

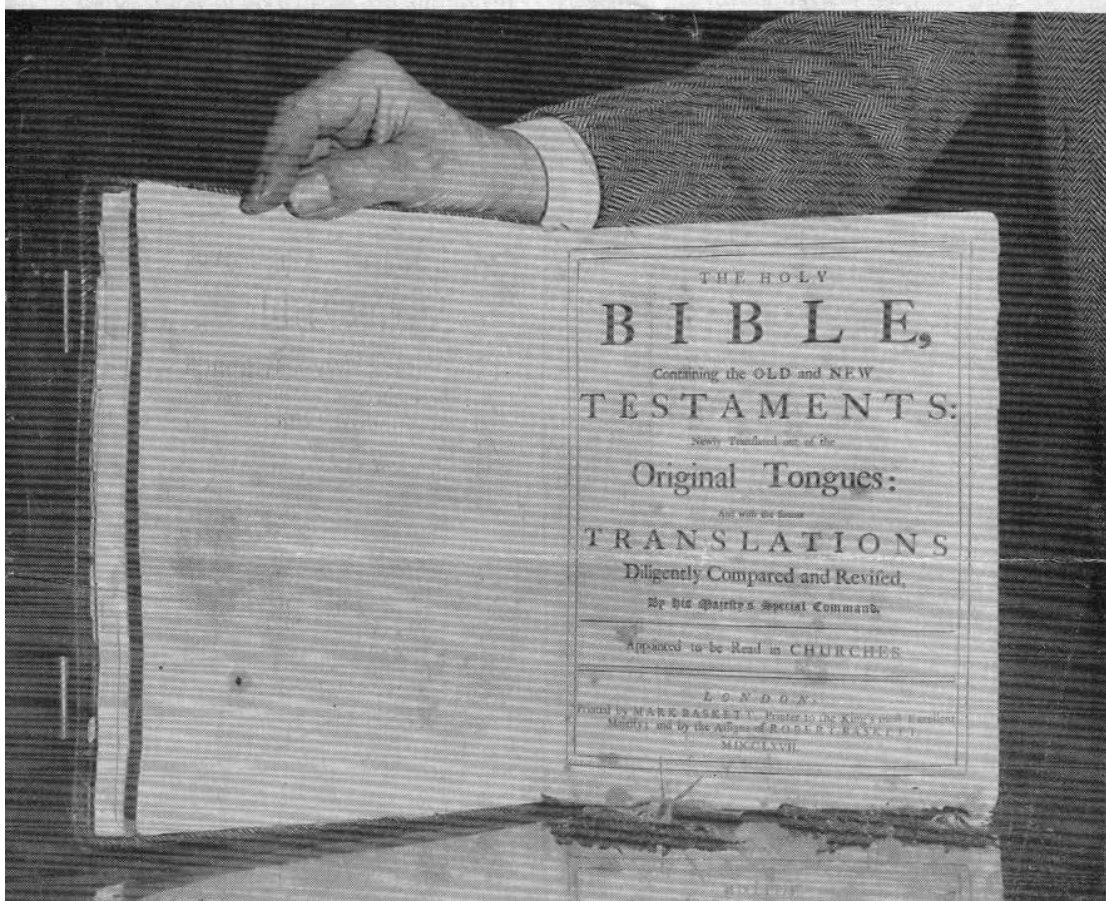


the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 9

JANUARY 1953

NO. 5



(NEWS foto by Pat Candido)

The Washington Bible on which Dwight D. Eisenhower took oath. (See page 4)

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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● Meetings ●

First and Last Friday Each Month

Collectors Club Bldg., 22 E. 35th Street

In Memoriam

Fred W. Barrett
Poultney, Vermont
Morning Star Lodge #37

New Members

Alexander Richards
95 Elliot Street
Springfield, Mass.
Springfield Lodge, Mass.

