



the Masonic Philatelist

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No. 10



W. . . . RUSSELL ROANE

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 10

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The Cover

W. . . Russel Roane
Past President Masonic Stamp Club
1949-51

By the Sign of the GAVEL

Being keenly appreciative of the honor, I want to thank the Club for re-electing me as your president for another year. Whatever has been accomplished during the past year has been done only through the fine co-operation of the other officers, members of the Board of Governors, committee chairman and the editor of this publication. Each has played a most important part in the Clubs activities, and my thanks as well, I am sure, as yours, goes to each and every one of them.

Following precedent, the Masonic Philatelist will not be published during July and August. However, we will try to get the September issue out a little early so you will have the full program for the coming year at the first meeting. Some time during the summer, the Board of Governors will meet to lay out that program and it may be confidently expected that it will be as good or better than past programs. Naturally, programs go over better when there is a good attendance,

and here each of you can do your part. If you live in or near New York, why not make more of an effort to get out to the meetings? Those who live away from New York might well so time their visits to New York so as to include one of our meetings. We would be glad indeed to greet you.

With summer upon us, many will relax their stamp-collecting activities during the warm weather. However, come fall, the Club hopes to be able to do something about helping in the search for some of your elusive items. Watch for the September Philatelist for that.

In the meantime, I extend to one and all my best wishes for a restful, healthy and happy summer. See you in September.

—ARTHUR I. HEIM.

ANNUAL DINNER

Approximately 40 members and guests were present on the gala occasion of the 18th Annual Dinner of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York which was held on Friday evening, May 2nd at the Masonic Club in the Masonic Temple Building in New York City. The food, fellowship and forensics exceeded all expectations and a good time was had by all.

Toastmaster was one of the club's stalwarts and former president, Carl E. Pelander, who did his usual excellent job as master of ceremonies. Brother Carl dug up a lot of new jokes and stories which enlivened the proceedings greatly. He also introduced the other past presidents who were there—Dr. George Camnitzer, Sam Brooks, Jake Glaser, and Russell Roane. Each of them made a few remarks. Everyone was especially glad to see Brother Jake Glaser in attendance after a siege of illness, and Jake said he was glad to be there. Past president Ferrars Tows could not attend and sent his regrets and greetings.

Others who were introduced were the officers of the club—Arthur Heim (Pres.) Carl Pihl (1st Vice Pres.), Tom Phillips (2nd Vice Pres.), Harry Konwiser (Treas.) and Dr. Irwin Yarry (Secy). Our longtime and outstanding members, Harry Lindquist and Richard Bohn, were both introduced and responded with appropriate remarks.

The speaker of the evening was the Reverend Dr. Floyd S. Leach of Rowayton, Conn. It was a great honor for the club to have Dr. Leach present, particularly as that day was his 75th

birthday and within the week he would celebrate 50 years as a Mason. Dr. Leach gave a most interesting and entertaining talk, mostly about his experiences as a stamp collector. His words were sparked by a sprightly humor and sage philosophy that captivated everyone present. Though he is now retired from the ministry, Dr. Leach says he is busier than ever. Those who were fortunate enough to hear him can readily understand why this is so. Opinion of those present was that the club has never held a better dinner.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

As usual there was a good attendance at the Annual Meeting of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York which was held on Friday evening, June 6th at the Collectors Club in New York City. The following officers were reelected: President, Arthur I. Heim; 1st Vice President, Carl H. Pihl; 2nd Vice President, Thomas Phillips; Secretary, Dr. Irwin M. Yarry; and Treasurer, Harry M. Konwiser. Elected to a three-year term as a member of the Board of Governors was Sidney F. Barrett.

Our Secretary, Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, rendered his usual fine Annual Report which can be found elsewhere in this issue. Essence of this report was that the club has enjoyed a very fine year under the leadership of Brother Heim and that the outlook for continued improvement during the 1952-53 season is very good indeed. You will hear more about these plans later.

We were very happy to have Brother Charles Lott from Niagara Falls, N. Y. in attendance at this meeting, as well as Past Presidents Carl E. Pelander, Sam Brooks and Russell Roane.

Everyone was pleased by the Annual Financial Report tendered by our Treasurer, Harry M. Konwiser. The club is in fine financial condition and our operations during the past season left a modest balance on the black side of the ledger. (Some members think we should turn the matter of the missing three dollars over to the FBI).

Following the business of the evening and the elections, some 20 lots were bid in by the members at an impromptu auction. Brother Pelander wielded the gavel most effectively and the bidding was quite spirited.

