

The Masonic Philatelist

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MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

ANNUAL PICNIC AT GEORGE WASHINGTON
MASONIC SHRINE AT TAPPAN, N. Y.

SUNDAY, JULY 24th, 1949

All Provisions Made * Rain or Shine * For a Wonderful Day in the Country. Everything You Expect to Find for Convenience is Here * Bring Your Picnic Lunch and Your Friends * REFRESHMENTS * BEER, SODA, HOT DOGS, ETC. * All You Want * The Charge is Nominal * Get There as Early as you Wish * Even in the Forenoon * And Stay Until the Shadows Start Creeping Down the Sylvan Valley of the Hudson.

DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO GET TO TAPPAN BY AUTO

Cross George Washington Bridge, turn right and proceed along Route 9W for about 14¾ miles to a sign marked Orangeburg—Route 303. Continue along this road, which is known as Oak Tree Road, to Livingston Street, which is two blocks after crossing Railroad tracks—to the grounds of the George Washington Shrine.

DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO GET TO TAPPAN BY BUS

Buses for Tappan leave from the following Bus Depots in New York City: 143 West 43rd Street, Broadway and 167th Street, Amsterdam Avenue and 181st Street. Just tell the driver to stop at the "76 House" in Tappan, then walk back a half block to the grounds of the George Washington Shrine. Walking time: 2 minutes.

DIRECTIONS VIA WEST SHORE RAILROAD

Ferries leave West 42nd Street, N. Y. C. for train connections to Tappan, at 10:15 A.M., 12:35 P.M., 1:25 P.M., 1:45 P.M., 2:35 P.M., and 3:15 P.M. Daylight Saving Time. Train stops at Tappan station. Total time, 1 hour. Cross railroad tracks at Tappan. Walk South 2 blocks to traffic light and "76 House", then follow same directions as above. Walking time from Station to Shrine, about 8 Minutes.

This is the fourth annual Pilgrimage to the historical George Washington Headquarters. We are sure you will want to attend this great event. Don't forget the date: — SUNDAY, JULY 24th. AT TAPPAN, NEW YORK.

Chairman of Picnic Committee,

ROBERT M. PECH

THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

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EDITOR
Sam Brooks, 905 Anderson Ave.,
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MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

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JUNE 24 ANNUAL MEETING

Our 18th Annual Meeting will convene on Friday June 24th,
at the Collectors Club Building, 22 East 35th Street.

We will hear reports from our Officers and Committee Chairmen. Then we will proceed to elect a new group of three members of the Board of Governors

In accordance with our By-Laws, the Board of Governors will then meet and elect a complete slate of Officers for the Club. The new officers will then be installed.

This meeting is really important to all and you should make every effort to attend.

CLARENCE BRAZER SHOWS PROOFS

At our meeting on May 27th, Brother Clarence Brazer showed us a fine collection of United States proofs. Dr. Brazer calls this his "Reference Collection" and it is truly a gold mine of information for every collector of the stamps of our country.

It was truly a pleasure to view this collection and to hear the stories connected with the acquisition of many of the items in it. Brother Brazer made an excellent suggestion for those of us who cannot afford a high-priced stamp that belongs in our collections. Use a proof until that big day comes when we don't have to heck the family jewels to buy a good copy of the stamp.

A fine evening was had by all who attended.

---S.B.

NINE MEMBERS TAKE DEGREE

The second working of the "Master of Philately Degree" was held on June 8th before as fine an attendance as the Club has had in recent years.

Brothers Carl Pihl and Arthur Mein are to be commended for the manner in which the work was given to nine candidates. The participants as well as the candidates liked every minute of it.

One thing is noticeable when the Degree is given. There seems to be a really fine feeling of friendliness prevailing especially after the work is over. We seem to draw closer to each other in these ties of Friendship and Brotherly Love to which we are all committed by our o.b.

We need more of these meetings and it is hoped that eventually all members will have attained to the new rank.

Again we thank the Temple Stamp Club Of Milwaukee, for permitting us to use the ritual of the degree.

---S.B.

FREEMASONRY HONORS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

By John A. Mirt.