John Wilkanowski
106 Eagle Street
Brooklyn 22, N. Y.
Tuscan Lodge #704 Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dr. Morris Herman
Davidson
Saskatchewan, Canada
Sec'y Davidson Lodge #33

John A. Hubert
2224 Vine Street
Cincinnati 19, Ohio
Hanselmann Lodge #208

Change of Address

L. Charles Bieh
to R.D. #3 Germantown Pike,
Norristown, Pa.

By the Sign of the GAVEL

During the holiday season the Post Office Department is called upon to carry millions of Christmas cards and other greetings and this enormous load results in longer delays than usual. The effect of this is to retard the normal movement of such classes of mail as our PHILATELIST, and so some, if not all of you, did not receive your copy of the December issue until after Christmas. Hence, what was intended as a Christmas greeting did not arrive in time. However many of you very kindly sent messages of good cheer to me via more expeditious mail and I wish to take this opportunity to thank you, one and all.

Immediately after the November 23 meeting I betook myself to the hospital for what is a relatively routine operation. I found that it may be routine to cut a person to pieces in a couple of hours, but it takes weeks to get back together again. Good progress is being made and I hope to be good as new again by the time you read this. My stay at the hospital and later at home was brightened by a number of cheery cards, and here again I would like to express my appreciation collectively. It is much easier to get well when one has so many good friends pulling for him.

You have all received greetings from our Treasurer, Harry Konwiser, and I am sure Harry will be wanting to hear from you. Don't forget to send in payment for your dues if you have not already done so.

How about bringing a guest (particularly if he is a prospective new member) to our meetings?

Arthur I. Heim.

November 28 Meeting

The Maximum Card Society this time was represented by Miss C. M. Madison, who showed a collection of United States and foreign maximum cards and gave comments on each card as represented.

Miss Madison also gave particular emphasis to the correct way of collecting the maximum cards, explaining the rules that have to be followed in order that this method of collecting might progress with integrity. So many collectors who want to "get into the act," with side lines that are at variance to the established rule of collecting maximum cards, can easily upset the "apple cart."

December 5 Meeting

Bro. Clarence Brazer's collection of the proofs and essays of the Columbian commemorative issue of 1893 was the basis of his talk regarding these pristine emissions.

As always Bro. Brazer spoke with authority because his collection of proofs and essays has a sound basic foundation of research.

He showed "proofs" mounted on large cards that could hardly be called proofs, because through his research he was able to show that these stamp proofs were manufactured by the American Bank Note Co. from stamp dies long after the first impressions were made. These Columbian stamp proofs show the various die varieties that cropped up long after the stamp issues were first produced. These varieties are the broken line, etc. types.

To see the completeness of Bro. Brazer's collection, one would think that it was put together at one time, but he informed us that it was completed by obtaining an item at a time as these items came on the market.

On the Dues Line with HMK

Bro. Jose Ruell in remitting his 1953 dues also added three dollars for the publication fund. This fund issues the Masonic Philatelist.

Bro. Henry Jonas, one of our oldest members is a general collector but now has a new hobby—Topical Stamps—this consists of pictures of horses, featuring the well-known Hambletonian. Jonas lives in Goshen, New York where the Hambletonian is the important event of the year, each year. Brother Jonas' lodge, Goshen Lodge, No. 365 F. & A. M. is one of the older lodges in New York State.

Bro. Jewell L. Potter, reports that Oneida Lodge No. 27 celebrated its 100th anniversary recently and "Paid off its mortgage."

Bro. L. N. Williams, writing from Hartford, Conn. trusts he will be able in the near future to get to one of our meetings.

Bro. John A. Mirt of Chicago, writes that he will be in New York in June, next.

Bro. Doctor Rudolf Holz says, "Sorry could not attend our Masonic Stamp Club meeting as I wish I could, have to rest a lot (on Doctors order)."

Bro. Harold Matters sends regards to the boys from sunny St. Pete, Florida.

Bro. Albert H. Feinerman, M. D. of

Macomb, Illinois writes, "I quit stamps a year ago. But I am still hoping to get back to them as soon as I get my hotel property going. But the hotel and my medical practice took too much time to leave me any for stamps. I have had to drop out of active Masonic work also but I still keep up in DeMolay work and am Scribe of the Advisory Board of our local chapter of which we are very proud. Before long I hope to be back in stamps again and you'll find my ads in the stamp papers around the world."