Mrs. Forrest L. Ellis

It is with great sorrow that we have to announce the recent death of the beloved wife of Brother Forrest L. Ellis, Editor of *The Masonic Philatelist*. This is to express the deep sympathy of all members to Brother Ellis over his great loss.

About the Club

In the mention regarding members of the club that were 33 degree Masons, the name of another was unintentionally overlooked, that of the retired Postmaster of the Canal Zone, Gerald D. Bliss. This should not have happened because Bro. Bliss' Masonic record was known.

Bro. Carl H. Pihl, First Vice President, is editor of the *Scandinavian Philatelist*, issued by the Scandinavian Stamp Society, and is compiling a *Scandinavian-American Philatelic Dictionary*. This dictionary will define and translate all the words and terms used by stamp collectors. The English section will translate all the words and terms into Danish, Finnish, Swedish and Norwegian.

There will be sections for the four Scandinavian languages, wherein the terms used in these languages will be translated into English.

This important book, of about 150 pages, type-printed, will be sold for three dollars, postpaid. Orders are being accepted now.

Bro. Harry M. Konwiser plattered for the *Voice of America* recently. As a guest visitor to the *Voice of America* Stamp Club, he discussed United States Postal History and Postal Markings.

Bro. Harry Hennemen writes that he is making a rapid recovery after a crack-up, broken clavicle. He now lives at 1240 Colorado Blvd., Denver, Colorado. We missed you Harry at our annual dinner, and that also goes, too, at our meetings.

Bro. Chester Smeltzer, Mayor of Ramsey, N. J. and past president of the Essay Proof Society, was, on May 21, one of the guest speakers at the annual dinner of the Association of Bergen County Philatelists. The dinner was held at the Suburban Restaurant, North Hackensack, N. J. and Bro. Smeltzer spoke on the T. R. Roosevelt presentation die proofs.

Annual Report of The Secretary 1951-52

Perhaps the start of the year with the special meeting on September 14, 1951 to receive Bro. P. A. Wilde from Cardiff, Wales, was one of the best held in a long time. The stimulating start carried along with the September 28th "Open Forum" at which most members related some of their experiences during the past summer. On October 5th our own president, Bro. Heim, showed his fine collection of Belgian Congo. The meeting on October 26th was a memorable one, at which an excellent turn-out greeted Bro. Harry Lindquist and his "Sentimental Collection"—one dealing with material from personal correspondence and two albums of the postal history of the 3c International Peace Bridge, linking the United States and Canada. Under the guidance of Bro. Carl Pihl, our 1st vice president and master chef, Pumpkin Pie night furnished an excellent menu. A visit by the Maximum Card Club on November 30th at which an enlightening talk was provided by its secretary, Mill Palma, provided new votaries for that fast growing society. Our Club's first Stamp Bourse provided a fine sum of money for our Ralph Barry Fund (which helps pay the expenses of the MASONIC PHILATELIST) and a spot auction arranged by Bro. Heim on January 4th, 1952 also netted a neat profit. "My Favorite Stamp" brought a fine turn-out, when nine members gave us their ideas on this theme on January 25th. A hunting expedition on February 1 with Bro. Herst leading the search discovered many treasures that can be brought to light on any vacation trip. Our Annual Past-President's Night on February 29 was the occasion of Bros. Holcombe, Pelander, Camnitzer, Brooks and Roane giving short accounts of their respective administrations, in addition to which they also exhibited some of their stamps. The March 7 meeting was devoted to a general discussion of Masonic Philately and future activities. An open night on March 28th was filled in a most stimulating manner by Mr. Robert Levitt showing two volumes of "Propaganda on Stamps." Unfortunately the attendance was poor, probably caused by the fact that many of our members were at SOJEX in Newark that night. A lone candidate, Bro. Dittman, arrived in the nick of time on the night of April 4 so that the ritual could be conducted and the degree of Master of

Philately conferred. The members annual exhibition on April 25 was most disappointing. A little effort by the membership could have provided an excellent opportunity for a worth-while showing. The last major event was our Annual Dinner on May 2 under the chairmanship of Bro. Sid Barrett. It was a notable occasion with about forty members and guests attending. The principal speaker, Rev. Floyd S. Leach, plus many other distinguished members, gave of their stock of yarns, tall and otherwise, for a delightful evening's entertainment.

The Grand Architect in his infinite wisdom has taken from our ranks Brother Charles E. Fish, Brother Arthur F. Kirk and Brother Carl E. W. Wolcome. May their souls find eternal rest.

Seven new members were elected and two re-instated. Twelve members who were in arrears for three years were dropped.

