



the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 9

DECEMBER 1952

No. 4



Illustrated corner cards of the late nineteenth century, pertaining to Masonic interest. Covers showing corner card of the Iowa Masonic Library and corner card of King David Lodge of Taunton, Mass. There are few lodges today that have anything more on their envelopes than their return address.

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 4
DECEMBER 1952

Published by
The Ralph A. Barry Publication Fund
of
The Masonic Stamp Club of New York

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● Meetings ●

First and Last Friday Each Month

Collectors Club Bldg., 22 E. 35th Street

Jan. 2—Board of Governors Meeting, 7:30.
Turkey Hash, do not make hash out of your
resolution to attend one of our meetings, be
at this one and make Carl Pihl happy.

Jan. 30—Mr. Julian Blanchard, Ph. D. Stamps
and Paper Money with similar designs.
Come and hear "Mr. Banknote" tell about
his hobby. He knows his stuff and has the
material to prove it.

The editor wishes that he could greet
each and every brother of the Club per-
sonally and say "BEST WISHES AND
ALL THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE
SEASON." Thank you for your kind
letters and cards.

By the Sign of the GAVEL

Once again it becomes my very great
pleasure to bring you the Season's
Greetings, which I do not only for my-
self, but also for all the officers of our
Club. To each of you and your fami-
lies goes a cordial wish of good fellow-
ship and Happiness for Christmas. For
the New Year, may success crown your
efforts and the spirit of good will
brought out by Christmas continue
throughout the year.

The Masonic Stamp Club announces
with regret the death of Mrs. Henry
Friedman—we extend our deepest sym-
pathy to our dear brother.

It would not be amiss if you would
consider that the Masonic Stamp Club
is YOU, individually and collectively,
and the continued success of the Club
depends in a large measure on your
support. Let us each resolve to im-
prove our relations with the Club.
Those who live in and around New
York can do so by getting to meetings
more often. Those whose distance
away make this impractical can at
least let us hear from them once in a
while. Your Editor needs badly ar-
ticles for the Philatelist, either about
your collections or items of personal
interest. Add this to your New Year's
resolutions.

This message will close on the same
note it started with—A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR TO YOU ALL.

Arthur I. Heim.

NEW MEMBERS

Louis Staub,
2364 Tiebout Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
Dirigo Lodge #30.

Lt. Frank G. Domin, Jr.,
Officers Mail Section, Box 501,
Forbes Air Force Base, Kansas.
Port Tampa Lodge #153, Florida.

Ralph Magoffin,
1500 Washington Street, Columbia, S. C.
Richland Lodge #39.

About the Club

Bro. Harry L. Kinne is the author
of an interesting article in the Western
Stamp Collector of November 15, 1952,
regarding the Japanese Nagasaki com-
memorative postage stamp, issued on
August 9, 1949.

He explains the symbolism of the
stamp vignette and tells of the "Secret
Christians" of Nagasaki.

Bro. Arthur Zimmerman has been on
the sick list and is confined to his home.

We are rather amiss in not noting
that STAMPS has just had its 20th
birthday. Issue number 1 was of Sep-
tember 17, 1932. Bro. Lindquist's
magazine was launched during the be-
ginning of the Great Depression, but
Harry and his staff of wonderful people

put it over right from the beginning. The magazine has always been in first place, right from the start.

Bro. Charles Lott came down from Buffalo to visit the ADSA show, went back to Buffalo and then came back to New York to be with us on Friday night for our club meeting. All in the space of one week; some of our metropolitan members have never attended a meeting because they "do not have the time."

Bro. Burleigh E. Jacobs, Milwaukee, Wis., former vice president of the American Philatelic Society, has been nominated for president of the Society for the two year term beginning September, 1953 in a nomination filed by members of the Washington, D. C. Philatelic Society.

Bro. Sol Glass was nominated for director at large.

(STAMPS)

Bro. Jacob S. Glaser is preparing a series of articles on the stamps of Colombia, S. A. for the Masonic Philatelist. The first to appear will be in February issue and will tell about the SCADTA air mail stamps of Colombia.

