



the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 9

MARCH 1953

NO. 7



The late Bro. Alvin R. Meissner, designer of the Washington Inaugural commemorative postage stamp of 1939. Member of the staff of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, 1925 to 1945. Chief Designer, 1933 to 1945. Died, June 25, 1949.



The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 7
MARCH 1953

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

March 27 Club visit. Details later.

April 3 Board of Governors meeting,
7:30. Master of Philately Degree.

All members in good standing are eligible to receive the Degree of Master of Philately. This will be your only opportunity this year. There is no extra fee. All that is necessary is that you present yourself at the April 3rd meeting. Don't miss this chance. Bro. Roane wants to try out the new goat, the last one is missing.

New Members

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1 Camino Por
Los Arboles
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Utopia No. 894, Chicago

In order to provide for one regular scheduled meeting each month instead of two, a motion is made to amend the By-Laws of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Section 5—Meetings, by deleting the words “and last” in line seven and substituting the words “called for other dates” for the word “canceled” in line ten, so that this portion of Section 5 will read as follows:

Regular meetings of the club shall be held on the first Friday of each month except July and August, except that meetings falling on or near a holiday may be called for other dates by the Board of Governors.

This amendment will be acted on at the annual meeting on June 5, 1953.

By the Sign of the GAVEL

Time is drawing near for the outstanding event of the year for the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. This is the Annual Dinner—a blue ribbon event—that will be held on Friday evening, May 1, 1953 at the Masonic Club, located in Masonic Hall, 71 West 23rd street, New York City.

Your committee in charge of arrangements for the dinner is promising the “best ever” affair, and this will take some doing because we have had some very fine dinners in the past. However, the committee members are laboring most diligently in the vineyard and there is no doubt that this will be an occasion to remember, one to equal any of the past.

We know it is difficult for some members to attend many meetings during the year but there should be no excuse for anyone not attending this annual star-studded function of the club. Any brother who has attended one of these dinners in the past can attest to the fact that it is a unique affair, one combining excellent food, good fellowship, splendid entertainment and fun.

If you have never attended one of our annual dinners, make a resolution to be present on the evening of May 1st. I promise it will be an occasion you will treasure for a long time to come. I look forward to greeting each of you personally at that time.

Arthur I. Heim.

About the Club

Bro. Harry Henneman has been elected vice-president of the Denver (Colorado) Stamp Club for 1953. He is giving half-hour lectures before large Eastern Star groups on interesting facts on stamps pertaining to Masonry. Hopes or expects to be in New York for the first two weeks of June.

Bro. Al Van Dahl was 69 years young on the 4th of February and we hope to have him with us at our annual dinner the first of May; he missed out last year (hot sands).

Bro. Richard M. Needham's grandfather gave the January issue of the Masonic Philatelist a nice writeup in the Pataskala (Ohio) Standard. Grandfather is 88 years young and is the editor of the paper. Bro. Richard's great uncle is a Mason and a stamp collector.

January 30 Meeting

A very good attendance was had for this meeting because Dr. Julian Blanchard (Mr. Banknote) can always draw a crowd. He started off his program by asking questions regarding paper and currency. Then he produced for all to see a large piece of paper with Chinese characters printed thereon which he said was the first paper currency. This note was extremely old but was in a fine state of preservation.

After this infusion of culture the brothers were treated to a fine exhibit of paper money, mostly of the United States, and the postage stamps that also bore vignettes similar to the engravings on the old notes. These old notes were previous to our legal tender notes and were as all of Dr. Blanchard's material, "in the pink of condition."

The philatelic world became aware of Mr. Blanchard at the time of the World Fair stamp exhibit (British Building) in 1940 and he has certainly made his mark since that time in research on banknote history and production.

February 6 Meeting

Mr. Ira Seebacker showed Sports on Stamps. He used stamps and other philatelic material with sports as the principal motif to illustrate the philatelic significance of topical collecting and to demonstrate this showed one page each of stamps, imperfs, errors, proofs, essays, souvenir sheets and many other philatelic variations. It was a very interesting talk.

Heim.

