

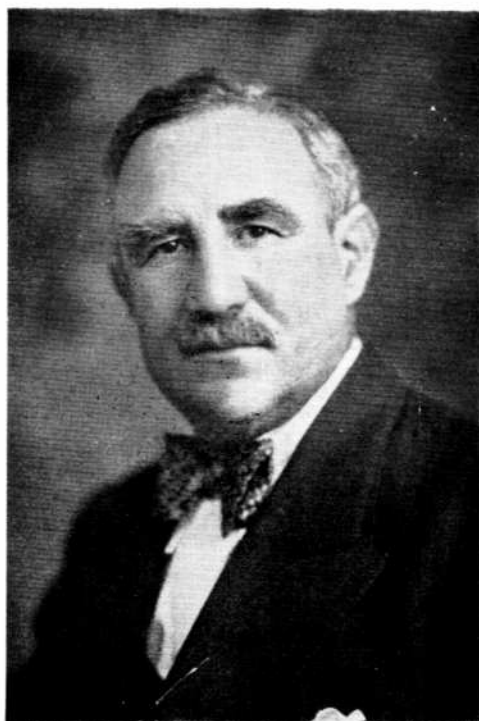


the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 9

FEBRUARY 1953

NO. 6



Jacob Simon Glaser

Past President, Masonic Stamp Club
of New York
Past President, Collectors Club
of New York
Director, National Federation of
Stamp Clubs

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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● Meetings ●

First and Last Friday Each Month

Collectors Club Bldg., 22 E. 35th Street

February 27 Past Presidents night,
Bro. Jacob Simon Glaser in charge.
Come on out and show them that you
have not forgotten them.

March 6 Board of Governors Meeting,
7:30. What else is on the agenda is a
secret, even the editor does not know.

New Members

RAY W. HEAD
327 W. Lincoln
Chico Lodge #111
Chico, California

DR. LOFTON G. HAND
202 Penney Building
Durango Lodge #46
Durango, Colorado

GEORGE D. CAIN
2025 Woodreve Road
Chillum Castle Lodge
#186
Avondale, Maryland

RAYMOND MARSH
205 North Sampson
Ellensburg Lodge #39
Ellensburg, Washington

By the Sign of the GAVEL

As this little message is being prepared, it is something over two months since I have been at a meeting of the Club. Since this has been due to circumstances beyond my control, I do not

think my absence has been taken amiss. However, it would undoubtedly be more appropriate if our Vice President, Carl Pihl, were to be writing this, since he has been carrying on so ably. Carl has been so busy lately with one chore and another that I would not wish this additional job on him, too.

Nonetheless, being somewhat out of touch with things leaves me little to say. I know we have some fine meetings ahead because our Program Chairman, George Wray, has lined up some excellent speakers and I hope many of you come out to enjoy them.

Since time passes quickly, it seems appropriate to remind you that our Annual Dinner will be at the usual place on Friday, May 1. Sid Barrett is again in charge of the arrangements, of which you will hear more in due course. You know it will be a good time, so put a big circle around the date on your calendar so that you will be prepared.

I hope to hear from our Treasurer, Harry Konwiser, that all 1953 dues are in. Just in case someone may have overlooked this little matter and needs a reminder, please consider this it.

The January issue of the Philatelist is nice, isn't it? Editor Ellis is to be complimented and the nice job that publisher Van Dahl has done should not be overlooked, either.

Arthur I. Heim.

About the Club

Bro. Glaser sends us a card from St. Pete in Florida. Seems that he found another fellow down there that collects stamps that used to live in Brooklyn. Can't remember his name but it does not matter.

Bro. Fred Barovick has been honored by the Society of Philatelic Americans by being named as its vice president. He will be in charge of new member recruiting and society promotion.

Bro. Franklin Bruns writes, "Since the New York World Telegram and Sun has discontinued its stamp feature (Jan. 1) I am now writing a syndicated stamp feature 'The World in Stamps' for the Hardale Syndicate, which will appear weekly in 13 or more newspapers."

Bro. William C. Michaels of Kansas City writes to let us know that he has forwarded his nearly complete file of the MASONIC PHILATELIST to the Scottish Rite Library in Washington, D. C.

