



the Masonic Philatelist

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NO. 2

Top—obverse of the medal presented to the Masonic Stamp Club by the Masonic Philatelic Society of Victoria (Australia) during the MSC Annual Dinner, May 1, 1953.



Bottom—reverse of the medal. Medal was presented by Bro. Max Kokane, Past Master of Philatelic Lodge #552 of Melbourne, Australia.

I don't like the way that the smilers in our Lodge, smile smilingly when adult stamp collecting is mentioned, but I meet that in other places.

Perhaps you would like to start a Forum in the Masonic Philatelist. Let's get some ammunition ready for these non-collecting Masons.

Yours very truly,
Harry L. Kinne.

To the Editor:

Anent Brother Kinne's letter above, I believe a bit of explanation is in order. First: the production of MP at our office here in Albany is entirely a labor of love; no commercialism enters therein. Secondly, it is the writer's belief that a monthly publication of most any nature—unless it is pre-dated as are most of the large magazines—should not be expected to contain anything of particular newswalue. This latter fact is further enhanced because of the distance in this particular instance.

It is my personal view that the MP is an organ of communication within the Craft and among Brothers who are stamp collectors. To this end, my own organization here has now produced the magazine for the Masonic Stamp Club of New York for more than a year free of charge with the exception of actual postage, envelopes for mailing and the cost of the illustrations, the rest has been and will be as long as the Club so desires and as long as I am alive, be an expression of fraternity and cooperation on my part.

We do the best we can here with the time we have available and there are instances when the multitude of equipment we have is so occupied that it is difficult to squeeze in anything extra. We expect the installation this fall of a third Linotype slug casting machine, which might speed up the work some, and since a very recent installation of a second large automatic folder leaves some of the personnel free for occasional use of a third composing machine, some faster delivery could be in the offing.

It is my sincere hope that too much inconvenience is not caused the Brothers and that my organization can continue to be of service as in the past.

Sincerely,

Al VanDahl.

P. S.—To the Brothers who do not have the inside information, our plant here in Albany, Oregon, employs 20 people—more or less at times—and is busily occupied all the time in the production of material of philatelic nature—printing and books, magazines, etc., for those whose occupation is STAMPS

—as an avocation or as professionals. I believe it is the largest independent printing organization of this nature in the country.—A.V.D.

Washington Masonic Philatelic Covers

The Fredericksburg Lodge #4, A.F. & A.M., Fredericksburg, Va. announces that they have available for sale at 50¢ each, cancelled and cacheted covers of Nov. 4, 1952, March 3, 1953 and August 4, 1953, being the 200th Anniversaries of Washington's Initiation, Passing and Raising in the aforesaid lodge. Any one desiring any of these covers, write to Edward H. Cain, secretary, 902 Marye Street, Fredericksburg, Va.

—Needham.

Bro. E. Milnor Peck is to be congratulated on his "Stamps, Their History and Memorial Significance," a First Day catalog by Fleetwood. This catalog is a combined check list and information compilation of the postage stamps of the U. S. Stamps are illustrated, why the stamps were issued, numbers issued and the first day of issue covers priced for singles, blocks and plate number blocks. An article by Bro. Franklin R. Bruns, "Covers and Their History" is also included. Though the stamp listing starts with the Columbian issue, prices of first day material does not start until the Victory commemorative issue of 1919, available at \$30, \$50 and \$100.

United States Postal Slogan Cancels

The 1953 catalog consists of 96 pages with a complete alphabetical listing of all United States Postal Slogan Cancels since their inception and up to and including February 1953; approximately 700 illustrations, Place Used, Date Used, Type of Cancel, and current market prices.

It also contains a complete listing of all U. S. Philippine Islands (1908-1945) and Canal Zone Slogan Cancels, fully illustrated; identification chart, how and what to collect and slogan type machine markings.

The current market prices listed in the catalog have been compiled through a cross section of prices being asked by dealers and collectors throughout the country and prices that collectors would be willing to pay for the slogan cancels.

The catalog can now be ordered from the publisher, Moe Luff, 240 West 56th street, New York 19, N. Y. for \$1.50 postpaid.

A Cuban Masonic Stamp

By HERMAN HERST, JR.

There are a number of stamps of Cuba which picture the Cuban flag, a red, white and blue device, with a single white star set in a triangular blue field, and five alternate red and white stripes.

On the authority of the sightseeing guide who took Mrs. Herst and me on a tour of Havana, that flag is an apt subject for a subject collection of Masonry on postage stamps.

