



the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 8

MAY 1952

No. 9



SUPREMO CONSEJO DEL GR. 33
A.A.S.R. DE VENEZUELA

ENTERED



Al May 11.: y P.: H.:

Charles H. Spilman. Room 1117, Statler Building,
Park Square, Back Bay Station.
Boston, Massachusetts.

A MASONIC COMMEMORATIVE STAMP
ISSUED BY THE SUPREME COUNCIL 33°
A.A.S.R. OF VENEZUELA

Ordinarily the use of non-postal stamps
is forbidden; in this case the use was
authorized.

Non postal commemorative stamp used on official mail of the
Supreme Council 33 A.A.S.R. of Venezuela, S.A.

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 9

MAY, 1952

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of
The Masonic Stamp Club of New York

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181 Claremont Ave..	New York 27, N. Y.

● Meetings ●

First and Last Friday Each Month

Collectors Club Bldg., 22 E. 35th Street

May 30. Memorial Day, a holiday therefore
no Meeting.

June 6 7:30 Board of Governors Meeting.
8:00 The Annual Meeting. Mark it
well upon your Tablets that you
may remember the date and grace
us with your presence.

The Cover

Non postal commemorative stamp used on
official mail of the Supreme Council 33 A.A.S.R.
of Venezuela, S. A. The stamp commemorates
the Centenary of the Republic of Venezuela,
South America and pictures Antonio Guzman-
Blanco, its first Vice President and later Presi-
dent, 1870-77 and 1879-83 and in 1886-88.

Photo courtesy of Andrew F. Donnell of
THE BOSTON POST.

By the Sign of the GAVEL

As was promised you, last month's
Masonic Philatelist was a mile stone
in the Club's history. The thanks of
the Club must go to those whose ef-
forts have made it possible, to our
Editor, Forrest Ellis, to Al Van Dahl
of the Western Stamp Collector for the
fine printing job, and to the several
contributors whose writings went to
make up Vol. 8, No. 8. A full half of

our membership lives in sections re-
mote to New York City, and we seldom
see about half of those of our members
who are here in New York. This paper
is the sole means of communication
with those who for one reason or an-
other can't get to our meetings. It
would be of a great deal of interest if
we could receive your comments and
suggestions, because only by knowing
what you want can your Editor have a
chance of supplying it. A "Letters to
the Editor" column would make a nice
addition, if we get the letters. More
than anything else, of course, articles
are needed. Each of you is interested
in stamp collecting, otherwise you
would not be a member of our Club.
Our recently issued Directory shows
the particular stamp collecting interest
of most of the membership. Surely
there is a story behind most of the
choices, except possibly general collec-
ting, where just plain love of stamp
collecting may be the only incentive.
Send the story in, if help is needed in
dressing it up for publication, your
Editor is quite capable of doing just
that. If you need illustrations of your
stamps or covers for what you are
writing about, we can make the photo-
graphs for you. In fact, now that the
paper is being printed in a form that
will permit good reproduction of pic-
tures, you can count on much more in
the way of illustrations from now on.
But I cannot repeat too often, your
help is needed, each of you—every one
of you.

This is being written before the
Annual Dinner, so we cannot tell you
about it now. The advance sales in-
dicate that interest is not lagging, so
we hope to have a good report to give
you in our next issue.

The Annual Meeting, including elec-
tion of officers will be on Friday, June
6th. We hope that this will be the oc-
casion of a gala turnout. Under the
newly amended By-laws, officers will
be elected at the meeting instead of as
before, by the Board of Governors.
Since it has been my honor and pleas-
ure to have been your President during
the past year when so many momen-
tous changes have taken place, it would
make me very happy to see the year's
efforts culminated by an outstanding
attendance, to show to the other of-
ficers and to the committeemen who
have worked so hard for the success of
the Club, that it has been well worth
while.

April 23rd Meeting

Owing to the inclement weather there was a small turn out for the annual exhibition meeting by members.

Bro. Charles Lott brought down from Buffalo, N. Y. some of his 19 century U. S., from which enough pages were removed to fill two frames. One item was of interest, a cover bearing an 1861 3 cent stamp cancelled "Poukeepsie, N. Y.," that at first sight seemed to be one of the old "broken bank" notes or check. This illustrated cover was an early advertising cover of a Poukeepsie Business College.

