



the Masonic Philatelist

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The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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● Meetings ●

First and Last Friday Each Month

Collectors Club Bldg., 22 E. 35th Street

The Cover

The Edward Laning Mural Painting, New York Public Library "Gutenberg Showing a Proof to the Elector of Mainz" Model of design for the Gutenberg Bible commemorative postage stamp, September 30, 1952. Copies of this photograph and a copy of a New York Public Library pamphlet "The Mural Paintings by Edward Laning" are available at the New York Public Library, Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. at the cost of 65 cents, plus postage.

Committee Chairmen, 1952-53

Program	George Birch Wray
	Fred Hill
Publicity	Carl H. Pihl
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	Fred Hill
	Dr. George Camnitzer
	Thomas Phillips
Membership	Carl Pelander
Ritual	Russel Roane
Exhibition	Charles Brooks
	Dr. George Camnitzer
Sales Books	Robert Pech
Dinner	Sidney Barrett

IN MEMORIAM

WALTER R. McCOY

Passed to that undiscovered
country — June 20, 1952.

By the Sign of the GAVEL

From all accounts, we have had a nice summer, and we certainly hope that all from whom we have not heard have had it equally nice.

However, now that September shows up again, we have a stamp club to think about, and by all indications, we have a very interesting year before us. In this connection it might be well to call attention to the wide diversity of philatelic interest in our Club. Obviously, every program cannot be of direct interest to each individual member. But is direct interest really necessary? It would seem to me that a specialist in, let us say, Borneo might get many good ideas from seeing a finely annotated and explained collection of some such country as Ethiopia. It is rare indeed that one sees a fine collection displayed without receiving the impression that there is something to be learned from it regarding arrangement, methods and details of annotation, lettering, illustrations, etc., etc. For instance at our last exhibit it was suggested that for best appearance there should not be more than seven stamps in a row.

All that is technical. The other possibility exists of being entertained with accounts of characteristics and customs of a country with which we may be more or less unfamiliar. To get together a nice collection of any particular country, it is almost imperative that the country itself be studied. To show the collection to best advantage, the interesting features of the country should also be brought out, particularly those features that form the basis for the stamps.

The foregoing is intended to make out a pretty good case for coming out to meetings whether or not you are directly interested in the particular country or group of countries to be discussed. As you can see elsewhere in the **Philatelist**, our Program Committee has gotten together what promises to be one of the most entertaining and instructive programs we have ever had. That puts is squarely up to you to help by being at the meetings.

Masonic Stamp Club's 1952-53 Program

Sept. 26th-Mr. Edwin E. Elkins will talk on "MALTA"

Oct. 3rd-Board of Governors Meeting, 7:30. Mr. Fred Barvick will talk on Souvenir Sheets, etc.

Oct. 31st-Mr. Stephen G. Rich will show and talk "A Haphazard Collection of Transvaal."

Nov. 7th-Board of Governors Meeting, 7:30. Mr. Marcus W. White, U. S. Envelopes and Cut Squares.

Nov. 28th-Maximum Card Club of America.

Dec. 5th-Board of Governors Meeting, 7:30. Mr. Clarence Brazer, Proofs & Essays.

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Jan. 2nd-Board of Governors Meeting, 7:30. Turkey Hash.

Jan. 30th-Mr. Julian Blanchard, Ph. D., Stamps & Paper Money with similar designs.

Feb. 6th-Board of Governors Meeting, 7:30. Sports on Stamps, Mr. Ira Seebacker.

Feb. 27th-Past Presidents night, Mr. Jacob S. Glaser in charge.

Mar. 6th-Board of Governors Meeting, 7:30.

Mar. 27th-Club Visit. Details later.

Apr. 3rd-Board of Governors Meeting, 7:30. Master of Philately Degree. All Members who have not received the degree are urged to present themselves for initiation.

Apr. 24th-Open Date, later announcement.

May 1st-Banquet. Place will be selected later.

June 5th-Open Date. Announcement later.

June 26th-Annual Meeting & Election.

A small attendance is disheartening to your Program Chairman and discourteous to the speaker, even though unintentional.

Much has been written and said about attendance at meetings and it is easy to establish that, no matter what night or nights might be selected for meetings, some of us would run into occasional or regular conflicts with other activities such a lodge meetings. Far be it from us to suggest that you should give up lodge meetings, but it does seem as though, with two meetings a month, you who live within reasonable distances could attend at least one of them.

By the way, look over the list of Committee chairmen. Only a few of our members take an active part in the Club's affairs. Why not offer your help to the Chairman of one of the Committees? He will surely welcome it.