Bro. W. Frank Davis writes—"Kingston this summer celebrated its 300 commemorative anniversary of its settlement this summer. It was marked by a visit of the Queen of Holland and numerous plays and art exhibits during the summer. They should have had a stamp issued but they were too late in their application. They could have had a lovely stamp made of the old Senate House, the oldest office building in the United States and in which Washington opened a Masonic Lodge in the 1780s. Kingston also came near to being the Capital of the United States only the Dutch did not offer enough land."

He also writes—"I am 81 next month (December) and have been a collector for 68 years. I have United States, Canada, Great Britain and two books on Masonic stamps. I am still working at my profession but have little time to devote to stamps lately."

BACK NUMBERS

As the months go by there is an increasing demand for back numbers of the MASONIC PHILATELIST.

In some cases the missing number wanted can be supplied, but when we are asked for complete volumes, back to number one,—no can do.

To help out in this situation the editor is willing to be the go-between. Do

Our President Arthur Heim was operated on in the Jamaica, N. Y. hospital on Monday, December 1. He is doing o. k. at present writing and by the time you will receive the PHILATELIST he will be at home.

not send any back number you might not care to keep, but let us know the numbers of the issues, so that we can let you know who might want them.

If you wish any other number than what you have to complete your volumes, let us know,—we might be able to supply you. If we do not have your missing numbers, we will put your name on the list to receive them when they might turn up. A couple of years ago, five copies of number one were found and they were soon placed in Masonic libraries.

During the U. S. Stamp Centennial at the Cipex held in 1947, our large supply of the then current issue ran out so that we had to dip into our back number reserve to supply stamp collectors who visited the Club's booth.

October 31, 1952 Meeting

Steve Rich was the scheduled speaker for this meeting, but notified the program chairman about ten days before that he would be unable to make it.

This was ample time for our versatile secretary, Doc. Irwin Yarry, to prepare a talk on British West Indies, which he presented under the title, "A Caribbean Cruise."

Doc has a fine collection of British Colonies, specializing in postally used stamps. Naturally, in the time available, only a few of the more interesting high lights could be shown, yet this was enough to hold interest right up to closing time.

First, he had a map of the West Indian Islands projected on a large screen, by which before showing the stamps, he told us of places and events of interest. One can not really understand the tremendous amount of territory that these British Isles cover, unless the subject was projected into our minds, as Doctor Yarry did.

Second, the way the various colony's stamps were used in places other than place of issue, these can be told only by the number appearing in the cancellation, there being no covers in the collection.

Third, the beautiful condition and perfection of cancellation of the

stamps. Many of the blocks were cancelled in such a way one would think they were cancelled to order, but Doc says that the postmasters were very careful how their postal duty was performed.

The thanks of the Club goes to our Secretary for pinch hitting so successfully by displaying his fine collection. Heim.

November 7, 1952 Meeting

Those who recognize and appreciate Brother Marcus White as the dean of United States postal stationery collectors were agreeably surprised with a wonderful showing of Worcester (Mass.) and Worcester County cancellations on cover.

Brother White brought ten cover albums all the way from Worcester and some of the material he showed was nothing short of amazing. 1847 Orange Browns and 1861 pinks were incidental. The earliest Worcester cover was dated 1792, just one year after the Worcester post office was authorized. The first postmaster of Worcester was Isaiah Thomas, who had been the first Grand Master of Masons of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Many of the covers shown by Marcus were franked by Thomas. The whole showing was especially interesting because Worcester was apparently second to Waterbury, Conn. for fancy cancels. Brother White's cover albums are not of the usual small albums, but are so large that each occupies a cover box similar to the size of those boxes that you get when you buy a new suit. The collection covers the entire time of the Worcester post office from 1792 up to the present time, each change of cancel is shown by many covers such as the first date known and the last date used that Bro. Marcus could find. Then the various postal rate changes and various charges of those rates according to distance, weight, etc.

The first cancels were of the straight line type, then into the circle daters and when the fancy killer cancels were the rage the Worcester postal clerks kept up their reputation to be second to none.

The machine cancels and flags and slogan cancels were there and in their place as their right as much as the early classics. The air mail covers by stamps and rates as used by the Worcester postal area were also shown.

The Worcester County covers were shown by themselves, some 150 post

offices. One of these post offices was of the same name as Bro. Marcus' lodge, Quinsigamond, now a postal station of Worcester (Sta. C.).