Bro. Irwin Yarry showed Treaty Port cancellations on Hong Kong stamps. These cancels were once written up by Bro. Yarry in the May-June, 1948 issue of the Masonic Philatelist. Bro. Arthur Heim showed "Paquebot" or "Packet Boat" cancelled stamps of the Congo Belge. Bro. Heim states that outside of some blocks of four stamps, none of these cancels were of the made to order type.

Bro. Roger Seebe showed U. S. mint postal stationery. He filled two frames with representative copies of the envelopes, one of each type rather than sizes and die varieties. There are a few missing items for completeness (how about it, Bro. Marcus).

The judges, Bros. Roane, Konwiser and the Chairman Barrett felt that owing to the few showings and that each were so different to each other, that there should be no first, second and third awards but that awards of appreciation would be given to the exhibitors at the annual dinner. Quite some discussion was held regarding future exhibitions and that the showings would be for illustration of the collectors work rather than for competition. The contestants, later, spoke at short length on their showings.

Bro. Fred Hill brought a large volume of Israel, as usual beautifully bound and lettered in gold. He did not show for exhibit but passed the collection around for viewing. It is something to see. Singles, blocks of stamps with tabs, first day covers, etc., are displayed as Bro. Hill is noted for.

About the Club

Bro. Al Van Dahl intended to hop a plane and be with us on the occasion of our Annual Dinner. This was not to be as he had to be in Salem, Oregon the same week in order that he might take his 30th and thirty second degree. Our loss but his gain. When are you crossing the hot sands, Al? Speaking of hot sands, brings us to mind that the Seventy Eighth annual session of the Imperial Council of the Shrine meets in a very short time in Miami, Florida, which brings us to the following information. Bro. Henry E. Kopp-low (a member of the Club) is the Assistant Rabban of Mahi Temple, the host shrine, Miami, Florida. He is also Secretary of the 1952 Imperial Council Session and General Chairman of all transportation committees.

He has drawn up a design for a cachet which will be placed on all mail leaving the Imperial Council Session at Miami from June 16th to June 20th, 1952.

Bro. Harry Lindquist sends his congratulations on the April issue of The Philatelist and says that it "is certainly nice of Al Van Dahl to arrange to print it in this form," in which we also second the motion.

Bro. Carl H. Losse of the Temple Stamp Club of Milwaukee, and also a member of our Club says that he has fond memories of the trip he made with the Temple Stamp Club, back in 1947, to the Centennial Exposition of our first United States postage stamps held here in New York City. On May 27th, The Temple Stamp Club holds their annual meeting.

Bro. Richard M. Needham, BIS, Landcaster, Ohio, was exalted in Landcaster Chapter #11, R.A.M. on April 23, 1952.

Bro. Mirt of Chicago has made an additional sum of 35 dollars to the Illinois Orphans Home because of the support of the brethren of his Masonry on Postage Stamps.

The Club is honored in the fact that we have at least three brothers who have been privileged to have received the thirty-third degree. They are as follows—Frederick Z. Bennett of Maumee, Ohio; Floyd S. Leach of Rowayton, Conn. and Ferras Tows, New York, N. Y.

Through the MAGNIFYING GLASS

By CARL H. PIHL

One of my favorite stamp designs is the Posthorn design of Norway which has been in continuous use for more than 80 years. In writing about this stamp design it could be said, "Hardly a man is now alive who remembers that famous day and year" *, when the first Posthorn stamp of Norway was issued. The date was January 21, 1872 and this stamp design, with minor changes, has been used continuously ever since. It is believed that this stamp design has the distinction of being the oldest one still in use, and that it has been in continuous use for a longer period than any other stamp design. It is still in current use and new issues were released as recently as last year. Furthermore, it is anticipated that it will be used for many years to come.

There are good reasons for this, in my opinion, because in many respects this is an ideal stamp design. It is simple, yet attractive, and completely legible; the numeral of value and the word "Norge" are large enough to be clear and distinct; it has good "color," referring to the distribution and arrangement of solid areas, lines, ornaments and white spaces. Finally, the dominating motif of the design—the posthorn—is probably the object most symbolic of postal service. From the earliest days of postal service, in nearly all countries, the posthorn signalled the approach of the mail carrier, whether he was on foot, on horseback, in a stage coach or on skis, as in Norway.