Before Cuba finally obtained its independence from Spain with American help in 1898, there were several attempts which ended tragically. Many of these unsuccessful revolts were planned in the United States, and most of them were financed by Americans with arms supplied by Americans.

According to the guide, one of the unsuccessful plots against Spanish despotism in the middle of the last century was conducted by American Masons. The revolt was crushed, as were previous ones, and in the end, the patriots were killed or executed.

To show its eternal gratitude for the members of the craft who had given their lives for liberty in a nation not their own, when the Cuban Republic chose its flag in the early years of this century, it decided to pay its tribute to these men, by incorporating a Masonic symbol in its flag. Accordingly, the "field," on which the single star is located (square in our own flag) was made a triangle, a Masonic symbol.

We have not as yet been able to check the accuracy of the story, but a monument with Square and Compass in honor of Masons who gave their lives fighting for Cuban independence seen as one enters Havana, seems to lend credence to the belief. In any event, Masonry can lay full claim to the star and triangle that exists on the flag, making stamps such as Scott No. 335, 362, 363, 421, 458, 460, 461, C41, C42, and C43 apt subjects for any Masonic collection.

The Italian worker series of 1950 includes a 2 lire stamp showing an operative mason placing a keystone in an arch, an excellent addition to a Royal Arch collection.

Zone numbers appearing in the New York City machine cancels are: 1, 7, 10, 17, 21, 25, 38, 39, 51 and 72.

FROM NEEDHAM'S LINOTYPE HENRY CLAY, A MASON

Depicted on the 12¢ 1870-71 issue of the United States (Scott's No. 140) is the likeness of Henry Clay, one man who aspired to the presidency three times and was defeated three times, by a brother Mason. Brother Clay was the one who said: "I would rather be right than be President," and was known as the "Great Commoner." The picture or bust is from Hart.

Henry Clay was born on April 12, 1777 in Hanover county, Virginia. His family moved, while he was still young, to Kentucky. And it is from this state as a Senator to Congress, that he started on the long road to fame. At the age of 23, Clay was elected a delegate to the Kentucky Constitutional Convention. By the time he was 26, he was elected to the state legislature. Three years later, at 29, he was elected United States Senator. Defeated for re-election or running for another office at the next election (records don't show which), he later was Speaker of the House of Representatives at 34 years of age. From 1825-9 he was Secretary of State under President John Quincy Adams, who was an Anti-Mason. Brother Clay died June 29, 1852 in Washington, D. C. He is buried in Lexington, Ky.

He was made a Mason in Lodge No. 1, Lexington, Ky. in 1799. He was Junior Warden in 1802. Was Grand Master of Masons of Kentucky in 1820-1, elected to this high office on August 29, 1820.

He advocated a General Grand Lodge of the United States, and at a conference at Washington, D. C. on March 9, 1822, a meeting was held in the Senate Chamber (the only instance of record where any halls of Congress were used by Masons) to discuss this very thing. His views were unanimously adopted and were thereafter referred to as "The Clay Resolution." But nothing ever came of it.

Henry Clay and Andrew Jackson stood pat on the Masonic threshold during the Morgan incident. Clay remained loyal to the Fraternity.

WINFIELD SCOTT, A MASON

Depicted on the 24¢ 1870-71 issue of the United States (Scott's #142) is the likeness of General Winfield Scott, from a portrait by Coffee. This stamp was printed from Plate #21 by the National Bank Note Co. According to Brookman, the color of this stamp

is affected by light and the supply of these stamps having a good rich purple color are getting scarcer year by year. The reason for this is "due not only to light but to the paper on which the stamps are printed and to the gum on the stamp."

General Scott was born at Petersburg, Va., on June 13, 1786. He studied law at William and Mary, but entered the Army in 1808 with a captain's commission. On the outbreak of the War of 1812 he took his regiment to the Canadian frontier where he led the attack on Ft. George, May 27, 1813. In 1814 he was made a brigadier-general, and the same year distinguished himself at the battle of Chippewa. He was appointed Commander of the Department of the East in 1829. In 1847 he was sent to Mexico, and was the chief figure in the brilliant maneuvers which ended with the surrender of Mexico City on Sept. 14th.

As Whig nominee for the presidency in the election of 1852, he was defeated by Franklin Pierce. He was Commander of the Union Armies at the outbreak of the Civil War, but due to his advanced age, gave over command to Gen. McClellan, Nov. 1, 1861. Brother Scott died at West Point on May 29, 1866.

He didn't seem to be very active in Masonic circles during his long Army life, but he was a member of Dinwiddie Lodge, #23, F. & A. M., in Virginia.

