



the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 12

JANUARY 1956

NO. 5

1956

JANUARY

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AUGUST

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Keep a Date with the
**5TH INTERNATIONAL
 PHILATELIC EXHIBITION**



Bro. Alvin D. Lurch, we learn had been in St. Luke's hospital and is now out and back at business again. (We're

glad to hear this and wish him continued good health).

Bro. Ernest J. Clark said he notes from the roster that quite a few friends and acquaintances of his are club members and that he hopes to be more active in the club. (Welcome!)

Bro. Phil Wilde, of Cardiff, England, wrote us that he's looking forward to coming again to New York in April. This time his wife is accompanying him. Of course Bro. Wilde's main reason for coming at this time of the year, is to see the FIPEX Show April 28 - May 6. Here is an idea for other distant members. Come to New York to see the greatest stamp exhibition ever held. (We'll be looking forward to seeing Bro. Wilde again.)

MEMBERS GIVE TO GRAND LODGE MUSEUM

A short time ago Bro. Sam Brooks acted as the "happy messenger" on a trip to our Grand Lodge Museum at 71 West 23rd street.

On behalf of Bro. William H. Peters, of Interlachen, Florida, he presented a fine copy of a medal, struck in 1859 for the consecration of Kane Lodge. This was in memory of Admiral Elisha Kent Kane, U.S.N., after whom the Lodge was named.

On behalf of Bro. Harry M. Konwiser, he presented to the museum a collection of Knight Templar badges. This fine collection covers many years, and shows badges from many Com-Grand Lodge librarians who received the collection on behalf of the museum, stated that it was the finest such collection he had ever seen.

We have since learned that an appropriation would be sought from the Grand Commandery K. T., to properly house this collection.

These gifts follow many previous gifts to the Grand Lodge Library and Museum from members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York.

OUR TREASURER SAYS:—

If the prompt response of our members in paying 1956 dues is an indication of how they liked the mailing of bills under F. D. cover of the 6¢ Roosevelt stamp, it certainly was a hit.

That he can't begin to answer personally, the nice comments and best wishes received along with the dues. Never the less he wants the well wishers to know their comments are greatly appreciated and were passed on to the members present at the December 2nd meeting. Prior to that

meeting, letters and greetings were received from Theodore R. Lockwood, Dr. Samuel Goldberg, Peter Gouled, Frank W. Ansell, K. William Schumacher, Gordon T. Shoop, John H. Vale, Dr. Fred H. Schramm, Amos C. Boss, Charles L. Clarke, Wm. H. Dabel, C. L. Siefert, Paul Wirth, Ray W. Head, Ralph C. Huntington, Alvin D. Lurch, Ernest J. Clark, C. F. Stackhouse Jr. and others.

NEW MEMBERS

Ralph S. DAVIS

315 Wisconsin Ave.,
Oak Park, Illinois.

Lawn Lodge #815, Chicago, Ill.

George Lee FORTNER

Box 1331,

Oak Harbor, Wash.

Suburban Lodge #740,
Louisville, Ky.

F. George GLANDER

2062 N. Lexington Ave.,

St. Paul 13, Minnesota.

St. Paul Lodge #3, St. Paul, Minn.

Herman S. KERSTEIN

8 East 96th St.,

New York 28, N. Y.

Shakespeare Lodge #750, N. Y.

Change of Address

Frank Glanz, 42 Irving Ave., Englewood Cliffs, N. J.

C. L. Siefert, 3200 W. 46th St.,
Cleveland 2, Ohio.

James E. Stockton, 107 - 7th st.,
Riverton, N. J.

Gordon T. Shoop. Same address,
P. O. zone now #38, 493 Washington
Ave., Brooklyn 38, N. Y.

Joseph Munk, 220 Boscobel Place,
Bronx 52, N. Y.

Resigned

William C. Michaels

Deceased

Alexander Richards

Chauncey M. Dutcher

Henry Jonas

NO CAMEL MAIL?