Oh yes, one other thing—don't just come to the meetings, bring a prospective members as a guest.

Arthur I. Heim.

The editor wishes to thank the many brothers who sent letters of condolences and particularly to Bro. Carl Pihl for his kindness and understanding. To Bros. Sam Brooks, Tom Phillips, Doc Koomanoff and Emanuel Reggel, no measure of thanks can ever be offered to reward them for their thoughtfulness.

BRETHREN VIEW COLLECTIONS AT LODGE

On June 4th through the invitation of the Master of my lodge, Corner Stone Lodge No. 367 of the State of New York, I brought four volumes of "Religion on Stamps" and "Religion on Maximum Cards" to show the brethren, which was received very well by the members.

We were at a loss to know the best way to show the stamps to such a large gathering, after the meeting was closed, it was suggested that the small easel I use be placed on the altar and it worked wonderfully well as the spot light from the ceiling beamed down on the books and the effect was quite wonderful.

We arranged camp chairs in front of the altar, making it very easy to view the collection. It would be a wonderful boost for philately if more of these showings could be arranged, I must say that the maximum cards

made the biggest hit with the members who were all non-collectors.

I was very happy to have this opportunity to show part of my collection and trust all present enjoyed my efforts.

Fred L. Hill.

About the Club

"Covers," the informative magazine, edited by Edith Fisher and published by Al Van Dahl, has given two of our brothers a spot in the lime light (not that either one has ever been out of it) by featuring articles and portraits of both of them.

In the August, 1952 issue, Bro. George Wray is the headliner with a write up of the Sanitary Fair stamps and relative material. A reference list follows the article, of Fair data and known papers.

The September, 1952 issue of "Covers" places Bro. Harry Lindquist to the fore and Harry goes for Norway covers, collected by rate, this time. This article is not so extensive as Bro. Wray's, but Mrs. Fisher's article on Norway's Postal History makes up for it. Bros. Carl Pihl and Harry Konwiser also have interesting articles in this issue. Bro. Pihl tells of a Norwegian ship letter, called by him "Hidden Treasure" and Harry shows us an early dated 1869 cover.

Bro. R. M. Needham sends in a sample of a cacheted envelope he has prepared for the Washington Bicentennial anniversary in November. If interested in these, write to Bro. Needham, care of Boy's Industrial School, Lancaster, Ohio.

The fall issue of Bro. Herman Herst's "Herst's Outbursts" is on hand and one can say that seldom would a house organ appear to be so readable. It is getting better all the time slick paper, fine illustrations and printed in attractive type.

J. N. Young, head of the International Ryukyus Stamp & Coin Society, Box 9666, Station S, Los Angeles 5, Calif., has Military script used on Ryukyus, and might be induced to part with a few as requested by members of the Masonic Stamp Club. J. N. is a member. Suggestion: Enclose dime at least if you want Military Script sent.

Printing -- The Recorded Word

During the year 1940, the 500 years of printing by moveable type was commemorated universally. The Year 1940 was believed to be the anniversary of about when Gutenberg discovered or made printing possible by casting type that could be used over again.

Much conflicting information can be found regarding Gutenberg and the date or time of his activities. The date that seems to find most favor of when his bible was completed is 1456 but we now find that the U. S. commemorative stamp to be issued on September 30, 1952 will have on it the date 1452. The source of design for this stamp is from a mural painting in the New York Public Library.

This painting is located in the central hall on the third floor. To quote from the pamphlet issued by the Library "The Mural Paintings by Edward Laning"—On Monday afternoon, April 22, 1940, the Mayor of New York, Fiorello H. La Guardia, unveiled the completed mural paintings in the central hall of the third floor of the Library building. More than 200 persons, representing various art interests in the city attended the exercises marking the formal presentation and acceptance of the paintings. The Honorable Frank L. Polk, President of the Library, welcomed the guests and presided. The Mayor, Major Edmond H. Leavey and Mr. Holger Cahill, representing the Works Progress Administration, Mr. Ernest Peixotto, Secretary of the Art Commission and Mr. Edward Laning, painter of the murals, spoke. A model of the hall with sketches of the murals and ceiling, was shown.

The murals were painted by Mr. Laning as a project of the Works Projects Administration and were in process for about two years. The sketches were approved by the Board of Trustees on May 11, 1938. In addition to the four panels and two lunettes installed in April, 1940, a ceiling, also by Mr. Laning, was completed January 7, 1942. The murals represent four stages in "The Story of the Recorded Word." The third panel dealt with the great invention of printing.

