

# *The Masonic Philatelist*

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK



Vol. VII No. 1

March 1950



## ***Meetings***

HAIL BRITANNIA!

Friday evening, March 31st, will be devoted to Great Britain, its Dominions and Colonies by the members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. Beginning with the Penny Black - first postage stamp issued by any country - the stamps issued by the numerous outposts of this farflung empire will be discussed and exhibited by various members who specialize in this interesting phase of philately. Arrangements are being coordinated by our own brother, and Secretary of the club, Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, who is a reknowned student of British postal history. Don't miss this opportunity of seeing some classic philatelic items. Meeting begins at 8 P.M. at the Collectors Club. Join the growing group who come early (doors open at 7 P.M.) for stamp talk and swapping.

BEASTS OF THE FIELDS, FISH IN THE SEA, BIRDS IN AIR

Including ships and shoes and sealing wax - and cabbages and kings. All this and much more will be on the bill of fare on Topical Philately Night at the Masonic Stamp Club of New York - Friday evening, April 7th, at 8 P.M. Without any doubt there is in preparation one of the most interesting evenings of the season. Arrangements are being made by Bro. Morris Strauss, and my personal private eye tells me that he is lining up a blue ribbon cast for your entertainment and pleasure. Many members are finding enjoyment from this interesting and growing phase of philately. Come out and get some new ideas - also see how the chickens in the next yard are doing. Meeting will be at the Collectors Club, doors open at 7 P.M.

## 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  
31-12 54th Street  
Woodside, L.I. New York

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  
Harrold 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

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.

In a recent issue of Western Stamp Collector we saw the names of several members of the Club. Harry L. Kinne, that budding young author, was represented by a short story "Devotion". Then there was an article by HMK on a new find of 2¢ Postmaster Provisionals of Annapolis. In a report of a meeting of Ye Olde King's Highway Stamp Club of Noroton, Conn., we learn that Brother Floyd S. Leach was elected to the Board of Directors. And finally a story of an Auction Sale by Mrs. Ingeborg Herst, the better half of the heret outfit up at Shrub Oak, N.Y. Nice going Boys and Gal.

\*\*\*\*\*

To add to his other activities, Brother Franklin R. Bruns, Jr. has entered the publishing business with a volume of photos and art on Liberian postage stamps. It is titled "Liberia, The West African Republic". The price is \$2.00 per copy, and may be obtained from Frank at 25 Beaver St., New York 4

\*\*\*\*\*

At the Annual Meeting of the Association for Stamp Exhibitions, March 1st, Brother Carl H. Pihl was elected to the Board of Directors. Other members of the Club active in the affairs of the Association are Harry L. Lindquist, Arthur W. Deas, Harry M. Konwiser, Carl E. Pelander, Jacob S. Glaser, and George Camnitzer.

\*\*\*\*\*

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Brother Franklin R. Bruns, Jr. tells us that many friends of Brother Clarence W. Brazier feted him Wednesday March 15, on the occasion of his 70th Birthday. Heartiest congratulations Clarence. May you enjoy many, many happy and healthy birthdays.

--\*\*--\*\*--

### HAPPY GRANDPOP

Brother Morris Strauss is receiving congratulations on becoming a Grandpa for the first time. His daughter Natalie presented him with a bouncing Grandson. Morris is walking on air and should be careful when treading the lofty walks of Brooklyn Bridge, which his firm is now engaged in rebuilding. Congratulations to the entire Strauss family.

--\*\*--\*\*--

### HAPPY FAMILY

The Severe administration  
Like most lands across the sea,  
Is keeping pace with a new issue...  
This notice comes authoritatively.

It's not provisional--a definitive--  
It comes registered; and hark!  
It oft calls for special handling  
Due to its private watermark.

Most surely it's not counterfeit;  
And cancelled, it can't be.  
Its prime purpose in being issued  
Was to enlarge our family.