It is a matter to be regretted that there were no Masonic cancellations, at least none that could be positively identified as such. Those who missed this meeting missed out on a real treat. Heim.

Samuel C. Paige of Boston, Mass. had three covers that bore Masonic cancels in his December 6, 1952 auction sale. These covers were a part of his 10-frame exhibit at the ASDA show November 21-23, 1952 in New York. The covers, of 1861 vintage, were from Brookline, Mass.; East Eddington, Maine; and Boston, Mass.

— WANTED —

ASSOCIATED EDITORS — Would you like to take over a page, a half page, a column, a half column, of the MASONIC PHILATELIST under your own byline? Subject to the editor's blue pencil, of course.

We are often asked for a list of known Masonic personages on the postage stamps of the world. There is no such a list, but it might be possible to make this a project of your own, and compile this information.

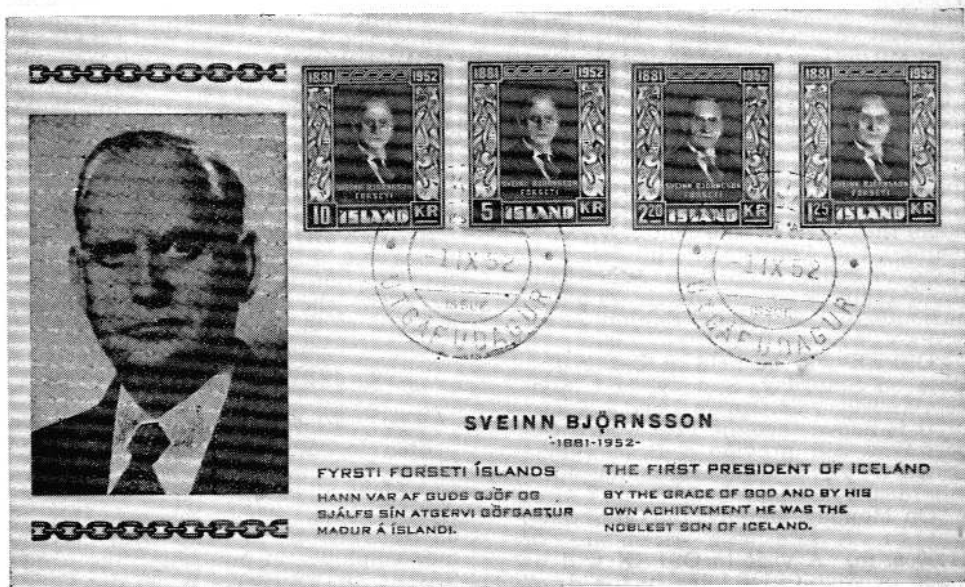
Who will volunteer to undertake this compilation?

Monthly reports would be published and at the end of each year a list could be made up of all of the information in loose leaf form.

For that New Year resolution—send a packet of stamps up to Utica, addressed to Bro. Knight, Masonic Home, Utica, N. Y., or to your nearest State home for boys and girls. You do not have to write a letter or undertake some tedious job to send these stamp packets, just slip a few you might have laying around into an envelope at any time at all and send them on their way. A few stamps the children will get that way is better than a large lot that never comes.

There will be a slogan cancel for the Ohio Sesquicentennial. OHIO SESQUICENTENNIAL / 1803 CHILLICOTHE / 1953 FIRST CAPITAL. Available on self-addressed envelopes or cards, stamped of course, from the postmaster at Chillicothe, Ohio.

Freemasonry In Iceland



An interesting article on "Freemasonry in Iceland" in the September issue of *THE NEW AGE*, the official organ of the Supreme Council 33, Scottish Rite, Washington, D. C. written by Kenneth P. Armstrong relates that—"Freemasonry was brought to Iceland thirty-three years ago by fourteen Icelanders who had received their degrees in Denmark. Under the authority of the National Grand Lodge of Denmark they founded Edda Lodge in Reykjavik on January 6, 1919.

"Icelandic Freemasonry, as in all the Scandinavian countries, follows the Swedish Rite, which has eleven degrees. The first three degrees are similar to ours, and Lodges of these degrees are known as Lodges of St. John. The higher degrees are somewhat analogous to our York Rite, but with the difference that all eleven degrees are subordinate to the same Grand Lodge. Lodges of the 4th, 5th, and 6th degrees are called Lodges of St. Andrew, while the remaining five degrees are conferred in the Chapter.

