

The Masonic Philatelist

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK



VOLUME VI No. 1 MARCH 1949



Beginning our sixth year

The Value of Prayer

For the first time in the long history of the Masonic Stamp Club, our meeting of February 25th, was opened with prayer. At the request of President Tows, Brother Russel Reane read a prayer and then we proceeded to our regular business. This innovation was the result of a suggestion made by Brother Harrold Matters., and will be followed at all future meetings.

There is no doubt that all present were pleased and it lead one of our guests, Mr. Eddy Elkins, to remark how important prayer was in our lives to-day.

Brought to mind is the Forge stamp showing prayer during the hard classic story connect-the Quaker farmer who saw George Washington evidently was impress



he told his wife of the scene he witnessed and added there was no doubt of the success of the Patriot Army, if its leader could pray for Divine guidance.

Brothers, prayer is a mighty weapon for good. In these trying times all of us should pray for our President, our lawmakers and for all leaders of peace and good-will, throughout the World.

story of the Valley Washington kneeling at winter of 1777-78. The ed with this stamp is of passing through the wood kneeling at prayer. He ed, for on reaching home

---S.B.

• Meetings •

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

MARCH 25 Annual Members Exhibition
Two Frames (32 pages)
APRIL 1 Franklin R. Bruns, Jr.
Panama

THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

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.

MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

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Charles H. Johnson	President Emeritus *
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Carl E. Pelander	1941-43		

Names marked with a star (*) indicates deceased.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

<u>Membership:</u> Carl E. Pelander	<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

More Masonic Cachets From John Mirt.

If you collect Masonic First Day covers, and have not already done so, You should get in touch with John at once. His covers are all a bit of Masonic history and are even printed at the Illinois Masonic Home. In preparation are cachets for the Washington and Lee, Puerto Rico, and Alexandria stamps.

Write to John A. Mirt, 426 Belmont Ave., Chicago, 14, Ill.

A N N O U N C E M E N T !

To: ALL MEMBERS - LOCAL and OUT-OF-TOWN

From: HAROLD MATTERS, Chairman,
Entertainment Committee

Subject: 15th ANNIVERSARY DINNER --
FRIDAY EVENING - MAY 6, 1949.

Another year has swiftly rolled around for all members to prepare to attend the Annual Meeting. This is being celebrated by our 15th Anniversary Dinner at the Masonic Club, 71 West 23rd Street, New York City.

Inasmuch as the private dining room facilities are limited to 75 diners, we wish to give plenty of advance notice and will reserve seats in order of their receipt. This task is being ably handled by our good Brother, Vice-Chairman, Harry O. Henneman, 28 East 31st Street, New York, 16, N. Y. Tickets are \$3.98 and include dinner, cocktail, tips and lots of surprises.

Brothers residing out-of-town are making this event an Annual Pilgrimage. We are amazed that so many brother have taken time out from their daily tasks to join their brethren at this festive board, so that all may receive pleasure and profit thereby.

The Committee is effecting appropriate arrangements for your enjoyment and wishes to extend an invitation to anyone who will help us. Please let me have your suggestions. Mail them to me, Harold Matters, 837 East 22nd Street, Brooklyn, 10, New York - Thanks.

Everyone is in there pitching to make this affair another success. Swell fellows like Doc. Yarry, who jumped into an emergency and performed like a real trouper. Harry Henneman, who gave a performance which was a headliner in Billboard. Also fotog Doc. Camnitzer, without whose talents history would be denied. You might look over last year's "Masonic Philatelist", May-June Issue. The

photographs will show what you missed, and speaking of that, you'll notice our genial smiling friend, Ex-President Jake Glaser, maker of kings, and eminent club man. As for Sam Brooks, who arranged for the souvenirs, words are superfluous since everyone knows of his fine editorial labors on the Masonic Philatelist. His research work is a cornerstone in Masonic Philately. Also it was Carl Pelander, who generously contributed to the levity and good fellowship of everyone. It was a real treat to see our Brother, E. Milnor Peck, the Cover Man from Pleasantville, New York, whose magnificent Centenary Contribution will be an everlasting memorial to his generosity.

