



the Masonic Philatelist

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reached several new milestones. With the splendid support of the Officers, Board of Governors, Committee Chairmen and the membership as a whole, there is no reason why our organization cannot continue to progress in strength and accomplishment.

I want to pay a well-deserved tribute to Bro. Forrest L. Ellis who is editing this journal so ably, and to Bro. Al Van Dahl, publisher of Western Stamp Collector, who has so generously contributed to the "new look."

In order to continue this fine work, Bro. Ellis needs the support of the entire membership. He must have articles—long and short—news items of interest, personals, etc. It is up to **every member** to furnish grist for the mill.

In this issue you will find listed the club's complete program for the 1953-54 season. This is the result of diligent effort by Bro. George Wray and his Program Committee. Show your appreciation of their efforts, and also support your club, by regular attendance at meetings.

It will be noted that the club will hold only one meeting each month—on the first Friday of each month (with the exception of New Year's Day)—during the forthcoming season. This change in policy was passed at the Annual Meeting held last June.

I hope that each and every member has had a pleasant and restful summer and that I may have the pleasure of greeting you at our first meeting on Sept. 4th.

Carl H. Pihl

NO FISH STORIES

No matter how big that fish was that you caught this summer, **WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT.** If the fish is on a stamp, okay, you can bring it with you to the first meeting of the new season on Friday evening, Sept. 4, 1953. Meeting will commence at 8 P.M. in the Collectors Club at 22 East 35th Street, New York City.

We are calling the program "Emptying the Attic" because that is probably what a lot of you were doing, or trying to do, these past few months. We want to see what you found in Aunt Minnie's attic, in that tiny post office in the Kentucky hills or on Nassau Street. Dig into that drawer or closet, perhaps you will find that long-forgotten gem.

At any rate, the idea is that **EVERYBODY** will bring something to show that night. It might be a single stamp

or a handful, a few pages, an album or a book. Bring anything of philatelic interest, but bring **SOMETHING.** Each member will be limited to approximately five minutes. "Emptying the Attic" promises to be a humdinger, **DON'T MISS IT.**

About the Club

Bro. Arthur I. Heim, president of the MSC from 1951 to 1953, recently was elected Secretary-Treasurer of The Copper Club, an organization of copper men who served with the U. S. Government in Washington during World War II and since.

Bro. Carl H. Pihl, newly-elected president of the MSC, last May was named Assistant Secretary of The Society of the Silurians, an organization of veteran New York newspapermen.

Bro. Irwin M. Yarry, our esteemed Secretary, has recently completed the re-designing of his famous "jeep-type" motor car. According to latest reports the vehicle possesses all the better features of a Cadillac, a Jaguar and a Mercedes-Benz. It is rumored that several big motor moguls from Detroit are after Doc Yarry, want him to design their motor cars.

Bro. William H. Peters had an excellent article, taking over a large half page, in the May 20, 1953 issue of the Palatka Daily News, Palatka, Florida, entitled "Interlachen Is Splendid Place For Good Living." Seven local photographs illustrated the story.

Br. Al Van Dahl writes to say that, "I am rather obvious of committing a 'faux pas' by not opening the gift which the club gave me, and feel badly because I did not more prominently express my thanks at the meeting or dinner, but the bare fact is that I was too surprised and flabbergasted to do anything else than what I did."

Bro. Fred Hill exhibited at the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia in May. He received a trophy for his section of Religion on Stamps and also the A.P.S. award.

In the Monday, June 8, 1953 Post Office Department Information Service release, Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield announced the appointment of Bro. Robert E. Fellers to head the new Division of Philately.

Bro. C. O. Clausen of San Francisco, producer of the Masonic Stamp albums writes: "I am a new member of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York and enjoy the Masonic Philatelist very

much. Masonic Stamp collecting has been a hobby with me for many years and like Brother John Mirt, who I had the pleasure of meeting, I am giving lectures on Masonic stamps before Masonic bodies."

SECRETARY'S REPORT 1952-53

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York completes its 19th year of activities in promoting philatelic endeavors in the light of our Masonic tradition.

Under the able guidance of President Arthur I. Heim, serving his second term, the M.S.C. of N. Y. had sixteen regular meetings including the annual meeting and seven meetings of the Board of Governors.

During the year a program of speakers provided a varied menu of topics and collections to satisfy any jaded appetite. Bro. George Wray, Program Chairman, deserves the thanks of our Club in bringing this about. Let us recall these sessions —

September 26, 1952—Mr. Eddie Elkins, our perennial devotee of things British, gave an exciting display of Malta.