Issue: Kenneth Jay Severe  
Issued at: Union Memorial Hospital, Baltimore  
Date of Issue: March 7, 1950-12:35 Noon  
Denomination: Boy  
Size: 8 pounds, 2 ounces  
Color: "Blue"  
Designer : Allison Severe  
Engraver: Eleanore Severe

Copy of a card sent us by Brother Allison Severe of Baltimore to which we say- Heartiest congratulations and Good Health and Happiness to all of you.

--\*\*--\*\*--

Nelson Centenary Issue.



Lord Nelson Monument  
A10

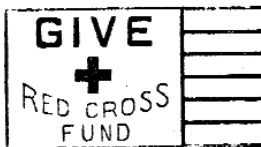
LORD HORATIO NELSON (1758-1805)  
The famous Admiral of the British Navy,  
was a member of Union Lodge York #331.



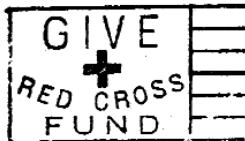
Rose, Thistle and Shamrock  
A3

THE ROSE, THE THISTLE, and THE SHAMROCK  
These three were worked in gold and used  
as badges on the grand Chapter apron belong-  
ing to the Earl of Zetland, who was First  
Grand Principal of the Royal Arch in Eng-  
land in 1841 to 1870, as well as Grand Mas-  
ter. The apron is shown in the English Mus-  
eum at Freemasons Hall, London.

These three flowers are symbolic of England  
Ireland, and Scotland.



HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED?



THE AUSTRALIAN

STAMP MONTHLY

September 1, 1949

submitted by

Fat Herst

#### MASONIC PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The President, Mr. W. H. Pethard presided over a record attendance at the August meeting. Nine new members were elected and those present for the first time were warmly welcomed by the President. Mr. M. Kohane, who has recently returned from a business trip abroad, gave a short but interesting account of his experiences overseas, and conveyed to the meeting greetings from the New York Masonic Philatelic Society, and referred to the right royal welcome which he received from the members of this Society and others of the fraternity. His experience in London was one of great delight and the warm-hearted and friendly treatment which he received from the folk of "Old England" will long be remembered by him. Mr. Kohane kindly donated a number of stamps, and F.D. covers to the Society and these were sold, the funds benefiting by over £1. The syllabus item for the evening was a sale by tender and, after very keen competition, 87 lots changed hands, the amount realized being over £53. Over 100 exchange sheets were handed in by members, but time did not permit of their being passed round. This, the President very much regrets, but will guarantee that, in future, time will be allotted so that members will have the opportunity of viewing the exchange sheets.

THE SQUARE AND COMPASS STAMP CLUB OF LOS ANGELES has been meeting regularly at 3990 Menlo Avenue. Their activities include the publication of a newsy club paper called "Stampcraft". Our member Brother E. Holbrook Harvey has edited this paper for nearly two years and is doing a fine job. If you visit Los Angeles, get in touch with Brother Harvey.

\*\*\*--\*\*\*--\*\*\*

The December 1949 issue of THE TEMPLE STAMP NEWS, the quarterly publication of the TEMPLE STAMP CLUB of Milwaukee, has recently reached us, together with a letter from the Club Secretary, Brother George R. Rankin.

The TEMPLE STAMP NEWS is what its name implies, a very newsy little paper which has been published for nearly six years. The Editorial staff under the leadership of Brother Ray A. Arndt is to be congratulated for a splendid job.

Brother Rankin in his letter suggests that all Masonic Stamp Clubs should keep in closer touch with each other, exchanging views and ideas. We are indebted to the TEMPLE STAMP CLUB for permission to work the Master of Philately Degree, and by an interchange of views it may be possible to obtain some other good ideas for the betterment of all our Clubs. It seems to be a good thought and should be followed up.

-----S.B.

Edit: See Carl Pihl's story on another page.