SCADTA Air Mail Servicing in Colombia, S. A.

By JACOB SIMON GLASER



Cover franked with overprinted stamp honoring Capt. Benjamin Mendez, cancelled on first day, December 28, 1928.

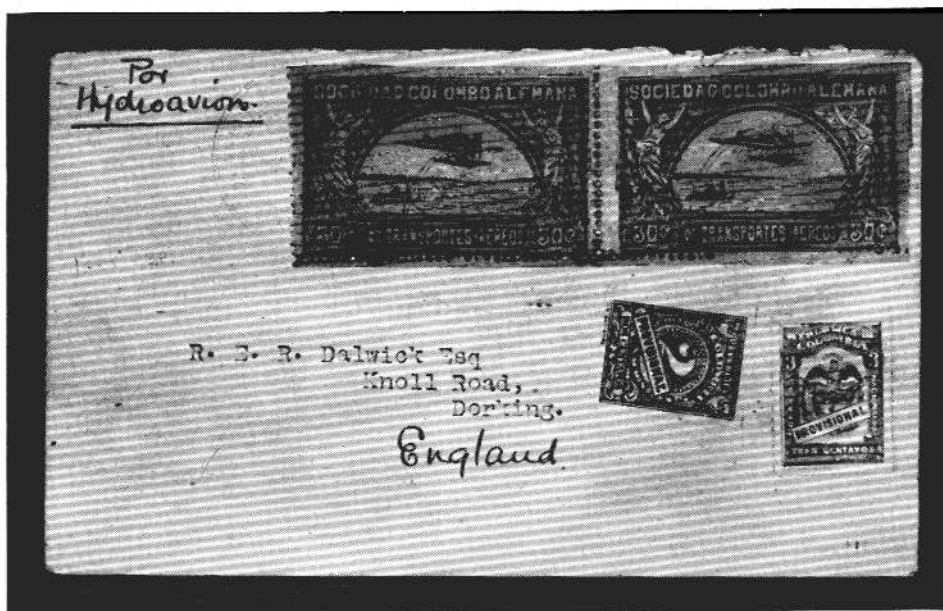
Due to the mountainous terrane, Colombia having three high mountain ranges, and its capital, Bogota, in the center range at an elevation of 8,700 feet above sea level, and transportation slow due to river boat travel with few rail-roads, it was a necessity for Colombia to develop air travel.

After the famous Knox Martin flight in 1919 from Barranquilla to Porto Colombia of about 20 miles, the Colombian Post Office Department authorized the Compania Colombiana de Navegacion Area to carry mail and passengers for a period of one year and if successful would renew its contract, but the company failed to carry out the contract. During 1920 a new air mail contract was entered into by the Colombian postal authorities with a new company then being formed by a group of Colombian business men with the help

of German interests and aviators. This company was to be known as "SCADTA"—"Sociedad Colombo Alemana De Transportes Aereos." This company was very successful and carried mail and passengers from 1920 to 1932, issuing its own postage stamps with the authorization of the Colombian Post Office Department.

The first issue of these stamps was on October 4, 1920, they were large stamps and were printed by a Barranquilla printer, C. Valiente, in sheets of 48. Two denominations were printed—25,000 of 30c black and rose and 15,000 of 50c light green: Sanabria catalogue No. 20 and 21.

Within a short time the company was so successful that it reduced its rates for short trips and to meet these rates additional denominations of the stamps were printed by the same print-



First issue of the Scadta air mail stamps. Cover also franked with the regular issue postage stamps of Colombia.

er. 12,400 of 10c yellow; 10,840 of 15c blue; 11,200 of 30c rose. In December of 1921, regular size postage stamps were introduced, 25,000 of 5c yellow—50,000 of 10c green; 150,000 of 15c orange; 20,000 of 20c brown; 275,000 of 30c green; 50,000 of 50c blue; 11,000 of 1 Peso black; 6,000 of 2 Peso rose; 6,000 of 3 Peso violet and 1,000 of 5 Peso olive green (this is a very good stamp and is quite rare). These stamps were designed by Richard Klein of Munich, Germany and were printed in Germany. A new value, 60c was added in April, 1923, 90,000 were printed. The above group of stamps are listed by Sanabria as numbers 39 to 49.