When one thinks of good deeds, we think of that sage and all-wise man, a friend, a gentleman, and a good Mason, Harry Konwiser. Anytime we need an answer to a problem, Harry supplies the solution. That's why he writes Philatelic Dictionaries and good ones too. This is beside his being a good Treasurer.

There are gaps in our ranks this year made by the demise of brothers, which are difficult to replace but we know they would want you to carry on their work. The brothers mentioned are all doing their bit and so are many others who are not mentioned here.

To omit Carl Pihl and his excellent work is short of heresy. The same goes for our Vice-Presidents Brothers Roane and Heim. Arthur has done some excellent work on the "Master of Philately Degree Program".

The Envelope Researchist, Forrest Ellis, also Humorist and Roster Compiler, Morris Strauss, contribute a delectable morsel in the menu of social aperitif.

Our President is a busy man, namely Ferraro Tows with his celebrated collections. His gems of philately are being made available to all after many years of labor.

The Dean of our past Presidents, a distinguished

gentleman, founder and one to whom we owe our existence as a Masonic Club, Arthur Deas, we trust will take his rightful station on roll call.

By the way, the genial Sidney Barrett, always gives us so much pleasure when he exhibits or visits. Don't miss his showings. We would always include Clarence Brazier in this suggestion. These Masonic Brothers are eminent men in their fields of endeavor.

Some might have failed to observe that retiring gentlemen, Brother Koomenoff, Centenary Award Winner. If he can come, our wishes are complete. Without violating any confidences, he is engaged in some magnificent humanitarian work, which in modesty he declines reference to. To know Brother Koomenoff will make you a better man. We do hope he comes.

The same goes for the trail blazer of Philately, Harry Lindquist, publisher of "Stamps", Radio and Video Lecturer, Publicist and Friend. We are indeed proud to have him as a member of our Club.

It would be a real treat if Brother John A. Mirt of Chicago could arrange to be on hand. His writings on "Masons in Philately" are a liberal education. A delegation from that area would have Brother Clarence Hennen and many others, including a bunch of swell fellows of the "Temple Stamp Club in Milwaukee", whose exemplification of the "Degree of Master of Philately" is a golden contribution to any Masonic Stamp Club.

Regarding Charlie Brooks, Marcus White, Dick Bohn and Dec. Swan, the latter are out in the hinterlands, but trust we can look forward to their pilgrimage soon. This applies to many others, which time and space limits mentioning.

It would be quite an omission not to make this observation about Robert Pech, who did such a great piece of work on the Annual Picnic to the George Washington Shrine at Tappan, N. Y. He is at it again.

Another leader is Worshipful Franklin Bruns, Philatelic Editor of the New York Evening Sun, who is busy officiating in the East, but not too busy to give us some notices.

While thinking of those members in far away places on the Pacific Coast or Western plains, we might inquire of Charlie Lott, Niagara Falls; Sol Glass, Baltimore; Herman Herst, Shrub Oak, N. Y.; Gus Fabian of Hempstead, N. Y.; C. H. Copestake, Schenectady, N. Y.

There were some brothers who were unfortunate and could not attend on account of conditions beyond their control and we hope their situations will be more favorable this time.

This list could include a host of others - Do come and let us renew old acquaintances.

SCANDINAVIAN INVASION

Fulfilling all expectations, and maintaining the standard achieved in previous years, the visit of the Scandinavian Collectors Club to the Masonic Stamp Club on Friday evening February 25th proved to be a complete success. There was a good turnout of our own members as well as on the part of the visitors.

Presiding at this meeting was Brother Ferrars H. Tows, our president, who is also a Past President of the Scandinavian Collectors Club. Other members present who are also members of the S.C.C. were: Arthur I. Heim, Harry M. Konwiser, Carl E. Pelander and Carl H. Pihl.

