The Masonic Philatelist

Organized July 29th, 1948, and incorporated under the laws of Colorado. This Chinese comm., Scott's #906 is the official Seal because it's only stamp Denver was permitted 1st. Day cancellation. Members must be Masons in good standing. Club meets each month to create Masonic fellowship and more light for Bro. Philatelist's.
By the Sign of the Gavel

At the time this is written, our 19th Annual Dinner has not yet taken place, although it will be long since over when you read this. The reservations plainly indicate the success of the occasion, and we have never yet missed on providing an entertaining evening. As a matter of fact, with a group such as ours, no entertainment is necessary, and everyone seems to get a great deal of satisfaction from the get-together and the renewal of old friendships. The dinner always brings out some that we seldom see otherwise, and if that were the only reason for having the dinner, it would be worthwhile.

I hope that there will be an outstanding attendance at our Annual meeting on June 5. There are a number of matters that deserve your attention. You will be asked to vote on a proposed amendment to the By-laws changing the number of meetings from two to one a month. (I imagine that if the amendment is adopted, future annual dinners may not be held on a regular meeting night, although they could be if desired). There will be the annual election of officers, after which your present gavel wielder will join the select group of past-presidents with a due feeling of appreciation. After the business part of the meeting is over, we will hear from Bro. John A. Mirt, of Chicago, who has supplied so many interesting articles for the Masonic Philatelist on the subject of Masonry on Postage Stamps, and that, I understand, is to be his subject. This talk is something we have been looking forward to for a long time, and it should provide a fitting climax to the fine series of programs our program chairman, George Wray, has provided.

Since this is the last time I shall prepare "By the Sign of the Gavel," I will take the opportunity this affords to express my deep appreciation for the honor that has been conferred upon me when you permitted me to be your leader for the past two years. While I can point to no great achievements during this period for which I personally was responsible, at least I can say that the Club has more than held its own. Each past president has left the Club somewhat better than when he assumed the office, and I hope that I have been no exception. All credit must go to the fine support of the other officers and to the several committee chairmen. Your in-

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New Members

CARL H. NELSON
306 Ullica Street
Ithaca, New York

A. L. LEWIS
434 46th Avenue
San Francisco, Calif.

CHARLES O. CLAUSEN
746 46th Avenue
San Francisco, Calif.

ARK LODGE, No. 33
KEystone LODGE, No. 102

COFFEVILLE, Kansas

GENEVA, N. Y.

Starr King Lodge, No. 344
San Francisco, Calif.

A pot of incense is pictured on Spain No. 726.
coming of icers and Board of Gov-
ernors, with the same wholehearted
support that has been afforded in the
past, will go forward to newer and
better things. Our best wishes go to
them, and my thanks to you.
This cannot be closed without a
word of appreciation to Bro. Ellis for
the fine job he has done as editor of
the Philatelist and to Bro. Al Van
Deli for what he has done as publish-
er of the paper. I am sure that I ex-
press everyone’s sentiments when I say
in the name of the Club, “Thanks,
Brothers, for a job well done.”
And so, as we pass from labor to re-
freshment for the summer, I extend to
each of you my best wishes for a
pleasant and restful season, so that you
can all look forward to the resuming
of the Club’s activities on Friday, Sep-
tember 4th.

Arthur I. Heim.

7 Receive Degree of
Master of Philately

At our April 3rd meeting the degree
of Master of Philately was conferred
on Brothers Frank W. Ansell, Irving
E. Black, Clarence W. Brazer, James
G. Buckman, Walter C. Lawrence,
Frederick D. Pack and Louis Stauba.
The work was performed by the de-
gree team in a most proficient man-
ner. Our new Masters of Philately
were greatly impressed and highly
gratified with their new honors.

EASTER BROADCAST

Brother Fred Hill was invited to be
a guest on Walter Law’s Saturday
morning stamp show program over
WCBS at 10:30 a.m. on April 4, in
observance of Easter. He was re-
quested to bring along his collection
of stamps relating to the “Life of
Christ” and during the program Law
described the collection and then re-
quested Bro. Hill to explain each
sheet which fitted in very well with
the season.
Folks who listened in said that it
came over the air very well, which
made Bro. Hill very happy to know.