Bro. William H. Dabel of Frisco tells us that "Have just received my 27th award, a gold cup, for a showing of my Hawaii precancels. It looks as if I am also collecting ribbons, medals and now cups. It's a lot of fun." Wishes all the members a Happy New Year.

Bro. Charles A. Lott Reporting

The Niagara Frontier Federation of Stamp Clubs annual Exhibition, Bourse and Banquet will be held next April 18, 1953 (Saturday) at the Hotel Niagara in Niagara Falls. Harold Finn of Lockport is the President of this Federation. It includes all the stamp clubs of Western New York and those of Niagara Peninsula of Ontario, Canada.

An organization meeting was held at the Hotel Niagara on Saturday, December 13 with representatives of stamp clubs from Rochester, Olean, East Aurora, Buffalo, Lockport and Niagara Falls of New York and from Welland and St. Catharines of Ontario, Canada.

All committees have been appointed with Victor Walton of Niagara Frontier Stamp Club as General Chairman.

Bro. Harry Lindquist has promised that if he is in this country at that time, he will come up and be the speaker at the banquet, so you will note that we are getting off to a good start. At the annual meeting of our little club here at the Falls, I was re-elected as president of the club and A. Earl Dixon, another member of the Masonic Stamp Club is chairman of the program committee.

Best wishes and all the compliments of the season to all the boys of the Club.

The Philippines in November issued 5c and 6c postage and 30c airmail stamps showing a Filipino woman holding "a letter from Rizal." Rizal was a Mason and is the republic's national hero.

Washington Bible Used At Ike's Inaugural

(Reprinted from THE NEWS, New York's Picture Newspaper)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 18—(AP)—Gen. Eisenhower will take the oath of office as President Jan. 20 on the same Bible George Washington used when he was sworn in as the first President.

This was announced today by Senator Styles Bridges, chairman of the joint Congressional inaugural committee.

He described the Bible as 200 years old. It had been in the possession of St. John's Lodge No. 1 of the Ancient York Masons, New York City, for the past 195 years.

New Yorker First Suggested Bible's Use

Robert J. Kennedy, a retired New York City newspaperman of 170 W. 73d St., who first suggested—through The News—that Ike take his inaugural oath on the same Bible used in Washington's inaugural, was "deeply pleased" to learn yesterday that Eisenhower would follow his suggestion.

"Millions of people will see the inauguration on TV," he declared. "I hope they'll all notice the Bible. It may help us to return to the principles of George Washington and the ideals that made this country great."

The Washington Bible, owned by St. Johns Lodge of Masons, is stored at their headquarters, 71 W. 73d St.

Now that Gen. Eisenhower has decided that he will take his inaugural oath on the Bible used by George Washington at his first inaugural, we think praise and recognition should be given to the column reader who suggested the idea. We're talking about reader Robert J. Kennedy of 170 W. 73d St., Manhattan, who was a newspaperman in the days of the old Morning Sun. We're going to quote from a letter written by friend Kennedy before Eisenhower made his decision.

"Washington, like Eisenhower, was a man of enormous energy. He had the cool brain of the man of business, and an inflexible sense of justice, and an indomitable will. Since 1789, when he took the oath on this same Bible, this tremendous energetic nation has grown into one of 160,000,000 people, and we feel confident the future destiny of the United States is progress, and a continued interest in the world and its people.

INSPIRED BY A VISIT TO BROAD AND WALL STS.

"The idea of having the Washington Bible used during the inauguration came to me a few days after the election of Eisenhower. I was in the vicinity of the Sub-Treasury at Wall and Nassau Sts., where Washington's imposing figure and grave and masterful face is identified in the statue of him that stands in front of the beautiful Greek pillars of this low dignified building—rich in historical associations.

"The big moment in the inauguration ceremony, the electric one, the inspiring and heart-uplifting one, will come when Gen. Eisenhower places his hand on that same Bible. It will be a big moment in the life of this man who has served his country well for 40 years. He will feel for the first time the great responsibility that has fallen on his shoulders, and then, perhaps the following words from Chief Justice Vinson, 'I now pray the blessing of Almighty God will rest upon you during the years to come.'

