

The Masonic Philatelist

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK



Vol. VII No. 4 September 1950



• Meetings •

The welcome mat is out again at the Collectors Club where, on SEPTEMBER 29th at 8:00 P.M., Brother Sidney Barrett will be on hand to greet all of you to another season of fine Philatelic fare. With vacations and the warm weather, stamps probably took a back seat. Well, this is just the place for you. A good hot discussion on the general state of stamp-collecting will do us all a world of good. And besides where can you find a better moderator than our own Sidney.

So come down and meet a lot of nice fellows, bat the breeze a bit, get caught up on stamp news, and generally spend a pleasant evening. We'll be seeing you.

Tom Phillips our new Programme Chairman, has come up with another "beaut" for our Meeting of OCTOBER 6th. That's Harry Konwiser Night. If you know Harry, you know it won't be a dull evening. You'll probably see a wide variety of collecting activities and hear a lot of stamp stories, old and new. You may even get a new slant for a different type of collection. You can be certain it won't be a dull evening.

Brothers, prepare to be with us on both of these evenings. Your president and his officers will be pleased to greet you.

Congratulations are in order for Jake Glaser, who celebrated his 70th birthday on July 31st. We hope Jake will be present on September 29th so that all of us may greet him in person.

Good Luck and God Bless You Jake. May you be around for many many years to spread the good cheer that always seems to be around you.

Congratulations to Brother Paul W. Savage on his election as President of the Worcester (Mass.) Philatelic Society. Paul has also been elected to the Board of Governors of the Worcester Stamp Club. We have had the pleasure of several visits from Paul and hope he comes again soon.

MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

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Russell B. Roane President
Arthur I. Hein 1st V-Pres.
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Carl E. Polander 1941-1943
George Connitser 1943-1945
Sam Brooks 1945-1946
Jacob S. Glaser 1946-1948
Ferrars H. Tows 1948-1949

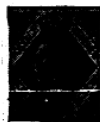
(*) indicates deceased

THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

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EDITOR

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



ENGLAND'S KING CELEBRATED ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER

King George VI of England celebrated many anniversaries in the month of December. On the second he celebrated the 30th anniversary of his initiation into Freemasonry, which took place in 1919, in Navy Lodge No. 2612 within a few months of his 24th birthday. On December 9th was the 28th attainment of his first Chair, when he became Master of the Lodge. The late King Edward VII, his grandfather, when Prince of Wales and who was Grand Master, was the first Master of this Lodge. December 11th marked his accession to the Throne thirteen years ago. In the same month, with his accession to the Throne in 1936, came the close of a period of twelve years of active participation as Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Middlesex and of five years as ruler of the Mark Province.

December 14th is his birthday. A year ago there was much apprehension over the condition of his health, but the untimely disability at the age of fifty-three has been successfully overcome and there is much rejoicing throughout the Empire. Commenting on the statesmanship and private life of the king, *The Freemasons' Chronicle* states: "His staunch and exemplary leadership has earned for His Majesty undying gratitude and admiration throughout the British Commonwealth and the whole world. No king of England, it can be asserted without invidiousness, has ever stood higher, not alone in prestige but as an example to all of steadfastness in national leadership under the stress of world difficulties without precedent in history, and in his family life, in both of which he has so faithfully followed in the footsteps of his late father, King George V, of revered memory."

THE COLLECTOR'S NIGHT OUT.

Oh, let me out to-night, dear,
The stamp club's going strong.
I'll be very late to-night,
Keeping hours long.
The gang is having auction night,
With prizes rare and fine.
Who knows, my pet, but maybe I
Will get a deal divine.

Oh, let me out to-night, dear
To gather with the crew.
If you say NO, my dearest pet,
YOU AND I ARE THROUGH!
Do not let this happen, pet,
But my club means much to me.
So, to the auction I must go--
Besides, the blamed thing's free.

Oh, let me out to-night, dear,
My presence is a must.
Exalted among the members, I,
My job is one of trust.
Mighty is my office, dear,
No mere young resident,
You see, my dear, my job is PRESIDENT!

With Fraternal Regards,
Ralph A. Freed, Jr.
Youngstown Lodge # 625, F. & A.M.
Youngstown, Ohio.

Australian Fancies Masonic Stamps

A.N.Segnit, 80 Elgin Street, Marwell, Victoria, Australia, is interested in Masonic stamps (like Ye Editor and some others, not overlooking John Mirt). Brother Segnit "is a member of the Order" of long standing; is a member of the Masonic Philatelic Society of Victoria, and is currently Secretary of Labeda Valley Philatelic Society of Victoria. His collecting activities -covering the past 18 years - were featured by interest in the stamps of Australia.

