

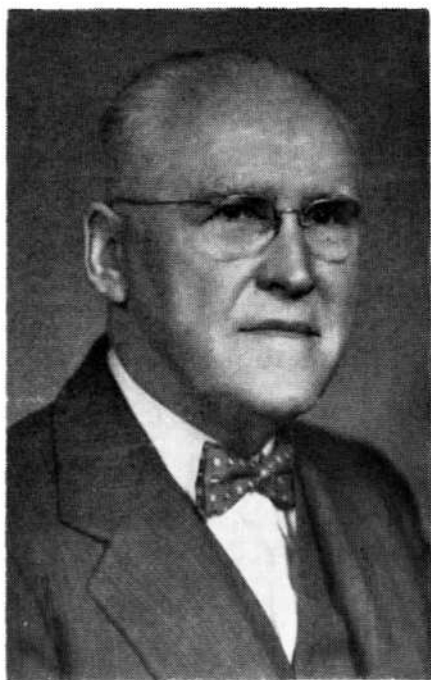


# *The Masonic Philatelist*

VOL. 9

APRIL 1953

NO. 8



Bro. Al Van Dahl

St. John's Lodge #17, Albany, Oregon; Salem Consistory, Salem, Oregon; Al Kader Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., Portland, Oregon; Chinook Stable #45, Camel Herders, Portland, Oregon.

In a recent interview with a newspaper reporter, Bro. Al VanDahl reveals some of the trials and tribulations involving one who tries something NEW. It was in the depression days

just begun when Bro. Al conceived the idea of converting his small weekly newspaper, the Mill City Logue into a country-weekly-newspaper style stamp publication. Originally, Western Stamp Collector was a six-column four-page newspaper, inheriting all the characteristics of the small country weekly. It was a rather heavy task to assemble a subscription list and get a bit of advertising patronage in those days of unemployment, and later closing banks, etc., but it apparently worked, for the corporation now owning Western Stamp Collector, of which Bro. Al and his good wife, (OES) are president and vice pres., respectively, has expanded to a floor space of over 4,000 square feet, in its own plant building and employing in round figures 20 people most of the time.

It isn't perhaps proper here to go to any length in explaining the business, its size and so forth. Suffice it to say, that at least to the knowledge of its owners, it is the only stamp paper with a twice-a-week frequency of publication. Bro. Al also believes, in the face of absence of any other evidence, that he was the first to use country weekly newspaper experience and methods in presenting his publication to stamp collectors.

The publication, or rather his several publications, have weathered through nearly a quarter of a century, and can be called an "established" business. Bro. Al has been a printer all his life, in round figures, nearly 50 years in the composing room, at the press, at the linotype and at the editorial or reporter's desk; owned and operated a number of small weekly newspapers in various parts of the west and middle-west and even a daily newspaper in Baker, Oregon, the latter about 30 years ago.

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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## ● Meetings ●

First and Last Friday Each Month

Collectors Club Bldg., 22 E. 35th Street

April 24th. Open date, later announcement.

May 1st. Banquet. Bro. Henry W. Holcombe will be the speaker. The address—Masonic Hall, 71 West 23rd street. The room—Masonic Club.

## New Members

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## By the Sign of the GAVEL

It is hard for me to realize that in another month it will have been two years since I was elected President of

In order to provide for one regularly 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.

the Masonic Stamp Club. How the time has flown. It has been a period of change, achievement, disappointment, and all the other emotions humans are heirs to, but the important thing is that we have all tried our best. However trite it may be to say so, each of us gets as much out of an organization such as ours as we put into it. There is one opportunity that we all have to get a lot from the Club at the expense of a minimum of outlay, and that is by attendance at our annual dinner on May 1st. Last year the attendance was smaller than usual, but the spirit and goodfellowship at the dinner was outstanding. This year we are hopeful that we will surpass all previous years. While there has already been an opportunity to make your reservations, there still is room for those who may decide at the last minute. We will find room for everyone who comes, I am sure, and your Dinner Committee will take a larger than expected turnout as a vote of appreciation.