"When Washington took the oath only a few thousand people were present. This time the intimate features of the ceremony will be brought to millions of people the world over, by radio, TV, and the press, and they will really get a bird's-eye view of such minute details as a result of the prying eye of the television camera. It will be another great day in the history of America, if not the world, but really, I don't think the Kremlin will like it.

"Sincerely,
Robert J. Kennedy."

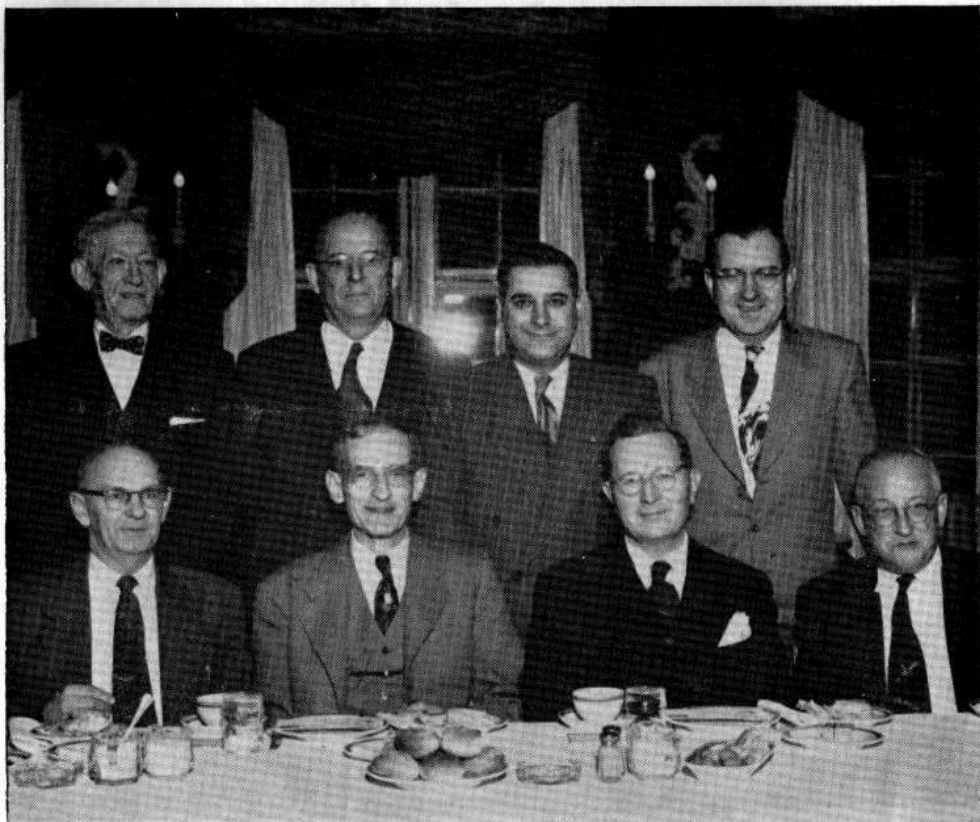
Honors for Henneman

Western Stamp Collector informs us that Harry O. Henneman has been named chairman of a committee to plan the annual banquet of the Denver Stamp Club to be held some time in January. Knowing from past experience, the Denver Stamp Club is in for a "LULU" of a time because Bro. Harry can sure put on a program.

Bro. Harry has also been honored by being elected President of the Theodore Steinway Music Unit.



Washington taking the Oath of Office on Bible now in possession of St. John's Lodge of Masons, New York City. Gen. Eisenhower took his oath of office on the same Bible on Jan. 20, 1953.



Christmas party of Schenectady, N. Y. Stamp Club. Hotel Van Curler. Left to right, 1st row, Ted Smith—Treas.; H. H. Hopkins—Vice Pres.; J. Mac Donald Myers—Pres.; Chas. Baldwin—Sec. 2nd row, A Filkins—Retired Supt. of Mails, Schenectady; Jas. F. Connelly—Postmaster; H. Pat Herst—speaker of the evening; Elmer Long, Harrisburg, Pa. Bros. Myers, Herst and Long are members of the Masonic Stamp Club and are also Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

BEN FRANKLIN, A MASON

RICHARD M. NEEDHAM, 32°

Depicted on the 5¢ 1847 issue of the United States of America (Scott's #1) is the likeness of Benjamin Franklin, from a portrait by James B. Longacre. The die was not made new for the stamp but was a stock die previously used for the printing of paper currency. The firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson in New York City were the printers.