Among the members of the S.C.C. who attended were: John Boyce, Carl-Emil Buyer, Edwin E. Elkins, Einar Ernst, William F. Foulk, Richard G. Gibson, Trygve Larsen and Frank E. Maybury.

Carl H. Pihl, M.S.C. Program Chairman, turned the meeting over to Richard G. Gibson, S.C.C. Program Chairman, after a brief business session. Mr. Gibson first presented Edwin E. Elkins Esquire, former president of S.C.C., who showed his outstanding collection of early Great Britain, which

included a dazzling number of Penny Blacks, numerous blocks and multiple pieces, not to mention many interesting used Mulready envelopes. Everyone enjoyed and appreciated this excellent showing despite Eddie's tendency to depreciate its worth.

Next, William F. Foulk, Vice President of the S.C. C., showed the superb Foulk-Maybury Collection of Denmark which is unquestionably the finest collection of Denmark extant. We saw three albums which covered the early skilling values only. These pages were replete with rare blocks and other multiple pieces, covers, etc. Mr. Foulk mentioned that he is missing only one block in the entire collection, which made everyone rather sad. However, those who know Bill have little doubt that he will soon correct this glaring deficiency. An interesting fact about this collection that may not be generally known is that it is in reality the property of Jeffrey Foulk, aged five, who is Bill's grandson.

Following this Carl-Emil Buyer asked those present a \$64. question, concerning Denmark's "Vacation Stamps" which are regular postage due stamps overprinted "Ferie". He wanted to know whether they could be considered postage stamps. Consensus of opinion was that they are a form of postal savings stamps.

Richard G. Gibson concluded by showing an interesting and nicely arranged collection of the bi-colored issues of Denmark. Mr. Gibson has separated many of the various papers and printings and makes a special study of the infinite plate varieties, including the normal and inverted plate occurrence on different printings.

This proved to be a most enjoyable evening and those who were not present missed a thoroughly interesting and well-balanced program.

--Carl H. Pihl

Do you want to SWAP stamps? Bring your duplicates to the next meeting at 7P.M. Swapping till 8:00.

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ANNUAL MEMBERS EXHIBITION

The Annual Members Exhibition for 1948-1949 will be held on Friday evening March 25th at the Collectors Club in New York beginning at 8 P.M.

All exhibits will be mounted in the frames available for the purpose. Each member will be limited to two frames which will hold 32 pages. This year and hereafter the competition will be in two divisions: open and novice. Members who have never won a first prize (or gold medal) at a Masonic Stamp Club Annual Members Exhibition or any local or regional stamp show, or who have never won a prize of any kind in an International Stamp Exhibition, are eligible for the Novice Division.

The Open Division is open to all members, except those who enter competition in the Novice Division. In other words, a member may not compete in both divisions simultaneously. Winners of first prize in the Novice Division will become ineligible to compete in that division in future exhibitions.

Three awards will be made in each of the two divisions.

Come one, come all. Let's make this a gala occasion.

--Carl H. Pihl

THE TRIP TO UTICA

If you contemplate making this trip to Utica, write AT ONCE to Morris Strauss, 224 Riverside Drive, New York, 25, N.Y. The date is May 13th, and Hotel reservations must be made at once. Rates are from \$3.50 to 5.50, single, and from \$6.00 to 8.00, double.

If you live near Utica, and will join us, please write to Brother Strauss and tell him that you will be there.

The success of this important trip depends on you! Act now.

"HE WAS A GOOD MAN"

by F. T. Anderson

I wonder if we, as Masons of today, appreciate fully the traditions of our fraternity. We say with pride, and justifiably, that we are Masons, knowing that our membership as a whole, is in the higher bracket as to honor, intellect and citizenship. But do we realize the place Masonry has in history. Much can be learned on the subject from a study of the postage stamps of the world.

