

The Masonic Philatelist

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK



Vol. VI No. 6 September 1949



TO A FRIEND

I feel honored to be invited to the 70th Birthday Celebration in honor of the most distinguished Mason in Philately,-----my friend and the friend of every stamp lover throughout the world----HARRY M. KONWISER.

The Great Architect of the Universe has spared him to be among us for the Biblical three score and ten....doing his allotted work humbly, graciously and without self-aggrandizement or thought of personal gain.

It is my pleasure to know Harry for the past 25 years, years of close friendship and understanding. His courtesy, kindness and sense of sharing his wisdom and knowledge has strengthened that friendship into ties of brotherly love.

May the blessings of Heaven rest upon his life and actions for many, many fruitful years to come.

With the deepest fraternal greetings to all of my faithful pals in the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, permit me to remain,

Sincerely Yours,
Harold Jay Snyder

• *Meetings* •

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

Sept 30 PHILIPPINES Russell B. Roane (followed by discussion)

Oct 7 UNITED STATES ENVELOPES Marcus H. White (discussion)

MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

OFFICERS 1949-1950

Russell B. Roane President
Arthur I. Heim 1st V-Pres.
Carl H. Pihl 2nd V-Pres.

Irwin M. Yarry Secretary
61-23 Roosevelt Ave.
Woodside, Long Island, N.Y.

Harry M. Konwiser Treasurer
181 Claremont Ave.
New York, 27, N.Y.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1950 Richard S. Behn
Harry M. Konwiser
Ferrars H. Tows
1951 Forrest S. Ellis
Carl H. Pihl
Morris Strauss
1952 Arthur I. Heim
Harreld Matters
Russell B. Roane

PAST PRESIDENTS

Arthur W. Deas 1934-1938
Ralph A. Barry * 1938-1939
Henry W. Holcombe 1939-1941
Carl E. Pelander 1941-1943
George Camnitzer 1943-1945
Sam Brooks 1945-1946
Jacob S. Glaser 1946-1948
Ferrars H. Tows 1948-1949

(*) indicates deceased

THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

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EDITOR

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

from KONWISER'S American Stamp

Collectors Dictionary

Franklin—Benjamin Franklin appointed Postmaster at Philadelphia in 1737, by Alexander Spotswood, Deputy Postmaster General in America, for the British Crown. Became a Deputy Postmaster General, with William Hunter in 1753. Franklin was dismissed as Deputy Postmaster General in 1774. Appointed Postmaster General by Continental Congress, July 26, 1775.

Franklin and Washington On Postage Stamps—Portraits of presidents have been the most familiar subjects used for the more than 1,200 varieties of postage stamps the U. S. has issued since 1847. There are 90 historical characters other than past presidents who have been immortalized on U. S. stamps, according to George A. Scott, stamp editor (1945) for the Associated Press. Exclusive of coil stamps the portrait of Washington has appeared on 65 different postage stamps while Franklin's portrait has appeared on a total of 37 to top all rivals.—Western Stamp Collector.

The Temple Stamp Club of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, started their eleventh year with the June 8, 1949 meeting, held at the Tripoli Shrine Mosque, 3000 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At this meeting plans were made for the following year with the new officers in charge. Officers elected were: Ray A. Arndt, president; Byron L. Hagensick, vice-president; George R. Rankin, secretary; and Carl Oestreich, Oscar H. Keehn, and Forrest R. Poe, all acting as governors.

* * *

The Denver Masonic Stamp Club held its first anniversary banquet and installation on July 25, 1949, with an attendance of sixty members and guests, at the Albany Hotel in Denver. A fine talk was delivered by Homer Ryder, his subject being "Masonic Presidents of the United States." Other speakers were Harry W. Bundy and Luther Van Buskirk.

* * *

In connection with the awards given Americans at the recent Belgian Exhibition, we learn that Arthur Heim of New York City was the recipient of the Silver Medal for his outstanding collection of Belgian Congo.