\*\*\*\*\*

Miss Edith M. Fisher who conducts stamp columns in several North Jersey newspapers, including the BERGEN EVENING RECORD of Hackensack and the NEWARK SUNDAY NEWS, is evidently an avid reader of the Masonic Philatelist. Many of her well-written and newsy articles contain some reference to our Club activities and notices of our meetings. We are grateful and thankful for these notices and we do hope that our Members in that section avail themselves of the news and information in Miss Fisher's columns, by purchase of these papers.

\*\*\*\*\*

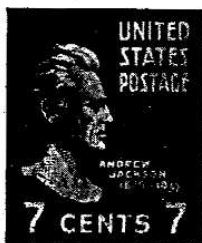
Had a nice note from Brother Arle H. Goode of Babylon, L.I. who tells us that only lack of time and the distance from the City prevents him from attending meetings. Brother Goode received a nice note of thanks from Brother Knight at the Home in Utica, thanking him for some stamps that were sent to the kids at the Home. He sends his regards and hopes to be with us at a meeting soon.

\*\*\*\*\*

HNK WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU HAVE'NT PAID YOUR DUES!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

## MASONRY ON POSTAGE STAMPS



One of the most interesting postage stamps from the standpoint of the Masonic story behind it is the 7¢ stamp now in use. It bears the portrait of Andrew Jackson. The story it tells is that of the triumph of Freemasonry over its enemies.

In 1826, occurred what has become known as the "Morgan incident." William Morgan, incensed against certain Masons, threatened to publish the secrets of Freemasonry which he said had come into his possession. He was kidnapped from a jail where he had been imprisoned for larceny and disappeared mysteriously. Masons were blamed for this disappearance.

The enemies of Freemasonry seized upon this incident to carry on a fanatical campaign. Masons were removed from positions of trust. Attempts were made to deprive Masonic bodies of their chartered rights and to prevent their meetings.

This wave, started on the East coast, swept over the country. Masonic lodges suspended operations and eventually Grand Lodges fell victims. Established Masonry disappeared in many states. In Illinois, the Grand Lodge passed out of existence.

The Anti-Masonic Party, as it was called, came into political power in many sections of the country. To acknowledge membership in the Fraternity was often political suicide.

Andrew Jackson, a Past Grand Master of Tennessee, was President in the midst of this controversy. He stood steadfast, nevertheless, and refused to bow to the fanatics. In consequence, when he ran for re-election in 1832, the Anti-Masonic Party put up an opposition candidate by the name of William Wirt.

The election was a hotly contested one. The issue was Freemasonry. Upon the results hinged the future of the nation. When the results were tabulated, Jackson's electoral votes totaled 219. Wirt received seven votes, those of Vermont. Other candidates obtained 62. President Jackson's popular vote exceeded that on his first election.

That marked the beginning of the end of the Anti-Masonic Party. Its power began to crumble and eventually it died out altogether. On the other hand, Masonry came back stronger than ever, going on to greater glory.

So, when the next time you see a 7¢ postage stamp, take a good look at it. Read in that stern, wrinkled face of Andrew Jackson the story of the triumph of Freemasonry over its enemies.