The fourth issue was printed June 4, 1923, by the German Printing Works and were the same size as the third issue but the lettering was changed from Postal Aereo to Servicio de Transportes. These stamps are listed by Sanabria as numbers 65 to 76—5c to 5 Pesos. In December 1928 two new values were issued, 75,000 of 40c purple and 35,000 of 80c olive green. In order to take care of a registration fee on registered airmail, the 20c grey was overprinted with a red "R"; 116,000 stamps were provided.

On December 28, 1928, Capt. Benjamin Mendez was honored by having

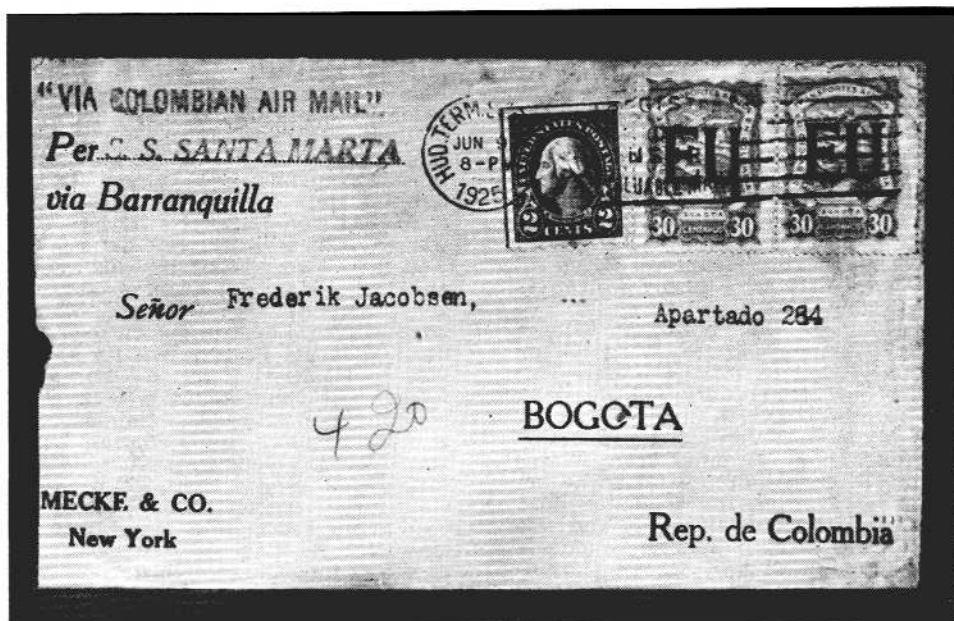
5,000 stamps of the fourth issue, 20c and 30c, overprinted, "Homenaje (honoring) Mendez" and date "28 December, 1928." Capt. Mendez flew from New York to Bogota, making several stops on the way. These stamps were sold for one day and then later were sold in Colombian post office at double face. Mendez carried only 25 letters and I am fortunate enough to have one of them.

On June 1, 1929 the SCADTA Company issued its fifth issue, these stamps differed in design of the third and fourth issues and were issued in denominations of 5c to 5 pesos; Sanabria numbers 83 to 96.

About the same time a full issue was printed in Germany and became known as the American Gold Dollar issue, "Pesos oro Americano "Pesos O/Am". Sanabria numbers 97 to 109. On December 15, 1930 three values of the fifth issue were surcharged for the 100 anniversary of the death of Simon Bolivar who died on December 17, 1830. He was generally referred to as the George Washington of South America Sanabria numbers 108, 109, 110.

10,000—10c on 80c green
10,000—20c on 3 P. violet
10,000—30c on 1 P. blue

Pending the arrival of the first Co-



Cover showing regular postage, U. S., and Colombian Scadta air mail stamps cancelled in the United States as per authorization of the United States Post Office Department. Scadta stamps could be purchased in New York, San Francisco, New Orleans, Chicago and Boston, from agents of the Colombian air mail service.