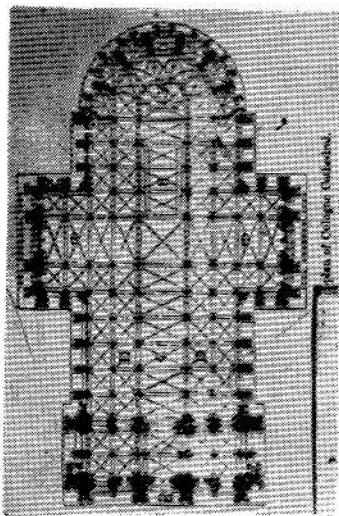
Gothic Architecture On Stamps Cathedrals and Masonry

By H. O. HENNEMAN

The name GOTHIC was applied to a type of architecture, it was called a barbaric type. There was quite some resentment among a few leading authorities of the early period. It was also called the FRENCH style, but the name GOTHIC was used first and retained.

Gothic architecture is often called the POINTED Architecture, it made use of gables, spires, high pitched roofs and pointed arches.

Cathedrals were always built east and west, the high altar in the east (A) and the main entrance in the west, (B) and occasionally an entrance on the northern part. The inner plan was always in form of a cross, (C to F and E to F), (C) the stem of the cross is called the nave.



In gothic architecture little use was made of columns and piers externally, but they were used extensively for the interior, slender shafts for ornament and massive for support.

The earliest example of pointed Gothic was the Cathedral of St. Denis 498, founded in 1140, then the Cathedrals of Notre Dame (Paris) B217, Chartres B186, Rheims B74, completed in 1241 and Beauvais B188 (1225-1272 A.D.) Rheims and Amiens B187 vied with each other as to which one is the most beautiful. Strasburg 389, Cologne

238, and Freiburg 5N13 Cathedrals were started about the same time, in the 13th century.

Freemasonry became an institution in the middle of the 12th and the beginning of the 13th century. The Freemasons were skilled in masonry of every kind. A system of secret signs were used by which Masons could recognize each other. The meeting halls were called Lodges.

The Cathedral of Strasburg was begun in 1277 and finished in 1439 A.D. Opposite to the church and the Episcopal palace was a building which served as the workshop of the masons and the Stonecutters of the Cathedral. This workshop was the origin of an ancient fraternity of Freemasons of Germany. This lodge was unquestionably the chief lodge. On April 25, 1459, the first statutes were drawn up. The fraternity consisted of Masters, Companions and Apprentices.

The authority of the lodge tribunal was over the Masons of Bavaria, Franconia, Hesse, Saxony, Swabia, Thuringen, Westphalia and the region of the Moselle. These lodges consisted of Operative Masons, Speculative Masonry did not take place until the 18th century.

The Cathedral of Cologne was consecrated in 873 A. D. and it burned in 1248 A.D. The present one had the corner stone laid on August 14, 1248 by Archbishop Conrad, in the presence of Emperor Frederick II. Up until 1509 A. D. only the choir and the surrounding chapels were finished, then the work stopped and only through subscriptions was the work finally completed.

The Cathedral is memorable on account of its connection with the labors of the Steinmetzen (Stone Masons) of Germany, whence it became the seat of one of the most important Lodges in Europe. The Grand Lodge of Cologne had under its dependence the Lodges on the west bank of the Rhine.

The Cathedral of Speyer was erected in the 11th century, the second and third assemblies of the Lodges were held at Speyer April 9, 1464 and April 23, 1469, by the Grand Lodge of Strasburg.

St. Stephens Cathedral built in the 14th century, mainly from subscriptions by the "Spinnewetters" or Weavers, an order or guild consisting of several crafts including Masons. This Cathedral is mentioned in the brother book of 1563, which contained the ordinances and articles of the Fraternity of Stone Masons, Chief Lodge of

Strasburg MDLXIII. The Grand Lodge of St. Stephen founded the Lodges of Austria, Hungary, Styria and all the countries adjacent to the Danube.

MASONRY ON STAMPS AS I SEE IT

By F. T. ANDERSON

The writer does not claim to be an expert on philately nor a Masonic authority. By way of introduction just let him say he served Orman Lodge, number 261, at Spencer, Nebraska as Master in 1934. Those were the days of grasshoppers and dust storms in Northern Nebraska, consequently Masonry like many other activities was very inactive. He belongs to the Scottish Rite and Shrine in Lincoln and to several affiliated organizations.