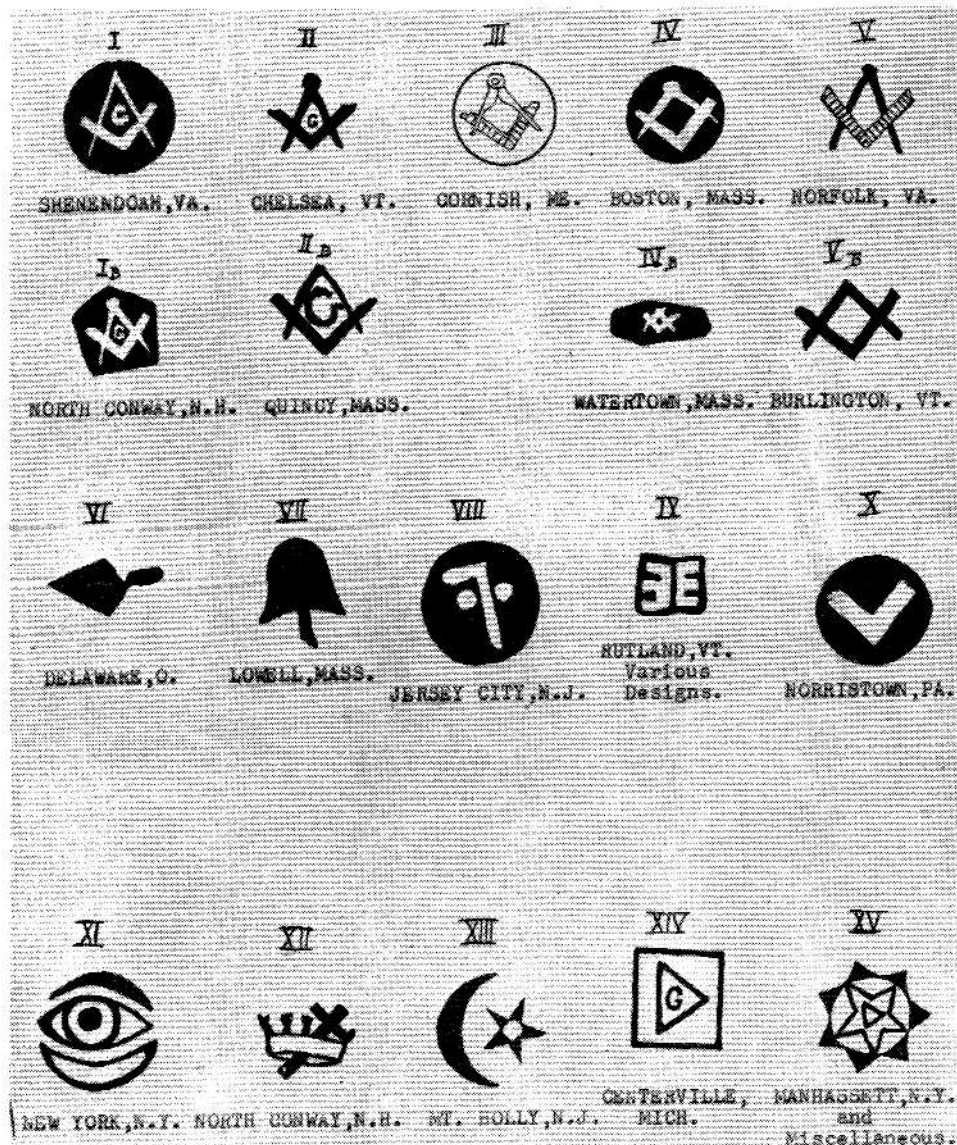
Is mail still carried by camels in the Arab countries, a writer asks Bruce Conde, philatelic writer of Beirut, Lebanon. He advises that in his city, ordinances have long made it illegal for camels to enter the city's crowded streets jammed with mostly American cars. Lebanese postal routes are now covered by truck or air transport, as in Syria and Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The secluded state of Yemen still utilizes camel mail in a mountain pass between Taiz and Sana'a, according to Conde, and also the courier on foot or donkey for desert oasis.

MASONIC CANCELLATIONS ON EARLY U. S. STAMPS

By Dr. S. Duffield Swan
Part 3

In an endeavor to systemize my collection I have made fifteen classifications or types. Of these, the first ten are pretty definitely Masonic. The first three types, Square and Compasses with the letter "G" are quite convincing. The fourth and fifth also

Square and Compasses, do not have the letter G, but in many cases the intent was definitely Masonic. Types VI to XV include lesser Masonic Symbols. The illustration given are from definite cancellations. Sub-division is made of many of the types due to change of outline as in IA and IB. The keystone of Sharon, Pa. used in IB is merely an indicator of form change. IB would also include pen-



tagons, oblongs, ovals, triangles, etc. but each illustration would have the letter G inside the compasses. Similarly B sub-divisions are general and are used only to refer to a change in outline form of the Main types.