Colombian commemorative air mail stamps known as the "Wealth" issue, 5c to 5 pesos and 20c registration stamp, on January 12, 1932, stamps (Sanabria numbers 81 to 94) were overprinted with "Correo Aereo" on centavo issues and "Aereos" on peso issues. The overprinting was done by a Bogota printer.

The large letters overprinted on the stamps of the 1921 and 1923 issues are consular overprints. These letters were hand printed and machine printed on the Scadta stamps for use at the country of the origin of mailing. E. U. (Etas Unis)—United States; G. B., Great Britain; P., Panama and etc.
(To Be Continued)

WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD CO. TO ISSUE SPECIAL CACHET

In commemoration of its 50th Anniversary of incorporation on March 3rd, 1953, Western Pacific Railroad will issue a special cachet to be cancelled by the San Francisco Post Office that date.

Philatelists are invited to send a self-addressed stamped envelope (3¢ stamp)

to the Department of Public Relations, Western Pacific Railroad Co., 526 Mission St., San Francisco 5, California on or before February 27th. The cachet will be affixed and the San Francisco post office will cancel the envelope for mailing on March 3rd.

The special cachet will feature the progress of the "Feather River Route" through the past 50 years which has culminated in the operation of the famous vista-dome streamliner "California Zephyr."

Send self-addressed envelopes (stamped) to the postmasters at Baton Rouge, Alexandria, Monroe, Shreveport, Lake Charles and New Orleans, Louisiana, for cancellation "Louisiana Purchase 150th Anniversary 1803-1953."

Plate number 24383 of the 2¢ Presidential issue went to press on June 16, 1952 and was cancelled after 98,675 impressions on December 23, 1952. This plate number will be much sought after.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, A MASON

By R. M. NEEDHAM, 32°

Depicted on the 10¢ 1847 issue of the United States (Scott's No. 2) is the likeness of The Father of Our Country, George Washington, from a portrait by Stuart. As for the 5¢ value, the die wasn't new, but was also taken from a stock die previously used for the printing of currency. The firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson of New York City were also the printers of this stamp.

Washington was born at Bridges Creek, Westmorland Co., Virginia, on February 22, 1732 (of the present calendar) but of February 11, 1731-2 of the birth record. He died on Dec. 14, 1799 at Mount Vernon, Fairfax Co., Virginia, about 15 miles from Washington, D. C. At the age of 16 he became surveyor on the estate of Lord Fairfax, then joined the army and was later on the staff of General Braddock, Delegate to First and Second Continental Congresses. Unanimously chosen in 1775 as Commander-in-Chief of the Colonial Army and his Yorktown campaign ended the Revolutionary War on October 19, 1781 with General Cornwallis' surrender of his British army. Washington was presiding officer at the Federal Convention in Philadelphia, May, 1787 for the framing of the Constitution, and then was elected President, in 1792 re-elected, refusing a third term. He was recalled from retirement in 1798 to serve again as Commander-in-Chief but the war with France did not materialize.

The Oath of office as President of the United States was administered on April 30, 1789, New York City, to Gen. Washington by Brother Robert R. Livingston, Chancellor of the State of New York, and who was also Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons. An interesting sidelight on this is that another General was sworn in as President of the United States with the same Bible of St. John's Lodge of New York in Jan., 1953 that Washington used: Dwight D. Eisenhower, who is NOT a Mason.

Washington was initiated November 4, 1752 in the lodge at Fredericksburg, Va., (now No. 4 on the Virginia register) and the records of the Lodge, still in existence, state thus: "Nov. 4th, 1752. This evening Mr. George Washington was initiated as an Entered Apprentice," and the receipt of the entrance fee of £2 3/- was acknowledged. On

March 3rd in the following year, he is recorded as having passed to the degree of Fellowcraft, and on August 4th, same year, 1753, the record states that Washington had been raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

For five years after his initiation, he was engaged in active military service. And it isn't very likely that his attendance on lodge communications were very frequent. Some English writers have said that he became a Freemason during the old French War, in a military lodge attached to the 46th regiment. The Bible which was used for his obligation (allegedly) claimed to be still in existence, although the Lodge was dissolved many years ago at Halifax, Nova Scotia. At least, it is claimed he received some Degree. An item in the **Freemasons Monthly Magazine** (Vol. XI, page 261) suggests that, as it was then the custom to confer the Mark Degree as a side Degree in Masters' Lodges, and as it has been proved that Washington was in possession of that Degree, he may have received it in Lodge No. 227, attached to the 46th regiment.

