

The Masonic Philatelist

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK



Vol. VII No. 5 October 1950

• Meetings •



OCTOBER 27th---SUBJECT COLLECTING

Call it what you will, subject or topical collecting is all the rage just now. There are many reasons for this and Fred Hill is the boy to tell you all about it. Fred asks that you bring YOUR subject collection to show. And in return, Fred will show pages from his famous collection of Religion On Stamps. This is probably the finest collection of its kind in these parts. It is really worthwhile seeing and you should make every effort to attend.

NOVEMBER 3rd---STEPHEN G. RICH

You will be treated to a most interesting discussion of Zululand and related subjects by an expert on the country, Mr. Stephen G. Rich of the Collectors Club and the S.P.A. Here is a meeting you should not miss., for you will be shown how a small country collection becomes important when put together properly. Mr. Rich knows his Zululand and all of South Africa, for that matter and he will be glad to answer all your questions on the subject. Join the crowd and help us welcome this gentleman once again.

SUGGESTION*****

The Old Guard is ever with us. How about coming out and giving YOUR club the benefit of your society. We know that you would have an enjoyable evening.

--Thomas Phillips, Programme Chairman.

We are happy to learn that Charles Lott was seen about town recently, after spending some time in the hospital. Keep Well Charlie!

MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

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THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

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Sam Brooks, 985 Anderson Ave.,
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MASONIC PRESIDENTS

By W. H. Lewis, P.M.

When you are asked the oft-repeated question as to how many Presidents of the United States have been Masons, it would be pleasing to you to be able to name them.

It is not difficult to remember the names of those who served within the recent generation. We can easily recall the names of William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman.

And no one would forget the name of Washington.

Six other names are to be remembered, Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Johnson and Garfield.

By peculiar coincidence, the first names of these may be easily brought to mind by the letters, JAJ JAJ. These recall:

James Monroe
Andrew Jackson
James K. Polk
James Buchanan
Andrew Johnson
James A. Garfield

Brother Haywood wrote an interesting book entitled FAMOUS MASON'S AND MASONIC PRESIDENTS, which was published in 1944 by The Masonic History Company, of Chicago, and with second edition in 1946. It would be advisable for you to contact your nearest Masonic library and read again about the six which have these first initials of JAJ JAJ.

—Masonic Historiology.



John Mirt of Chicago was in town recently, but somehow we missed connections. We did want to see John to thank him in person for his great assistance in providing us with material to pass on to you. If you want to write him address him at 644 Melrose St., Chicago, 13

SPEAKING FINANCIALLY ...AND OTHERWISE

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York is still without an endowment, but we are meeting our bills as they fall due, and we are maintaining a bank balance. Our bills consist of charges for the printing and mailing of ten issues of the MASONIC PHILATELIST, stencils to keep the roster in shape, making changes and new names from time to time, and for envelopes for mailing the paper and for correspondence for our Secretary. Then there's the matter of printing and mailing your membership cards in our annual request for your two dollars dues.

One of our active "new" members suggests that we accept a few donations - say \$25.00- and award the donor the title of Life Member. Should we have Life Members, and how many?

With increased income the MASONIC PHILATELIST can be enlarged and possibly printed on letter-press. Many of our members are "stamp press" writers, but realize the opportunity to slant their writings towards the Craft makes for but small contribution to this periodical.

Should this periodical carry non-Masonic articles to any great extent? Should the Club emulate the Essay-Proof Society and issue a quarterly instead of a monthly publication? Is a ten-time-a-year paper better for the Club? Why?

Members who receive notices of meetings sometimes fail to attend! Those who do not reside in the Metropolitan area are not expected to attend many meetings, but the members who do, should make every effort to attend regularly.
WHAT IS THE REASON SO MANY DO NOT ATTEND MEETINGS?

The Editor of this paper would like to know two things. First, how often should this periodical be issued. And why don't you attend meetings more or less regularly. We want better attendance so that we can do more for Philatelic and Masonic posterity.