The writer has become interested in Masonic philately and is in the process of establishing a collection of representative stamps picturing Masons or subjects related to Masonry. It started as an original idea but it was soon discovered that there were already many in that particular field. Several articles were found in Philatelic and in Masonic publications and recently an interesting brochure was written by George B. Clark of Denver. Another is by Sam Brooks of New York. These men are two of the leading authorities on this interesting subject. There are also at least four Masonic stamp clubs in as many cities in the United States, therefore, the idea cannot be claimed as original by the writer, although he does have a couple of angles which until now, at least, are his own and which he hopes to develop.

The reading and study which has already gone into the making of the collection, incomplete as it is, has proven to be a source of great pleasure and a wonderful method of self-education in Masonry and history. The more one goes into it, the more he realizes how little he knows of these subjects.

However, one fact stands out above all others. That fact is that Masonry has by a wide margin, been on the side of truth and justice throughout modern history. Wherever right and freedom have been pitted against might and tyranny, Masons have, with but very few exceptions, been found leading in the cause of right.

Even in Italy, where we do not ordinarily expect

to hear much of Masonry, we learn that Garibaldi and Mazzini were leaders not only against the tyrants but also in Italian Masonic bodies. Their contemporary in Austria, Louis Kossuth, was raised in a Cincinnati lodge while in exile in this country. In Austria as in Germany we find Beethoven, Gothe, Hayden, Mozart and Schiller to mention only a few, were Masons, yet conversely we do not find the Mussolinis, Hitlers and at least the more reprehensible of the Hohenzollerns listed as such.

In the Scandinavian countries, where the royal families are loved and respected by their subjects, Masonic affiliation of the royalty is extremely common in contrast to its utter absence among the rulers of such countries as Spain and Russia and in the earlier governments ruled by tyrants.

Moving to The Philippines, we find Jose Rizal, 'The George Washington of The Philippines' was a member of the fraternity. Going into South America, where we could hardly say Masonry would have an easy time in becoming established we find Bolivar, O'Higgins, San Martin and others of similar thoughts working to establish freedom and practicing their Masonic vows.

These are only a few examples of Masonry around the world to prove the point that it has always been found on the side of truth and justice. In our own country the case is even easier to prove.

Colonial history and the part played by Masons is well known. Many books have been written about Washington, Franklin, Von Steuben, Livingstone, John Marshall and others of that important period. The fact that thirteen of our presidents have been proven by written records to be Masons and two additional presidents are thought to have been the same, and the fact that two of them, Jackson of Kentucky and Truman of Missouri served as Grand Masters is also well known.

Daniel Boone, George Rogers Clark, Sevier, Farragut, Clay and Decatur are only a few of these

Masons we learn about philatelically. Historical events -- the Declaration of Independence, the Signing of the Constitution, the laying of the cornerstone of the United States Capital all have more than ordinary Masonic significance.

Coming to our own contemporaries, we find not only statesmen and political leaders but others such as Will Rogers and Charles Lindburgh are members of the fraternity. We find them in many places, almost without exception in places of trust and honor.

Such a brother the writer has found in the group shown on the "Four Chaplains" stamp. On February 23, 1943 at 12:55 A.M. the troop transport Dorchester was torpedoed by the enemy in the North Atlantic. In twenty-five minutes the vessel was under the surface of the cold, dark waters. In those twenty-five minutes one of the most heroic acts in war or peace was enacted by the four chaplains who were on the stricken ship. All the world knows of their heroism in giving up their life-belts to men who had none and how they went down, arms linked together, praying to God as they sank.

Probably not many except those of his home community, know that one of these four was a Mason. His act of heroism was no greater than that of his fellow chaplains, the other protestant, the Jew or the Catholic, yet to us who are Masons he seems just a little closer for Lt. George L. Fox surely went all the way in laying down his life for one who may or may not have been a brother.