For two years, now, we have been sending you little messages such as this under "By the Sign of the Gavel." It has not always been easy to find something to say, in view of our limited mutual interests and activities. As far as we know, there never has been any comment either for or against this column. If you have any ideas regarding this or any other feature of the Masonic Philatelist, drop a line to ye Editor. It will help shape policy for the future.

Arthur I. Heim.

# STAMPS: A Fascinating, Educational Hobby

By DON GILLEN

A big boost to Masonry has been made by a Lincoln collector.

F. T. Anderson, who works at the post office, about three years ago got an idea that he would get a stamp collection using as a subject "Masonry on Stamps." To him the idea seemed a good one.

From that beginning three years ago, Mr. Anderson has through diligent and extensive research built up a fine gathering of stamps connected with Masonry.

Having been a Mason himself for 27 years, and a past master of his home lodge in Spencer, Neb., Mr. Anderson had little difficulty in obtaining the information. But it does show that he took a good deal of time and energy in compiling the information.

★ ★ ★

Of the several albums, his first is a historical summary of famous American Masons. Of course, this starts out with George Washington who was a member of the lodge in Fredericks, West Va.

Mr. Anderson has been careful to mount only those stamps that have a real connection with Masonry. A friend of his, he said, has a collection that includes the bankers of America issue. And this is included because the founder of that organization was a Mason. But not so Mr. Anderson.

Some of his pages are gracefully decorated with the square and compass sign of the Masons. And he has uncovered some very interesting and unusual facts about Masonry on stamps.

★ ★ ★

For instance, he points out that of the 39 signers of the Constitution, 22 of them were Masons. And of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 31 were known Masons and several others were thought to be members of the order.

Names that ring flaming memories in the pages of history of America are also Masonic members. Gen. Von Steuben, Casimir Pulaski, Tadeusz Kosciuszko, John Sullivan, George Rogers Clark, Rufus Putnam, Anthony Wayne, Ben Franklin, Henry Clay, Brigham Young (who was expelled by the Grand Lodge of Illinois in 1844), Charles Lindbergh, Richard E. Byrd, Will Rogers, Adm. George Dewey, Stonewall Jackson, Gen. Hap Arnold,

Warren Harding, John Philip Sousa, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman. All these and hundreds of other famous Americans are Masons and are connected in some way with one of the United States stamp issues.

And glance at some of these foreigners: Cecil John Rhodes, King George VI of England, King William I of Netherlands, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, King Oscar I of Sweden, King George II of Greece, King Gustav V of Sweden, Jean Sibelius of Finland, Manuel Quezon and Jose Rizal of the Philippines, Count Leo Tolstoy of Russia, Italy's Giuseppe Garibaldi and France's Voltaire.

One of Mr. Anderson's stamps is the two-cent Liberty Bell issue. Failing to see any connection with Masonry on this we asked Mr. Anderson about it.

"Well, you see it was cracked tolling the death of John Marshall, who was a prominent Mason."

Guess that was a good answer.

Many of the stamps in Mr. Anderson's collection have long explanations written beside them, giving some indication of the amount of work required to mount and complete this collection. However, he still says there is a long way to go in completing it. But it probably will not be too long and Mr. Anderson will have his collection complete except for the task of keeping it up.

★ ★ ★

He is the type worker who puts most stamp collectors to shame. In a couple years Mr. Anderson has put a collection together that most collectors can't accomplish in the span of five times that many years.

Mr. Anderson had a collection in the early 1930s but gave it up after a couple years. For about 15 years he did nothing with stamps, although he worked in a place that was loaded with them—the post office.

Even though he has been collecting for about three years, he built a new house last year and said he hardly had time to look at the collection let alone add to it. But he still has managed to come forth with several new stamps.