Philatelically, he has only been collecting some five years. He has worked up albums on Masonic subjects under the title, "Masons on Stamps Around the World," "Masons in U. S. History on Stamps," "Masonic Symbols" and "Washington, the Mason, on Stamps." He belongs to The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, his only philatelic affiliation.

He lays no claims to completeness or positive authority although he has tried to verify all his statements. He will be very happy to correspond and receive suggestions or corrections from any brother, both for his writing and for his albums.

In building a stamp collection showing emblems and symbols used in Masonry one must give the imagination considerable freedom and yet it must not be allowed to run completely wild. Some months ago, a London correspondent for one of our leading United States stamp papers gave the writer in particular and Masons in general to understand that the 3d British Peace stamp (Scott 265) was not a Masonic stamp. To this, I think all Masons will agree and I doubt if any thinking brother has ever called it or thought of it as such even if it does picture a square and compass and other symbols related to Masonry. True, one of the larger American stamp firms has advertised it as "The British Masonic Stamp" but probably more because of, shall we say, "selling enthusiasm" than with the idea it really was issued to honor Masons.

As far as I can find, there are only two places in Scott where speculative Masonry is directly referred to. One of these is anti-Masonic, the Serbia 2NB15-18 set; the other pictures a Masonic Temple at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Honduras 328. Therefore, if we would have a Masonic collection in the strictest sense of the word, five stamps would be the extent of our collection.

The Masons pictured on stamps are not shown because of their Masonic connections but for other achievements. Even on the nine cent Washington Bicentennial, which was copied from a

Masonic painting, the regalia has been removed so it cannot be identified as such.

And this as it should be. But, let us, as our friend Mirt would say, "see what the stamp tells us." Let us find examples of the various virtues we are taught to practice. Let us find examples of The Great Lights and The Lesser Lights. Let us point out the working tools of Masonry as they appear on stamps and bring the Mason a better understanding of his obligation. Because lessons are always more easily and better learned from pictures than words let us use our imaginations, always judiciously, to show our friends, both Masonic and non-Masonic, "from whence we came and whither we are travelling."

The British Peace stamp, already referred to, and its companion, the 2½d value, are appropriate to use on the introductory page of a "Masonry On Stamps" album. Here we see the only example, to my knowledge, on stamps of the square and compass together as we know them in Masonry. The trowel is also shown very clearly. But is that twig a sprig of acacia? And is that rope-like object a cable-tow? Let's just use our imagination a little and say, "Yes" in both cases. Then we have five symbols of Masonry on one stamp, anyone of which has a good lesson in our Masonic ritual.

And surely, we can see the 2½d stamp as a trestleboard with drawings of buildings or objects in several walks of life upon it. We can get a lesson here that we should have definite plans even in our philatelic ventures. Then, to give this set a final Masonic touch, we see the picture of our Brother, King George VI, who has since left for that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns.

While we can only cite two places in Scott's where Speculative Masonry is referred to, we find many illustrations of operative Masons. And since there is no doubt but that our Masonry as we know it now had its roots in the early operative Masonry we will devote a couple of pages, which can be easily filled, with stamps of this kind. (We will list the design number as found in Scott rather than the stamp number because in some cases there are more stamps of a given design than it is practical to use). To show operative Masonry we have used:

Romania SP209	Italy A98
Germany A25, SP48	Belgium SP220
Switzerland A87	Finland SP42

The transition from operative to speculative Masonry is a subject about which much has been written. Much of it is conjecture but enough is founded on fact so we know that the Cathedral builders entered very much into the picture. In the 14th century could be considered the time when this transition was at its height and it is said one of the strongest Lodges of "Steinmetzen" was at Strasbourg during the time that cathedral was being built.

Therefore, we show France A103, Strasbourg Cathedral and also Germany A37 which pictures the cathedral at Cologne as it was also built during this period. Many other examples can be used, even as far north as in Sweden.