Facts for a brief story of his life have been furnished by the secretary of his lodge and by the adjutant of the American Legion, Department of Vermont.

Rev. George L. Fox was born at Altoona Pennsylvania March 15, 1900. He graduated from Boston University, School of Theology and served as pastor in several Methodist churches in Vermont.

When barely seventeen, he enlisted for service in

World War I, serving with the Ambulance Corps, Second Division. He was decorated with The Purple Heart, The Silver Star, Croix de Guerre, and the Fourragers with personal citation. These decorations are the kind that are earned the hard way and it is with regret that we cannot furnish details on how they were earned.

Reverend Fox served as Department Chaplain and as Department Historian for The American Legion, Department of Vermont, as well as for the local ~~post~~ in several towns where he was serving as pastor.

On July 24, 1942 he was appointed Chaplain (1st Lt.) in the United States Army. He took training at The Chaplains School, Harvard University and served at Camp Davis, N.C. until shortly prior to the date of his ill-fated sailing for overseas duty.

He is survived by his wife Isadora H. Fox who is also an ordained Methodist minister and is at present at Sharon, Vt., and by a son Wyatt, who was in the Marine Corps, and by a daughter Mary.

Brother Fox received his entered apprentice degree August 2, 1939, his fellowcraft degree September 6, 1939 and was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason October 4, 1939 in Moose River Lodge No. 82 F & A M Concord, Vermont. He served as chaplain of his lodge and was a member of The Order of the Eastern Star.

An indication of the character of George L. Fox can be shown by quoting from a letter written by Karl H. Kennison, Secretary of Moose River Lodge. "Reverend Fox was a good man. He was a very good friend of mine, in fact I have a gold pin which he gave me because I attended his church more than 45 Sundays in one year. He was the Parson at my daughter's wedding. He enjoyed the (Masonic) meetings and never missed one if he could get away from his other duties. His friends have placed a set of chimes in the Gilman church and every time they ring we all think of him."

The heroism of Lt. Fox, together with that of his three companions, was recognized by the United States Army and each was awarded, posthumously, The Distinguished Service Cross in 1944.

What greater thing could any man do than give his life for another. And what more fitting thing could be said about a man who lived and died as our Brother George L. Fox did than those simple words, "He was a good man".

FOUR CHAPLAINS ISSUE.

Issued in honor of George L. Fox, Clark V. Poling, John P. Washington and Alexander D. Goode, the four chaplains who sacrificed their lives in the sinking of the S. S. Dorchester, February 3, 1943.

Picture from United States Stamp Catalogue, published by Scott Publications.



ARTHUR WARDWELL GENEALOGIST

We have just learned that because of his original research of Hempstead, Long Island families of 1650-1700, our good friend Arthur Wardwell has been elected a member of the Society of American Genealogists. This is quite an honor as this society has a very limited membership. Arthur's stamp activities are centered in the classic 3¢ 1851s.

Evidently the study of genealogy goes hand-in-hand with stamp collecting. As witness the activity of Charles Lott, Clarence Brazer and other members of the Club.

VARs FAMILY GENEALOGY

Harold Vars of Westerly, Rhode Island, who was made a member of Osiris Lodge of Washington, D.C. in 1928, at which time he was a Taxidermist for the U.S. Biological Survey, desires information relating to the Vars Family. This family had its American beginnings when Lord John de Vars, a Breton nobleman, visited America, went back to France and was killed in a duel in 1679.

Lord John's widows sons, Isaac, settled on land near Bradford, R.I. in 1680. There are hundreds of Vars in the United States and Canada, and Harold Vars of Westerly, R.I., wants to see letters written by members of the Vars Family.

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YE' EDITOR ADDRESSES THE MEMBERS

Another banner evening was enjoyed by the members of the Masonic Stamp Club on Friday evening, March 4th at the Collectors Club when Brother Sam Brooks Editor of The Masonic Philatelist, took charge of Masonic Philately Night and gave the members a most interesting and informative talk.