The epoch-making importance of Gutenberg's role in the history of the recorded word will be known to everyone. Our panel shows him at his press. With the aid of an assistant, he is exhibiting to the Elector of Mainz,

Adolph of Nassau, a proof of his bible. After years of difficult experimentation on Gutenberg's part, during which he once lost all he owned to an unworthy partner, it was this Adolph of Nassau who rewarded him with a pension for life."

One of the illustrations of an article regarding Fifth Avenue and New York City in "Look" issue of August 12, 1952 is of this mural painting, showing its relative size to that of a man.

The commemorative stamp along with the forthcoming Newsboy commemorative stamp are two worthy additions to the editor's topical collection "The Printing Press." This collection, started in 1938 is of great interest because of the romance of the history of the printed word. It has many facets, the printing press, the newspaper or "press," Gutenberg, and can include publishers and books, etc.

The first country to commemorate printing was Montenegro, Scott 8-17, these stamps were the then current issue, types of 1874-93 overprinted in Cyrillic characters, "Proslava Stamparije" or "Commemoration of Printing," with the dates 1493 and 1893.

These stamps, along with stamped envelopes, also overprinted, were issued on or about July 25, 1803. They commemorate the first 400 years of the Slavonic press, 25 years after Caxton. This press was located at Obod.

This series of stamps, some with black and some with red overprints, were quite popular when they came out, (about the time of our Columbian World's Fair stamps) but in later years were in disgrace, because of improper manipulations such as canceled to order, fakes, double and inverted overprints and many other types of philatelic connivances that came on the market. Eleven stamps (listed in Scott), three stamped envelopes, two single postal cards and two double postal cards were issued.

A specialized collection of these items can fill a large volume, so many varieties are available. Canceled to order postal cards and stamped envelopes are found with the celebration dates of 7-25 and 7-26. These cancels are also on the stamps, but owing to the stamp size do not cover all the stamp, so are hard to find with the dates.

The next country to feature a printing press on its stamps was Mongolia.

The one mung value of the 1932 series of stamps show a Mongol at a modern printing press. These stamps were produced in Moscow and have their inscriptions both in English and in native language. The 20 mung stamp shows the teaching of the Latin Alphabet, under U.S.S.R. control. The one mung value must have been used for local mailing because this stamp is quite scarce despite the catalog pricing. The rest of the set of stamps are very common; apparently they were made for philatelic use.

Russia celebrated the 350th anniversary of the death of its first printer, Fedorov, by issuing two stamps of 20 and 40 kopecks during 1933. The design on both stamps show a statue of Fedorov, with an old hand worked press on the left and a modern high speed press on the right. Scott lists the stamp with 1934 listing; the stamps themselves can be found with canceled to order cancels dated 1934.

Spain issued in 1936, a series of regular and airmail stamps under the auspices of the Madrid Press Association, celebrating its 40th anniversary. These stamps depict portraits of four journalists on the lower values of the series. These twelve stamps are in three groups of four, each group a size larger. The three higher values show a modern printing press and newspapers in fore-ground, with a modernistic view of Nazareth College in background, a printing industry home for orphan children. Fifteen stamps and one special delivery stamp complete the series. Four values of the airmail set show newspapers and the special delivery features newsboys.

United States issued May 29, 1939 the 300th anniversary of printing in Colonial America, with one stamp depicting the Stephen Day Press.

Mexico issued September 7, 1939, a series of three regular and three airmail stamps, commemorating the 400th anniversary of printing in Mexico. These stamps, designed by Francisco Eppens, by format only, show early engraving and printing, and men associated in the early printing art of Mexico.

Hungary's "First National Protestant Day" series of semi postal stamps issued October 2, 1939, were designed by Alexander Legrady, printed by the Hungarian Printing Office at Budapest. Were on sale until December 31, 1939 and were valid for postage until June 30, 1940. The ten plus five f. value shows Gaspar Karoli, with bible, and

an old hand press. Pictorial cancels were placed on the first day, October 2, 1939, and again on the occasion of the celebration, October 28-31, 1939.

For the Leipzig Spring Fair, March 2-7, 1940, Germany issued a set of four stamps on March 2, 1940. The 3pf. stamp shows Gutenberg in the foreground and the German Library in the background. This library was also called the Hall of Printing, in which was shown an exhibit of printing, etc. The Gutenberg figure was copied from an old engraving and shows him wearing a hat trimmed with fur. Printers, in the old days wore apparel with some part of it of fur, as a badge of Industry or trade.