LAST ISSUE

This issue of the Masonic Philatelist
will be the last for the 1952-1953 club
year. Meetings will be resumed in
August so the September meeting can
be announced. It is hoped that the
brothers will be more co-operative
than in the past in reporting items
of interest and articles of stamp in-
terest.

Brethren Meet for Refreshment
for the Nineteenth Year

Highlighting the 19th Annual Din-
er of The Masonic Stamp Club of
New York was the presence of Bro.
Max Kohane, representing the Masonic
Philatelic Society of Victoria in Aus-
tralia, who presented the club with a
specialized inscribed copy of the Hand-
book of The Stamps of the Common-
wealth of Australia, including the
Supplement, as well as the beautiful
Bronze Medallion of the Society. Bro.
Kohane, who resides in Melbourne,
Australia, has been on an extended
trip to the United Kingdom and
Europe and cut short his stay in Eng-
land by several days in order to be
present at the dinner. He was intro-
duced by Bro. Sam Brooks who re-
counted the remarkable integration of
Masonry and philately in Australia,
and offered a toast, “To Our Brethren
down under, may they always be on
top.”
Bro. Max Kohane spoke of the early
trials and tragedies that faced those
who formed the Masonic Philatelic So-
ciety of Victoria. However, their faith
and perseverance was fully justified
as the organization today is the largest
philatelic society in Australia and has
more than 300 members. They meet
on the first Friday of each month with
approximately 100 members present at
each meeting which is devoted to
swapping of stamps, lectures and ex-
hibitions. Bro. Kohane, who is a Past
Master of Philatelic Lodge No. 552 of
Melbourne, mentioned the important
role that the members of this lodge
had in the formation of the Masonic
Philatelic Society of Victoria. He also
paid a nice tribute to the Masonic
Stamp Club of New York and Bro.
Sam Brooks for the help and inspira-
tion accorded them in the early days
of their organization. Bro. Kohane
read the inscription in the handbook
presented which reads, “Presented as
a Token of Affection,” and said that
these sentiments come from the heart.
Bro. Kohane received a standing ova-
tion from all of those present and MSC
President Arthur I. Heim acknowledg-
et the gifts with deep thanks and
reciprocated our fellowship and frater-
nal comity in both philately and Ma-
sony.

More than 40 members and guests
were present at this 19th annual din-
er which was held on Friday evening,
May 1 in the Masonic Club in the Ma-
sonic Temple Building in New York
City, President Arthur I. Heim acted as Toastmaster and commenced the affair by introducing the past presidents of the Masonic Stamp Club present, who were: Bros. Henry W. Holcombe, Carl E. Pelander, George Cannitner, Sam Brooks, Jacob S. Glaser, Ferrars H. Tows and Russell B. Roane. A check of the club archives revealed that every living past president of the club was present on this occasion.

Next Bro. Heim called on our outstanding member and publisher of "Stamps Magazine," Bro. Harry L. Lindquist, who spoke on the unique parallel of brotherhood and fellowship in both Masonry and philately, and cited the great potentiality of the Masonic Stamp Club to take the lead in sponsoring the fraternal spirit of Masonry and philately on an international scale. These inspiring words from Mr. Stamps himself were received with great applause by all those present.

Also introduced were Bro. Harry M. Konwiser, long-time club Treasurer and noted philatelic writer, Bro. Forrest Ellis, expert on early U. S. stamps and Editor of "The Masonic Philatelist"; Bro. Sidney F. Barrett who did such an outstanding job as Chairman of the Dinner Committee; and Bro. and Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, MSC Secretary who presented several certificates to members who had received the Master of Philately degree.

Following this Bro. Carl H. Pihl, 1st Vice President, recalled that for over a year "The Masonic Philatelist" has appeared in a new printed format, a tremendous improvement over the previous format. He mentioned that this change was made possible by the generous offer of Bro. Al Van Dahl, publisher of "Western Stamp Collector," to print the club's magazine. Bro. Pihl then introduced Bro. Van Dahl of Albany, Oregon to the membership and presented to him, as a token of appreciation of the club, a gift that sources close to the Editor's Chair revealed was a clock radio. Bro. Van Dahl thanked the members for this gesture and related some of his experiences as a publisher and a recent experience as a radio broadcaster. He issued a standing invitation for any members visiting the great Northwest to stop in and visit him in Albany, Oregon.