Visits to the stamp club at the U. S. Veteran's Hospital at Montrose, New York and to the Scandinavian Collectors Club also featured our year's activity. The presentation of 50th year medals to Brothers Fred Wendel and George Gunter by their lodges were attended by our members. Congratulations to these worthy brethren.

All of the committees should be given worthy mention for their fine performances and labors. The Roster and By-laws have been amended and distributed to the membership. This arduous task was undertaken and completed this year through the efforts of Bros. Carl H. Pihl, Irwin M. Yarry, Sam Brooks and Harry Konwiser with our president, Arthur Heim and Bro. Charles Brooks furnishing a helping hand.

The Membership Committee under the chairmanship of Bro. Carl Pelander well deserve a vote of thanks for its fine job of checking the qualifications of new members.

The MASONIC PHILATELIST, under the able guidance and editorship of Bro. Forrest Ellis, who has taken the reins from our previous editor, Sam Brooks, is now a printed monthly. The kind offer of Bro. Al Van Dahl, publisher of the Western Stamp Collector, has provided a "new Look" for our nine-year old publication and we are most appreciative.

Our Program Chairman, Bro. Tom

Phillips, must be complimented on the fine programs he has provided during the year. It has been disappointing to him that more members have not been showing up at the meetings.

Reviewing all the year's activities, we are glad to see that we are moving forward. Philately offers one of the finest forms of relaxation in this troubled world. We in the Masonic Stamp Club of New York must broaden our horizons and promote our Masonic endeavors through stamps. Bro. Harry Lindquist at our annual dinner provided the key to our future work when he showed that we in our club have the means and procedure for setting up branches or chapters in other cities through our Masonic affiliations. The

By-laws now permit it and it can be done. This initiative must come from out-of-town members and we hope that we will be hearing from several of them soon.

Your officers have worked hard to make this a successful year, but in evaluating the year's activities each member must consider that, as in practically all organizations, he gets out of the club pretty much in proportion to what he puts in. Consequently all are invited to a more active participation in the club's affairs.

Respectfully submitted,
Irwin M. Yarry
Secretary.

June 5, 1952

DO YOU WANT TO SWAP?

It has been proposed that the Masonic Stamp Club of New York initiate an organized program of stamp swapping at its regular meetings in New York. Many members are in favor of such a plan and it is desired to get an expression of opinion from as many members as possible, especially those in and around New York City who are able to attend meetings. The swapping is to be done only at our meetings, stamps or swap books will not be circulated to out-of-town members, at least not for the present.

Here is the way the plan will work: Members may purchase from the Exchange Committee standard size (3½" x 5½") approval books with spaces for approximately 100 stamps. The member will fill the book with stamps he desires to swap, using good quality hinges, of course, and entering the current (Scott) catalog number and catalog value. This book will be then turned over to the committee for distribution to members at regular meetings. Members may take stamps from any of the books available, merely by entering their assigned number (to be designated by the committee) and their initials.

At the end of each quarter, there will be an accounting. Stamps taken from books entered by a member are credits, stamps you have taken are debits. Settlement is made in cash on a basis of one third of Scott catalog value. The club or the committee, of course, are not responsible for the accuracy of identification or condition of

stamps; such questions must be settled by the persons involved.

Please let your Exchange Committee Chairman know if you are interested in this plan, offer any constructive suggestions you may have and **ADVISE HIM IF YOU ARE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A PROGRAM.** This plan will mean a lot of work and we want to be sure the members will support such a program before undertaking it.

Chairman of the Exchange Committee is:

Robert M. Pech
20 Cabrini Boulevard
New York 33, N. Y.

PLEASE WRITE TO BROTHER PECH and let him know how you feel about this matter. **DO IT NOW**, so that we will know how the members feel when we have that meeting on Friday evening, June 27. Better yet, come to the meeting and tell us in person.

Charlie Carpenter III

Friends of Bro. Charlie Carpenter will be sorry to hear that he has been very ill for the past year.

Has had pneumonia three times and has been in the hospital twice.

He has thrombosis and has been found unconscious several times on the floor.

Bro. Carpenter has just recently reached the age of 80.

THE CLAY DAGUERREOTYPES BY ROOT

The man who might have been President—Henry Clay—sitting for his portrait that March day, the 7th, 1848, nearly one hundred years ago, was of troubled mind; the death of his friend, John Quincy Adams, and the prospects at the age of 71, whether he should accept the Whig nomination for President and if so, would he be successful in his election to the high office that he had tried for before.



(Photo courtesy of the Hist. Soc. of Penna.)

Located in and owned by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Portrait used on the Blood's Penny Post, the 15 cents 1902 issue, and on various revenue tax stamps.