But before we can see the light of Speculative Masonry the hood-wink must be removed. The symbol of coming from darkness to light is very well illustrated on the Mexican stamps A169 and AP69. These stamps were issued to honor the beginning of efforts to stamp out illiteracy in that country.

As we begin our journey we hear these words from Genesis: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form and void." Good illustrations for this statement are Mexico AP56-58 and A156. "And God said, Let there be light; and there was light." Many illustrations for light can be given but British East Africa A4-7 are especially appropriate because the light really gleams on this design and the words "light and liberty" are conspicuous. And because I like to use United States stamps wherever possible I have also used U. S. A197, the Edison stamp.

One of the tablets attached to the Federal Hall or Treasury Building on the corner of Wall and Nassau streets, N. Y. C. resembles the make up of the Ohio Statehood stamp. It commemorates the Ohio Associate Company, depicting a map of Ohio and the state seal placed on the map, almost as on the stamp, and sprigs of buckeye around the map. One would think that this tablet inspired the stamp design.

An excellent illustration of a Pelican feeding its young—a symbolism of the Rose Croix (18th) Degree of the Scottish Rite—is to be found on Mozambique postal tax stamps (RA49 and 50).—Mirt.

Washington Inaugural Stamp

The featuring of the Washington Inaugural Bible in our Jan. issue of the M. P., plus Bro. Van Dahl's write-up about same in the Western Stamp Collector aroused a great deal of interest from coast to coast. Never, since the editor has taken over the M. P. has he done so much correspondence regarding material make up and collector interest. Many have asked further information regarding the Inauguration stamp of 1939.

Ramsey S. Black, Third Assistant Postmaster General spoke before a meeting of the Gimbels Stamp Club on April 29, 1939 saying in part: "In selecting the subject matter for this stamp, it was felt that the Department would have little difficulty in securing a correct painting portraying George Washington taking the oath of office. But after examining the many paintings which were submitted to the Department, it was noticed that all of them differed in some respect. The differences in these paintings is easily understood, as many of them were executed years after the inauguration, and they were based on the artist's own conception of the ceremonies, or from information which was obtained from witnesses.

"Therefore in accordance with our usual custom, research was made, at the Congressional Library, of the contemporary newspaper accounts and articles by many eye-witnesses who were present at the ceremony. All of these articles are in agreement on the following facts: that Washington took the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall, in the presence of members of the Senate and House of Representatives and that the oath was administered by the Hon. R. R. Livingston, Chancellor of the State of New York. Also that the Bible lay upon a table on the balcony and that when Washington advanced to the railing of the balcony to take the oath of office, the Bible was held on a red velvet cushion before him by Hon. Sam A. Otis, Secretary of the Senate. The New York Historical Society has the original railing of the Federal Hall balcony, and furnished a picture of a portion of this railing, which has 13 arrows in the center design, representing the 13 original states. These facts were handed over to our artists at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and Mr. A. W. Meissner, the designer, followed a painting by Alonzo Chappel,

making changes in it to conform to the written records of that day. This composite design is the one which has been depicted on the Inaugural stamp.

"There are many characters on this stamp and it required the engraver 225 hours to complete the engraving of the master die. This is more than 28 working days of 8 hours each."

The above tells some of the story, but let us hear another one. Oscar T. Barck of Brooklyn says in part: "Last November (1938) the postmaster at New York communicated with the Sons of the Revolution at Fraunces Tavern asking whether they had any illustrations showing the scene of the Inaugural. As historian of the society and a collector of Washingtonia the subject was referred to me. In response, I selected five prints from my collection and submitted them to the postmaster. He had four photographed and sent them to Washington, D. C. One of the prints was an engraving of a painting by Alonzo Chappel, made in 1859 for a publication entitled 'The Life and Times of Washington' by John Frederick Schroeder, D.D. This picture with the addition of a railing (a section of the original) and a table was selected as the design for the stamp. The selection was particularly interesting to me for I possess the original painting by Chappel from which the engraving was made. Also because in a small way, I am a stamp collector specializing in stamps featuring George Washington."