October 3, 1952—our own Brother Fred Barovick, who has fostered philately in many circles and is now Vice President of the Society Philatelic Americans, gave us an exciting evening with a couple of volumes of Souvenir Sheets.

October 31, 1952—your Secretary, substituting for Steve Rich, provided a "Caribbean Cruise" as depicted on stamps with a delightful panorama of these popular British Colonies in the West Indies.

November 7, 1952—to Brother Marcus W. White we are most grateful for his showing of a collection of Worcester and Worcester County postal history. One can only appreciate Brother White's intense philatelic interest by seeing his voluminous album.

November 28, 1952—the Maximum Card Club in the personality of Miss Madison helped enlighten us in this popular phase of collecting by her visit to us to explain and interpret the correct course to steer in the collecting of the cards.

December 5, 1952—Brother Clarence Brazer showed Columbian proofs and essays. Rare gems of our United States stamp production and in preparation of the stamp design.

January 30, 1953—Julian Blanchard showed, with a very fine talk on paper money from its earliest history and

source design of postage stamps and relative design on paper money.

February 6, 1953—Ira Seebacher's Sports on Stamps was a very interesting sidelight on topical stamp collecting.

March 27, 1953—precancels took over, when Alex Findlay of the New York Precancel Society graced our presence.

May 29, 1953—Doctor David M. Beresi showed his U. S. offset issues of 1918-1920.

Filling in the year's activities many of our own members gave brief talks and displays. Brother Heim's showing of Belgian Congo cancels March 6th, Brother Wray's fancy cancellations on U. S. which included a host of Masonics that were brought to light by Brother Sam Brooks. When the club assembled Feb. 27, for Past President's night, Brother Carl Pelander, who presided, showed Surinam. Brother Roane showed Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Brother Sam Brooks commented on the sale of Brother Sid Barrett's Masonics. A late arrival—Brother Holcombe, filled in the program with his comments on the pre-convention activities of the Shrine convention held here in New York. The lengthy nature of this report only shows a small part of the club's activities. Let us continue.

April 29, the degree team headed by Brother Russ. Roane conferred the Master of Philately Degree on eleven candidates. Three other star events helped make our year a success:

1. The members annual exhibit April 24th, twelve members showed—Brothers Pihl, Phillips, Rueff, Yarry, Reggel, Koomanoff, Wendel, Wray, Hill, Glazer, Heim and Gunter—in that order of their showings.

2. The annual Dinner on May 1st, 1953, thanks to Brother Sidney Barrett, when 40 members and guests with President Heim as toastmaster and Brother Holcombe as speaker sat down to an excellent dinner, etc., with distinguished guests, Brother Max Kohane from Australia and Brother Al Van Dahl from Oregon.

3. Our club cachet honoring the Bicentennial of Brother George Washington's Masonic Birthday was a total sellout of over 600 covers provided a few hundred dollars to the Ralph Barry Publication Fund. We are ever grateful to the committee headed by Brother Russ Roane, with Brothers Carl Pihl, Sam Brooks and Harry Konwiser assisting.

On June 5th we had the pleasure of greeting Brother John A. Mirt of Chi-

cago and Mirt's Back Porch. Brother Mirt, who was attending the annual meeting of the American Medical Association here in New York, spoke on "Research in Masonic Philately."

To the Editor and staff of the Masonic Philatelist a special vote of thanks. The nine issues of our publication in its new form has been chock full of material that has made our club a by-word in Masonic philately. To Brother Van Dahl who has given a new face to our club organ and has helped circulate it to all parts of the U. S. and points overseas, our best wishes.

All these events have provided excellent publicity for the club and is shown by the increase of our membership by 31 new members, and with dozens of inquiries which your secretary has answered. Four members have resigned through loss of interest in philately. God in His infinite wisdom has taken from our midst Brother Fred W. Barrett. May his soul find eternal rest.

In order to maintain such programming in the years ahead, the Club's activities must be streamlined and your officers will make necessary recommendations. We can look forward to an added impetus to our philatelic endeavours in the spirit of our Masonic brotherhood and good fellowship that always prevails when the members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York assemble.