The five paras—50 dinar stamp of Yugoslavia issued September 29, 1940 depicts a bridge over a stream, with the words "Obod" and "Gutenberg" and dates, 1440-1940, in the outer frame appears the date, 1493. The later date, is the date of introduction of printing into Montenegro, at Obod. Information has been seen that Gutenberg once visited or worked at Obod, but I do not think that this is true, rather that the fact that Yugoslavia celebrated the anniversary of printing and called attention to their own claim of a part of the history of printing. The stamp was issued at a philatelic exhibition at Zagreb, September 29 to October 7, 1940. The first day cancel is printed over the stamp, in gold. The cancel depicts Gutenberg with the dates 1440 and 1940 plus exhibition date. An official first day of issue sheet gives the information that it was in commemoration of Gutenberg as well as for the philatelic exposition, 29. IX - 6. X. 1940.

Bulgaria issued two stamps on December 16, 1940. The one leva has a bust of Gutenberg as its design, with an old hand worked printing press and an open book for extra adornment; the other stamp has a bust of Nikola Karastoyanoff, the first Bulgarian printer and the dates 1840-1940, the hundred years of printing in Bulgaria. Other information states that Karastoyanov produced religious books, biographies of saints and school primers from 1826 to 1867, using the old hand worked printing press that also appears on this stamp, with an open book and some papers, one showing a religious illustration. The old press is supposed to be in Sofia's Ethnographical Museum.

Hungary issued a set of semi postal stamps in 1940 for the five hundred anniversary of the birth of King Mat-

thias. On the 32 plus 16 f. stamp an old open book is depicted, which Scott says is a rare manuscript. On the left page is shown an old hand worked printing press, with date, 1473, on the right page a piece of furniture, on which sets a dish holding plumed pens and a paper with an inscription, under these items is the word "Codex." Codex means, a manuscript.

The souvenir sheet of this set of stamps is of the value of 20f. plus 1p., but the ornamental border around the stamp depicts the central vignettes of all the other stamps of the series. To the right of the stamp of the sheet is the same book as previously mentioned, showing the printing press.

Finland issued two stamps on October 10, 1942, commemorating the three hundred years of the printing of the first bible in Finnish, 1642. The 3.50 m. stamp shows a printer at an old hand worked printing press. First day card with the stamps are cancelled on an old Finnish postal card. The wording regarding the event is in German instead of Finnish.

The ten values of a set of stamps issued by San Marino on April 10, 1943, were issued as propaganda of the printing press and newspapers. Six values show an old hand worked printing press and the head title of the newspaper of San Marino's fascist party. The four higher values show printed matter from the official printing press of the Government. Two of the lower values were overprinted for the Rimini Philatelic Exhibition and were issued on July 5, 1943.

(To be continued.)
compiled by F. L. Ellis.

CACHET FOR BICENTENNARY OF WASHINGTON'S INITIATION

Dr. Robert S. Barrett, executive secretary of the George Washington Masonic Bicentennial Commission, 404 Duke street, Alexandria, Va., informs me that plans are afoot to issue a cachet to be postmarked by Lodge No. 4 in Fredericksburg, Va., November 4, the 200th anniversary of the initiation of George Washington into Freemasonry. The cover will contain a photograph of the canopy in Fredericksburg Lodge which was in place when the ceremony took place. It is planned to put a 3¢ Washington stamp on each envelope, which is to be mailed on the anniversary date. The cost will be 15¢ for one or 25¢ for two, the proceeds going to pay the expense of the commission. This will be a memorial piece

which should be in the collection of every Masonic philatelist.

Efforts are being made to have the post office department issue a new George Washington stamp at that time, but whether this will be done is problematical.

The conductor of this service also is planning to produce a cachet for that occasion. The cover will contain Washington stamps of especial Masonic interest. Details and cost will be announced later. Profits will go to the educational fund of the Illinois Masonic Orphans Home.

"SOMETHING MASONIC"

E. Milnor Peck, operating the Fleetwood Cover Service, Pleasantville, N. Y., rates among the foremost dealers in First Day United States Covers. The Milnor Peck activities on First Day covers which concern themselves with "something Masonic" have made the Masonic Stamp Club Bank Balance —of pleasant proportions, to say the least. The Fleetwood Cover Service donates some of its profits to the Ralph Barry Publication Fund which makes the club journal possible. Some of these days, manuscripts coming in, this paper will increase its number of pages and the printer (Al Van Dahl) will be paid for doing the current "For Free job."—H.M.K.

