

# *The Masonic Philatelist*

PUBLISHED BY THE MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK



Vol. VII No. 9 Feb-March 1951



## *• Meetings •*

### MARCH 30

The New York Pre-Cancel Club under the leadership of Brother Sidney Wiseman, will show from their collections. Here is an opportunity to learn something about specialized collecting in a field that is different.

Come and bring your friends.

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### APRIL 6

**FRUSTRATED HOBBIES.** Conducted by Arthur I. Heim.

You will be given a chance to tell all about the hobbies you have kept secret all these years. This meeting will probably be one of the funniest we have had in years.

As usual you may bring your friends.

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Could this be spring fever?

Brother Julius M. Falese, now of Ozone Park, N.Y., explains his absence thusly-- "I met a fine little girl, was busy acourtin, got married, of course after an agreement I can go to the Stamp Club, and am just about down to routine again." Congratulations, Julius, we'll be looking for you.

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Brother Louis Weiller, has moved from Long Island City to 7024 Madden Ave., Los Angeles, 43, California.

Hope some of our Los Angeles members look you up, Louis. Good Luck to you in your new home.

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Brother Harry O. Henneman is back in Denver again. You may reach him c/o The Knight-Campbell Music Co. 1617 California Street, Denver, Colorado.

Good Luck to you Harry. We're going to miss you at the next Dinner. How did you make out at the stamp show?

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Our Treasurer, HMK, would like to have the address of Brother Charles Campbell, formerly of 1609 Ocean Ave. Brooklyn, N.Y. If you can help, please drop Harry a line.

## MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

OFFICERS 1950-1951

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**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.

## Smithsonian Post to Bruns

Special to World-Telegram and Sun.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Franklin R. Bruns Jr., stamp editor of the New York World-Telegram and Sun and one of the country's best-



known philatelic journalists, has been appointed assistant curator in charge of the philatelic collection of the Smithsonian Institution, it was announced today.

**Franklin Bruns Jr.** Mr. Bruns will succeed Mrs. Catherine Manning, who headed the Smithsonian's stamp department until her retirement Jan. 31.

Mr. Bruns was stamp editor of the New York Sun from 1932 until its sale to the World-Telegram a year ago. Since then he has held the same position with the World-Telegram and Sun.

In announcing his appointment, the Smithsonian noted that Mr. Bruns has been philatelic adviser and agent for the Liberian government and has compiled many stamp handbooks, in addition to conducting much research in specialized fields of philately.



President Castro, Costa Rica



Lorenzo Montúfar



José María Castro

**MEETINGS** are held the first and last Friday each month at The COLLECTORS CLUB building 22 East 35th St. New York City



## PRIEST INTRODUCES MASONRY INTO COSTA RICA

The 1947 Transactions of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, provides an interesting Masonic philatelic item. In his "State of the Order" report, Ill..Bro..John H. Cowles, 33<sup>o</sup>, Sovereign Grand Commander, reports:

"Freemasonry was introduced into Central America by a Jesuit priest, who sailed in a small boat across the Caribbean Sea to Cartagena, Colombia (scenes of which are to be found on Colombian stamps), where he secured a charter from the Grand Orient of Spain that was functioning in that republic. He then returned to Costa Rica (map #A78) and instituted a blue lodge. Out of that grew the Supreme Council of Central America in 1871, which covered the five republics."

The Supreme Council founders included:

Francisco Calvo, presbyter, doctor of theology, canon of the San Jose Cathedral (Roman Catholic), as Sovereign Grand Commander.

Dr. Jose Maria Castro, president of the republic for two terms (1847-9; 1866-8), president of the congress and the supreme court of justice, founder and rector of Santo Tomas University, jurist, orator and diplomat, as Grand Chancellor. (Pictured on Costa Rica A35, A50, A116, AP23; also Guatemala APl4).

Dr. Lorenzo Montufar, secretary of state, rector of Santo Tomas University, president of the supreme court, apostle of liberalism in Central America and deputy in Guatemala in 1856, as Grand Minister of State. (Guatemala A75, A80, AP2).

Francisco Peralto Alvarado, teacher, banker, benefactor of San Juan de Dios Hospital (AP38), as First Grand Representative.

The Jesuit priest, Bro. Cowles reports, continued as Master of his Lodge and Grand Commander until his death. The gavel he used is on display in the Masonic Temple in Costa Rica. -- John A. Mirt.

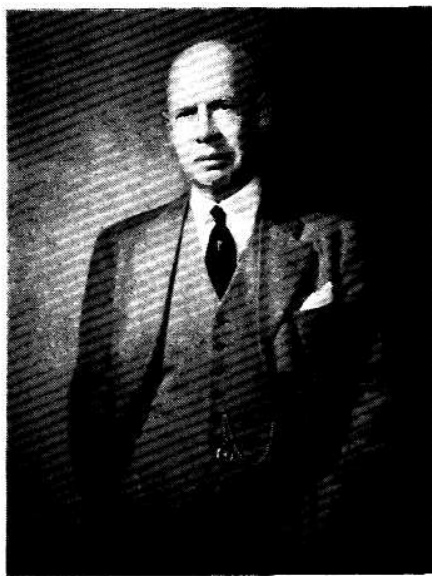
## SANITARY FAIRS

Very shortly, the American Red Cross will be asking us once more, for our annual contributions. Few will be conscious of the fact that its founding in 1881 by Clara Barton, was the outgrowth of her experience with the U. S. Sanitary Commission of the Civil War.