Following the presentation by Bro. Kohane, Toastmaster Heim presented the speaker of the evening, Bro. Henry W. Holcombe, who has had conferred on him many high Masonic honors. After serving as President of the MSC from 1939 to 1941, Bro. Holcombe was District Deputy of the 4th Manhattan Masonic District in 1942. He served in the Navy for five years during World War II, and in 1951 was elected Illustrious Potentate of Mecca Temple in New York City. In this capacity he had the honor of leading the great Shriner's Parade in New York City in July of 1951. Currently, Bro. Holcombe is Deputy Director General for the Imperial Session of the 1953 Shrine Convention that will be held in New York City again in July.

Bro. Holcombe recounted some of the early trials and tribulations of the Masonic Stamp Club in New York. He then asked all members present who had attended the first dinner of the MSC 19 years ago to rise, and to everyone's surprise there were 11 members who arose to receive a rousing round of applause. Bro. Holcombe then spoke of the Shrine Convention held in 1951, and said that it was the first one held in New York City in 65 years. The fine reception accorded the 100,000 Shriner's by New York, and the splendid impression the Shriners made on New Yorkers, has resulted in the 1953 convention again being scheduled for New York. The color and pageantry of the Shriners, plus the knowledge of the fine work done by the Shriners Hospitals, has given the public a good impression of the order and of Masonry generally. Bro. Holcombe closed by extending a welcome to all members to visit the exhibit that will be sponsored by the Shriners in Madison Square Garden in New York in July, 1953. He also mentioned that a special post office will be established in Madison Square Garden, and it is confidently expected that a special postmark will be available. Bro. Heim then mentioned that the club is proceeding with plans to sponsor a special cachet for this event.

This concluded what all members present said was one of the most memorable dinners ever held by the club.

Carl H. Pihl

In 1950, Italy issued a 20 lire stamp (No. 547) to honor the Venetian Academy of Fine Arts. The stamp carries a seal of the academy. Turn the stamp upside down and there is an excellent representation of "Square" and Compasses, somewhat in the form of the F. C. Degree.
Masonry On Stamps As I See It

By F. T. ANDERSON

In closing our article in the last issue, the hoodwink, (illustrated on Mexican stamps) was removed and we were brought to light. British East Africa A 4-7 and U.S.A. A197 were given as the best examples of light. I have mounted these in my album on the same page with the stamp showing the hoodwink.

There are other good examples of light to be found on stamps, especially if we include those showing torches. The torch is used to symbolize knowledge and also freedom. It seems appropriate to include those stamps on which the torch symbolizes knowledge at this point in the album for after all, light and knowledge are practically synonymous terms as we use them in Masonry. U.S.A. A360, the 2¢ National Defense stamp and Bolivia A94 and D3 are good examples. I have preferred to omit those on which the torch symbolizes freedom but that again is another case where each one may follow his own ideas.

After receiving light, our attention is directed to the Three Great Lights and the three lesser lights. But before we discuss them philatelically, let us give some thought to the altar at which we find ourselves. The altar is one of the principal properties in the lodge. It is used in many religions and was referred to even at the early date when God tried Abraham by ordering him to sacrifice his son Isaac upon the altar. There are several stamps picturing altars, some more appropriate in a Masonic collection than others, but worthy of a place on the page devoted to altars.

Guatemala AP20 shows a Mayan altar used by sun worshippers. Italy A151 and Lithuania A16 show sacrificial altars. Canada A89 is an attractive stamp picturing the altar in the parliament building. Greece A141 has an altar with a sword upon it. Finland A52 showing an open Bible upon the altar is especially appropriate for this page. Several other stamps mentioned later in the article in connection with the Bible can also be used. New Zealand A102 showing a Chapel altar in a large window with the Southern Alps as a backdrop is one of the most beautiful stamps ever produced by any country. It is one of the Peace set issued in 1946. This stamp deserves a central spot in any Masonic or religious collection.