-----RMK

MORE MASONIC COVERS.

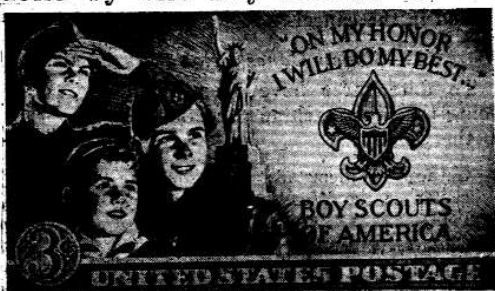
The following accounts appeared on recent covers prepared by John A. Mirt, Chicago member:

"The Judicial Department of the U. S. Government is honored in a postage stamp issued August 2, 1950. Masons were leaders in the drafting of the Constitution and it is fitting therefore that Masons as justices of the U.S. Supreme Court down through the years should have been defenders



of the rights granted under that Constitution. John Marshall, famed chief justice, was a Past Grand Master. Eight of the nine present members of the Court are Masons: Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson and Associate Justices Hugo L. Black, Harold H. Burton, Tom C. Clark, William O. Douglas, Robert H. Jackson, Sherman Minton and Stanley F. Reed."

"The 3¢ postage stamp issued June 30, 1950, to honor the work being done by the Boy Scouts of America in building character and future citizenship, is of Masonic interest. The stamp pays homage to the life work of Daniel C. Beard, a Mason, who at his death on June 11, 1941, was a member of Cornucopia Lodge No. 563, Flushing, N.Y. He led in the formation of the Boy Scouts in 1910. The stamp shows the Statue of Liberty--a beacon light of freedom to all men--which was designed by a Mason, Frederic A. Bartholdi. The statue's cornerstone was laid with Masonic ceremonies, Aug. 5, 1885, by the Grand Lodge of New York."



Masonic Stamp Club of New York

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
22 East 35th Street

Name _____
(Print)

Address _____

Name of Lodge _____ No. _____

Proposed by _____

Date _____

Applicant's Signature

NAME:

ADDRESS:.....,.....

.....
City Zone State

LODGE, Name and Location.....

OTHER PHILATELIC AFFILIATIONS:.....

.....

PHILATELIC ACTIVITY or SPECIALITIES:.....

.....

.....

Have You Written Any Material For Philatelic
Or Masonic Publications:.....

Are You Interested In Corresponding:.....

ANY SUGGESTIONS:.....

.....



Wolfgang A.
Mozart

BROTHER MOZART AND "THE MAGIC FLUTE"

NEWCOMB CONDEE, 33°, Los Angeles, Calif.

WOLFGANG Amadeus Mozart was twenty-eight years of age when, in the autumn of 1784, he joined a Masonic Lodge. As a pianist, little Wolfgang had been an infant prodigy, exhibited by his father throughout Europe, but he was now a recognized and admired composer living in Vienna. The very year of his initiation his first great opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*, had been produced in Paris. This was, however, before the days of copyright law and the earnings of genius were meager.

During the eighteenth century, Freemasonry in Vienna had a political as well as a benevolent side. It counted as its members many highly placed politicians and ecclesiastics whose ideal was the regeneration of humanity by moral means. It was hated by the Catholic Church and certain despotic, political authorities who deemed it dangerous, both to religion and the well-being of the state. The Church, however, even as today in certain Latin countries, did not consider it expedient to challenge high-placed persons nominally its members but also of the Fraternity.

The Empress Maria Theresa had been one who was opposed to Masonry and, in 1743, had ordered a Viennese Lodge raided, forcing its Master and her husband, Francis I, to make his escape by a secret staircase. The Emperor Joseph II (1780-90) was favorably inclined to the Fraternity, although the clergy did their best to get the Lodges suppressed.

Such was the Masonic milieu when Wolfgang Mozart became a Master Mason. He must have been greatly moved and inspired by his experience. Almost immediately he composed his *Freemason's Funeral Music* and his music for the opening and closing of a Lodge. He now composed his opera,

Don Giovanni, and his three great symphonies—the E flat, the G minor and the C major, as well as a great number of concertos and chamber-music works.