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, as has been said, the Posthorn design scores in other ways. This design was copied almost exactly for the postage due stamps issued by Crete in 1901. A very similar design, probably inspired by the Posthorn design, was used on the 1873-1902 issues of Iceland.

The stamp was originally designed by von Hanno, and the original die was made by Philip Batz of Copenhagen. The first issue (1872-75) was typographed by P. Petersen of Christiania (now called Oslo, the "old" Norwegian name for the 900-year-old capital). This first issue appeared with the old skilling values (120 skilling equaling one speciedaler) as illustrated in



Fig. I

Fig. II

Figure 1. The issue of 1877-78 saw minor changes in the crown surmounting the posthorn and in the ornamental wings in the corners of the design. With this issue there was a change in the monetary system as ore (100 ore equalling one krone) replaced the skilling. This issue is illustrated in Figure 2. Not shown is a stamp from the issue of 1878 which differed from the previous ones only slightly. Having been produced by a different method, they were slightly larger. And as each small figure of value was engraved separately there were from 100 to 200 types for each stamp.



Fig. III

In the 1882 issue, illustrated in Figure 3, the fine shading was removed from the posthorn, otherwise the design was the same. The 1886-93 issues were produced from the same die and differed from the previous issue only in size, being 20 mm high instead of 21 mm. This issue is not shown. Figure 4 illustrates a stamp from the 1893-1909 issue which was featured by re-engraving of the original die, with Roman lettering replacing the sans-serif lettering that had been used up to this time.

The original die was further retouched for the 1909-19 issue, resulting in clearer wings at the corners and removal of the spot of color under the crown in the loop of the posthorn. A

stamp from this issue is illustrated in Figure 5. In 1937 the Posthorn design was modernized in minute details and redrawn slightly larger, as shown in Figure 6. This is the stamp which is still in everyday use. During the period of the German Occupation of Norway, April 9, 1940 to May 8, 1945, these stamps were overprinted with a black V.



Fig. IV

Fig. V



Fig. VI

There are a total of 146 varieties of Norwegian stamps with the Posthorn design listed in Scott's Catalogue. Most valuable is Scott #41, the 12 ore pale green issued in 1884, which is listed at \$20 in used condition. However, this does not tell the whole story. The total number of varieties of stamps with the Posthorn design listed in the specialized Norwegian Catalogue (excluding plate flaws, watermark positions and other oddities) are 2,486.

During the 80 years they have been in service, the total quantity of Posthorn stamps printed was 3,140,030,220. Of this total, just two stamps account for about one third. Almost a billion of the 5 ore green and 10 ore carmine of the 1909-19 issue were printed. While these totals may not seem so remarkable to persons in the United States—where stamp issues in the millions and billions are taken more or less in stride—they are amazing considering that Norway is a small country.

Norway has an area of 124,556 square miles which is slightly larger than the state of New Mexico. It is 1,000 miles long and 270 miles wide at its widest point. The coastline is 12,000 miles long including the picturesque fjords. Along the coast of Norway are 150,000 islands. However, Norway is fairly sparsely populated having only 3,233,000 people (as of 1949), fewer people than live in the city of Chicago. Oslo, the capital and largest city, has a population of 418,000—about the same as Newark, New Jersey.

These are some of the things that can be discovered by looking through the magnifying glass.

CUBA TO HONOR MASONIC PATRIOT

A new series of Cuban stamps scheduled for May to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the republic will include one bearing the portrait of Tomas Estrada Palma, one of the leaders in the fight for the freedom of Cuba from Spanish oppression.

Initiated in a lodge in Bayamo, Cuba, in 1868, he joined other Masons and Cuban philatelic figures—Carlos Manuel de Cespedes and Ignacio Agramonte y Loinaz—in the war which followed the declaration of independence on Oct. 10, 1868. Estrada Palma freed his slaves—to demonstrate espousal of his principles—gave his fortune to the cause and joined the army. Betrayed, he was imprisoned until the end of the 10-year war. He went to the United States and when another uprising occurred in 1895 he offered his services to the cause.