This Commission was set up in 1861 upon the insistence of northern civilians and with the approval of President Lincoln. Its purpose was to check upon camp sanitation and food service and to provide medical attention and care for sick and wounded soldiers. Local groups were established in nearly every town in the northern states to help in supporting the work of this commission. During the early part of the war, funds were raised largely through direct contributions, concerts, tea parties, strawberry festivals and similar activities. Later, bazaars, known as "Sanitary Fairs" were held in twenty-seven larger cities.

In each community where a Sanitary Fair was to be held, the sponsoring committee sent out an appeal for cash contributions, for merchandise and for every sort of article which could be sold or auctioned at one of the booths. Spectacles and entertainments were arranged, meals were served, using donated food, and raffles held. The first of these Sanitary Fairs was held in Lowell, Massachusetts, beginning February 24th, 1863, where the sum of \$4800 was raised. It was altogether fitting that the first of these Fairs should have been held in Lowell for it was a citizen of this community who shed the first blood in the Civil War and a Lowell soldier was the first war casualty to be buried.

A majority of the Fairs which were held in the next two years ran from a week to ten days each. Chicago's first Sanitary Fair produced \$86,000; the



*George B. Wray, Jr.*

second, \$250,000. New York's Fair netted \$1,183,506.43; Philadelphia's \$1,035,398.96. Altogether, the sum of \$77,000,000 was raised through efforts of northern communities for the work of the Sanitary Commission.

President Lincoln made six copies of his Gettysburg speech, following its delivery. One of these which was auctioned at a Chicago Fair is now in the possession of the Illinois State Historical Society. He was persuaded to send the original draft of his Emancipation Proclamation to the Chicago Fair. This brought \$3,000 at auction and the money was used to start work on the Fairview Soldiers' Home in that city.

Special daily papers were published at a number of these Sanitary Fairs, whose advertising and sale helped to swell the proceeds. That at the Brooklyn Fair was known as "Drum Beat." "Spirit of the Day" was published at New York; "The Canteen" at Albany; "The Musket" at Springfield. Massachusetts

*courtesy of Tudor City View*



and "The Little Corporal" and "Voice of The Fair" at Chicago.

At six of these Fairs—those held in Albany, Brooklyn, Boston, Philadelphia, Stamford and Springfield, pseudo-post offices were set up on the Fair Grounds. For most of these post offices, special stamps were printed and patrons of the Fair were encouraged to write and mail letters to each other, the stamps to be paid for by the recipient at the rate of ten or fifteen cents. Swains wrote to their ladies; friends wrote to friends. If there were no letter on hand for the inquirer, obliging clerks would quickly write and stamp one, collecting the amount of the stamp. The Fair newspapers carried, each day, the names of those who had mail uncalled for.

These stamps had no franking value in the U. S. mails, but if prepaid and cancelled would carry letters from the Fairs to the federal post offices and a regular "Postage Due" stamp could be paid on delivery to the addressee. These Sanitary Fair stamps are listed, however, in Stamp Catalogues and have become collectors items.

The most colorful of these stamps undoubtedly were those issued at the Philadelphia Sanitary Fair. They were printed and donated by Butler & Carpenter Co., a predecessor of the American Bank Note Company and when this original company went out of existence in 1898, the plates from which the Sanitary Fair stamps had been printed, were sold and the purchaser, Ernest Shernikow, ran off many proofs which were sold to collectors.

One of the collectors of these Sanitary Fair stamps is Mr. George B. Wray, Jr., of The Hermitage. Mr. Wray took up stamp collecting as a hobby in 1944, specializing at that time in U. S. issues. He exhibited his collection on

several occasions and won awards. Then his attention was directed to these stamps of the Sanitary Fairs and for the past three years, he has specialized in them. Through purchases from stamp dealers and at auctions, he has succeeded in acquiring a complete set of these stamps, along with a considerable number of covers. This is a specialty to which relatively few are devoting themselves. Consequently, Mr. Wray is in demand as a speaker on this phase of philately at collectors assemblies. He has addressed the Springfield, Massachusetts Stamp Club and the Fort Orange Stamp Club of Albany and on the 24th of January, he spoke in Washington, D. C. before a combined meeting of the Washington Stamp Society, the Pentagon Stamp Society and the Washington Philatelic Society.