Confederate Postmaster General Reagen

When John H. Reagen, Postmaster General of the Confederate States, assumed control of the Confederate Post Office system, June 1, 1861, he ordered the postmasters then acting as United States Postmasters to send in their reports, etc. in order that new commissions might be issued. Reagen's report, dated Nov. 27, 1861, stated the total number of post offices in the Confederate States was (as of June 1, 1860), 8,411. He also reported there had been 491 resignations, to date of his Nov. 27, 1861, report. Postmaster Reagen is on record as saying the Confederate Postmasters were without authority in the matter of issuing stamps. "Such stamps as were issued by them," Reagen wrote, "was done entirely on their own responsibility."

Postmaster Reagen, in his initial proclamation, assuming control of the postal system expressly stated that until supplies of postage stamps and

stamped envelopes are procured for the prepayment of postage within the Confederate States, all postages must be paid in money."

—Harry M. Konwiser.

State of Franklin

According to Harry M. Konwiser, Clarence W. Brazier would like to have some definite information regarding the activities of the postal system had in what was called "The State of Franklin,"—so named let's concede as being not conceded by the United States of America.

The record discloses the fact that in 1784, North Carolina ceded the western lands (now Washington, Sullivan and Green Counties of Tennessee) to the United States. Congress did not immediately recognize this cession, and so the residents of this territory formed a government, set up officers by election, and in early 1785 elected John Sevier as a governor for a three-year period. And they also proclaimed themselves the independent State of Franklin. (As both Franklin and Sevier were Masons, this item of a State of Franklin interests members of the Craft).

According to historical data, the State of Franklin established courts, magistrates operated, taxes were levied and a constitution was adopted. Despite these efforts Congress refused recognition and so the State of Franklin passed out of existence in December, 1788. North Carolina repealed the act ceding the territory to the United States. Later this section became part of Tennessee.

What is wrong with all this? Merely that collectors of early American covers, often called Postal History hobbyists, want some information on the State of Franklin Post Office services. No doubt proper search in the North Carolina archives will bring forth the information wanted, likewise a few letters of the period showing post office marks. (Readers are invited to advise Harry M. Konwiser of marking details).

The father of Luther Van Buskirk, member of the Denver Masonic Stamp Club, was the first postmaster of Bayonne, New Jersey.

"Solomon's Seal" is shown on Netherlands No. 200, issued in 1933. The finest example is on Israel Nos. 35-36, issued in 1950.

From Mirt's Back Porch

BARTON STAMP HONORS EASTERN STAR MEMBER

The 3¢ "Red Cross" stamp issued by the United States in 1948 (No. 967), bearing the portrait of Clara Barton, pays tribute to the heroic work of a woman who founded the Red Cross movement in this country and who was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for a half century. She was known as "The Angel of the Battlefield."

On December 25, 1821, the world was given a Christmas present, for on that date Clarissa Harlow Barton was born in an old farmhouse in North Oxford, Mass. Daughter of a Mason who had fought in the Revolutionary War, she in her childhood heard stories of the hardships suffered by soldiers in war.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, she offered herself as a volunteer nurse. In hospitals, in camps, on the battlefield, she worked tirelessly to relieve human suffering. She organized relief campaigns, obtained contributions. Her devotion never faltered. Every obstacle only made her work harder.

From her Masonic father she learned of the objectives of Freemasonry, one of these being the relief of the distressed. While she was engaged in this noble work. Dr. Robert Morris, founder of the Order of the Eastern Star, visited her little town and she asked him to make her a member. This was done in her home, the degrees being communicated to her by Dr. Morris in the presence of a group of Masons. Thus, her zeal was fired by the objectives of these two great organizations.

After the Civil War. President Lincoln gave Clara Barton the task of identifying the bodies of unknown soldiers. Through her efforts, some 13,000 were identified and returned to bereaved relatives.

She was resting in Switzerland when the Franco-Prussian war broke out. It was not long before she was at the front, aiding the wounded. She entered Strasbourg with the German Army and organized the relief work there. For these services she was awarded decorations by the German government.

In her European services she had seen in action the Red Cross, founded by Henri Dunant, a Mason. When she returned to the United States in 1873, she started to urge Congress to

have the United States join the international European treaty establishing the Red Cross. Her efforts were successful in 1881, and she became the first president of the American Red Cross. That position, she retained until her death in 1912.

But it was not only on the battlefield that Clara Barton saw need. She saw the necessity for relief in floods, earthquakes, famines, epidemics, fires and other disasters. The worse the place, the more determined she was to be there—working tirelessly to relieve the distressed. Her example was an incentive to those who rallied around her.