The United States government took over control of Cuba after the Spanish-American War in 1898. When the country was turned back to its people in 1902, during the administration of President Theodore Roosevelt, a Mason, Estrada Palma became the first president of the republic.

Petty politics caused serious internal disorders and he appealed to the United States. The troubles were not cleared up and he and his cabinet resigned. The United States again took over. He retired from public life in 1908. His portrait also is found on Nos. 270, 278, 284 and in the Cuban patriot series of 1951.

Here, therefore, is another fine addition to an extensive collection of stamps showing Masons of Cuba who fought for the freedom of that country.

The Cinderella of Philately

By IRWIN M. YARRY



A set of Charity stamps or semi-postals issued in 1923 by the British colony of Jamaica has been called the Cinderella of philately. Funds raised by the surtax of $\frac{1}{2}$ d., amounted to a mere £246 during the three years these stamps were used. Governor Sir Leslie Probyn and Lady Probyn sought permission of the Sec'y of State for the Colonies, Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill to have a set of stamps issued for the benefit of the Child Saving League. Sir Leslie Probyn was inspired by the Pro-Juventute stamps of Switzerland. After some adverse criticism permission was granted by the Postmaster General of Great Britain to issue a set of three bi-colored stamps.

The subjects for illustration for the stamps were from photographs of negro children taken by Miss Violet F. Taylor of Kingston, Jamaica. (Copies of these pictures, autographed by Miss Taylor) are illustrated with this article.)

The official notice permitting their use was circularized on Oct. 29 and 30, 1923 as follows:

Child Welfare

"A special issue of Postage and Revenue stamps bearing the words 'Child Welfare' of the following denominations $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., will be sold for 1d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., each respectively at the G.P.O. and certain district P. O.'s during November, December 1923 and January 1924. The extra half-penny charged over and above the face value of each stamp will be for the benefit of 'Child Welfare'—the value for postal purposes is what is printed on each stamp."

Other notices giving more specific description of the stamps were printed



in the press and signed by the Deputy Stamp Commissioner C. C. Manton.

The center design (vignette) which is in black represents a native girl sitting posture ($\frac{1}{2}$ d.), a native boy sitting posture (1d) a native boy and girl standing ($2\frac{1}{2}$ d). The eastern symbol of health or hygiene (Caduceus) a twined snake is shown in the side panels, the value in upper corners with "Jamaica" between; the bottom left "Postage" and right "Revenue" with "Child Welfare" between in two lines. The borders green for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., red for the 1d., and blue for the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. These colors being the conventional shades as prescribed by the Postal Union. The



stamps were printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co., from two line engraved plates of 120 subjects of the vignette and frame, in a single sheet with no plate numbers, except for the printer's name in the frame color on the bottom margin of the sheet.

The paper is white wove, water-marked script CA in upright and line perforated 12. There were three separate printings of each value from 1923-25. No major varieties except for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d on thin paper.

Coming back to these poor orphans, these stamps were very unpopular locally for whatever quantities were sold were purchased by collectors or dealers abroad thru local agents. They were not sold thru the Crown Colony offices. Therefore used copies on cover are rarely seen. The stamps were withdrawn on January 30, 1927, and all remainders were officially destroyed on Feb. 21, 1927. Below are the official figures on this issue:

Total Printed	Number Sold	Remainders Destroyed
$\frac{1}{2}$ d. 107,760	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. 43,159	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. 64,539
1d. 52,800	1d. 44,401	1d. 8,337
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d. 39,240	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d. 30,595	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d. 8,583

62 sets were overprinted "SPECIMEN" in red for distribution by the Postal Union at Berne, Switzerland. From the above figures one can realize that the specimens are modern rarities



and the used copies on cover are indeed scarce. These could well become the true Cinderellas of Philately, from rags to riches.

The above figures and facts were from the Handbook of Jamaica—Stanley Gibbons Limited, 1928.

POSTAL ZONE NUMBERS

Postal Zone Numbers are now being included in the circle dater bearing the City and State, Date and Time, in conjunction with the slogan cancellation in use on the machine cancellers.

Those already in use are as follows:

NEW YORK 10, N. Y. with slogan IN THE SPIRIT OF PAUL REVERE.