Irwin M. Yarry

TREASURER'S REPORT 1952-1953

Received from Initiations	\$ 30.00
Received from Dues	434.05
Cachet	587.00
Dinner	149.85
Total	\$1200.90

Expenses	
Masonic Philatelist	\$ 149.35
General	202.96
Cachet	313.12
Dinner	159.93
Total	\$ 824.93

Balance June 1952	\$1025.00
Cash in Bank	1462.21
Check on Hand	4.00
Profit for year	375.97

CALIFORNIA MASON AUTHORS MASONIC STAMP ALBUM

A new looseleaf album designed and written by Charles Oliver Clausen, will

be especially interesting to stamp collectors who are Masons, members of the Eastern Star, Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls and DeMolay Chapters.

The author is a Past Master of Starr King Lodge No. 344, Historian of California Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar and Assistant Librarian of California Bodies of the Scottish Rite.

The Masonic Stamp Album contains 82 illustrated pages with spaces for all United States issues having Masonic significance. Historical data and the Masonic background is given for each group of stamps.

Starting with George Washington, the album has pages for all commemorative issues of presidents who were Masons. Space is provided for stamps honoring many other famous Masons including the issues for Benjamin Franklin, Henry Clay, Alexander Hamilton and Nathan Hale.

Among Masons of this century who have been honored on stamps are Mark Twain, Luther Burbank, John Philip Sousa and Will Rogers. The commemorative for Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, takes its place in this album as Miss Barton was a member of the Eastern Star.

An example of other stamps of Masonic importance is the Statue of Liberty commemorative, presented to the United States by the people of France. The Statue of Liberty was designed by a Mason, Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, and the cornerstone of the base was laid with Masonic ceremonies by the Grand Lodge of New York on August 5, 1884.

The album, intended for what might be called the Masonic Stamp Collection, can be supplemented with additional looseleaf pages as more information on the subject is discovered and as new issues appear in the future.

The Masonic Stamp Album has an attractive blue cover with lettering and the fraternal emblem printed in gold.

FROM NEEDHAM'S LINOTYPE ALEXANDER HAMILTON, A MASON

Depicted on the 30¢ 1870-71 issue of the United States (Scott's #143) is the likeness of Alexander Hamilton, from a portrait by Cerrachi. This stamp was printed from Plate #22 by the National Bank Note Co.

Brother Hamilton was born Jan. 11, 1757 on the island of Nevis in the West Indies. Not too much is known about his early life. He organized an Artillery company in the Revolutionary War

and became private secretary to Brother Geo. Washington. Brilliant as a soldier, he was equally effective in organizing the United States government under the 1787 Constitution and later became Secretary of State. Hamilton was the one to set up the first National Treasury on a sound financial basis after the fiasco of the Continental money of Revolutionary fame. He was the first Secretary of the Treasury and put our nation on a sound financial basis for the ills which beset her later on. Hamilton's reports cover a wide range of investigation and (as stated above) he bestowed order and confidence to national finances.

Hamilton was evidently made a Mason in a Military Lodge during the course of the Revolutionary War. His name is recorded as among the visitors of American Union Lodge at Morristown, N. J., on Dec. 27, 1779, and is identified because the only one of that name then holding a commission in the Army under Gen. Geo. Washington. Incidentally, American Union Lodge is now No. 1 under the Grand Lodge of Ohio, located at Marietta.

Every American knows, or should know, that Hamilton died as a result of a bullet, fired in a duel with Aaron Burr, at Weehawken, N. J., July 12, 1804. The duel was the final act in a political quarrel between the two participants.

MASONRY ON GERMAN STAMPS

By R. G. AUCLAND

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nr. St. Albans, Herts. England

My aim in writing this article is to bring to the thematic stamp collector the stamps which Germany has to offer on the subject of Freemasonry.

As the Third Reich blamed Masonry, Jewry and Bolshevism for the Second World War, it is most surprising that anti-Masonic postal slogans and hand-stamps were not used as in the case of the other two.

Germany's contribution to Operative Masonry can be seen on several of its stamps, and those wishing to form a "subject" collection might well start with the Mason himself. The Operative Mason, who in the passing of the centuries has become the Speculative Freemason and now applies his working tools to everyday life, can be seen on the 5 pf. value of the 1934 Craftsmen series. With the trowel he is laying the foundation of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Is it symbolical that

this 5 pf. stamp of the Mason also carried with it a 2 pf. surcharge to be devoted to charity?

Historical research will show that skilled masons were first demanded by the Church who needed them to build marvellous edifices to the Glory of God. To show the outstanding achievements and colossal works undertaken by these early masons, the collector of "philatelic masonry" cannot do better than to illustrate and write-up, among others, the German stamps depicting Cologne, Speyer and Breslau cathedrals.