At this point in the album, while we are at the altar, should be a fitting place for a page devoted to prayer. Our own U.S.A. A193, Washington in prayer at Valley Forge should be the feature stamp here. Portugal A50-53 are also appropriate because they have prayers printed in the backs. Rhodes A4, showing a crusader at prayer is an attractive stamp as is Belgium SP125-6 and also Spain SP18.

In planning pages devoted to such subjects as prayer, altars, and others of a religious nature, it is well to keep in mind that these same pages can be used, should one desire to make a showing on subjects of religion. To those who have taken the degrees of Masonry it is not surprising that so many stamps used in a Masonic collection can also be used in a religious collection.

The Greatest of the Three Great Lights of Masonry should, of course, be given considerable space in a Masonic stamp collection. And if all the stamps picturing the Bible are used it will require more than one page. It is appropriate to use for the most part, those on which The Book is shown open, and upon the altar. Union of South Africa AP4 is a fine example, it also has a light shining over the altar. Finland A52, Bulgaria A138, Hungary SP42-3, Italy A151, Romania SP107, Sweden A53, Vatican A13 and USA A313, all show the Bible. USA 313 is the Washington Inauguration stamp. It has become even more significant because the same Bible used at that time was again used at President Eisenhower's Inauguration. It belongs to St. John's Lodge of New York City. There are several other stamps picturing the Bible, some of which I will mention later to illustrate Truth in the Entered Apprentice Degree.

It is much more difficult to find stamps to illustrate the other two great lights of Masonry than it is for the Bible. Peru pictures a square along with other artisans' tools on A158. Although it is difficult to imagine anything square coming out of Russia, there are small squares shown on Russia A34, A35 and A38. They were probably not placed there
to represent a square, but here is another example of the use of a little imagination. An excellent example of the compass can be found on Argentina A224, and AP15. Chile AP24 can also be used.

The first of the three lesser lights, the sun, shines forth on stamps from almost every country that issues stamps. Take your choice. I do suggest Bolivia A116 because in addition to the rising sun, we get a very good example of the hand-clasp. To illustrate the moon, we need only look through the stamps of Turkey to find plenty of examples. To illustrate the final of the lesser lights we also have a wide variety to choose from. Many of the Masons pictured on stamps served as Masters of their lodge. Washington, naturally comes to our minds first. Rulers of Great Britain, Sweden, several other of our presidents and many others can be used to close the section of our album dealing with the lights of Masonry.

The handclasp is shown on stamps of several countries. Bolivia A116 has already been mentioned, it having been used to illustrate the sun. If we use Romania A229, numbers 64a and 649b, we will be able to show good examples of se-tenant stamps. Argentina A126-7, A186, A181, Romania SP215, Bolivia AP26, France A79 are the ones the writer has used.

SPLENDID EXHIBITS

The club’s Annual Exhibit was held at the regular meeting on April 24th. Although not on a competitive basis, the show brought out some really fine material and all the frames were filled. For one thing, stamps were shown that none suspected were being collected by the exhibitors. It is a good thing that there was no plan for judging the showing, because, as it turned out, all were of a very high calibre, and the diversity would have made it very hard to pick a winner. The following exhibits really give next year’s show something to shoot at:

Swedish cancellation (Carl Pihl).
Japanese Occupation of Philippines (Tom Phillips).
Guam Guard Mail (Jose Rueff).
Hong Kong Cancellation (Irwin Yarr).  
Nyasaland (Manny Reggel).
Saar and Bulgaria (Alex Koornaioff).

Historical events illustrated by U. S. stamps (Fred Wendel).

Philatelic Exhibition Sheets (George Wray).
Life of Christ on stamps (Fred Hill).
Masonic Corner Cards (Jake Glaser).
Congo cancellations (Art Heim).
Flower stamps on illuminated pages (Harold Gunter).

MASONRY IN KOREA

Stamps magazine of April 4th informs us that “Brother W. Lloyd Heath, White Plains, N. Y., who was connected with the Philatelic Division of the Office of Censorship during the last war, and later located in Korea in charge of the paper-making activities, has just been designated Grand Biblebearer by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in recognition of his services to Masonry in Korea. This is the first time that anyone connected with Korea has been so honored, and it is encouraging to know that it has come to one of our well known philatelists.”