Clay had left his beloved Ashland to go to Washington in December of 1847, where he later accepted the invitation to visit New York on the behest of Horace Greely, intending to stop off at Baltimore and Philadelphia. On the eve of his departure, Feb. 21, 1848, his friend J. Q. Adams had a paralytic stroke, Clay immediately went to his bedside before leaving for his trip.

Clay was royally greeted and received at Baltimore, but before his departure for Philadelphia on the 23rd of February he received the news that Adams had passed away on that day.

Clay arrived in Philadelphia on the 24th, there being greeted with a parade of honor and had many receptions. A few days later the body of Adams was received in Philadelphia, being brought to Independence Hall with the suitable funeral cortege, later going on to Boston for burial.

This somewhat spoiled the festivities of the Clay visit and may have tempered the enthusiasm of the later New York Clay celebration.

However, the Philadelphia daguerreotype photographers did not let the opportunity of Clay's visit pass, because every one of the "leading artists" clamored for sittings.

The first portrait was taken on February 28th by W. & F. Langenheim, on the third floor of the Exchange. England & Gunn advertised in the PUBLIC LEDGER on the 6th of March that, "a day or two ago" that they had had the honor of a sitting by Clay. On the 8th M. P. Simons stated in the LEDGER that Clay had sat for them on the Saturday previous. But of the portraits that philatelists, later, were to know through postage stamps, there were no mention of them in the LEDGER of those days. On March 4, 1848, M. A. Root did advertise that "Mr. Root's Daguerreotype Gallery, No. 140 Chestnut Street, is open from 8 o'clock A. M. to 6 P. M. for visitors and those who wish to have a good picture taken at short notice will call and examine the interesting collection of military officers and others, and judge for themselves of these beautiful specimens of art."

However Root did take some portraits of Clay at that time for we find on page 945 of the September, 1897 issue of McClure's Magazine, one of these portraits, which had been used as model of design for the Blood's Penny Post stamp, in 1855 in Philadelphia and later by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for the 1902, 15 cent postage stamp. The location of the daguerreotype shown in McClure's was given as, owned by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. A. L. Van Nest of Chicago in 1940 wrote to the Society for a copy of the photograph and much to his surprise they forwarded to him not the reproduction that was shown in McClure's but another, the portrait of Clay such as was used to model the design for the 15 cents 1890 postage stamp, produced by the American Bank Note Co., later used



(Photo courtesy of the Hist. Soc. of Penna.)

Location and owner of daguerreotype unknown. Portrait used on the 1890, 1894 and 1898 15 cent issues.

for the 15 cents 1894, 1895 and 1898 postage stamps. The writer, having a copy of the first mentioned reproduction and wishing also to get a photograph the same as Van Nest had gotten, wrote to the Society for a copy but still received a copy of the first mentioned portrait as before.

Being in Philadelphia, for a time in 1941, the writer on going to the Society's headquarters found that though they were in possession of the first mentioned daguerreotype they had no record of the second daguerreotype, they later came to the conclusion that it had been on exhibit at some time and that a reproduction of it had remained.

However an account of the happenings at the time the daguerreotypes were taken was found in CAMERA and the PENCIL and as told by Root, the photographer,

"In 1848 an appointment being made for my taking the Daguerreotype of Henry Clay, I requested the Mayor of our City and the Sheriff of the County, together with several others of Clay's friends, who were present to keep the statesman in brisk comment till I was ready to expose the plates of the image; as I wished to catch the intellectual, lively look natural to him under such conditions. The Mayor turning to Mr. Clay said, "Mr. Root

desires us to continue talking, as he wishes to daguerreotype your thoughts, to catch if possible your smiles." "Smiles," exclaimed Mr. Clay, "I can give him frowns, if he wants them." Upon which he smiled, while his face was radiant with intelligence as well. In twenty seconds three good portraits were taken at once; the plate removed from the instrument and four fresh ones got ready. In a few seconds more, Mr. Clay the while conversing pleasantly with his friends, all else was prepared, and then his likeness again was daguerreotyped by four cameras at once, all representing him as we then saw him, engaged in conversation, mentally aroused and wearing a cheerful, intellectual, and noble expression of countenance. Thus seven portraits were taken in but 13 minutes. Mr. Clay remarked after inspecting them — "Mr. Root, I consider these as decidedly the best and most satisfactory likeness that I have ever had taken, and I have had many." These words he left in my register, with his autograph. One of these portraits has since been engraved, as the finest likeness of him extant, and may be seen in the Portrait Gallery published by Rice and Hart."

