paris in 1834.

From the album of Harry O. Henneman

Free Adv. -- Harry M. Konwiser's "American Philatelic Dictionary" is "all sold out" --that is the first edition is no longer to be had from the publisher. It is whispered, an enlarged second edition is in the making.