Send self-addressed, stamped envelopes to the postmaster of the following towns: Ottawa, Illinois; Nashua, New Hampshire; Mitchell, Indiana, and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and ask for special slogan cancellation.

Marshall, Iowa and Pigeon, Michigan also have special slogan cancels.

“South Gate” is pictured on Korea No. 104. Cuban C20 shows an airplane called “Four Winds.”
From Needham's Linotype

ANDREW JACKSON, A MASON

Depicted on the 24 1861-66 issue (Scott's #73) of the United States is the likeness of Andrew Jackson (Old Hickory). The design of this stamp is unusual in that all but a small portion of the entire stamp is taken up by a full face portrait. This stamp (and all subsequent designs similar) are known today as "Black Jacks." Although this stamp is classed in with the issue of 1861, actually it was not put into use until July, 1863. Earliest known use is on July 2, 1863.

Jackson was born at the Waxhaw Settlement, Union County, North Carolina on March 16, 1767. He died at "The Hermitage," near Nashville, Tennessee, on June 8, 1845. He was the seventh president of the United States, serving two terms (1829-36). Belonged to the Presbyterian Church and was buried, Cumberland Lodge #9, F & A.M., Nashville, attended the funeral.

Andy, as he was known intimately to his friends and close associates, was a member of Harmony Lodge #1 (formerly St. Tammany Lodge #29, under N.C.), Nashville, Tennessee as early as 1800, but to date, the exact time he received the degrees is unknown. He was present at the first meeting of Tennessee Lodge #2, Knoxville, Tennessee (formerly #41, under N.C.) held on March 24, 1800 in the tavern of Samuel A. Love in Knoxville, and was credited there as a member of Harmony Lodge #1.

A Past Grand Master of Tennessee, Brother Charles Comstock, stated: "This lodge (Harmony #1) was chartered by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, December 7, 1796. I think it had been at work a few years previously under dispensation, but the record is not clear and the minutes of the lodge were destroyed many years ago. I am of the opinion that he was probably made a Mason in that lodge as he was located in Nashville in October, 1788. In the Grand Lodge (Tenn.) proceedings for 1822, when he was elected Grand Master (Jackson was first of two U. S. presidents to be Grand Masters. The other was Harry S. Truman), and which was the occasion of his first visit to the Grand Lodge, he is credited with being a Past Master and was elected to membership in the Grand Lodge."

Andrew Jackson was elected to honorary membership in several other Masonic bodies, such as: Federal Lodge #1, Washington, D.C., January 4, 1850; Jackson Lodge #1, Tallahassee, Fla., date unknown; Grand Lodge of Florida, on January 15, 1833. He was elected as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee from October 7, 1822 to October 4, 1823. And Jackson was a member of the Royal Arch Chapter of which P. M. G. Comstock said: "I am of the opinion that he received the Royal Arch Degree under the old custom of conferring it by authority of Blue Lodge warrant. This was done quite frequently, I am confident, in the early history of Masonry in Tennessee, as well as in Virginia, North Carolina and other Jurisdictions. It is doubtful if he affiliated with any Royal Arch Chapter. Anyhow, the records show that Jackson officiated as Deputy General Grand High Priest at the institution of the Grand Chapter of Tennessee on April 3, 1826."

In closing, it might be added here that Andrew Jackson and Henry Clay were the two prominent Masons of that day, who defied the Anti-Masonic Party which had its origin in the alleged "disappearance" of Morgan. These anti's tried to make the Morgan incident a "party issue" during Jackson's campaign, but "Old Hickory" stood pat and was elected president for his first term.

(By RICHARD M. NEEDHAM, 329)

"MASS" CANCELLATIONS

"Mason" cancellations may be obtained by sending self-addressed, stamped envelopes to the postmasters at Mason, located in Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas or Virginia. Kentucky also has a "Masonic Home" post office, and Iowa has a "Mason City." The covers should be accompanied by a request for cancellation and mailing.