Along this same line is the significance to certain signs on the apron presented to Washington by Lafayette in August, 1784. It has the emblem of the Holy Royal Arch and on the flap are the letters H.T.W.S.S.T.K.S. arranged in the form of a circle familiar to Chapter Freemasons. Within the circle is a beehive seemingly indicating the Mark selected by the wearer. As this apron was made especially for Washington, it isn't likely that Lafayette would have had this emblem placed on the apron had the facts been otherwise. We must also recall that at this period the Royal Arch Degree was conferred in Masters' Lodges and under a Lodge Warrant.

When Washington was initiated he was 20 years old, 6 feet 3 inches tall, a Major and Adjutant-General for the Colony. By the time he had taken the Master Mason's Degree he had been appointed a Colonel. He was commander of the Northern Military District of Virginia at the outbreak of the French and Indian War, May, 1754. On April 28, 1788 Lodge No. 39 at Alexandria, Va. which heretofore had its charter from the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge, transferred its allegiance to Virginia and became Alexandria

Lodge No. 22. In 1805, this same lodge petitioned the Grand Lodge to change its name in honor of the "Father of our Country" and from that day to this, it is known as Washington-Alexandria Lodge No. 22, F. & A. M. George Washington was the only President of the United States who, while Chief Executive, was Worshipful Master of his Lodge. The chair he sat on, the implements he used, the apron he wore plus many other relics are still cherished by his lodge today.

In passing it might be stated here that in 1780, the idea of electing a "General Grand Master of Masons of the United States" had a popular following among the brethren and that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania proceeded with dispatch and equal unanimity to elect General Washington to the office. In addition a convention of delegates from the military lodges met at Morristown, N. J. who adopted an address to be sent to various Grand Lodges, viz., those of Massachusetts, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, recommending the formation of a General Grand Lodge and that their choice of leader being Washington. But due to the action of Massachusetts, doubting the expediency of such, declining to come to any determination on the question, the subject was dropped. Thus Washington was not and never became the General Grand Master of Masons of the United States of America.

After his death, Washington-Alexandria Lodge No. 22 buried him with full Masonic honors on December 18, 1799. And to his memory and fame the Masons of the United States have erected the mightiest stone monument ever raised to honor any man. Built without metal, to endure as long as granite shall last, this memorial stands on Shooter's Hill, just outside the city of Alexandria, Va.

In closing, November 4, 1952, was duly observed by the Freemasons of the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as by Freemasons throughout the world. This date was the 200th anniversary of the initiation of George Washington into the Craft. At least four special cacheted covers, to this writer's knowledge, were prepared and used for the preserving of this occasion, philatelically speaking, to posterity. The Masonic Stamp Club of N. Y.; Fredericksburg (Va.) Lodge No. 4, F. & A. M.; Brother John A. Mirt of Chicago, Ill.; and the writer, all had special cacheted covers for this event.

Perhaps in August of this year 1953, on the 4th of the month, there will be celebrated the 200th anniversary of Washington being raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. At least, it is a suggestion for something philatelic.

THE WASHINGTON INAUGURAL BIBLE

The leather bound, 11 by 15 inch volume was printed by Mark Baskett, Printer to the King's most Excellent Majesty; and the Assigns of Robert Baskett of London in 1747. It was brought over by an Englishman who gave it to the New York Grand Lodge when it was incorporated as a part of the Grand Lodge of England one hundred and ninety-five years ago. It is a King James version of the Scriptures, and weighs five pounds.

After the American Revolution the Lodge became independent, being known as St. John's Lodge No. 1.

On April 30, 1789, when the ceremony of the installation of Washington as President of the United States was about to start it was discovered that there was no bible for the oath of office. Jacob Morton, marshal of the day, suggested that he could get the bible of his lodge, St. John's Lodge, from their meeting place which was nearby.