-----H.M.K.

Our V-Ps (No. 1 and No. 2) have been "snafued" by the Korea "incident" and as a result we have missed their smiling countenances at the last meetings. Both Arthur and Carl are connected with the brass and copper industry and are busy lads. Spare a little time for us, boys.

PREPARING MASONIC COVERS

By John A. Mirt

(Copyright 1950, by John A. Mirt)

Topical stamp collecting affords one great pleasure. First day cover collecting is another joy. Historical research to learn the story behind a stamp brings many happy moments. But, combine these three and happiness is complete.

So, it is with my hobby. I began to collect stamps with a Masonic significance. First, I started out with those bearing portraits of Masons—and I found these were many, both among the stamps of the United States and the rest of the world.

Then, I turned to stamps which pictured buildings, the cornerstones of which were laid with Masonic ceremonies; to commemoratives of events in which Masons played leading roles, and eventually to stamps which illustrated Masonic principles and ritual.

All these run into the thousands. Undoubtedly here is the basis for one of the broadest topical collections, if not the largest. These are no idle words because ten out of the eleven commemoratives announced by the Post Office Department so far this year provide the basis for a "Masonic" story.

Next, I began to collect first day covers of the stamps which fitted in with my topic. Then, realizing that Masons have a wonderful story to tell about the part played by members of the craft in the development of this country, it occurred to me that a brief Masonic account could be prepared for covers bearing the appropriate stamp.

This decision involved considerable Masonic research. Fortunately, as librarian of the extensive Scottish Rite Masonic library in Chicago, there is an excellent source of material at my disposal. Fullest co-operation has been given by the Iowa Grand Lodge Library, the New York Grand Lodge Library, the Scottish Rite (Southern Jurisdiction) Library and Grand Lodge secretaries all over the country.

As a member of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, valuable help has been obtained through its publication, the *Masonic Philatelist*.

With the aid of these and other sources, there has been developed a personalized cover with a Masonic story concerning the stamp which it bears. Printed by the Boys Print Shop of the Illinois Masonic Orphans Home at LaGrange, Ill., these covers are prepared in time for first day cancellations.

They are not being commercialized, but are being used solely for the purpose of telling the deeds of Masons and Masonry as commemorated in postage stamps.

The cachets of some of the covers, appearing in a box on the left of the envelope, follow:

CALIFORNIA STATEHOOD STAMP. Masons made history in California. W. B. Ide raised the Bear Flag, now the state's emblem, at Sonoma, June 14, 1846. On July 7, 1846, Cmdr. John D. Sloat raised the American flag at Monterey and took possession of California for the U. S. The new California No. 1 and Western Star No. 2 Lodges were chartered in 1848 and the Grand Lodge of California formed April 19, 1850. Robert Semple presided over the convention which drafted the state constitution in 1849, preliminary to statehood, the 100th anniversary of which is observed in a 3c stamp issued September 9, 1950. The cornerstone of the state capitol at Sacramento was laid Masonically May 15, 1861.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT STAMP. 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 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.

INDIANA TERRITORY STAMP. Masons played a leading role in developing

Indiana Territory, the founding of which in 1800 is commemorated in a 3c postage stamp issued July 4, 1950. George Rogers Clark, a Mason, led a force which captured Ft. Sackville (now Vincennes, Ind.) from the British in 1778 and established the claim of the U. S. to the Northwest Territory. Traveling army Lodges introduced Freemasonry into the Territory in 1795, and the first Masonic Lodge, now Vincennes No. 1, was chartered there in 1809. Its membership included leaders in territory government. When Indiana became a state in 1816, the first governor was Jonathan Jennings, a Mason, later Grand Master of Indiana.