Marcus Aurelius Root was born in Granville, Ohio, August 15, 1808. According to M'Elroy's directory of Philadelphia we find that in 1837 he was a Professor of Penmanship at 134 Chestnut Street, his home, 171 Vine. In 1840 he conducted a writing Academy at S. W. 8th and Mulberry, above the stairs. 1847, he was a Teacher of Writing at 140 Chestnut, and his home at Sch. 8th below George.

On June 20, 1846 he had bought out J. E. Mayall at 140 Chestnut and had proceeded to get acquainted with the new fad, the Daguerreotype, which his brother Samuel had been studying since 1839. By 1848 he had given up the penmanship business and did photography exclusive, going into partnership with his brother in 1850. He died in Phila. on April 12, 1889.

Compiled by F. L. Ellis.

PLEASE Let Us Know.

When you change your address please be sure to notify either the editor or send change direct to Van Dahl Publications, Albany, Oregon. As the Masonic Philatelist is sent as 3rd class matter there is no way of telling if any change of address has occurred unless notification of change is sent in direct by members.

From Mirt's Back Porch

BRO. GEN MacARTHUR HONORED AGAIN

Bro. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, 33°, is honored on a series of nine stamps just issued by the Republic of the South Moluccas to mark the fifth anniversary of the liberation of the Pacific. Bro. Gen. MacArthur is shown saluting. Previously, his portrait was carried on three values of the Philippines (#519-21) issued in 1948. Prized items in the collection of the conductor of this service are three marginal blocks of four, each value autographed "Douglas MacArthur 33°" while the General was still in Tokyo.

The independence of the South Moluccas from Indonesia is still unrecognized, so the status of the new stamps will depend to some extent upon the final decision in the hearings before the United Nations.

The following information is taken from a copyrighted 1951 lengthy article by this writer which appeared in **TEMPLE TOPICS**, Chicago, and **CABLETOW**, official publication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines:

The Masonic membership which Bro. Gen. MacArthur holds is not a casual one. It is meaningful—something to serve as a rule and guide in his transactions with mankind. He put these principles into effect in the military occupation of Japan. As a result, when he was recalled from Japan last year, his departure was regretted by the people of that country.

Bro. Gen. MacArthur was made a Mason "at sight" in Manila, January 17, 1936, while stationed there, and shortly thereafter he became a member of Manila Lodge No. 1. He received his Scottish Rite degrees later in the year. On December 8, 1947, the sixth anniversary of Pearl Harbor, the 33° was conferred upon him at ceremonies in the American embassy in Tokyo—a fitting place and occasion. When the Supreme Council 33° of the Philippines was formed in 1951, he became a member of the Council and its Grand Orator.

Philippine Masons hold Bro. Gen. MacArthur in the highest esteem. When the Japanese swept over the Islands in 1942, Masonic temples were seized, records and buildings destroyed and many Masons tortured, even murdered. It was his open support that enabled Freemasonry to be reborn, after liberation, in a country where an

overwhelming Catholic majority had been extremely antagonistic.

Freemasonry and Japanese ideology and totalitarian aims were incompatible, and before the war the Imperial Government made every effort to suppress the activities of the Craft. Under the liberal policies established with American occupation, Freemasonry was given an opportunity to establish itself in that country. Today, there are several lodges working under charters of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Thus, with the "blessings" of Bro. Gen. MacArthur, a new era has come to the Japanese.

With this understanding of his services to the Craft over the years, one realizes that the Masonic honors he bears are earned ones.

PHILIPPINES HONORS ANOTHER MASON

The second stamp (pesos, or \$1) in the "Famous Filipino Series" was sold on May 1, the 54th anniversary of the historic "Battle of Manila Bay," between American and Spanish fleets, which changed the sovereignty in the Philippines. The stamp bears a portrait of Graciano Lopez Jaena, Mason and founder of the famous "La Solidaridad" (see page 29). Other prominent Masons will be honored in future issues.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All members who can are urged to attend the final meeting of the season which will be held on Friday evening, June 27, 1952 at 8 P. M. sharp at the Collectors Club in New York City. Many important matters will be discussed and plans will be made for our program and other activities for the 1952-53 season. The officers and the Board of Governors would appreciate the suggestions and comments of as many members as possible. They are endeavoring to provide the kind of activities the members want, and the frank opinion of members will assist them greatly in this. Quite a few of the members gather at Sachers Restaurant, Madison Avenue near 41st Street, New York City, at 6 P. M. for dinner prior to the meeting. Everyone is welcome, the more the merrier. Don't forget this important meeting—Friday evening—JUNE 27TH.