Sam explained in great detail, using notes and clippings for illustrative purposes, how he gathered the material for his Masonic collection. He pointed out that the system described could be used to form any topical, or schemic, collection. Sam emphasized the importance of thorough research and painstaking checking in order to assure accuracy.

He divided Masonic Philately into four broad groups and explained each one. First is the fascinating study and collection of postmarks or cancellations of Masonic significance. Many of these have appeared in the Masonic Philatelist from time to time. Sam stressed that each man was his own judge as to which types of cancellations were Masonic. Second field, and probably the broadest, is the collection of stamps that are of Masonic significance, such as those that bear portraits of Masons or of events that were significant to Masons. When you consider that this includes the collection of stamps that exemplify the many symbols of Masonry, it can be seen that this field is vast indeed.

Next, Sam discussed the collection of covers bearing Masonic corner cards, or which were addressed to Masonic organizations or had other Masonic connotation. In a way, these covers are the classics of Masonic Philately due to their great rarity. Finally, Sam showed examples of autographs of Masons on covers, mostly free franking signatures, and mentioned the possibilities in this activity.

To this writer, this evening proved to be one of the most interesting the club has enjoyed in some time. I believe we should attempt to provide more

such programs, which offer good instructive information that is helpful to all our members, whether they be beginners or experts. I don't think there was anyone present who didn't learn a great deal that night. Thanks a lot, Sam.

Carl H. Pihl
Program Chairman

E. MILNOR PECK REPORTING

We had a very pleasant chat with Brother Peck Who is now working on another Masonic Stamp Club cachet. This time it is in connection with the proposed new stamp to honor the city of Alexandria, Va. As you all know, this city is very closely associated with many of George Washington's Masonic activities and is the site of the famous George Washington Masonic Memorial. Milnor is having an artist develop his ideas, which will be presented to you soon.

HEINRICH von STEPHAN 1831-1897

He was General Postmaster of the German Confederation in 1875. He was a Mason in the Lodge "Teutonia zur Weisheit" in Potsdam. He was initiated in 1858.

---Harry O. Henneman



The Philippines on Dec. 30 issued an embossed stamped envelop bearing the profile of Dr. Jose Rizal and a 2-centavo green stamp overprinted "O. B." Dr. Rizal, a Mason, gave his life in the fight for the independence of the Philippines from the Spaniards. Rizal Consistory of the Scottish Rite Bodies in the republic is named after him.

-- Mirt.

Two Masons will be honored when Haiti issues a 5¢ stamp this year in connection with the bicentennial of the founding of Port-au-Prince. They are George Washington and Simon Bolivar, the latter known as the "Liberator" of South America.--Mirt.

DINNER ANNOUNCEMENT

MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

15th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

PLACE - MASONIC CLUB OF NEW YORK
MASONIC HALL, 71 West 23rd Street, New York City.

Time - Friday, May 6th, 1949.
BE THERE at 6:30 P.M. for a get-to-gether.
DINNER at 7 P.M. SHARP

DRESS- INFORMAL

SUBSCRIPTION - \$3.98 includes everything.

DINNER - THE FINEST FULL COURSE DINNER.

TOASTMASTER - YOU WILL LIKE HIM.

SPEECHES - SHORT - BUT GOOD.

ENTERTAINERS - BEING DEVELOPED BY COMMITTEE

SCOUVENIR - UNDER CONSIDERATION

NOTE: The Dinner is for men only, and the limited capacity of the Private Dining Room requires advance booking of reservations.

SEND RESERVATIONS WITH CHECK to our Vice- Chairman,
HENRY O. HENNEMAN 28 East 31st Street, New York, 16, N.Y.

GOTTFRIED C. LESSING 1729-1781

He was initiated at Hamburg. He was a celebrated "literature" of Germany. He wrote two works on Free Masonry, "Ernst und Falk" and "Nathan der Weise".

***Harry O. Henneman

