Corner card of the American Philatelic Associations' Official Circular of October, 1893. The American Philatelic Association was the name of the society that later became the American Philatelic Society. The cover is illustrated in this issue in honor of the A.P.S. meeting held in San Francisco, Calif. September 15-18, 1954. Bro. Burleigh E. Jacobs has been the president of this society, 1953-54.
The MASONIC PHILATELIST
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ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 4, 1954
The officers for the 1954-55 season are as follows:
Carl H. Pihl, president; Thomas Phillips, 1st vice president; George B. Wray, 2nd vice president; Russell B. Roane, treasurer; Dr. Irwin M. Yarr, secretary; Frederick Hill, Board of Governors for 3 years.

SECRETARY’S ANNUAL REPORT 1953-54
This 26th anniversary of the Masonic Stamp Club of N. Y. under the wise and able leadership of Carl H. Pihl, has moved forward in the promotion of Masonic interests among stamp collectors of our fraternity.

Our program chairman, George B. Wray has given us an excellent array of philatelic talent chosen almost exclusively from our own membership, among whom were Bros. S. D. Swan, Chas. Lott, our own past presidents, and many others too numerous to mention. During the course of the year 20 new members were added to our roster. We know that this shows the great interest that our hobby has among Masons. It is true that this figure could be doubled or even trebled but as all Masons are not a high pressure organization and feel that a brother will apply for membership in the same spirit as he did when he entered our fraternity.

On April 2, the degree team headed by Bros. Pihl and Heim conferred the Master of Philately degree upon eight candidates. May 7th the members' annual exhibit gave some fine showings.
by seven of our members, Bros. Trachsel, Black, Reggel and several of our older standbys, Bros. Glaser, Hill and Ellis. It should be possible to enlarge upon these showings so that the exhibition chairman could make this a stellar event at which all participate.

The annual dinner on May 2nd is still fresh in our minds and except for Bro. Barrett’s having to retire due to illness, the presence of about forty members made this event a success. The talk and paper presented by Bro. Walter B. Koons was a most enlightening piece of Masonic research—The Mystery of the Missing Entered Apprentice is still the unsolved mystery. We hope that Bro. Koons will unravel this some day.

The Masonic Philatelist maintains its high standard with a full ten issues of material to which your secretary refers constantly for stories about our club. We have a publication which circulates among our members but needs the constant flow of news that can only come from us. Let’s furnish more to this media so that it can flourish.

There were many happy events throughout the year. The visit by Bro. Kohane; the attendance of club members at Bro. Glaser’s 50th Masonic birthday; the dinner tendered to Bro. Lott by the Frontier Stamp Clubs; all are well recalled. But with time the Grand Architect has taken from our midst our dear friend and brother—Al Van Dahl to whom the Masonic Stamp Club had become so close in the short period of association. We have memorialized Bro. Van Dahl as shown in the masthead of our publication.

Let us hope and pray that in the future we will continue to put forward a little of this spirit of good fellowship as shown by our departed friend, Bro. Al Van Dahl.

—Dr. Yarry.

CLUB COMMITTEES 1954-55

Following are the Chairmen of the various club committees for the 1954-55 season:

Program—George B. Wray and Fred L. Hill

Membership—Carl E. Pelandar and Harry M. Konwiser

Exhibition—Emmanuel M. Reggel and Charles Brooks

Dinner—Sidney F. Barrett and Jacob S. Glaser

Ritual—Arthur L. Heim and Morris Strauss

Exchange—Robert M. Pech

Chaplain—Sam Brooks

Publicity—Thomas Phillips

ATTENDANCE AT 20th ANNIVERSARY DINNER
MAY 21, 1954


MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK
Treasurer’s Report Year Ending June 4, 1954
Balance beginning of year (ck. from H.M.K) $1,432.66

Deposited 8/6/53 $1,432.66

RECEIPTS:
Initiation Fees $45.00
Dues $442.50
Miscellaneous:
Barry Fund $3.00
Sale Covers $6.00
Back Issues $7.00
Balance $16.00