His last great opera, *The Magic Flute*, opened in Vienna on the evening of September 30, 1791. Mozart conducted the first two performances, when he was overtaken by his last illness. He lingered on while the opera had an unprecedented run of more than one hundred consecutive performances. It is said that in his sick bed, watch in hand, he would follow in imagination the performance of *The Magic Flute* in the theater. Then he died after its 67th performance.

The Magic Flute makes no mention of Freemasonry as such, but it has always been accepted as a Masonic opera. Musicians assert that even the music has much Craft significance, beginning in the overture with its three solemn chords in the brass.

In keeping with the fashion of the time, the plot is half-serious, half-comic, a fantasy of magic and mystery laid in a never-never land called Egypt. It depicts the ancient mysteries and presents much Craft symbolism. To the Viennese of that day, *The Queen of the Night* was clearly the unfriendly Empress Maria Theresa; the good Sarasto was Ignas von Born, an eminent scientist and Masonic leader; the hero Tamino was the good Emperor Joseph II; and the heroine Pamina, the Austrian people themselves.

The first program credited the libretto to the actor-producer, Schikaneder, but it is now thought that it was written by Giesecke, the friend and intimate of Goethe and Schiller, who probably desired to remain anonymous for political reasons.

The opera has remained popular through the years and is included in the present repertoire of the Metropolitan.

Some Random Notes

Among those present at the recent conventions of the American Philatelic Society and the National Federation of Stamp Clubs in Washington were several members of the Masonic Stamp Club.

Your correspondent visited with Clarence W. Brazer, Franklin Bruns, Forrest L. Ellis, John A. Fox, Jacob S. Glaser, Sol Glass, Irwin Heiman, Herman Herst, Burleigh C. Jacobs, Harry M. Konwiser, Harry L. Lindquist, W.R. McCoy, Carl E. Pelander, Chester A. Smelser, Marcus White, Julius Windner, George Wray, and Arthur Zimmerman. ---RHK

At the Exhibition of the A.P.S. George Wray won the First Prize in the Novice Class, with a splendid showing of Civil War Sanitary Fair stamps. Congratulations George!

Brother George C. Slawson is now living at Craftsbury Common, Vermont. George is a specialist in U.S. envelopes, and has written and compiled several books on the subject. Good Luck to you George, but we're GOING to miss you.

Brother Walter H. Van Zuilen has been touring Texas. Hope he located some new material for "Texas" Harry Kenwiser.

William D. White, Postmaster at Harvey, La., is a Member of Lodge No. 408, Gretna, La.

Those of you who are interested in Transit postmarks, should get a copy of "THE TRANSIT POSTMARK The R.P.O. Magazine". It is published by Hershel E. Rankin, Box 152, Raleigh, TENN. Mention the MASONIC PHILATELIST when writing for a sample copy.

Brother Harry L. Lindquist tells us in a recent issue of "STAMPS" that he visited the Masonic Home of Delaware, Wilmington, Del. He found an old friend there, Brother Arthur J. Cubbage, who is in charge of a Stamp Club there. The Club has 16 members, all of advanced age, and they need stamps. Many of you will find some duplicates to send to Brother Cubbage for the group.

The stories on Mozart and England's King, are from The NEW AGE of Washington, courtesy of Arthur Heim.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - SEASON 1950-1951

1950

- SEPT 29 Discussion of present Philatelic conditions.
Sidney Barrett
- OCT 6 Harry Konwiser Night.
- 27 Specialized Subject Collecting. Fred Hill.
- NOV 3 Club Visit. Details later.
- 24 Turkey Hash
- DEC 1 Master of Philately Degree

1951

- JAN 5 Quiz Night.
- 26 Europe and Africa, Philatelic & otherwise.
Herman Herst, Jr.
- Feb 2 Masonic Philately. Sam Brooks.
- 23 Past Presidents' Night. Jacob Glaser.
- MAR 2 Auction Night. Carl E. Pelander. (material or a
listing should be sent to Carl as soon as possible)
- 30 Club Visit. Details later.
- APR 6 Frustrated Hobbies. Arthur I. Heim. (Spread the facts
before him. You will get a chance to tell your story)
- 27 Annual Exhibition By Members.
- May 4 Annual Dinner.
- 25 Master of Philately Degree.
- June 1 Annual Meeting.
- 22 Open Date, subject to be announced.
- JULY 11-13 Shrine Convention in New York City. A Shrine
Committee from the Masonic Stamp Club will
welcome Philatelic Shriners. Details later.

This Programme has been prepared by Brother Thomas Phillips.