Ben Franklin was one of the greatest, if not THE greatest of American diplomats, hero of the Revolution, prominent also as a publisher and printer, editor and author, a famous philosopher and a scientist whose dis-

coveries are even today highly esteemed as fundamental additions to practical knowledge; a member of the Masonic fraternity for many years, occupying many prominent positions of trust and responsibility in the Craft, attaining to the high office of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1734.

He was born in Boston (Jan. 6, 1705-6—old style), Mass. on Jan. 17, 1706 (new style) and had only two years of schooling and at 10 years of age left to work for his father in soap and candlemaking. At 13 apprenticed to his brother James, a printer and publish-

er who started in 1721 a newspaper, the **New England Courant**. Franklin began his writings in verse and prose (thus were born the writings of Poor Richard). The years 1723 to 1728 were the difficult years of his life, working for others, in Philadelphia, in England, and back again to Philadelphia. From 1729 to 1765 he printed and published the **Pennsylvania Gazette** and was also editor. He was what today we call a self-made man; taught himself the use of several languages, made his influence felt by the printed word. He was Philadelphia city postmaster in 1737 and in 1749 with 23 other citizens founded an academy that later became the University of Pennsylvania.

He was active in forming the first police force in what is now the United States, started the fire department, the militia, making many improvements in civic affairs of the day. Franklin was a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly for almost 20 years in joint charge of the mails in the Colonies.

Although the exact date of Franklin's initiation is not known, it's reckoned to be in February 1730-1. This approximate date is based on **Liber B**, in folio 10 (in collection of Historical Society of Pennsylvania), in which is an entry that shows that on June 24, 1731, Franklin paid £2 2/6 as balance owing on his initiation fees and dues. The same record proves that he was a member of St. John's Lodge, from which one may assume that he was raised in that Lodge. It wasn't long after this that he was elected Junior Grand Warden on June 24, 1732 and two years later (to the day) was elected Grand Master of Pennsylvania. It seems that this Blue Lodge (St. John's) functioned also as a Grand Lodge after the fashion of a few old English lodges, such as the one at York. The grand lodge of that period was not as they are today.

In August of 1734, he advertised his **Mason Book**, a reprint of Anderson's **Constitution of the Free-Masons**, which was the first Masonic book printed in the United States. Also during this time the State House, Independence Hall, was built during his administration as Grand Master. And according to tradition, the corner stone was laid by him and brethren of St. John's Lodge. On June 24, 1755, he took prominent part in the grand anniversary and dedication of the "Free-mason's Lodge" in Philadelphia, the

first Masonic building in the United States.

Franklin was a delegate to the Continental Congress, later Postmaster General of the Colonies, and one of the five to prepare the Declaration of Independence. He was in 1760 Provincial Grand Master of Philadelphia and while attending a communication that same year of the Grand Lodge of England, held at the Crown and Anchor in London, was entered on the minutes as Provincial Grand Master. At the time of the outbreak of war between the colonists and England (1776), Franklin was active in Masonry in France, was present at the initiation of Voltaire in the Lodge of the Nine Sisters or Muses (Loge des Neuf Soeurs) in Paris. This latter event occurring April 7, 1778. Later this same year he affiliated with this same lodge, and the following year was elected **Venerable** (Worshipful Master) of this French lodge. Before he left France he affiliated with one other French lodge, became honorary Master of same and was an honorary member of still a third lodge. Benjamin Franklin died April 17, 1790 at his home in Philadelphia. This covers only a small portion of his Masonic life but will give you some idea of the scope of it.

ASSOCIATED EDITORS

In this issue of the Masonic Philatelist we introduce the new associated editors. John Mirt, we all know and are deeply indebted to for the material supplied us for these many years. Richard Needham, who in the past few years is also making a name for himself in the realm of Masonic philately, with his philatelic covers.