Bro. Robert Pech had something of interest to show the boys at the Feb. 27th meeting, a first day cover of the first official air mail stamp. The envelope was franked with Italy's special delivery stamp, 25 centesimi, overprinted "Esperimento Posta Aerea / Maggio 1917 / Torino-Roma . Roma-Torino" and was cancelled, "Posta Aerea, / 20 - V - 1917 / Torino-Roma."

A seven-branched candlestick—"furniture" in the American Royal Arch—is pictured on the recent 110p Israel stamp issued as a memorial to the late Chaim Weizmann, first president. —Mirt.

Gen. Eloy Alfaro, twice president of Ecuador, was one of the early Masons of his country. He is pictured on Ecuador 409-12 and C73-6.—Mirt.

STAMPS DESIGNED BY ALVIN R. MEISSNER

That Alvin R. Meissner appears to have been a Freemason is important to Masonic collectors. Stamps designed by Freemasons are Class 6 Masonic-related stamps. The following are the stamps Bro Meissner designed that are identified as such in the Scott Catalog or as made known by the article provided on the previous page.



#688



#736



#775



#776



#854



#903



#979

From Needham's Linotype

THOMAS JEFFERSON, A MASON?

Depicted on the 5¢ 1851 issue of the United States (Scott's No. 12) is the likeness of Thomas Jefferson, source of portrait not known by the writer. Although this stamp is classed with the 1851 issue, in reality it wasn't issued until 1856, with earliest known use on March 14th that year. All these stamps were printed from one plate, Plate I, and all were of one type, Type I.

Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743; was the third president of the U. S., serving two terms, 1801-9, and died July 4, 1826 on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, of which he was the author.

There is some doubt as to whether or not Jefferson was a member of the Craft. However, since there is some indirect evidence that he could have been a Mason, he is included in this series of Masons on United States stamps.

Data which appears to be conclusive, although not direct proof, that both Jefferson and Madison were members of the Craft, was published in the **New Age** for October, 1932. It consists of references to the Masonic membership of both these presidents, found in newspapers, periodicals and histories of the Craft of dates contemporaneous with their careers. Also while the assertion has frequently been made that Jefferson was a Mason and that he had attended the Lodge of the Nine Sisters at Paris, no further details are given and a letter from the Grand Orient of France under date of September 9, 1919, says that there is no evidence in existence of any visit to that Lodge by Jefferson.

Masonic historians accept as proved those facts which are based on documentary evidence. That Washington was made a Mason in Fredericksburg Lodge is proved by the minutes of that lodge, that he was a charter member of Alexandria Lodge is proved by the charter. But a vast lot of Masonic fact is attested by indirect evidence, there are a few who would read copies of a dozen or so Masonic and secular newspapers and magazines dated from 1828 to 1832 which refer to Jefferson as a Mason and doubt the writers knew of that of which they wrote. The **Short Talk Bulletin**, issue of July 1933, says: "It may not be yet stated as a 'proved fact' (i.e., attested by documentary

evidence of names, dates, lodges, places) that Jefferson was a Mason, but the indirect evidence is all but conclusive."

On the other hand, Jefferson's letter to Madison on secret societies makes no allusion suggesting any personal acquaintance of Freemasonry. Dr. Joseph W. Eggleston, Past Grand Master of Virginia, was most positive that Jefferson was not a Mason. The records of Widow's Son's Lodge, No. 60, Charlottesville, were searched very carefully and no evidence of Jefferson's membership was found. According to the records of the Grand Lodge of the State of Virginia, he was not connected with the Craft in that state. You pays your money, and you take your choice.

STATUE OF LIBERTY OF MASONIC SIGNIFICANCE

The American returning from abroad and sailing into New York harbor is deeply thrilled when he gazes upon the majestic Statue of Liberty. That monument is recognized the world over as a symbol of freedom and is pictured on more than 50 stamps of some 20 countries.

To the American Mason, the Statue has a double appeal. It was designed by a Frenchman, Frederic A. Bartholdi, who became a member of Lodge Alsace-Lorraine, Paris, in 1875, ten years before the cornerstone of the statue was laid with Masonic ceremonies by the Grand Lodge of New York, August 5, 1885. On that occasion, William A. Brodie, Grand Master of New York, said:

"There is a special reason why we (referring to the Masonic Fraternity) should be called upon for this special duty of today. No institution has done more to promote liberty and to free men from the trammels and chains of ignorance and tyranny than Freemasonry, and we as a fraternity take an honest pride in depositing the cornerstone of the pedestal of the Statue of 'Liberty Enlightening the World.'"