NEW YORK 51, N. Y. with slogan IN THE SPIRIT OF PAUL REVERE.

NEW YORK 17, N. Y. with slogan STRIKE BACK AT CANCER.

NEW YORK 51, N. Y. with slogan STRIKE BACK AT CANCER.

—Moe Luff.

CARL NIGHT

"Carl Night" was featured in April at the 153rd meeting of the Temple Stamp City of Milwaukee, at Wauwatosa Temple, when P. G. H. P. Carl F. Harpke gave a talk on Masonry, and Brother Carl Light discussed "One of the Mysteries of Stamp Collecting." A Temple H. P. asks Temple members to hear Temple speakers!

The Arrival of Gen. Lafayette

As I have said frequently, one of the most prolific sources of information for the Masonic philatelist is what might be regarded as "dry" reading—proceedings of a Grand Lodge. Recently, I have been scanning some old numbers of the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

In view of the announcement that the Post Office Department will issue a stamp commemorating the 175th anniversary of the arrival of Gen. Lafayette, the following items, which I came across, are of particular interest.

In the 1883 volume there is an account taken from the Tennessee proceedings of that year. On May 4, 1825, Bro. Gen. Lafayette visited Nashville and was introduced to the Grand Lodge by Bro. (President) Andrew Jackson, P.G.M., given the grand honors and seated at the right hand of the Grand Master. To him, the then Grand Master said:

"The Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Tennessee, with all brotherly affection, tender you their sincere congratulations, and bid you welcome. They feel an equal pride and pleasure in recognizing you as a brother, and in receiving within these consecrated walls the early friend and companion of the illustrious and venerated Washington, with whom the name of Lafayette will be transmitted to the latest posterity, inscribed upon the imperishable rolls of a glorious immortality."

Commenting on that event, the 1883 Tennessee proceedings said: "What a glorious day for the Masons of Tennessee! There sat side by side within the Grand Lodge, Jackson and Lafayette. Jackson, the grandest man of his day, the soldier of iron-hearted valor, the successful defender of his country's rights; Lafayette, the daring and heroic young Frenchman, who of all others was most beloved by the people of America. Prominent Masons from all over the State had assembled there, being drawn hither by the interesting events then transpiring. . . . What Mason can now, at this remote day, look upon this scene without feelings of pride?"

Where Lafayette was made a Mason has not been established. This is believed to have occurred in an Army Lodge at Valley Forge. He was an honorary member of the Grand Lodges of Delaware, Tennessee and New

Hampshire, and of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 (Washington's own). He was exalted in Jerusalem Chapter No. 8, R.A.M., New York, and knighted in Morton Encampment No. 4, K.T., New York. He also was a Scottish Rite Mason.

Bro. Gen. Lafayette frequently spoke of Freemasonry. On one occasion, he said: "Freemasonry is an order whose leading star is philanthropy, and whose tenets inculcate an increasing devotion to the cause of virtue and morality."

He is pictured, along with his Brother Mason, George Washington, on France No. 243-244. Those stamps also have other Masonic philatelic significances. It shows the "Spirit of St. Louis," the plane flown across the Atlantic by Bro. Charles A. Lindbergh. Also shown is the Statue of Liberty, designed by a Mason, and started with Masonic ceremonies.

Past Grand Master Bert S. Lee of Missouri adds the information that Lafayette is one of the three honorary P.M.G.s of the Grand Lodge of Missouri and that he attended the Grand Lodge on his visit to the United States.

Grand Secretary T. E. Doss of Tennessee adds that the records of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee indicate that Lafayette was the only Mason ever elected to honorary membership in that Grand Lodge.

REMEMBER

Remember thy vows, oh Pilgrim,
As you journey along life's way.
Arise and greet each morning
With "Whom will I help to-day"?

Remember thy promise, oh Traveler,
As you travel along life's road.
Aid thy brother, his widow and child.
If in need, just lighten their load.

Remember thy oath, my Brother,
As you go in search of the Light.
Remove from the earth the wrong
that you can
And convert all evil to right.

Remember thy God, oh Christian,
To fight for Him is your trust.
Wherever you go, whatever you do,
Remember—this last is a must!

Ralph A. Freed, Jr.
May 5, 1952.