William H. (Bill) Peters, former resident of Long Island, moved to interlaken, Florida, a few years ago, and is now a Town Councilman. Bill had a story on Helicopter Experiments (Stamps, June 28, 1950) and can be expected to send the editor of this paper a story soon—FOR FREE.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the St. Louis Southwestern (Cotton Belt) Railway Lines, the railroad is sponsoring a cachet October 1, 1952.

The diamond anniversary cachet will be printed in blue on white envelopes. It will be postmarked Tyler, Texas, where, on October 1, 1877, the Tyler Tap Railroad, first link in the present Cotton Belt Route, became operational.

Applications containing the name and complete address of the recipient, accompanied by a three cent stamp for each cover, should be made to the Public Relations Department, Cotton Belt Route, 619 Cotton Belt Building, St. Louis 2, Missouri, not later than September 1.

MASONS ON RECENT MEXICAN STAMPS

Mexico earlier this year issued a 10-peso air mail stamp with the portrait of Francisco I. Madero, revolutionary leader and president, and a 10p air mail with the portrait of Miguel Hidalgo, referred to as "Father of Mexican Independence."

President Madero and his vice president, J. M. Pino Suarez (Nos. 611 and 620), were assassinated in 1913. A letter to Bro. George B. Clark of Denver from the Grand Master of the York Grand Lodge of Mexico, in November 1948 said that both Madero and Suarez were members of Lealtad Lodge No. 15, Mexico City, the former acting S.W. at the time of the slaying.

The same source reported that Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, honored on many Mexican stamps, was betrayed to the Spaniards and after being degraded from the priesthood was executed at Chihuahua on July 30, 1811.

"This celebrated character is said to have been initiated into the fraternity by a secret Lodge formed by Spanish officers from the Peninsula who themselves had been initiated by French officers of Napoleon's invading army," the Grand Master wrote.

THE BUILDER of November 1916 said: "It was esoteric knowledge of the evils of his brother clergymen that led Miguel de Hidalgo, a Mexican priest, to forswear his vows and seek Masonic light in Mexico City in 1806."

Last October, Mexico issued a 15c stamp with the likeness of Benito Juarez, a full-blooded Zapotec Indian who rose from a shepherd boy to the presidency of Mexico and to high offices in the National Grand Lodge of Mexico. Miguel Aleman, present incumbent, also is a Mason. A complete collection of Masons on Mexican stamps is a sizeable one.

RIZAL MONUMENT STAMP A FINE MASONIC ADDITION

The PHILIPPINE JOURNAL OF PHILATELY, November - December 1951, has an interesting article on the Rizal Monument (Philippine 4c No. 504, issued in 1947), to which Wor. Bro. Luis Meneses of Manila adds Masonic information to make the stamp a fine addition to a Masonic collection.

Fifty years ago the original idea for the erection of the Rizal Monument, which stands at the Luneta in Manila,

was conceived by a newspaperman, Bro. Pascual H. Poblete. Bro. Poblete was a close friend of Bro. Jose Rizal—the national hero and Mason who gave his life for Philippine independence—and also translated into native tongue Rizal's famous novel, "Noli Me Tangere" (cover page shown on 18c plus 7c issued April 1, 1949). The suggestion was received enthusiastically.

The seeds of democracy were being introduced into the Philippines at that time. William H. Taft (see page 42 of Vol. 1) president of the Philippine Commission and first American civil governor-general of the islands, backed the project. A Commission was named, with Bro. Tomas G. del Rosario, another close friend of Rizal, as chairman. At least four of the other eight commissioners were Masons at the time or subsequently joined the Craft. Funds were raised publicly, and the monument was dedicated on December 30, 1912.

Bro. Meneses writes further, based on information given him by the 1912 Master of Sinukuan Lodge No. 305, then under the Gran Logia Regional de Filipinas, now No. 16 under the present Grand Lodge: "On December 28, 1912, the remains of Bro. Rizal were removed from the home of his sister to Solomon's Temple in Tondo. The Lodges under the Gran Logia Regional de Filipinas, with Sinukuan Lodge in charge, participated in the Masonic services over the remains. On the next morning, again with Sinukuan Lodge in charge, the Masons marched in procession with full Masonic regalia to the sister's home where the remains were turned over to the government's representatives. The remains were taken to the Legislative Building where the government also held funeral services. On the morning of December 30, the government took charge of the interment. Masons took part as individuals."

Bro. Meneses also reported that a request that the remains be taken to the Cathedral for religious services was turned down by a majority of the committee. The Roman Catholics of the Philippines, after Rizal became a national hero, claimed he had renounced Freemasonry on the eve of his execution and had reembraced the Church. Every evidence refutes the reported "conversion," which was not claimed until many years after the execution.