So a toast to F. T. Anderson who has given Freemasonry and stamp collecting a big boost. A great Mason and a great stamp collector.

# SCADTA Air Mail Servicing in Colombia, S. A.

By JACOB SIMON GLASER

Continued from February M. P.

**USE THE COLOMBIAN AIR MAIL  
IT SAVES YOU 18 DAYS!  
INFORMATION, STAMPS THROUGH  
AMERICAN TRADING CO.  
2 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK.**

The first SCADTA issue was printed on October 4, 1920, these stamps resembled labels rather than stamps, their size being  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches by 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. They were printed by C. Valiente M., of Barranquilla, Colombia, in sheets of 48 (8x6). All the stamps in the sheet differed from each other in size and minor defects. The stamps were inscribed "Sociedad Colombo - Alemana de Transportes Aereos," thus the first letter of each word spells out "SCADTA." The vignette of the stamp is a picture of a hydroplane flying over the Magdalena river, a shore line and a river boat.

I flew on one of these planes from Barranquilla to Nieva along the Magdalena river to the rail head of Bogota, this plane was a Ford all metal plane with pontoons attached, there were 12 passengers. At Nieva we changed to a lighter plane and flew over the Andes with only four passengers. The plane had to make three trips to get the 12 passengers to Bogota airport, about 45 minutes flying time then.

The color, quantity and amount of stamps issued are mentioned in the February issue of the M. P.

Additional stamps were issued and some were overprinted from time to time for use in and out of Colombia, these were the same size and design

and differed only in the denomination until the third issue when regular sized stamps were issued. The second issue stamps were designed by Professor Richard Klein and were printed in Germany by Meisenbach Rifarth and Co.

The first issue and the so called second issue are numbered 20 to 34 in Sanabria Catalogue of Colombia Air Mail stamps. The first planes used were those left in Germany after the World War I and the pilots were German war pilots. They were very good pilots and had very few crack ups. The management of the company was made up of efficient and capable personnel and prospered from the start.

The stamps No. 20 to 34 that were used to frank air mail letters from outside Colombia were sold by Colombian consular offices in all principal cities in the United States and Europe. In addition to procuring these stamps at consulates there were special Scadta agents, the one in New York was Senor S. Majra, 25 Broad street, N. Y. and in order to prevent counterfeiting or buying them at less than exchange rates he autographed in red ink the 5000 stamps sold at his office.

The method of using the Scadta stamps was to buy them at the agents' office and apply them to the cover



# Airmail dispatches to Colombia (South America).

APRIL 1932

Airmail dispatches to Colombia may be forwarded from England for transmission on two different ways of conveyance which are the following:

