

The Masonic Philatelist

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK



Vol. VII No. 7 December 1950



• Meetings •

JANUARY 5, 1951-----Start the New Year off with a QUIZ NIGHT

Come on all you who know all that someone else doesn't know anything about!! Mail your stickers to me at 41 Fifth Ave. New York, 3, N.Y. or bring them with you. DO IT NOW. the more questions the more fun for all. And one thing more, not the least important by far. Those of you who have not visited the Club recently, TURN OVER A NEW LEAF. Make a New Year Resolution. Reserve the First and Last Fridays of the month and show up at YOUR meetings. You are missing a great deal by not being present.

____ Thomas Phillips

CONGRATULATIONS TO----Harry L. Kinne who has gone and done it again. Brother Harry was married on October 28th, and we all wish for him Good Health and Happiness for many, many years. Sneak out, once in a while, Harry. We miss you.

Credit where credit is due-- The news item on page 2 of our last issue (November) was taken from LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS but was not credited to them. The omission was an oversight and we are pleased to make this correction.

The "Konwiser Plan" is working again. As you know, HMK as Treasurer, sends you your dues card and requests your check. Probably the only treasurer that does this. And we all like it. Harry is getting in the money for the Club with some very pleasant comments.

Brother J.I. Potter of Oneida, N.Y., tells Harry that he passes the MASONIC PHILATELIST to members of his Lodge and they all like it.

Dr. Rudolf Holz of the Bronx, Sends regards to all of us. Dr. Samuel Goldberg of New York, also wants to be remembered. Jose Rueff of Flushing, in remitting his dues added \$3.00 to his check for the Barry Publication Fund. Several members did this last year and we might add Brother H.J. Mandeville of Pittsburgh, Pa. also made a contribution to the Barry Fund.

Did YOU mail your check yet?

MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

OFFICERS 1950-1951

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

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1951 Forrest L. Ellis
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Harold Matters
Russell B. Roane
1953 Richard S. Bohn
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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
Ferraro H. Tows	1948-1949

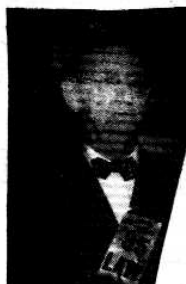
(*) indicates deceased

THE MASONIC PHILATELIST

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of
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EDITOR

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



W. C. Michaels Honored

Signal honor was conferred upon W. C. Michaels on the occasion of his attendance last June at the 55th Anniversary reunion of his law class at the University of Michigan.

Mr. Michaels, together with five others out of approximately 130,000 Alumni, was the recipient of the University's Distinguished Alumni Service Award Citation and Medal for his many years of leadership and service in connection with his University activities in Kansas City and elsewhere.

Mr. Michaels is senior partner in the firm of Blackmar, Newkirk, Eager, Swanson & Midgley.

Lawyers Association of Kansas City

*Merry Christmas
Happy New Year*



BUY and USE CHRISTMAS SEALS

● Among the publications available from The Post Office Department in Washington is one called "A Brief History of the Air Postal Transport." Another deals with the development of International Postal Service, while a third one gives the History of the United States Postal Service. Write to the Post Office Department Information Service, Washington, D. C.

December 1st 1950 On this, the last meeting of the year, the Gang met to confer the Degree of Master of Philately. The term Gang is used advisedly, for the Old Timers turned out in force while the Class which we hoped for was, thru unexpected circumstances reduced to two candidates. However the work was effectively performed in due form and we feel the Class, tho small, was properly instructed in the teaching of the Degree. It was suggested that a jeep be furnished in the future in order that the working candidate may arrive at the final destination with enough wind remaining to make the proper responses. Alls well that ends well even tho the way be a bit rough in spots.

We all know how delightfully the desert points up a meal that might otherwise be another dinner. Such was the case on this memorable evening. The speaker of the evening was none other than Brother W.LLOYD HEATH who has but recently returned from a long tour in Korea where he had much to do with things Postal and with things Masonic. Brother Heath received the Degree of Master of Philately and then he had the meeting turned over to him. He is one of the most interesting speakers we have had & his remarks were so timely and of so much interest that we only regret that the evening was so short.

Suffice it to say that while a few of the boys had to make trains, the large majority stayed to enjoy the veritable feast spread before us. The meeting broke up at 11:40 to let Brother Heath run for his train. We hope he made it and he will be back with us soon again.

There was no time to give a vote of thanks to our new member but he is assured of a warm welcome at all times.

It was quite an evening!

—— Thomas Phillips

We have just learned that Rodney, son of Carl Pihl, will be home soon, convalescing from a very serious illness. In fact he may be home for at least four months. And for the kind of a fellow that Rodney is, it may be difficult to adjust himself. For you see, he's strictly an outdoor guy. So we are thinking that some of you out-door men may want to write to Rodney and tell of some of your experiences (out-door that is.) Rodney is 11½ years old and will surely enjoy your letters. Won't you write him at 77 Amherst Road, Albertson, N.Y.