509.50

(A) Received from Dinner Committee 135.00

$2,077.16

DISBURSEMENTS:
Masonic Philatelist $138.00
Printing & Postage $28.00
Miscellaneous:
Entertainment Guest 4.20
Xmas Gratuities 60.00
Nat. Fed. Stamp 2.00
Flowers 18.45
Contribution Shrine
Hospital in Memory of the late
Al Van Dahl 100.00 495.84

(A) Masonic Club

(Annual Dinner) 145.19

495.84

Balance June 4, 1954 $1,581.32 (B)

(A) Dinner—From Committee $135.00
Paid Masonic Club 145.19

Loss on Dinner $10.19

(B) Balance as per Bank Statement
May 28, 1954 $1,581.32

Uncollected checks #118 $10.00
#120 16.50

26.50

$1,581.32

Respectfully Submitted,
Russell B. Roane, Treasurer
By the Sign of the GAVEL

As we begin our 21st year I think it can be said that our club has come of age. Through the years the club has been fortunate in having many fine leaders, backed up by staunch and enthusiastic members. There is not the time nor the space here to recount the many fine achievements and accomplishments of this organization. They are recorded in the club’s archives as well as in past issues of this splendid journal. And I am proud to say also that the club has unselfishly helped many other organizations and individuals. In other words, brethren, you can be proud to be a member of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York.

In addition to providing fellowship and inspiration to a group of stamp collectors and philatelic students, the club has followed that great precept of Masonry which is known as service. More than anything else, this has provided the bond that has caused our club to grow in strength and purpose. Reflect, for a moment, on the caliber of men such as Ralph Barry, Charles Johnson and Al Van Dahl. We are fortunate, indeed, to have known such men. Take another look around and you will see that it is men of that stature that comprise our present membership.

So as we commence this new season of activity, I trust that each of us will be mindful of the traditions we have inherited and do our best to carry them on in the manner of those who have gone before us. With the support of the Officers, Board of Governors, Committees and the membership as a whole I know that we can continue to prosper and grow.

Your club journal, “The Masonic Philatelist,” so ably edited by Bro. Forrest L. Ellis, is the finest publication of its type in the country. Support your editor by sending him articles, news items, personal—anything that you think will be of interest to your fellow members. Remember, this is your publication. Give your editor the support he needs.

In this issue you will find listed the program of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York for the 1954-55 season. A great deal of work and thought goes into the preparation and execution of such a program, under the enthusiastic and able leadership of Bro. George Wray and his Program Committee. Support this effort by regular attendance at all meetings. The best program in the world is useless without that essential ingredient—an audience.

I hope that each and every member has had an enjoyable and refreshing summer. I look forward to greeting as many members as possible at the first meeting on September 10, and at many meetings thereafter. As those who attend meetings faithfully know, our gatherings are always characterized by good fellowship, philately of every description and entertainment.

—Carl H. Fahl.

BEACHCOMBERS AHOY!

It is hoped that most of the members spent at least part of the summer vacationing in far-off places. Certainly everybody sooner or later spent some time on a beach. And it is just as certain that if you did, you collected some seashells, driftwood or, at least, a shoeful of sand. Possibly some of the more alert members may have acquired some interesting stamps, a cover or other items of philatelic interest.

Well, if you did, the time to show it to your fellow members is at the first meeting of the new season which is to be held on Friday evening, Sept. 10 at 8 p.m. at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York City. If you did not pick up anything interesting during the summer, you’d better rummage around and find something under the mattress or in the attic because each and every member is expected to bring something of philatelic or Masonic interest that night. We are calling the program “Seashells, Driftwood and Stamps” but it is just “Turkey Hash” under an assumed name. Most of you know how interesting and entertaining this type of program has proved to be in the past. The main idea is for EVERYBODY to come to this first meeting and bring SOMETHING of philatelic interest to show to your fellow members. It doesn’t matter whether this is a single stamp, a few pages or an album. Each member will be limited to approximately five minutes.

Following this there will be a short Philatelic Quiz along the lines of Information Please. You don’t have to bring anything except your thinking caps. We ask the questions, you try to answer them. Encyclopedias and philatelic dictionaries (even Konwiser’s) will be checked at the door.

Bro. George E. Haynes of Toledo, Ohio informs Bro. Roane that he may visit us one of these days. We shall always be pleased to have you with us.