**Way of conveyance I:** By airmail from New York to all the towns of Colombia.

**Time:** 9-10 days.

**Direction:** „By air from New York“, or the blue label: „By airmail from New York“.

**Dispatches admitted:** Letters and postcards, printed and commercial papers, samples etc.

**Tariffs:** 2 s. per 1/2 oz. (or fraction thereof) including postage.

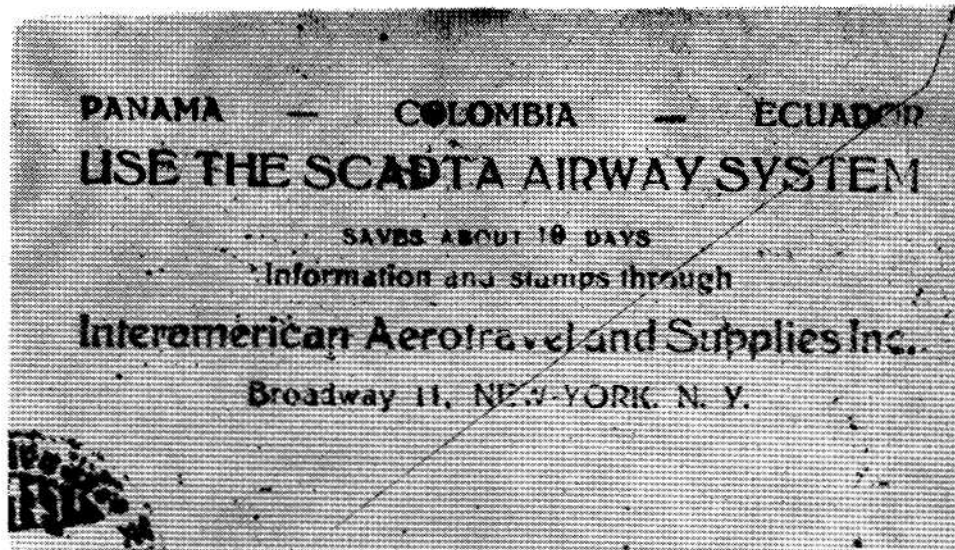
**Way of conveyance II:** By Colombian airmail from Barranquilla to all the towns of Colombia.

**Time:** 10 days.

**Direction:** „By airmail in Colombia“, or the green label: „By airmail from Barranquilla“.

**Dispatches admitted:** Letters and postcards, printed and commercial papers, samples etc. and parcels.





PANAMA — COLOMBIA — ECUADOR

**USE THE SCADTA AIRWAY SYSTEM**

SAVES ABOUT 10 DAYS

Information and stamps through

**Interamerican Aerotravel and Supplies Inc.**

Broadway 11, NEW YORK, N. Y.

with the regular postage stamps of the time. In this manner a saving of time in the delivery of the cover to Bogota was from 10 to 18 days, from New York. A saving of an additional six days was made by the use of U. S. air-mail stamps instead of the regular postage. The regular postage per ounce was 3 cents and the airmail rate was 10 cents per half ounce, additional for registered mail. The Scadta Co. rubberstamped on the backs of some covers, advertisement to the fact of time saving such as a saving of 10 days and again in another instance of a saving of 18 days. The American Trading Co. of 25 Broad Street, N. Y. C. mentioned in the 18 day saving advertisement was later located at 96 Wall and also had an office at 60 California street, San Francisco, California. Other agents were at Hibernia Bank and Trust Co., Carondelet and Gravier streets, New Orleans, La.; Illinois Merchants Trust Co., 231 South La Salle street, Chicago, Ill.; and Enrique Naranjo, 10 High street, Boston, Mass.

The 10 days saving advertisement mentions that the stamps were available at the Interamerican Aerotravel and Supplies Inc., Broadway 11, New York as the agent, this was after 1929. Other agents then were Continental Illinois Bank and Trust Co., 231 South La Salle street, Chicago, Ill.; Colombian Consulate, 501 Charlevoix Building, Detroit, Mich.; Drochaper Company, 108 West Sixth street, Central Building, Los Angeles, Calif.; Colom-

bia-California Corporation, 401 Market street, San Francisco, Calif., and the same agents in Boston and New Orleans as above mentioned. After a regular paid postage cover was posted in a United States post office it was sacked and sent on the first boat to Barranquilla or Cartagena, mostly to Barranquilla, which took from five to seven days, depending on the stops the boat made before reaching the Colombian port, then on to Bogota, the capital of Colombia, about 500 miles inland on top of a savanna 8700 feet above sea level. Depending on the stage of the Magdalena river it took 10 to 16 days to river port for Bogota and then by railroad, which took a day, thus it took from 16 to 24 days to deliver a letter by regular mail from New York to Bogota; much too slow for banking purposes. Thus the Scadta air mail saved from 10 to 18 days for letters to Bogota via Barranquilla, an additional three to five days were saved by using U. S. air mail stamps in addition to the Scadta stamps. A letter with air mail stamps of both countries would deliver itself from New York to Bogota in three days instead of 16 to 24 days by regular mail.