STAMPS ☆ August 13, 1949



OUR NEW OFFICERS

The above photo, taken at our Picnic on July 24th, shows in the usual order: Irwin M. Yarry, Secretary; Harry M. Konwiser, Treasurer; Russell B. Roane, President; Carl H. Pihl, Second Vice-president; Arthur I. Heim, First Vice-president.

The group was posed by Arthur, and taken on his camera by his son. Handsome, aren't they ?

FIRST MEETING - SEPTEMBER 30th - 8 P.M.

Our new President - Bro. Russell B. Roane - will start the new season off with a bang when he shows his excellent collection of the Pacific Republic - THE PHILLIPPINES. Due to its varied history under different nations, including the occupation during the past war, the postal issues of the islands provide a fertile field for study. Bro. Roane's stamps and accompanying talk will be most interesting. Following the showing there will be general discussion on the stamps of THE PHILLIPPINES.

The room will be open at 7 P.M. for those wishing to swap stamps or "bat the breeze".

Carl H. Pihl

Postal Markings

By HARRY M. KONWISER

Address correspondence to H. M. Konwiser
STAMPS, 2 W. 46th St., New York 18

United States
Stampless Cover Catalog

by Harry Konwiser

A priced catalog of the stamps

Postal Markings is a feature in STAMPS



Harry M. Konwiser

MEKEEL'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

Established January 7, 1891

Wells, Fargo & Co.

By HARRY M. KONWISER, A.P.S.

STAMPS

The American Stamp
Collectors' Dictionary

By

HARRY M. KONWISER

THE AMERICAN

S. STAMPLESS
Cover Catalogue

Edited by Harry M. Konwiser

Western & Stamp

Collector



UNITED STATES
POSTAL HISTORY

New Konwiser Philatelic
Dictionary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 20th, 1949, at the Masonic Club in New York City, many friends of Harry M. Konwiser, gathered to celebrate the Seventieth Birthday of our good friend.

To me fell the pleasant task of compiling a short article about Harry, to be included in this issue of the Masonic Philatelist. However I am certain that I did not do justice to the subject. Not that there isn't much to write about, but rather because of the difficulty of obtaining pertinent facts about the life of Harry.

From discussions with some of his friends we learned that Harry was born September 4, 1889, in Newark, New Jersey. He had a very pleasant boyhood and then went to work for one of the Newark newspapers. Later he was a traveling auditor for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Someone then talked him into starting a cigar factory.

This venture was not so successful, so Harry entered the publishing field. At various times he had papers for the Cigar trade, Radio and Hotels. Then came his entry into the Philatelic field where he remained to this day.

Harry's collecting activities were centered in the formation of a very fine collection of Denmark which he gave up when a large batch of Texas correspondence came into his hands. From this grew his famous collection of Texas Postal History and his equally famous book on the subject, which is now a collectors item.

He is an authority on Postal Markings, Postal History and Stampless Covers. His books on those subjects are necessary for intelligent collectors of these items. Also expert in the detection of forgeries in Autograph collecting, his "baby to-day is his new book, "The American Stamp Collectors Dictionary".

He has written for nearly every stamp paper published to-day both here and abroad. He has been a judge at many stamp exhibitions, but of late has declined that honor because he finds it a bit too strenuous. He likes stamp collectors and they like him. He belongs to several stamp-collecting groups but is most active in the Masonic Stamp Club. He was one of the Founders of the Club and has been active on the Board of Governors and for several years as Treasurer.

Harry is a Life Member of Justice Lodge No. 753, F. & A.M. of New York. He was Initiated February 8, 1919; Passed March 22, 1919; and Raised April 12, 1919. He is active in all Lodge affairs, but has steadily declined all honors except that of Trustee. He has held that office for many years.

This recital of past history may sound cold and bare, but this Gentleman is anything but that. Many are proud to call him Friend. To this writer he is one of the finest persons he has ever known.

May he grace our festive occasions for many, many years.