—John A. Mirt



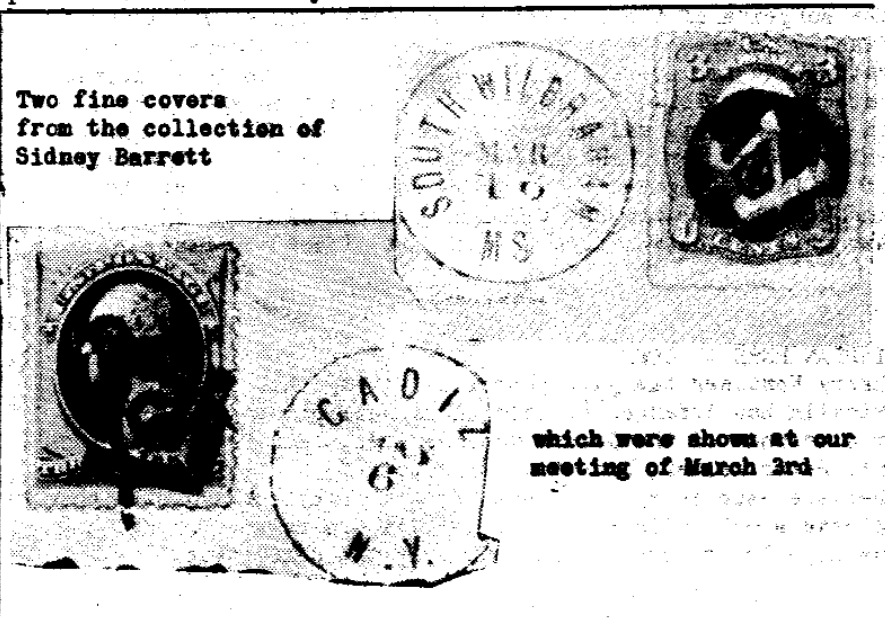
## GREETINGS FROM MILWAUKEE

Bro. Carl H. Pihl, MSC Program Chairman, was a recent visitor to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and while there he attended a meeting of the Temple Stamp Club of Milwaukee. He brings back greetings from all of the members of Temple Stamp Club to all of the members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York.

Bro. Pihl reports that he received a most gracious welcome from Bro. Ray Arndt, President of Temple Stamp Club, as well as all of the members present at the regular meeting held on Thursday evening, March 9, 1950. On this occasion, the club members were the guests of Kilbourn Chapter No. 1, R.A.M. located in Milwaukee.

Our brothers of Temple Stamp Club are busy with plans and arrangements for the forthcoming convention and exhibition of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamps Clubs, of which they are an active part. Carl says that they are a fine bunch of fellows and that he enjoyed his visit immensely. The welcome mat is always out for any MSC members visiting that part of the country.

Two fine covers  
from the collection of  
Sidney Barrett



## MASONRY and PHILATELY

Carl Pihl our Program Chairman, in his introduction to our meeting of March 3rd, very kindly referred to me as "one of the leading authorities on Masonic Philately." I have done some research in the subject and have a nice collection to which I add from time to time through the courtesy of many friends who know of my collecting interests. But there are other Members of the Club who have done more than I have to foster this important subject and some of them helped to make the evening a memorable one.

First I must thank Brother John A. Mirt of Chicago, who very kindly sent several pages from his fine collection of Masonry on Stamps. In his spare time from promoting the interests of The American Medical Association, John is gathering material for a book dealing with the story of Masonry on Stamps. The samples we saw, on his recent visit to New York prompts me to state that this book will be a necessity for the library of every Freemason. Again thanks, John, for your kindness.

Number two on our list was that fine Philatelist (with a capital P) Sidney Barrett. Sidney very kindly showed from his Prize Collection of Masonic Cancellations on and off cover. We have seen this collection before, we'll see it again, often if we can, but we will never tire of poring over one of the finest collections of its kind. It was a pleasure for every member present.

The surprise of the evening was a presentation by Brother Stanley Golwen of a marvelous collection of stamps illustrating Masonic symbols and ritual. Frankly, to fully appreciate Brother Golwen's efforts, the collection should be seen in a tiled room, and we have hopes that our Ritual Committee will arrange for a showing at the next working of the Master of Philately Degree. What we saw was a revelation of research and study, not only of stamps but of our Ritual. You must see this collection to appreciate it. Thank you Stanley.

---S.B.

---\*---\*---

## TAPPAN HERE WE COME

Harry Konwiser has just phoned us to say that Brother John Nicklin has arranged to hold our annual picnic at Tappan on the grounds of the German Masonic Home. John is working with Mr. Peter Keller, Executive Director of the American Stamp Dealers Association, and with Brother Bob Pech, to make this picnic a Gala affair. Final details are being arranged and we hope to present the good news in the next issue.