The Scadta company also advertised in England to use their air mail as shown on the poster, dated 1932.

Similar advertisements were used in Germany (Alemania) Switzerland, Spain and France and later in all European countries.

From its inception the air mail of

Colombia was not flown by the Colombian government. It has always been and is now contracted to a private company with the consent of the Department of Telegrams and Posts of Bogota.

The Scadta company was primarily organized to carry mail and parcels from sea coast cities to the interior of Colombia. The important cities with the larger populations are situated in the mountains at elevations of from 3500 to 8700 feet above sea level. When they were successful at the task of carrying the mail and were able to get better planes, they started to carry passengers on regular schedules.

## About the Club

Bro. R. M. Needham was given a certificate of Award of—SPECIAL RECOGNITION—in Class III (Topicals) for four frames of Masonic First Day Covers at the OSPEX show, (Ohio Sesquicentennial Philatelic Exhibition), held in Chillicothe, Ohio, last Feb. 28, March 1 and March 2. On or about April 23, Bro. Needham will be greeted in Lancaster Council #88, Royal and Select Masters.

Bro. Harold Matters has just received his Florida Real Estate Brokers License. Any of you Yankees, with lumps under the carpet, going to Florida to retire, stop in at St. Pete. and see Harold.

Bro. William V. Sessions collects Canada and Masonic cancels and covers. Needs one more each to complete Cyprus and Australia and any new ones to come along. Has not done much with U. S. since 1935, except to pick up a newspaper or revenue stamp of which he has a fair showing and also likes private perfs. He has a lot of specialized 3¢ 1851, 1857 and 1861.

Bro. Al Van Dahl left Albany, Oregon on the 17th of April, going to Seattle where Mrs. Van attended some Zonta and Star meets, then overland to New York to arrive about April 29th and will stay at the Vanderbilt Hotel so that he can attend our annual dinner. About May 3rd he will proceed north into New England where he has not been since 1908.

Bro. Dr. Clarence W. Hennen of Chicago is collaborating with other specialists in the stamps of Haiti for a handbook on Haitian postage stamps and postal history. This handbook will be published by the American Philatelic Society.

Bro. Sam Brooks informs us that he will write an article on the Pelander

sale of Bro. Sidney Barrett's Masonic Cancellations on Stamps.

Two issues of the MASONIC PHILATELIST gave Bro. Mirt's address as Chicago 13, N. Y. Bro. Mirt thinks that New York is a big town but not that big.

## In The Mail Bag

A card from St. Pete, Florida,—“Please be on the look out for 2 nubian tinted birds of the Masonic Club variety,” this came in over the signature of A. N. No Mouse.

J. Kobler, P. Postmaster, Neufeldstrasse 141, Bern, says: “As a member of the Lodge zur Hoffnung Bern since 30 years where I occupied the charge of Bibliothecary I was pleased to read ‘Brief Reviews, Masonic Philatelist’ about the inauguration of President D. Eisenhower and the bible now owned by the St. John's Masonic Lodge of New York. Our lodge zur Hoffnung Bogenschutzenstrasse Bern will commemorate this year the event of 150 years of its foundation. We are about 200 members and have a fine building. After some years of stagnation, due to serious campaigns against Swiss Free Masons we are glad to observe new interest for our efforts.” J. Kobler appears to be a stamp dealer in Swiss stamps and would like to get in touch with any member of the club interested in the Swiss issues.

Leslie E. Woodworth of Grass Valley, California informs us of the “National Masonic Hobby Club” of Caldwell, New Jersey. Woodworth also writes, “The Jan. copy of the MASONIC PHILATELIST does indeed please me. Two of our Masonic Brethren Pat Herst and Elmer Long, I have had dealings with many times but I never knew that Long belonged to the fraternity. I guess we have a right to expect the proper actions of our fellow members and in dealing with them, even though we may not know them personally, fair treatment does give ‘food for thought.’”