Through this half century of sacrifice, she proudly kept the Eastern Star pin which was given her by Dr. Morris at her initiation. In her late years, she belonged to the Clara Barton chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in her home town of Oxford, Mass. That chapter participated in her funeral arrangements.

Here, then is an outstanding example of one of the cardinal principles of the Order of the Eastern Star. She never said: "They ought to be able to help themselves," or "let someone else help them." Changing but one word—the name—in a portion of the Eastern Star initiatory ceremonies, we have: "Clara, we are told, was distinguished for her kindness to the poor and distressed. However, we are impressed not so much by her giving, as by the motive that prompted it."

Every time I look at the Clara Barton stamp, or the 2¢ stamp issued in 1931 (No. 702) on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the American Red Cross, I am reminded of this story.—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

MANY MASONS ON SWEDISH POSTAGE STAMPS

Sweden, besides honoring its kings who are Grand Masters of Freemasonry in that country, also has paid philatelic tribute to other Masons. The following information comes from Bro. Torsten Wassen of Gothenburg (Scott's numbers are used):

A. W. Roos (1824-1895), postmaster general 1867-1889, who reorganized the postal service. Initiated into Freemasonry in St. John's Lodge "Den Nordiska Första (The First of Scandinavia)". On No. 259, issued in 1936 as part of series commemorating 300th

anniversary of the Swedish postal service.

J. J. Berzelius (1779-1848), prominent scientific chemist and physician. Initiated 1805 in St. John's Lodge St. Erik, at Stockholm. On Nos. 233, 295 and 297, issued in 1939, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of founding of Royal Academy of Science, Stockholm.

K. G. Tessin (1695-1770), architect. Initiated 1753 in St. John's Lodge St. Jean Auxiliaire, Stockholm. On No. 331, issued in 1942, to commemorate sesquicentennial of Swedish National Museum, Stockholm.

Viktor Rydberg (1828-1895), journalist, philosopher, professor of the history of civilization, poet, author. Initiated in 1865 in St. John's Lodge Salomon a trois Serrurs, Gothenburg (Bro. Wassen's). Worked for time on Göteborgs Handels & Sjöfartstidning, with which Bro. Wassen is now associated as editor. Bro. Rydberg is shown on Nos. 263-4-5, issued in 1947 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his death.

Incidentally, Bro. Wassen, whose address is Aschebergsgatan 32, Gothenburg, is to be congratulated on his attainment of the 10th degree, the last step for a Swedish Mason. This honor comes only as a result of long and active service to Freemasonry. We are grateful to him for his efforts to provide us with authentic information concerning Masons on Swedish postage stamps.

MASONS IN EARLY HISTORY OF VERMONT

Masons have left their marks on the early history of Vermont. In the American Revolution, Vermonters were among the first to respond to the call of freedom. The victory over the English at Bennington, Vt., August 6, 1777, in which the "Green Mountain Boys" (No. 643 issued in 1927) played an important role, was regarded as a turning point in the war. The commander of the troops was Gen. John Stark, a member of Masters' Lodge No. 5, Albany, N. Y. At the head of the Bennington militia was Col. Nathaniel Brush, later to become a charter member and first Master of North Star Lodge, Manchester, formed in 1785. The cornerstone of the Bennington Battle Monument was laid with Masonic ceremonies by the Grand Master of Vermont, August 16, 1887.

When in 1791, Vermont sought admission to the Union as the fourteenth state, considerable opposition was

raised by New York. Thomas Chittenden, who in 1782 became a member of Vermont Lodge (now No. 18), Windsor, and two fellow members of that lodge, Ira Allen and Dr. Jonas Fay, led the fight for statehood. The petition was presented to Congress by George Washington, and statehood rights were granted March 4, 1791. Chittenden became the first governor of the new state. About the same time, he became charter Master of Dorchester Lodge of Vergennes, chartered in 1791 by the Grand Lodge of Canada and now No. 1 under the Grand Lodge of Vermont. Statehood is commemorated in the 3¢ Vermont sesqui-centennial stamp issued in 1941 (No. 903).

Freemasonry was introduced into Vermont in 1781 when the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts chartered a lodge to meet at Springfield. This became Vermont No. 1 when the Grand Lodge of Vermont was formed in 1794. At that time, five lodges were operating in the state. The anti-Masonic campaign which started in 1826 and spread throughout the nation, hit Vermont heavily. By 1833, not a lodge in the state was working. It was not until 1846 that the Grand Lodge resumed functions. Vermont Lodge was not revived until 1850, when it became No. 18. The state now has more than 100 lodges with a combined membership of about 19,000.—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

YELLOWSTONE STAMP OF MASONIC INTEREST

The 5¢ Yellowstone National Park stamp (No. 744) issued in 1934, is of Masonic philatelic interest. In 1870, a small party led by Gen. Henry D. Washburn, a Mason, explored the area to confirm some of the reports which had been brought back by other expeditions. Included in the group were Nathaniel P. Langford, Grand Master of Masons in Montana, and Cornelius Hedges, Deputy Grand Master, who later became Grand Master and who served as Grand Secretary for 36 years before his death in 1907.