Leafing through a century-old copy of "American Review of Freemasonry" -- that of July, 1848, to be exact -- I came across an account which had been copied from a "London paper." It is of interest to Masonic philatelists because it can be illustrated with postage stamps. The item follows:



"A most interesting ceremony took place in the Town Hall, Woolwich, which was highly decorated with colors and flowers for the occasion on Tuesday, when a new Lodge of Freemasons, No. 1,000, was consecrated under the title of the Florence Nightingale -- a fitting tribute from the members, who nearly all belong to the Royal Artillery.

"The ceremony was performed by the new Deputy Grand Master, the Right Hon. Lord Panmure, assisted by Bro. White, Past Grand Secretary; Bro. J. D. Wilson, Grand Deacon; Bro. Bramfield, Assistant Grand Secretary; Bro. Harvey, Past Grand Deputy, and a number of others, about 150 being present. At the conclusion of the ceremony, which was impressively performed, Captain C. Forbes of the Royal Artillery, was installed into the chair as the first Master, and the Deputy Grand Master, addressing him said that, although the order did not admit ladies to its ceremonies, there was nothing to prevent their hailing from a Lodge bearing the name of a lady who had left her home to perform a most Christian, a most disinterested, a most useful work; and thus carry into effect that truly Masonic virtue -- charity. He felt that she had made a name that was confined not to a kingdom, but which was as widely spread through the world as was the ancient craft of Freemasonry."

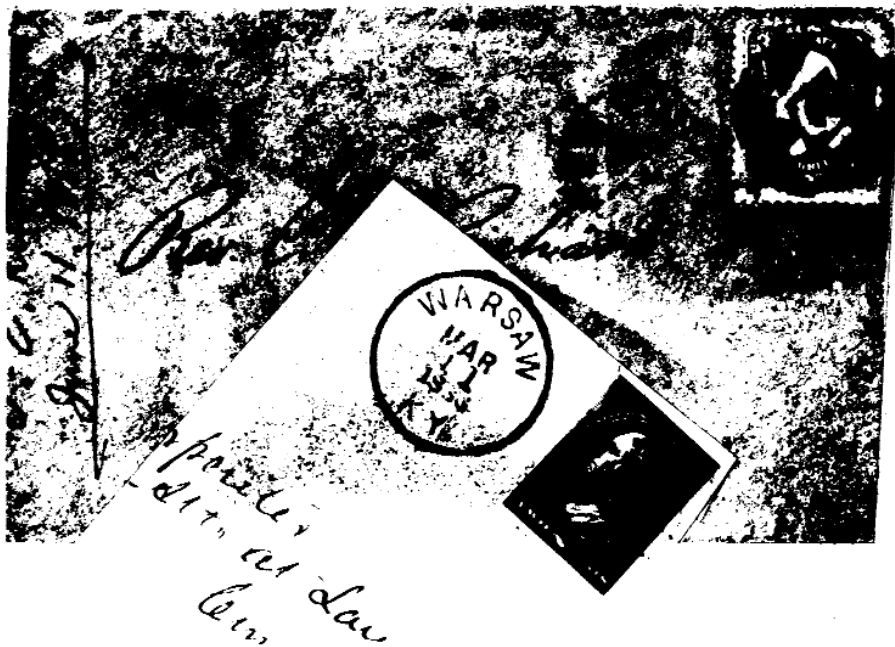


That story was written in the early stages of Florence Nightingale's service to humanity and was prophetic. In the years that followed, the "Lady of the Lamp" carried her light to the ailing and wounded in the Crimean War. Shocked by the existing nursing conditions, she went to work and succeeded in getting order out of chaos, saving many

hundreds of lives. She died in 1910, at the age of 90 years, leaving behind a record which time cannot erase.

The register of the Grand Lodge of England still carries Florence Nightingale Lodge, but now known as No. 706 and located in London.

She is pictured on Belgium B234 and Costa Rica C120, on the latter with Edith Cavell, nurse in World War I executed by the Germans.



Here we see two very fine examples of Masonic cancellations on cover, submitted to us by Mr. Harry A. Dunsmeor of Syracuse, N.Y.

These covers are the property of Mr. George F. Weiland, also of Syracuse, and were loaned especially for the purpose of showing to members of the Masonic Stamp Club.

Mr. Dunsmeor has a very fine collection of cancellations, both on and off cover. On a recent visit to the Club he showed a few items of the "Ah and Oh" type.

Our sincere thanks to both of these gentlemen for their courtesies to us.