## NEEDHAM WINS

At the recent OSPEX show (Ohio Sesquicentennial Philatelic Exhibition in Chillicothe, Ohio) R. M. Needham was given a certificate of award as Special Recognition in Class III Topicals for his exhibit of four frames of Masonic U. S. first day covers and other Masonic covers.

### THEODORE ROOSEVELT, A MAN WHO LOVED FREEMASONRY

There is a beautiful Masonic story to be read in the 30-cent U. S. postage stamp of the president series (No. 830)—the story of a man who loved Freemasonry, and practiced the principles it teaches.

Theodore Roosevelt, who is portrayed on the stamp, was a member of Matinecock Lodge No. 806, Oyster Bay, N. Y. As president, he frequently appeared in Masonic garb, in Lodge and on public occasions. His comments on Freemasonry are indicative of the love he bore for the Craft.

Speaking before the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia on November 5, 1902, he said: "Masonry should make, and must make, each man who conscientiously and understandingly takes its obligations a fine type of American citizenship, because Masonry teaches him his obligations to his fellows in practical fashion."

In one of his last interviews, quoted in the July, 1919 issue of McClure's Magazine, he said: "I violate no secret when I say that one of the greatest virtues in Masonry is that it affords an opportunity for men in all walks of life to meet on common ground, where all men are equal and have one common interest."

"For example, when I was President, the Master was Worshipful Brother Doughty, gardener on the estate of one of my neighbors, and a most excellent public-spirited citizen, with whom I liked to maintain contact. Clearly, I could not call upon him when I came home. It would have embarrassed him. Neither could he, without embarrassment, call on me. In the Lodge, it was different. He was over me, though I was President, and it was good for him and good for me. I go to the Lodge, and even the folks who do not belong to or believe in the order rather like it that I should go. They seem to feel it's part of the eternal fitness of things."

"Whenever I return from one of my journeys, I always go there to tell of the Lodges I have visited, in Nairobi in Africa, in Trinidad, or the quaint little Lodge I found away up on the Ascension River. They sort of feel I am their representative to these Lodges, and they like it. There's a real community of interest."

This is the Masonic story I read when I look at the 30¢ stamp bearing the portrait of Theodore Roosevelt.

### FOUR COUNTRIES HONOR VICTOR HUGO

The French poet and novelist, Victor Hugo, has been honored postally by a number of countries recently. These include a 12 pf. Germany (Russian zone No. 10N103); 2 fo. Hungary (No. C110) and 40k. Russian (No. 1629), to commemorate the 150th anniversary of his birth. His play character, Hernani, will be pictured on a 12 fr. stamp of a French "Figures of Literature" series to be issued this year.

Whether Hugo was a Mason seems to be uncertain. I find the following in a Nov. 1868 issue of the "VOICE OF MASONRY" and which apparently was a reprint of an item which appeared originally in an English Masonic magazine:

#### Death of Madam Victor Hugo

Our Illustrious Bro. Hugo has been deprived of the partner of his joys and sorrows. Among Freemasons there will be only one sentiment, and that of deep sympathy as they learn this fact. The whole world of literature will feel for the poet stricken with grief; and every Masonic heart will share in the sorrow of our Brother. In the name of the members of our ancient Order throughout the British Empire, we beg to assure Bro. Hugo that he is near the hearts of his brother Craftsmen during this dark dispensation.

However, his name is not to be found on some lists of Famous Masons in Europe in my possessions. Mildred J. Headings in her "French Freemasonry Under the Third Republic," says he was not a Mason.

That Hugo believed in the immortality of the soul is shown by something he wrote near the close of his life, and which was quoted in the 1951 proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. His words were:

When I come down to the grave, I can say like others, I have finished my day's work, but I cannot say I have finished my life. My day's work will begin again the next morning. The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare. It closes on the twilight to open on the dawn.

This information is presented for what it may be worth. It is not intended to answer the question one way or the other.