Washington agreed to this and the bible opened at the pages containing the 49th and 50th chapters of Genesis, was placed before him to place his hand thereon.

These pages have been covered with transparent silk by the Lodge to keep them in good condition.

Robert R. Livingston, Chancellor of the State of New York, who administered the oath of office to Washington, later signed the frontispiece of the bible attesting to that fact. The bible was used in 1919 at the inauguration of Warren G. Harding when he took the oath of office. It was on exhibition on November 4, 1952 at Fredericksburg, Va. on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Washington as a Mason. An honor guard including William Sherwood, Edward Bailey, William Beecher, William Clark and Charles Grant took the bible to Washington, D. C. so that the bible might be used in the Eisenhower inaugural ceremony.

The bible was opened at Psalm 127 verse 1 for the Eisenhower oath of office.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH INITIATED INTO FREEMASONRY

Another figure has been added to a Masonic stamp collection by the news out of London that H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and consort of Queen Elizabeth II, has been initiated into Freemasonry. The event, which occurred December 5, 1952, was no surprise as there have been reports current for some time that the royal candidate, who is 31 years old, would seek Light. The initiation occurred in Navy Lodge No. 2612, which possesses several links with the royal family.

When Navy Lodge was formed in 1896, the first Master was H.R.H., Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward VII. He had been initiated into Freemasonry in Sweden in 1868 by the future King of Sweden, Oscar II. His Majesty remained head of the lodge until his ascension to the throne in 1901. In December 1919, H.R.H. Duke of York, afterwards King George VI, was initiated in that lodge, becoming Master two years later. He maintained a strong interest in the lodge as a Past Master until his death. H.R.H., the late Duke of Kent, was initiated in the lodge in 1928.

The Duke of Edinburgh is pictured on Canada 315, along with the then Princess Elizabeth, the stamp being issued in 1951 to commemorate their visit to the Dominion.—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

MASON CREATED ARGENTINE FLAG

The following information concerning Manuel Belgrano, one of Argentina's famous patriots and Mason (shown on more than 15 Argentine stamps and Bolivia No. 89) was contributed by Bro. Douglas Murison of Alte Brown 656, Temperley, F.C.N.G.R., Argentina, officer of a lodge there under the English constitution:

Manuel Belgrano was born in Buenos Aires, June 3, 1770. He went to Spain in 1786 to complete his education as a lawyer, and then returned to the River Plate as consul. An ardent supporter of the 1810 revolution, he formed part of the "junta" that governed the country for a short time. He was made a general and commanded an unsuccessful military expedition against Paraguay.

After this defeat, he created the Argentine flag (an event shown on one of three stamps issued in 1920—Nos. 280-1-2—to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his death. The flag is shown also on Argentine stamps issued in 1930, 1935, 1940 and 1946, some in natural colors). As a result, he is considered by his countrymen as the creator of the national emblem.

Following this, he went to Spain to negotiate recognition of the new state. On his return, he was given another command and in two battles defeated the Spanish Royalists. For these successes he received a substantial grant, which he turned to the building of schools.

A further Argentine stamp connected with Belgrano is the 5c (No. 532) issued on December 6, 1946, to commemorate Argentine's "Day of Industry." On that day in 1793, Belgrano was named consul in the River Plate and he was instrumental in having machinery imported to promote local industry.—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

CUBAN MASON IS HONORED

Cuba on January 28 issued a series of nine regular and 11 air mail stamps to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jose Julian Marti (1853-1895), a Mason who is regarded as Cuba's "Apostle of the Independence." Marti organized a liberation junta in New York in 1892 and three years later was killed in battle against the Spaniards. The stamps show various highlights in his career, as well as his portrait.

In Central Park in the center of Havana, a splendid monument has been erected to his memory. Cuban Freemasonry officially commemorates his birthday annually. Three years ago, the Masons of Cuba organized a parade of 6,000 and visited the monument to pay tribute to him as a Mason and national hero.

His portrait is shown on Cuba No. 264 of 1917. Two stamps (Nos. 418 and 419) were issued in 1948 to commemorate belatedly the 50th anniversary of his death. One, a 2c issue, bore a Marti quotation: "The greatest rights are not bought with tears but with blood."—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."