METER STAMPS

This section of our United States postal history is one that is the least attractive to most collectors, it seems, and is ignored completely by many. The designs are limited to some 25 general types from 1920 to date, and none of them can compare with the fine art of steel engravings that appear on the postage stamps of our country. At the present time there are four manufacturers of postage meter devices actively in business and leasing them. The firms, with percentages of total, are: Pitney Bowes Inc. about 80%; Commercial Controls Corp. about 15%; International Postal Supply about 3% and the National Cash Register Company about 2%. During the past decade there has been several consolidation and patent purchases by the Commercial Controls Corp. However Pitney Bowes Inc. does the largest amount of business in this field.

while there are countless thousands of these meter stamps which are of little or no value, there are some which are quite scarce and do command a fairly good price for copies on envelopes or sticker tapes in fine to superb condition. Many of these were used in New York not too many years ago. Some of these better meter stamps may be in the hands of New York collectors who might not realize that these meter stamps have real value in dollars today, even though a type chart was published by Stephen D. Rich at various times, the Third Edition appearing in 1945. The second edition contained a paragraph on price which quoted for certain types and rates which was quite highly critized at the time. These prices of the second edition need upward revision in mose cases today.

at the present time there are about 2,050 postage meter debices in service at post offices in 801 different cities which prepay postage on parcel, post mailings. A few meters prepay the postage on registd mail. And one meter in New York, at the General Post Office prepays the Postage Due. Thus it is safe to say that millions of odd and high value stamps are replaced by these meter

devices annually, much to the disgust and lament of the postage stamp collector. In addition to these 2050 meters in service at Post Offices, there are some 65 Mailomat machines in large cities which automatically meter-stamp the mail of private individual who inserts a coin to mail his letter. The largest part of the meter stamp useage comes from meters which are leased to business firms, so that metered mail constitutes a high percentage of the business mail today. Mailing machines into which the meter devices, which is not sold, but leased on a rental basis, fits, forms a large share of the business of the meter manufacturer. The mailing machine seals the envelopes automatically and thus performs an arduous task.

To mention a few of the meter stamps which were used in New York and which are of good value today, there are: Meters with the letters "A" "C" "L" "M" "P" or "T" ahead of the meter number in oval design, these were used on envelopes only about 1932 and are worth \$2.50-\$10.00 today. Meter #145 used by the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. on envelopes, November 1927, will easily bring \$50.00 for a fine to superb copy. Meters numbered #00001 PO and #00005 PO used on sticker tapes only, about 1933-37 period, bring \$15.00 today for nice postally used copies. The Brooklyn Postage Due meter used on envelope with a 2¢ stamp on same, brings about \$3.00 up depending on condition. A 12¢ meter used on overseas soldiers mail, oval style, about 1945, will bring \$5.00 today. I don't know of any stamp of the same face value mint or used of that period that brings such prices. Disregarding face value, the 50 cent Zeppelin of 1933 is the only stamp used that approaches the values of the 1932-33 meter stamps quoted previously. I do not advise anyone to collect meter stamps or any other particular type of stamps. I believe in letting the other fellow collect whatever gives him the most relaxation and pleasure. I do likewise....

--Walter M. Swan, Stony Creek, N.Y.

HARRY S. TRUMAN



In order to round out our group of Masonic Presidents, it is necessary to show this stamp issued by Brazil in 1944, in honor of President Truman's visit to that country.

Born, Grandview Mo., May 8, 1884.

Harry S. Truman has had a long and varied career in Freemasonry, and we present only the highlights of his Masonic record.

He was Raised on March 18, 1909, in Belton Lodge No. 450, Belton, Mo. He dimitted December 20, 1910 and assisted in the organization of Grandview Lodge No. 618. He was Worshipful Master under dispensation and when the Charter was granted. He served in the East again in 1917. From 1925 to 1930 he was District Deputy Grand Master and District Lecturer. He then entered Grand Lodge and progressed regularly until his election as Grand Master in 1940. He is the second Grand Master to serve as President of the United States. He is a member of many associated Masonic organizations and on October 19, 1945, at Washington, D.C. he was Crowned 33^o.

Coming from a truly pioneer family, Brother Truman received his early education in the public schools and the Kansas City Law School. After seeing active service in World War I, he was discharged as a major of Artillery. He then went into politics, and after serving as a Judge, he was elected to the United States Senate, where he remained until he became Vice-President. He succeeded to the Presidency in 1945, upon the death of President Roosevelt.

from "Masonic Philately" by Sam Brooks