One of the activities of the U. S. Sanitary Commission was the operation of what were known as "Volunteer Refreshment Saloons." These were the precursors of the U.S.O. Canteens of this past war. Among the covers written on stationery furnished soldiers in these headquarters, Mr. Wray has one from a soldier in Washington, D. C. and the recipient in New Haven, Connecticut wrote on the envelope, "This letter was received same day that Abraham Lincoln was shot, April 14, 1865, Friday."

Mr. Wray was one of the first residents of Tudor City. He moved into an apartment in The Manor on October 1st, 1927.

#### Brooklyn, N. Y.

Brooklyn Sanitary Fair.



#### Springfield, Mass.

Soldiers' Fair.



*February, 1951*

"Masons pictured on U.S. currency."

This is the title of an excellent article on what may be called Masonic Numismatics, which is one of the many fine articles in the March 1951 issue of The Numismatist. This fine magazine is the official organ of the American Numismatic Association.

The article by Wilmer E. Bresee goes into great detail by giving the Masonic history of each person discussed. It names each piece of currency on which the subject's portrait appears with details of interest to the coin collector.

The author concludes with these words: "This study, like any attempt of this kind is not complete; but if it serves to interest Masons in combining their interest in numismatics with Masonic research, it will have served its purpose."

In my opinion, every member of the Masonic Stamp Club should have a copy of this paper.

I almost forgot another article of interest to members of the Masonic Stamp Club, is one entitled "Medals of the New York Numismatic Club" by Herbert J. Erlanger. Included is a story of our own first president, the late Arthur W. Deas. Arthur was president of the New York Numismatic Club in the years 1937-40.

If you address the Association Secretary, he can tell you how to obtain a copy. Write to

Mr. Lewis M. Reagan, P.O. Box 2155, Wichita, Kansas.

-----Sam Brooks

Received cards from Harold Matters from St. Petersburg, Fla. While there, Harold made plans to move his home to the Sunshine City.

We're glad for Harold and his wife, but I do think we'll miss the 'son-of-a-sea-cook'.

Good Luck to you, Harold, and keep a light burning for any stray members of the Club who come down your way.

congratulations

to Brother Wendell K. Walker, Librarian of the Grand Lodge Library, on his appointment as Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Argentina. Brother Walker is a Past Master of Independent Royal Arch # 2, of which Brothers Gordon Rosser, George B. Johnston, Harry L. Lindquist, Sidney Barrett and George B. Wray, are members. Brother Walker has been of much assistance to many members of the Club, and all join in wishing him much joy in his new station.

THOMAS PHILLIPS reporting about some of our past meetings---

### January 26--

Here was a meeting to be put down in the book as one of outstanding enjoyment. It was a pleasure to see such a large group on hand to enjoy hearing Brother Herman Herst, Jr. tell of his trip to the late London show and of his travels thru continental Europe and the northern coast of Africa.

Pat's story was illustrated with colored slides taken by him with the assistance of Mrs. Herst. We saw scenes and heard stories of the "off-the-beaten-track-variety" seldom encountered at this kind of a show.

Those of you who missed this edition of Pat's travelogue had better be on the look-out for a return engagement. We are pressing for another helping and want you all to be present.

Among those present were Brothers Elmer Long and Louis Bobel, Gentlemen we don't often see. Everyone is certain of a warm welcome, but we do like to see our out-of-town Brothers more often.

### February 2---

Sam Brooks put on the usual show of Masonic Philately which was complete with the assistance of Brother Sidney Barrett. As Sam put it, Sid's collection of Masonic Cancells is one of the finest in existence, and the members were lavish in their praise of a very fine showing.

### February 23

Jake Glaser shepherded the Past Presidents on their annual night at the club. Carl Pelander, George Camnitzer and Jake himself, showed portions of their collections for the edification of an appreciative group. It was a nice evening.

### March 2

A special "Forum Evening" was substituted for the usual auction and with Harold Matters in the chair, a very enjoyable evening was had by all. Harold posed the questions and a panel of experts gave the answers. Some interesting problems were discussed, and the consensus was that we place this type of meeting be presented again.



Attention      Banquet      Announcement

Masonic Stamp Club of New York

Masonic Hall 71 West 23rd Street, New York City

Time- Friday May 4th 1951

Get-to gether at 6.30 P.M.

Steak Dinner at 7 P.M.

Dress- INFORMAL

Toastmaster Bro Carl E Pelander - nuf ced

Speaker Bro Franklin R Bruns, Jr

Assistant Curator in charge of  
Division of Philately- Smithsonian Institution  
Franklin will give us the trials and tribulations  
of his new job. It will be short and sweet.

The Dinner will only cost you \$ 4.00 with all  
the trimings, and the tickets will be on sale  
at the meetings of the Club and can be obtained  
from George B Wray- 130 West 42nd St Room B19  
phone is Chickering 4- 4621-

This Dinner is for Men Only- your early

RESERVATIONS will help the Committee give you a  
very pleasant evening.

This will be our 17th Anniversary Dinner

COME and make it a GRAND SUCCESS-

George B. Wray, Chairman