TURKEY HASH

According to all comments, except from the poor turkey, the second annual Turkey Hash program conducted by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York on Friday evening, November 24th was just as good, if not better, than the initial one held last year. The members turned out in force and their applause and chuckles drowned out the gobbling of the poor turkey.

Bro. Sid Barrett started off the parade of odd, unusual, interesting and unique items by showing a fascinating collection of examples of illegal usages of stamps, garnered primarily (according to Sid) from the waste basket. It pays to keep your eyes open, just as Sid opened the eyes of many present. Our Prexy, Bro Russell Roane, regaled everyone with a captured German stamp book while Ye Editor, Bro. Sam Brooks, showed ingenuity (what country is that, pop?) by his collection of slogan cancellations used currently. This was another "waste basket" collection that offers wide possibilities.

Bro. "Manny" Reggel presented, in his inimitable and humorous manner, a Japanese cover and a White House cover. Bro. Sylvester Zeigler showed an interesting lot of Belgian Congo covers that had originated in a leper colony (which had Bro. Art Heim drooling slightly) while Bro. Thomas "Tom" Phillips, our Program Chairman, rose to the occasion by providing the members with a learned discourse on the disposition of used hinges. After order was restored again, Bro. Irwin Yarry (D.D.S. and Secretary) showed us some sheets of North Korean stamps and a book on the British Colonies.

Bro. Robert Pech followed with some counterfeit stamps and a unique penny die. From Bro. Harry Gunter we learned all about the flowers and the bees as he exhibited selected pages from his celebrated collection of flowers and plants. Bro. Harry Hennemann (who was welcomed back to the fold after a long absence in Denver) showed us some special KLM (Dutch Air Line) stamps.

Bro. "Doc" Koomanoff exhibited some unusual and interesting cancellations while Bro. Jake Glaser surprised no one by showing Columbian Air Mails. However, as always, Jake's material was very well presented and most of it was new. Getting into the swing of things, Bro. Jose Rueff showed a nice collection of Columbia overprint errors.

Bro. Art Heim pulled another surprise by showing an interesting collection of British covers with various slogan cancellations and Bro. George Wray followed with an equally interesting lot of covers and letters. Bro. Harold Matters proudly displayed a cover from Tibet and a rare sheet of stamps. Bro. Roger Seebee exhibited interesting usages of the new U.S. envelopes while Bro. Van Zuilen was left "holding the bag". Bro. Fred Hill showed something about Adam and Eve (CENSORED) while Bro. Gordon Shoup gave some recipes for turkey hash. Bro. Harry Konwiser (Ye Keeper of the Purse Strings) showed some unique cancellations and covers while Bro. Irving Black held forth on the Romance of Norway Rarities and how it happened (according to him) that he acquired a washbasket full of stamps (including some gems) for 50 cents. Bro. Charles Brooks showed scarce postmarks on early U.S. Stamps while Bro. Carl Pihl showed a few pages of Famous Americans in blocks.

And so, to bed. (At home, of course)

(Editors Note: This article was written by Brother Carl Pihl from first-hand observation. Carl is the inventor and chief conductor of "Turkey Hash", and deserves all the credit for the success of the evening. Everybody "got into the act" and all had a grand time.)

The 1882 proceedings of the Grand Lodge of New York reveal a bit of news of interest to philatelists. The cornerstone of the City Hall at Albany was laid with Masonic ceremonies on October 13, 1881. The lead box placed in the stone contained among other items "a United States postal card of the first edition made in the State of New York, a fireman's badge and a number of postal stamps found after the fire in the old City Hall." -- Mirt.

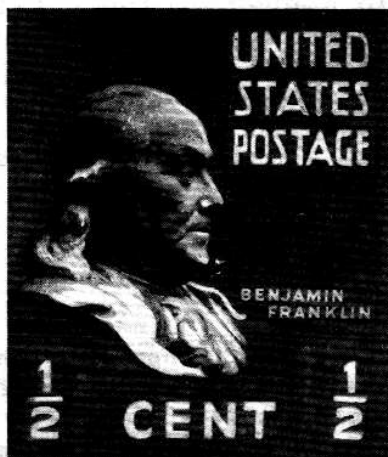
PRESIDENTS ON STAMPS

A Department Conducted by Russell B. Roane

The New BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STAMP

By ARTHUR W. DEAS

EDITOR'S NOTE: *W. Arthur W. Deas, an outstanding Mason and one of the country's leading philatelists, is a Past Master of Richmond Lodge, No. 66, Staten Island, and a member of the Craft for forty-seven years. He served as President of the Masonic Stamp Club from its formation five years ago until June, 1938. He continues as a member of the Board of Governors of the Club. He is present President of the Collectors Club of New York City, the leading stamp club in the United States, and is also President of the Numismatic Club of New York City, and has served well, numerous other Stamp Clubs as their President.*



BEGINNING last April, and continuing to the middle of December, 1938, the Post Office Department issued a series of stamps of peculiar interest to Masons. This series is known as the "Presidential Series" and was primarily designed to carry portraits of various Presidents in the order of their term of office in a numerical sequence that might be designated by the face value of the stamp.