"Of the Fourteen original founders of Freemasonry in Iceland, four were Brethren of the first degree only, three each were of the third, fifth and sixth degrees, respectively, and one of the eighth degree. Only three of these

Brethren are now living, one of whom has attained the ninth degree and two the tenth.

"Sveinn Björnsson, the late President of Iceland, was one of the founders. At that time, in 1919 he had the sixth degree. At the time of his death, on January 25th of this year (1952), he had received the highest degree, the eleventh, and was Grand Master of Icelandic Freemasonry.

"Icelandic Freemasonry was originally under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Denmark, but had its own Provincial Grand Master. Iceland separated from Denmark in 1944 and became an independent republic. The Grand Lodge of Iceland was constituted a sovereign grand jurisdiction on July 23, 1951, at a meeting in Reykjavik with representatives of the Grand Lodges of Denmark and Sweden.

"Edda Lodge of St. John was founded January 6, 1919. Run Lodge of St. John was founded in Akureyri, July 11, 1932. Helgafell Lodge of St. Andrew was established in Reykjavik, December 20, 1933, and Huld Lodge of St. Andrew in Akureyri, December 20, 1948. (Akureyri is a city on the north coast of Iceland near the Arctic Circle). The Chapter of the Higher degrees was established in Reykjavik, June 1, 1948."

New Stamp Issues

Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson has announced that four commemorative postage stamps will be issued during the early part of next year.

National Guard stamp on February 23, 1953; Ohio Statehood and Washington Territory on March 2, 1953; Louisiana Purchase on April 30, 1953.

From the December 13, 1952 issue of the **FOREST ROSE PHILATELIST** of Lancaster, Ohio, we learn that "To honor the occasion, (the Ohio Sesquicentennial) the Chillicothe Philatelic Society, in cooperation with other Ohio stamp clubs, is sponsoring an Ohio Sesquicentennial Philatelic Exhibition, or OSPEX.

"OSPEX will be held at Chillicothe, Ohio on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, February 28, March 1 and 2, 1953.

"It is hoped that the Post Office Department will provide a Branch Post Office, a special postmark, and a philatelic display.

"On Monday, March 2, the Ohio stamp will go on sale with ceremonies at 11:00 a. m. A visit to OSPEX will be made by dignitaries later in the day."

Some time around April of 1952, Representative Russell V. Mack of Washington introduced a bill for a stamp to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Territorial Government of the state of Washington.

During February, 1949, in the 1st Session of the 81st Congress, Hale Boggs introduced H.R. 2769 for the issuance of a stamp to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the first colony in the Louisiana Territory. The bill was shelved with the great many other bills introduced in the Congress of 1949 calling for stamps to commemorate various events, etc. Again in the early part of 1952, Representative Boggs introduced a bill calling for a commemorative postage stamp, this time, for the 150th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. Perseverance paid off!

\$70 REALIZED FOR POSTAL CARD

The United States postal card sold at auction during the Nov. 5-7, 1952 sale of Harmer, Rooke & Co., New York, for \$70.00 was not cancelled with a first day cancel as noted in the philatelic press.

This card, the 1873 Liberty Head card, (Scott UX1) had a circular stamp, like a postmark, reading "U. S. Postal Card Agency, May 12 1873" on it and a note on the back of the card stating

that it was from the first sheet.

The Postal Card Agency did not have a post office, all its business was done through the post office at Springfield, Mass. To have a first day cancel the card would have to have the cancellation of Springfield, Mass. and without this cancel the card is nothing but a souvenir, for it never went through the mails or was it sold by a postmaster or his clerk. It is possible that Uncle Sam did not collect his cent for the card!

There were 36 cards in the first perfect sheet, this sheet was approved by the Post Office Department on April 30, 1873. The card could also be called a proof card.

ISAIAH THOMAS

First Postmaster of Worcester, Mass.