-----Sam Brooks

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BIG TREAT for the OCTOBER 7th MEETING

One of the outstanding philatelists of the nation, our own Bro. Marcus H. White, is coming all the way down from Worcester, Mass. to show us his unparalleled collection of U. S. envelopes. This promises to be one of the highlights of the year as Bro. White's material is "out of this world" and he knows how to hold an audience entranced. Afterwards, there will be a general discussion on U. S. envelopes led by Bro. White. Here is the chance to really see and learn something. Come early and be sure to get a seat.

Swapping of stamps and "bull session" commencing at 7 P.M. in the meeting room for those who want.

Carl H. Pihl

With all the fuss made over Harry on his birthday, we seem to forget his lovely Wife, who deserves a lot of credit for putting up with the great big lug for so many years. God bless you, Mrs. Kenwiser, and may you have many years of good health and happiness, together.

CONGRATULATIONS to Brother Burleigh E. Jacobs on his election as a Vice President of the American Philatelic Society.

PICNIC news has been crowded out of this issue. It was a grand success and Bob Pech and his Committee deserve many thanks from all of us. We hope to have a complete report for our next number.

JOHANN WOLFGANG von GOETHE

During the last few months, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, was celebrated in many parts of the world. At these meetings prominent persons in the fields of Arts and Music read portions of his works and extolled his excellence as a poet, philosopher, statesman and Freemason.

Many books have been published about Goethe's works. Few, however, mention that he was a Mason for fifty years, and was strongly attached to the Fraternity.

Goethe was born August 28, 1749 at Frankfort-on Main, but spent most of his life at Weimar. Here, we cannot go into detail regarding his many accomplishments. In our Grand Lodge Library is a complete file of clippings and books by various writers, available to all who are interested.

For our stamp album you may add the following: He was Raised March 23, 1782 in Lodge Amalia near Weimar. The Lodge celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his Initiation on June 23, 1830, which Goethe attended.

His best known Masonic work is a short poem "Masons Lodge" which Thomas Carlyle translated into English. However, Bro. H.L.Haywood in his book "Famous Masons", states that "Wilhelm Meister" is "a work purely Masonic, a testament for Freemasons everywhere to read and study".

He died March 22, 1832, exactly 50 years after his Raising in Lodge Amalia.

Sunday August 28, 1949, Goethe Lodge #629, F.&A.M. sponsored a meeting in front of his statue in Bryant Park, New York. With songs and music from Goethe's works, the meeting was high-lighted by a talk "Goethe - Lover of Masonry" delivered by M..W..Frank E. Totten, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York.

-----Sam Brooks



Masonic Stamp Club of New York

PROGRAM FOR 1949-1950

1949

Sept 30 PHILIPPINES-Russell B. Roane (followed by discussion)

Oct 7 UNITED STATES ENVELOPES-Marcus H. White (discussion)

28 VISIT BY- Collectors Club-Arranged by Richard S. Bohn

Nov 4 INFORMATION PHILATELY-Harry O. Henneman

25 TURKEY HASH-Everybody brings something to show.

Dec 2 DEGREE- Master of Philately (Members Only)

1950

Jan 6 SPOT AUCTION SALE- Arrangements by Charles Brooks &
Sam Brooks; Carl E. Pelander-Auctioneer.

27 CYPRUS-Arthur I. Heim (followed by discussion)

Feb 3 PAST PRESIDENTS NIGHT-Arranged by Jacob S. Glaser

24 Visit by Proof and Essay Society -Clarence Brazier

Mar 3 Masonic Philately- Arranged by Sam Brooks

31 GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES-arranged by Irwin M. Yarry

Apr 7 SUBJECT COLLECTING-Arranged by Morris Strauss

28 ANNUAL MEMBERS EXHIBITION-Arranged by George Camnitzer

May 5 Sixteenth Annual Dinner- Arranged by Harold Matters &
Harry O. Henneman

June 2 QUIZ NIGHT- Arranged by Carl H. Pihl

23 ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

All meetings throughout the season commence at 8 P.M. sharp,
the meeting room will be open and available for swapping
stamps or conversation at 7 P.M. prior to every meeting.

CARL H. PIHL,
Chairman, Program Committee.

May 26 DEGREE- Master of Philately (Members Only)