Consequently, a collection of Statue of Liberty stamps should be included in every Masonic collection. — From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

There were only three values of the 1893 Columbian stamped envelopes but a complete set comprises of 22 pieces.

MASONIC CACHETS

Over the last three years the writer has prepared a large number of covers with a Masonic cachet. Here are some not previously reported:

WASHINGTON TERRITORY STAMP. In 1808, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, two Masons who had established reputations as pathfinders in the unknown west, led an expedition into the Pacific Northwest. Their travels paved the way for territorial claim by the United States. Washington Territory was established in 1853, later to become the State of Washington. But even before that, Freemasonry had laid its groundwork. In November 1852, a dispensation was issued by the Grand Lodge of Oregon to Olympia Lodge (now No. 1 under Washington jurisdiction) at Olympia, then a distant outpost of civilization. The Grand Lodge of Washington Territory was formed in 1858.—John A. Mirt, Chicago.

(This stamp was issued on March 2, 1953).

OHIO STATEHOOD STAMP. Masons were leaders in the development of Ohio. Gen. Benjamin Tupper after surveying what is now southeastern Ohio interested other Masons in the undeveloped country. In April 1788, Gen. Rufus Putnam led an expedition to what is now Marietta, Ohio, where a permanent white settlement was established. Another Mason, Major Gen. Arthur St. Clair, became first governor of Northwest Territory, as the new region was called. The pioneers in 1790 revived the charter of American Union Lodge, a military lodge of the Revolutionary War, and met Masonically. Ohio was made a state in 1803. Putnam was elected first Grand Master when the Grand Lodge was formed in 1808.—John A. Mirt, Chicago.

(This stamp was issued on March 2, 1953).

LOUISIANA PURCHASE STAMP. Two Masons in 1803 negotiated the largest and one of the most important territorial expansions in the history of the United States. Robert R. Livingston, Past Grand Master of New York, and James Monroe in that year concluded the purchase of Louisiana Territory from France. The purchase involved 827,192 square miles of land between the Mississippi river and the Rocky Mountains and from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada, almost doubling the size of this nation. The deal eliminated

a strong foreign power on the western boundaries and was of incalculable influence upon the future of the United States.—John A. Mirt, Chicago.

(This stamp will be issued on April 30, 1953).—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

MARK TWAIN THE MASON

The November issue of NEW AGE had an interesting biographical article by Bro. Alexander Ueland 32° on Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain) which relates that the renowned author became a Master Mason in Polar Star Lodge No. 79, St. Louis, on July 10, 1861; that he served as Junior Deacon in Bear Mountain Lodge No. 76, at Angel's Camp, Calif., and that he attended Masonic meetings at Carson City, Nev. A few years later while overseas, he sent from Jerusalem a gavel made from cedar of Lebanon to the Master of his home Lodge. A demit to a Lodge in Nevada was granted in 1869, but he remained unaffiliated as he traveled extensively. He died in 1910 at the age of 74.

From an earlier item in the SCOT-TISH RITE NEWS BULLETIN it is learned that there is a memorial tablet in Hannibal, Mo., dedicated to Mark Twain, the Freemason.

The author is pictured on U. S. No. 863, the 10¢ stamp of the Famous Authors series of 1940 and on Hungary No. CB10, a 12 f. air post stamp of 1948. The latter also shows a scene from "Beggars and Princes."—From Mirt's Masonry on Postage Stamps."

LATE GREEK KING A MASON

King George II of Greece (on Greece Nos. 391-4 issued in 1937), who died about three years ago, was initiated while in exile in England, became Master of his Lodge and was appointed Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of England. He returned to his country in 1935, having been recalled by the almost unanimous vote of his people. Again driven from Greece by the Germans, he returned after his country was liberated.—Mirt.

Cedar Ridge, California uses a hand stamp cancel with an added slogan of three lines outside of the dater and killer. The slogan reads "Sitting on a / gold mine / 49er trail."