BOY SCOUT STAMP. The 3c 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 August 5, 1885, by the Grand Lodge of New York.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STAMP. The 3c stamp issued June 12, 1950, honors the Executive Department of the Government. Thirteen Presidents have been Masons: Washington, Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Johnson, Garfield, McKinley, both Roosevelts, Taft, Harding and Truman. The stamp pictures the White House, a structure of Masonic interest. Its cornerstone was laid October 20, 1792, by "The Free Masons of Georgetown and its vicinity." The architect supervising its building was Capt. James Hoban, first Worshipful Master of Federal Lodge No. 15 (now No. 1), Washington, on its formation in 1793. A variety of Masonic designs on old stonework was found during recent repairs.

GATEWAY TO WEST STAMP. Masons left their marks in development of the West. As civilization moved Westward through the Gateway at West-

port, Mo., now part of Kansas City, Masonic Lodges sprang up in newly established communities under charters which pioneers carried in their saddlebags. The centennial stamp issued June 3, 1950, shows Westport Landing in 1850. A Masonic Lodge—Golden Rule No. 107—was established in Westport the year before. Its members played an important role in developing what is now Kansas City. Many a train of prairie schooners started out with authority from the Grand Lodge of Missouri to establish a Lodge at some distant point.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STAMP. A 3c stamp issued April 20, 1950, commemorates the 150th anniversary of establishment of the national capital in the District of Columbia in 1800. Masons played leading roles in the District's founding. A commission headed by George Washington, Mason, selected the site. Masonic ceremonies marked laying of the District's first cornerstone at Jones Point, April 21, 1791. The Masonic orator on that occasion prophetically said: "From this stone may a superstructure arise, whose glory, whose magnificence, whose stability, unequalled hitherto, shall astonish the world." James Hoban, Mason, was architect for the Capitol and White House, and Masonic ceremonies marked cornerstone layings of both.

SAMUEL GOMPERS STAMP. Samuel Gompers, pictured on a 3c stamp issued January 27, 1950, the 100th anniversary of his birth in London, and who did more for American labor than any other man, living or dead, was an ardent Mason. He became a member of Dawson Lodge No. 16, Washington, D. C., May 9, 1904, and received his 32° in Albert Pike Consistory, Washington, February 10, 1906. He was a member at his death, December 13, 1924. A year later, Samuel Gompers Lodge No. 45, Washington, was chartered by the Grand Lodge of District of Columbia. President of the American Federation of Labor for forty-one years, he fought Socialism relentlessly. In his biography he relates that his Masonic affiliation frequently protected him. His death was mourned nationally by labor and industry.

Weekly Philatelic Gossip

LOUIS KOSSUTH
HUNGARIAN PATRIOT---FREEMASON

Born - Monok, Hungary September 19, 1802.
Died - Turin, Italy March 20, 1894.



Louis Kossuth

Kossuth dedicated his life to the furtherance of independence for his native Hungary. In 1838 he was imprisoned for circulating his ideas on the subject. In 1847 he became the leader of the National League For Hungarian Independence, and in 1848, after a formal declaration, was appointed Governor. The ensuing revolt was suppressed by the Emperor of Austria. Kossuth fled the country and sought asylum in Turkey. His return was demanded by Austria, but Turkey refused. President Fillmore placed at his disposal the U.S.S. Mississippi, which took him to England. After a tour of that country, he came to the United States, arriving in 1851. He was received with great honor where-ever he went. In Washington, he was presented to the President, feted by Congress, and given the freedom of the floors of both Houses. At the time it was stated that no foreign visitor to this country so impressed his cause upon the minds of our people as did this great Hungarian patriot.

February 18, 1852, Louis Kossuth petitioned Cincinnati Lodge No. 133 for membership. At a Stated Meeting that day, the Petition was declared an emergency and by unanimous vote was accepted. Kossuth was Initiated the next day, at a Special Meeting, before the largest gathering ever to convene in the Lodge Room. He was Passed February 20th and Raised on the 21st

Thursday Evening February 19, 1948, Ehlers Lodge No. 953, and Louis Kossuth Lodge No. 1117 celebrated Kossuth's 96th Masonic Birthday in a Joint Communication in New York City. The notice from the Lodges was a souvenir of the occasion as it contained an abstract of the Minutes of Cincinnati Lodge and a facsimile of the original letter of Petition written by Kossuth.