Covers with Masonic cachets may be obtained from John A. Mirt. They cost $1.00 for 20, all different; with appropriate stamps the cost is $2.00. All profits go to the education fund of the Illinois Masonic Orphans Home. Mirt's address is 644 Melrose st., Chicago 13, Illinois.

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is shown on Abyssinia No. 305, issued in 1950.
This year marks the bicentenary of the birth of Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, "Father of Mexican Independence." It is reported that Mexico has in mind issuing several commemorative stamps, adding to an already large list of stamps honoring the patriot and Mason.

Hidalgo was a Catholic priest, serving as curate in the village of Dolores, but he was a bitter opponent of clerical and Spanish oppression of the natives of Mexico. For this, he was excommunicated. He was initiated into Freemasonry in "Arquitectura Moral" Lodge and became one of the leaders in the 1810 revolt against Spain.

For a time, his efforts met with success, but he eventually was decisively defeated near Guadalajara in January 1811 and captured. He was executed July 30, 1811.

The magazine BUILDER in November 1916 had this to say: "It was esoteric knowledge of the evils of his brother clergymen that led Miguel de Hidalgo, a Mexican priest, to swear his vows and seek Masonic Light in Mexico City in 1806. From the time he sounded the slogan of revolution against the puppet viceroys of Rome and Spain, to the ultimate triumph of Juarez, the enforcement of the laws of reform through the successive revolutions of Madero and Carranza, the fight has been for the great principle of compelling the separation of Church and State."—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

ARGENTINE MASON HONORED

We are indebted to Bro. Douglas Murison of Temperley, Argentina, for the following information:

In 1941, the Argentine National Bank celebrated its 50th anniversary, the event being commemorated by the issuance of a 5c stamp (No. 474). The stamp shows today's imposing building and a portrait of Carlos (Charles) Pellegrini, President of the Republic from 1890-1892, who was a prime mover in founding the institution. Pellegrini, a Mason, was born in 1846 of Italian parents who, turning to politics after campaigning in Paraguay, became successively representative, minister and vice president. He assumed the presidency on the resignation of President Juarez Celman and completed the term. He was an outstanding economist and jurist, his country being indebted to him for many far-reaching initiatives.

Another Mason honored by a 5c stamp in 1941 (No. 475) was Gen. Juan (John) Lavalle, a distinguished soldier who was born in Buenos Aires in 1797 and who joined the army of Gen. San Martin (also a Mason) at the age of 15. Lavalle took part in the Chilean and Peruvian liberation campaigns and also fought in Brazil, being noted for his courage and daring. On his return to his native land he deposed and executed the governor of the province of Buenos Aires, Col. Dorrego. With varying success he combated the tyrant Rosas but eventually had to flee to Jujuy where, overtaken by his pursuers, he was murdered in 1841. The stamp was issued on the centenary of his death.

During the events that culminated in the revolt of the River Plate Provinces against the Spanish yoke on May 25, 1810, the populace of Buenos Aires wore distinguishing badges in the form of rosettes of blue and white colors. One of the stamps (10c No. 166) issued by Argentina in 1910 on the occasion of the centenary of the revolution, shows Cols. French and Berutti (both Masons) distributing these rosettes which were designed and produced by them. A further stamp (5c No. 471) issued in 1941 honors these two Masons by showing their portraits flanking a rosette.

Col. Domingo French (1783-1825) took part in many engagements in the war of independence, especially at the siege of Montevideo in 1814 and in Peru in 1815. He exiled himself in the United States from 1817 to 1819.

Col. Antonio Luis (Anthony Louis) Berutti (1772-1846) distinguished himself in many military engagements and became successively governor of the province of Santa Fe and Tucuman and minister of war after the formation of the new country.—From Mirt’s "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

BRIEF NOTES ON SYMBOLISMS

Bro. Luther Van Buskirk of Denver calls attention to the fact that the Engineering stamp of 1952 (U. S. No. 1012) is an excellent illustration of "right angles, horizontals and perpendiculars." He says to note the cross bracings on the inside of the covered bridge. The wagon wheels have a point within a circle. The perpendicular cables support the level bridge deck.