F. T. Anderson, new to us, philatelically, but an earnest student of Masonic philately.

REFERENCES TO DIETY

There are references to Diety on four United States stamps. The Valley Forge issue (No. 645) shows George Washington, a Mason, kneeling in prayer and carries the inscription "In God We Trust." The Telegraph stamp (No. 924) has "What Hath God Wrought," the first message ever sent over a telegraph line. The Florida issue (No. 927) has "In God is Our Trust." On the recent Colorado stamp (No. 1001) is to be found "Nil Sine Numine," or "Nothing Without the Diety." The references in the last two instances are to be found on the state seals.—Mirt.

THE CATHEDRAL AT STRASBOURG, AND FREEMASONRY

(Continued)

In the December issue there appeared an account of Operative Masonry as it concerned the Cathedral at Strasbourg (France No. 389). Presented below is a quaint tradition about the Cathedral, reported by John D. Caldwell, former Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, in his "Masonic Centennial History of the Grand Lodge of Ohio," published in 1876. Bro. Caldwell wrote:

"The story runs that, once in every twelve-month, on the eve of St. John, when the quiet burghers of that ancient city are wrapt in peaceful slumber and the hour of midnight clangs out from the loud-tongued bell which hangs in the Cathedral tower, the spirits of the stonemasons by whose hands the sacred pile was erected arise from the tomb and once more visit the scene of their former labors.

"Up from the dark and gloomy crypt, along the columned aisles and vast dim nave, across the white and gleaming marble floor, checkered with ghostly shadows that stream from pictured oriels, past the stone-carved statues that keep watch and ward with their swords and sceptres, comes the long train of death-like, night-wandering shadows. Clad in their quaint medieval costumes, the Masters with their compasses and rules, the Craftsmen with their plumbs and square and levels, the Apprentice lads with their heavy gavels, all silently greeting their companions, old and dear, with time-honored salute and token, as of yore.

"While the last note of the deep-mouthed bell is still trembling in the air, reverberating from arch to arch, and dying away amid the frozen music of the traceried roof, forth from the western portal streams the shadowy throng. Thrice around the sacred edifice winds the waving, floating train, brave Old Erwin (*) himself leading the way; while far up above, above the sculptured saints who look down upon the sleeping city, up where, at the very summit of the feathery, fairy-like spire, the image of the Queen of Heaven stands, there floats a cold, white-robed female form, the fair Sabina, old Erwin's well-behaved child, whose fair hands aided him in his work.

"In her right hand a mallet, in her

left a chisel, she flits among the sculptured lace-work of the noble spires like the Genius of Masonry. With the faint blush of dawn the vision fades, the phantom shapes dissolve, and the masons return to their sepulcher, there to rest until the next St. John's Eve shall summon them to earth."

(*)Erwin von Steinbach, master of the works at the building of the Strasbourg Cathedral and head of the German Fraternity of Stonemasons.

Perhaps you readers can understand now why I consider the inexpensive Strasbourg Cathedral stamp one of my most prized issues.

CLARA BARTON STAMP

Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, (U. S. No. 967) was a proud member of the Order of the Eastern Star. While engaged in her noble relief work during the Civil War she was initiated at her request by Dr. Robert Morris, founder of the Order. The degrees were communicated to her and the lectures given in her home in Oxford, Mass., in the presence of a few Masons. Throughout her life, she kept the Eastern pin given her at the time. It symbolized the work she was doing to relieve human suffering. Daughter of a Mason, she said: "For the love and honor I bear him, I am glad to be connected with anything like this."—Mirt.

SWEDEN HONORS KING AND GRAND MASTER

Sweden on November 11 issued a series of three stamps, each bearing the portrait of King Gustav VI Adolph, Grand Master of Swedish Freemasonry.

The Swedish Constitution differs from that in the rest of the world, though the recognized fundamentals are there. For that reason, Swedish Masonry is recognized by other Grand Lodges of the world. One distinct difference was established in 1796 when the then king issued a decree that in the future all princes of the royal house would by birthright be Freemasons, a decision unique in Masonic annals. Also by long established tradition, the sovereign becomes the Grand Master, while the Crown Prince is his deputy.

King Gustav VI Adolph also is pictured on a series issued in 1951, after he ascended to the throne (Nos. 418-424).—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."