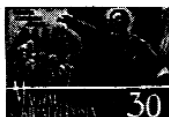
-----SB



Louis Kossuth



Kossuth with Family



Kossuth Orating



Kossuth in Battle

The KOSSUTH story is given at this time to assist in a cause that is dear to the hearts of all Freemasons in this country especially to those of Hungarian descent.

A short time ago I received a letter from Brother Eugene J. Nagy of Ehlers Lodge No. 953, requesting the Assistance of The Masonic Stamp Club of New York in petitioning Congress for a stamp honoring Louis Kossuth on the occasion of the Centenary of his landing in the United States.

Through the efforts of Brother Nagy and Ehlers Lodge, our Grand Lodge Library has obtained some rare books and documents pertaining to Kossuth.

It is our thought that serious consideration be given to this request, and that the thoughts of our entire membership be obtained. Will you drop a line and tell us what you think? Give some thought to the following quotation from Brother Nagy's letter....."Freedom has never been in more danger before in our dear country, as it is now! We have Freedom Bells, Bonds, signatures, leaflets, Voice of America, Radio, T.V., the Press, and no one thinks of the one Propaganda that PENETRATES the Iron Curtain... the U.S. postage stamps. The Communists just now are changing their radio receivers from short wave bands to long wave. What are they going to do about our mail? Will they stop the U.S. mail? Will they DARE?"

---SB

The opening meeting on September 29th was honored by the presence of Bro. Sidney Barrett who conducted a discussion of Present Philatelic Conditions, from the viewpoint of both the collector and the dealer. That he greatly interested his audience was evidenced by the number of those present who managed to get into the act before the evening was over. We hope that Bro. Barrett will be heard from again at a date in the near future.

The Harry Konwiser Night was a very pleasant surprise to those of us who were at the meeting of October 9th. Bro. Konwiser tried in true fraternal fashion to turn this evening over to anyone who, as he said, was not so "Old Hat", in our midst. However, those who felt that they knew everything that might be used as a part of that evening, missed a most interesting time. A discussion on collateral collecting, that side of our hobby which so many of us are prone to neglect, was cleverly tied to philately thru the use of letters of historic personages and their postal markings, together with an insight into the result obtained by a collection of Dead Letter covers. Thank you Harry for a most interesting and instructive evening. - T.P.

SIGHTSEEING

While nosing around the eastern end of Long Island this past summer I ran into a most interesting place - the Whalers Museum in Sag Harbor, N.Y. It has a double-barreled appeal to Masons and philatelists and I would highly recommend a stop there when you are in the vicinity.

In the first place the Whalers Museum is located in the Masonic Temple, a graceful Greek structure with Doric columns, situated in a grove of old elms and surrounded by a verdant park. Inside in the four rooms devoted to the museum is a most interesting collection of historical papers, maps, charts, ship models, whaling implements of all types and numerous objects carved from whalebone by old mariners. Also included are numerous household articles, furniture, clothes, dolls and toys of the period, as well as many Masonic mementos, indicating that Freemasonry flourished among the old Whalers and seafaring men.

The crowning glory is a very complete and rare collection of stamps and covers. This material occupies some eight full size frames and covers approximately one hundred years. There are many stampless covers with rare postal markings, including early Postmaster Provisionals. Most of the early American private carriers are represented. The collection of postal issues, beginning with the 1847 issue and through the Columbian issue, is complete and in superb condition. The entire collection is beautifully arranged and annotated and I was surprised to see the large number of visitors eagerly studying the material.

Carl H. Pihl

Brother Gordon S. Dills of Garrett, Indiana was at our last meeting. Gordon is of Creek Chub Bait fame and was pleased to learn that some of the boys use his products.