Masons on Stamps

AMERICA has had thirty-one men who have been Presidents. As living persons cannot be portrayed on stamps, former President Hoover and President Franklin D. Roosevelt are not included and as Cleveland preceded

and followed Benjamin Harrison, he was the twenty-second and also the twenty-fourth President. Therefore the numerical value sequence was broken at that point. Furthermore there are no requirements for a regular postal rate of 23c but the established custom provided for 24c, 25c, 30c, 50c, \$1, \$2, and \$5 rates for which stamps were issued, and these values were assigned to the portraits of the Presidents in order following Cleveland.

The peculiar Masonic facts about this series of Presidential stamps are that it was issued under the Administration of a Mason, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and also included the portraits of eleven men who are actually known to have been Masons, and notwithstanding its designation as a Presidential series, it also included portraits of Benjamin Franklin, Martha Washington, and a picture of the White House which last three were respectively assigned to the 1/2c, 1 1/2c and the 4 1/2c stamps, fractional rates required by the existing postal regulations.

Those who might be interested in obtaining portraits of Masonic Presidents can readily purchase stamps of these above values and obtain authentic engravings of these great Masons.

Franklin the Mason

THE SERIES, on the 1/2-cent stamp, includes the portrait of one man who is not a President, but who is regarded by the American people as practically equal with George Washington in the formative period of our country—Benjamin Franklin, patriot, statesman, philosopher, economist, author and a

leader in almost every outstanding endeavor or movement of his time. The life of Franklin is of particular interest to Masons and collectors of stamps. Thousands of books have been written about his life and deeds. His epigrams and work have passed into folklore of his country.

It has now become a practice if not an unwritten law that Franklin's portrait should appear on the first or smaller values of the postage, more commonly in use, because he was the Deputy Postmaster General of the Colonies and upon the formation of the United States he became the First Postmaster General. And such is his renown for the many improvements in the postal service, that it is therefore fitting that his portraits should appear on every regular issue of stamps. Masonically, Benjamin Franklin is outstanding. He was elected a Worshipful Master in 1732 and became the Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Pennsylvania in 1735. He issued the first Masonic book published in America which has become one of the rare and valuable documents in existence, a reprint of the Anderson's Constitutions.

During his journeys in England and on the Continent, he was constantly improving his connection with the Masons of those countries and the records show that throughout his public career he continued to be deeply interested in the Craft and used his Masonic contacts as opportunities for becoming better acquainted with the more important men to the advantage of the American Colonies. It is doubtful if any other man of equal fame and as much engaged in affairs of first importance to our country has ever devoted himself to Freemasonry so zealously for so long a period of time.



Arthur W. Deas Dies

ARTHUR W. DEAS, well known collector of New York, N. Y., died on Sunday, December 3, 1950, at St. Francis Hospital in New York, following amputation of his leg in an operation the preceding Friday. Mr. Deas had been in poor health for some time.

Mr. Deas was president of the Collectors Club for several years, and had also been secretary, vice-president, and governor of that organization at various times. He was also president for several years of the Masonic Stamp Club, and had been active many years in Masonic affairs. He was a member of the A.P.S., S.P.A., B.I.A., the Westchester Stamp Club, and the Association for Stamp Exhibitions.

Besides stamp collecting he was actively interested in coin collecting, and was president for a number of years of the New York Numismatic Society, and a member of the American Numismatic Association.

Mr. Deas is survived by his widow, Mrs. Anna Deas, three sons, two daughters, and a sister.

--STAMPS

Brother William C. Michaels of Kansas City, Mo., invited your editor to luncheon recently, while on a visit to New York. "I don't know what in the world I would do without my stamp collection and my love for philately", he told us. "I am still fooling along trying to fill up an old International album and have reached a place where all spaces left are in high brackets. Thank God it is something that keeps me interested". We extracted a promise of a story or two about his stamps and you may look forward to a treat soon. Brother Michaels will be 80 January 25th, 1951, and we take this opportunity to wish this gentleman many happy returns. And may you celebrate many more Birthdays!

The SUPREME ARCHITECT knocked on our door and called two of our Brothers.

We mourn with their families and friends

Brother ALFRED L. FREDEN
Saddle River, N.J.

Brother ARTHUR W. DEAS
New York, N.Y.

May their souls rest in peace.

MASONRY ON POSTAGE STAMPS

The recently issued stamped envelopes of the Post-office Department make additions to a Masonic collection because



they bear portraits of two Masons. Benjamin Franklin is pictured on the 1¢ envelop and George Washington is shown on the 2¢ and the 3¢ covers.



A stamp of interest to Masonic philatelists is one issued recently by Italy in honor of the Venetian Academy of Fine



Arts, which carries a seal of the Academy. Turn the stamp upside down and you will see a compass crossed with a paint brush and stick, somewhat in the form of the Square and Compasses in the Fellowcraft Degree. -- Mirt.