Encyclopedia Britannica says of him,—"born in Boston, Mass., January 19, 1749; died in Worcester, Mass., April 4, 1831. About the year 1770 he entered into partnership with his former employer in publishing the **MASACHUSETTS SPY**. When the Tories at Boston loudly opposed Thomas' Whig principles he transplanted his types and press to Worcester, Mass. In 1801 Mr. Thomas retired from the conduct of the paper. In 1812 he founded the Worcester Antiquarian Society, donating to it his large and valuable library, besides giving land and building its hall, with a provision of about \$24,000 for its maintenance. In 1818 Alleghany College gave him the degree of LL.D. Thomas also established the **NEW ENGLAND ALMANAC**. He was the author of a **HISTORY of PRINTING**, and was the first to introduce music type in America."

Bro. White has copies (photostats) of all the orders making Isaiah Thomas the first postmaster of Worcester and also a hand written letter by Thomas telling of his termination of that office.

Robert Scot, engraver of the first Federal U. S. Revenue stamps, 1798, and as the first engraver of the Mint, the coins of the United States, 1793-1823, was a Mason and at one time was a member of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

On November 19, 1952, the Scandinavian Air Lines operated a flight from Los Angeles, California, via Canada; Thule, Greenland, to Copenhagen, Denmark.

COMMUNIST COUNTRY HONORS AMERICAN-RAISED MASON

Hungary on March 15 issued a 20f stamp bearing the portrait of Louis Kossuth, one of a "Holiday of Liberty" series. It is ironical that the Communist-dominated country honored a Mason—an American-raised one at that—for the part he played in trying to obtain the freedom of the Hungarian people, and yet Freemasonry has been suppressed by the present government.

It was in 1848 that the people of Hungary revolted against the despotism of Austria. Kossuth was one of the leaders in the movement, but the Russian czar joined the Austrian emperor in suppressing the uprising. Kossuth escaped. By Congressional resolution, an American battleship was sent to bring him from England.

The NEW YORK TIME on Dec. 7, 1951, commented editorially on the 100th anniversary of Kossuth's arrival on American soil, saying in part:

"On Dec. 7, 1851, the cannons boomed, the church bells rang and the whistles of the boats in New York harbor went full blast as Louis Kossuth, Hungary's dauntless exile, stepped ashore at the battery. New Yorkers by the thousand gave him a wildly enthusiastic welcome. . . . He caused so much excitement here because he symbolized something dear to Americans — the spirit of freedom."

The editorial raised some question whether Kossuth should be honored because it considered him a chauvinist—an over-zealous and extravagant glorifier of his country, yet added: "But we do not honor him for his chauvinism but because he did, for all his faults, burn with the clear passion of freedom."

While here, Kossuth under date of Feb. 18, 1852, petitioned Cincinnati Lodge No. 133, F. & A. M., Cincinnati, Ohio. The petition is somewhat unusual. It read:

"The petition of the subscriber respectfully sheweth that having long entertained a favorable opinion of your Ancient Institution, he is desirous of being admitted a member thereof, if found worthy.

"Being an exile for Liberty's sake, and having no place of fixed residence, is now staying at Cincinnati; his age is 49½ years; his occupation is to restore his native land, Hungary, to its national independence, and to achieve by community of action with other nations, civil and religious liberty in

Europe.

"Louis Kossuth."

The petition was made a "case of emergency" and action taken thereon. The degrees were conferred within two days. A week later, speaking before Center Lodge No. 23 at Indianapolis, he said:

"The Masonic brotherhood is one which tends to better the conditions of mankind, and we are delighted to know it enlists the attention of so many Brethren around us as we find surrounding us here. . . . To one like myself, without a country or a home, dependent upon the hospitality of strangers for life and protection, a great substitute for all my privations is, I find, to be surrounded by Brethren of the Masonic Order."

On another occasion he said: "If all men were Freemasons, oh, what a world-wide and glorious republic we should have!"

In the Freemasons Monthly Magazine of June, 1852, I found a most interesting account of his visit to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in Boston, May 10, 1852. More than 400 were present and hundreds were turned away.

"Could the doors of the Grand Lodge have been thrown open, and the public found space to hear his remarks, they would have seen that the oracles of Ancient Craft Masonry at all times and in all places, wherever uttered, breathed only the freedom of man, attachment to good order, and love of virtue," said the magazine. "The great Magyar only spoke, in his eloquent way, the true principles of the Institution."