While on the trip, there arose a discussion over favorable sites which might be acquired. Bro. Hedges said there should be no private ownership of any portion of that region, but that instead the whole area should be set apart "for the benefit and enjoyment of all the people." His idea prevailed, and when the party returned home, Hedges and Langford began a campaign which bore fruit in 1872 when

Congress passed an Act which set aside 2,213,207 acres in Northwestern Wyoming, Southwestern Montana and Northeastern Idaho for Yellowstone National Park, the first in a chain all over the United States. Langford was appointed as the first superintendent, serving without pay. Hedges is now looked upon as the "father" of national parks.

There is another Masonic tie to Yellowstone National Park. On April 24, 1903, the Grand Master of Montana laid the cornerstone of the entrance arch at Gardiner, Mont., with Masonic ceremonies. A participant in the event was President Theodore Roosevelt, a member of Matinecock Lodge No. 806, Oyster Bay, N. Y. Among the items deposited in the cornerstone were photographs of Langford and Hedges.—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

DUKE OF EDINBURGH A MASTER MASON

A recent issue of FREEMASONS' CHRONICLE (London) indicates that when the Duke of Edinburgh was initiated into Freemasonry, he also was passed and raised at the same time. If we are not correct in our surmise, we hope some of our English readers will set us aright.

The London publication pointed out that although the Grand Master and other high Masonic dignitaries were present at the ceremonies, the degrees were conferred by the regular Master of the Lodge—"an object lesson of equality within the Brotherhood."

Other information of interest is reported by NEW AGE, which says that Queen Elizabeth II has announced her consent to become Grand Patroness of each of the three Royal Masonic Benevolent Institutions conducted by the Grand Lodge of England—one each for old folks, boys and girls. This is another evidence of the close relationship between Freemasonry and the British ruling family.—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

MASON DRIVES SPIKE LINKING RAILROADS

A Mason drove the golden spike which marked the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States. The ceremony, shown on a 3¢ stamp (No. 921) issued in 1944, took place at Promontory Point, Utah, May 10, 1869. It linked the Union

Pacific and the Southern Pacific (then Central Pacific) railroads to form a line 1,776 miles long.

The man who drove home the last spike at the junction point was Leland Stanford, who was raised in Prometheus (now Ozaukee) Lodge No. 17, Port Washington, Wis., on March 18, 1850. He died in 1852 when he went to California, where he became senior deacon of Michigan City Lodge No. 47, upon its organization January 11, 1854. He withdrew a year later.

Stanford was a lawyer, but he went into the mercantile field in San Francisco in 1856. He helped to organize the Central Pacific Railroad and became its president. He served as governor in 1861-63. With gifts totaling \$22,500,000, he founded Leland Stanford Jr. University at Palo Alto, Calif., in 1885 in memory of his only son. He died in 1893.—From Mirt's "Masonry on Postage Stamps."

SPECIAL CANCELLATION HONORS ERNIE PYLE, MASON

Bro. J. N. Wong of Los Angeles sent the writer an interesting Masonic philatelic item—a postcard showing the Ernie Pyle memorial erected in Ie Shima, the Ryukyus Islands. The islands were a part of Japan until they were occupied by American forces in 1945. Bro. Pyle, war correspondent, lost his life while reporting World War II. The card bears a Ryukyus Islands stamp and a "1952.4.18" special cancellation used by the Ie Shima post office. The cancellation was promoted by Masons. The memorial was constructed and is being kept up by the Ernie Pyle Chapter of the De Molay, located in the Ryukyus. United States military and civic organizations hold memorial services at the monument every year.

CECIL RHODES WAS A MASON

Cecil John Rhodes, who has been honored by a number of stamp issues recently, was raised in Apollo University Lodge No. 357, English Constitution, Oxford, England, April 17, 1877, when he was 25 years old. He also was a member of Oxford University of Prince Rose Croix, No. 30, A. & A. S. R. His name appears on the charter of Bulawayo Lodge No. 2566, English Constitution, consecrated in Bulawayo Rhodesia, South Africa, in 1895. He also gave a site on which the latter lodge built a temple. He died in 1902.