We pass from the Operative Mason and his monumental works to the comparatively modern Speculative Masons who practice spiritually what their forefathers did physically.

I am told by Captain Durand of Glasgow, Scotland, that there are eight cases of Masons being depicted on German stamps, two of them on stamps issued 1933-45.

Masonic symbols are rarely met with on stamps and the only one I found was the 5-Year Plan stamp of Eastern Germany, 1951. Here are shown the compass and "ear of corn." I will admit that I have not searched the designs of German stamps diligently and it is quite possible that other masonic signs and symbols can be found.

These few words are not intended to be comprehensive on the subject, but merely to form the basis of a collection should any brother-collector interested in both philatelic Germany and masonry to enlarge upon these pointers.

WASHINGTON'S OPINION OF FREEMASONRY

Set aside a page in your album, illustrated with some George Washington stamps (No. 714 is especially good; so is No. 645—Valley Forge) for the following comment by the Revolutionary War hero:

"My first desire to become a Mason was due to the fact that many of Virginia's noblest sons were members of the Fraternity. Therefore, it was not without forethought that, on Saturday evening, November 4, 1752, in the village of Fredericksburg, I was made an Entered Apprentice Mason.

"The Masonic lessons I learned on my admission to Masonry and my contact and conversations with prominent Masons thereafter were of the greatest encouragement in after years when I encountered and underwent severe trials, especially those at the commencement and during the Revolution."

SARMIENTO, ARGENTINE MASON, A COLORFUL FIGURE

Bro. Douglas Murison of Temperley, Argentina, provides the following interesting information on Domingo Faustina Sarmiento, a colorful figure and one of the early presidents of Argentina. Sarmiento was a Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Argentina and was most active in reviving Freemasonry after the overthrow of the tyrant, Rosas. His likeness is pictured on numerous Argentine stamps, including a 5¢ issue (No. 176) on the centenary of his birth in 1911 and a set of four (Nos. 448-451) issued in 1938 on the 50th anniversary of his death.

Sarmiento, descendant of a distinguished family in straitened circumstances, was virtually self-educated although two relatives, both Roman Catholic priests, took him under their care while his father served in Chile under Gen. San Martin, a Mason. An outspoken liberal, he had to go into exile in Chile three times. He turned to journalism and founded newspapers in both Chile and Argentina. During his second exile he also went into the writing of books. In 1845, he was commissioned by the president of Argentina to study scholastic methods in the United States and Europe.

After his second exile he returned to Argentina and joined the forces of Gen. Urquiza (on No. 420 and earlier stamps), a Mason, who was fighting against Rosas. Sarmiento's role was akin to that of a war correspondent of today. After Rosas' defeat, there came a break between Urquiza and Sarmiento, and the latter went into exile for the third time, resorting to journalism and writing.

A prolific writer (52 books to his credit), he ignored academic and grammatical form, preferring a straightforward, sometimes vehement, sometimes lyrical, approach to his subject. In time, he became a figure to be reckoned with. An advocate of free public instruction, he was instrumental in bringing teachers from the United States to further his aims in this direction.

In 1855, he returned to Argentina and joined the party of Gen. Mitre (on No. 430 and earlier stamps), likewise a Mason. When the latter became president, Sarmiento was appointed minister to the United States. While here, he represented the Grand Lodge of Argentina in negotiations for recognition by numerous American Grand Lodges, some of which still exist.

Opposing Mitre's foreign policy, he returned to his homeland, and in 1868 he was elected president, serving until 1874. His term was a stormy one, but he is remembered for his advancement of free and universal education. He filled other political offices before retiring from public life to devote his final years to writing. He died in Asuncion, Paraguay, in 1888.

In 1897, Argentina took over a frigate from the British and used it as a training ship for naval cadets. It was named "President Sarmiento" in honor of his having founded the Argentine Naval College. The ship was withdrawn from active service in 1939, at which time a 5c stamp (No. 454) was issued. Another stamp, a 5c (No. 538) was issued on the 50th anniversary in 1947. Both show the ship under full sail. The frigate still puts to sea for short instruction trips on occasions.—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

BROTHER JAKE REPORTING

While visiting St. Petersburg, Florida, I was impressed with the number of Masons and Shriners sojourning there. It seems that nearly every male that you approach wears either a pin, fob or ring with a Masonic or Shrine emblem.