Kossuth was quoted as then saying: "Masonry has never flourished where a country is ruled by despotism."

That statement, made a century ago, holds good today. Speculative Masonry was established in Hungary more than 200 years ago. In 1920, the Symbolic Grand Lodge of Hungary was suppressed by a governmental decree. That order was rescinded in 1946, but in June, 1950, the government announced that the lodges of Freemasonry in Hungary had been dissolved. The reason, according to the official statement, was that the lodges were "the meeting places of the enemies of the People's Democratic (Communist) Republic, of capitalist elements, and of the adherents of western imperialism."

Kossuth also is portrayed on Hungary 475 and 821. The 50th anniversary of his death was commemorated by a four-stamp series, No. 621 to 624.

A THOUGHT IN PASSING

Our forefathers laid a strong foundation, a magnificent cornerstone of Freemasonry in this nation. By that very act they made it incumbent upon us to build a superstructure worthy of that foundation. We can keep the good of the past only by vitalizing it with the best of today.

THE CATHEDRAL AT STRASBOURG, AND FREEMASONRY

In my collection, one of the least expensive and yet most illuminating stamps from a Masonic standpoint is the 70c stamp issued by France in 1939 (No. 389) showing the Cathedral at Strasbourg. It reminds me of the days of Operative Masonry.

An extremely enlightening story is to be found in "Essay on the Cathedral of Strasbourg," written by the French Abbe Grandidier, in 1782. The Abbe, a non-Mason, is said to have been the first writer who ventured to hint at the existence of an historical connection between the Fraternity of Freemasons and that of the German Stonemasons. A condensed version of the Abbe's account follows:

"The Masons of those fabrics and their pupils—spread over the whole of Germany—to distinguish themselves from the common workmen, formed themselves into the Fraternity of Masons, to which they gave the German name 'Huetten,' which signifies lodges; but they all agreed to recognize the authority of the original one at Strasbourg, which was named 'Haupt-Huetten,' or Grand Lodge.

"The different Masters of the individual lodges assembled at Ratisbon, where they drew up on the 25th of April, 1459, the Act of Fraternity which established the chief of the Cathedral at Strasbourg and his successors as sole and perpetual Grand Master of the Fraternity of Freemasons of Germany. . . .

"The square, level and compasses became their attributes. Resolved to form a body distinct from the common herd of workmen, they invented for use among themselves rallying words and tokens of recognition, and other distinguishing signs. . . . The Apprentices, Companions and Masters were received with ceremonies conducted in secret. They took for their motto 'Liberty.' They were a fraternity and practiced a secret art or technology.

"The Freemasons carried the architecture of their country throughout the whole of Europe. They indentured their apprentices; initiated only those who were to form members of their body. They bound them to secrecy by imposing oaths. They carefully concealed, and even destroyed documents which might disclose their knowledge. They formed a secret language that they might describe their art to each other without uninitiated persons understanding them; and they formed a code of secret signs that they might recognize each other as Masons, though personally unknown to each other, and keep strangers from getting into fellowship with them.

"The Lombard kings having been very zealous in spreading the Christian religion, the Freemasons were largely employed in filling their dominions with churches and monasteries. They spread into other countries in search of work. . . . They also imposed conditions on the parishes in which they labored. Thus a covenant was entered into between a lodge of Freemasons and the church wardens of Parish Suffolk, in the reign of Henry VI, that each Mason be furnished with a pair of leather gloves and a white apron, and that a lodge, properly tiled, should be built for their meetings at the expense of the parish."

According to J. G. Findel's "History of Freemasonry," published in 1865, the Abbe originally told this story in 1778 in a letter to a lady. After describing the workings of the Strasbourg Masons, the cleric said:

"You will doubtless recognize, in these particulars, the Freemasons of modern times. In fact, the analogy is plain—the same name 'Lodges' signifies the place of assembly; there is the same order in their distribution the same distribution of Masters, Companions and Apprentices; and both (sic) are presided over by a Grand Master. They have particular signs, secret laws, statutes against the profane; in fine they can say one to the other 'My Brethern and my Companions know me for a mason.'"

A quaint tradition concerning the Cathedral will be published in the next issue of MASONRY ON POSTAGE STAMPS.

New York City zone number 72 is now appearing in later cancels.