When traveling it should be so. When walking you are stopped once or more times with a cheery—good morning—and you find out that the other person saw your pin and that he hails from the far west or Canada or from your own home town. There is never a dull moment and the friendliness is contagious—you are at your best for the balance of the day.

The ladies too wear Eastern Star pins or scatter pins of Masonic or Shrine insignia and they will often stop you and will say "My husband is a Shriner too" or a "Mason too." The Masonic lodges invite all visiting brothers to their lodges by advertising in the newspapers and through the Chamber of Commerce.

Once a year they have a big jamboree at their Colosseum which holds 5000 persons and it is generally filled.

The Shrine "Egypt" is at Tampa but St. Pete has a live Shrine Club. Every Monday from 11 to 1:30 the club has a luncheon with presents, and talks on topics of interest, with a very good meal for a \$1.03. They have ladies present on special occasions and arrange for Shrine excursions and make it generally agreeable for visiting Shriners and their ladies.

— From Mirt's Back Porch —

MIRT'S BACK PORCH TRAILBLAZING MASONS

The June issue of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE has two articles of interest to Masonic philatelists. One is about the Louisiana Purchase. It starts out with a quotation by one of the American signers to the transaction, Bro. Robert R. Livingston, a Past Grand Master of New York: "This is the noblest work of our whole lives," he said as he signed. "From this day, the United States take their place among the powers of the first rank," a prophetic statement, indeed.

Of considerable interest is the lead article entitled "Following the Trails of Lewis and Clark." Both were Masons, whose explorations paved the way for opening up the northwest. They also laid the foundation for United States' claim to the region. Some of the historic points in their travel are named on the map which features the Oregon Territory Stamp of 1936 (No. 783). A portion of the Lewis-Clark trail also is shown. The GEOGRAPHIC also includes as a supplement a large, historic map of the United States, which shows the route traveled by Lewis and Clark in 1804 to 1806.

Capt. Meriwether Lewis, who was appointed by President Jefferson to organize the expedition into the Northwest, was raised in Door to Virtue Lodge No. 44, Albemarle, Va., January 29, 1797. After his return from his expedition he became the first Master of St. Louis Lodge No. 111, in 1808. The Lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and was composed largely of army officers serving on the western frontier, and of fur traders. It is now Missouri Lodge No. 1, under the Grand Lodge of Missouri. He signed as a witness to the official transfer of the Louisiana Territory at St. Louis on March 10, 1804. He became governor of the territory in 1807. (A map of Louisiana Territory is shown on No. 327, a 10¢ stamp in a series of five issued in 1904.)

Bro. Lewis died in Tennessee in 1809 under mysterious circumstances while en route to Washington. A monument, symbolically Masonic, with a broken column signifying his untimely death (he was 35), marks his burial place.

Capt. William Clark, likewise, was a member of St. Louis Lodge No. 111, and was buried with Masonic honors by St. Louis Lodge No. 20 (Grand Lodge of Missouri) in 1838.

For an interesting story about these trailblazing Masons, read the June issue of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

A MASONIC KING WHO DEFIED THE NAZIS

The following story is to be found in the 1947 proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island. It was related by the Grand Master in his address and concerns the late King Christian X of Denmark (pictured on Denmark and Iceland stamps), who died April 21, 1947. King Christian, soldier and statesman as well as monarch, was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Denmark for many years and an honorary member of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The story goes:

"During the occupation of his country by the Nazis this gallant king stood by his people, and lived in his own residence in Copenhagen. The story is told of his ordering the Nazis to leave the Danish flag flying over the palace. He was told that if a Danish soldier attempted to hoist these colors he would be shot. Promptly, King Christian went to the roof and hoisted his country's flag in person. The Nazis were unable to cope with this sort of bravery and the colors remained at the masthead."

The Grand Master of Prince Edward Island concluded his narration with: "Brethren, an act of this nature takes courage, and we should be proud as members of this worldwide fraternity that a man of this caliber headed the Freemasons of Denmark." — From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

First day figures for the 3¢ National Guard commemorative postage stamp on February 23, 1953: Covers cancelled, 387,618; stamps sold, 605,476; value of stamps sold, \$18,164.28.

The 2c Philippine disabled veteran stamp of 1950 (No. B4) reminds a Mason of his obligation toward "widows and orphans." — From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

Post Card showing the bronze tablet by Karl Bitter that will be depicted on the Louisiana Purchase commemorative issue. This photograph is not the origin of design for the stamp, design of stamp photograph is taken from a different angle of the tablet.