Over a period of years record has been kept of the prices of various Masonic cancellations that have appeared in auctions. The analysis of this record gives an estimate of the rarity of the cancellation. The grading is as follows:

1. Very rare,—no more than two covers known.
2. Rare,—less than five covers recorded.
3. Moderately rare,—less than ten covers observed.
4. Moderately common,—ten to twenty-five covers known.
5. Common,—many known.

This grading is a relative evaluation of one man, and is applied to average to very good covers, and as such is subject to change as more information is obtained. The actual auction prices also depend on the stamps, the clarity of the cancel and the markings, (such as corner cards, address, etc.) A particular cover will step up in rarity due to cover markings.

Over the past ten years an endeavor has been made to determine the personal authorship of the various cancellations. Recently a renewed effort, which included cancellations not in the author's collection, has given results which are included in the tabulation of towns found later in this article. The cooperation of local postmasters and Masonic lodges is gratefully acknowledged—many of these men having had to search forgotten and musty records to obtain the necessary information. In the case of cities like New York, Boston, Baltimore, etc. it was impossible to trace the cancellation artist, even when the area of the source was known. Many of the small post offices have been discontinued or have become lost as substations in larger cities. Records over the years have been destroyed and exact data is not obtainable in some cases even from Washington. Local historians in many cases and older philatelists have been of great assistance in ferreting out details that otherwise would have never been found.

Of the 105 offices originally selected for contacts, 72 have yielded definite names, dates, etc. and about 15 others are still searching available records.

The other 18 could give no information.

On the matter of prices, over the years many covers have changed hands with gradually advancing prices. Twenty-five years ago, when I first became interested in Masonic covers, they could be purchased for \$1.00 to \$5.00 with an especially fine one bringing as much as \$15.00. Judging from the recent Barrett and Gramm sales the average now is \$15.00 with particularly fine covers going as high as \$450.00.

What makes a cover so valuable? The main answer is competition. In the Gramm sale one item, a cover from Painesville, Ohio with a superb No. 114 neatly cancelled three times, drew such a bid. Other covers that Charlie purchased at greater prices than this one drew sums less than \$100.00 and yet were at those prices many times their original value.

One cover from Chicopee, Mass., a class 5 or very common cancellation, that I have observed five times in auctions has successively brought \$3.50, \$5.50, \$2.50, \$4.00 and \$6.50. Another has a sales record of \$4.50, \$5.00, and \$1.00. Both had defective stamps and went to wrong auctions at various times. They both should be worth \$6.00 or better now as the cancellations were distinct. Chicopee cancellations have been known to command as much as \$24.00, two of Gramms drew \$21.00.

(To Be Continued)

DO YOU JUST BELONG.

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the crowd?
Or do you stay at home
And crab both long and loud?
Do you take an active part
To help the club along
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belongs?
Do you ever go to visit
A member who is sick?
Or leave the work for just a few
and talk about the clique?
There is quite a program scheduled
That means success, if done
And it can be accomplished
With the help of everyone.
To attend the meetings regularly,
And help with hand and heart,
Don't be just a member
But take an active part.

—Anonymous.

FROM NEEDHAM'S TRESTLE BOARD —

**GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN,
A MASON**

Brother John Sullivan was born in Maine Feb. 18, 1740 and died in New Hampshire on Jan. 23, 1795. Another source says he was born at Somersworth, N. H.

Depicted on the 2c carmine rose stamp, issue of June 17, 1929 (Scott's No. 657), is a likeness of Gen. John Sullivan. The stamp was designed by C. Aubrey Huston, artist of the Bureau of Engraving & Printing, and the engraving work was done by John Eissler, Edward M. Hall, and E. Helmuth, also of the Bureau. This stamp was printed from flat plates in sheets of 400 subjects, which were cut along horizontal and vertical guide lines into panes of 100 and so distributed to various post offices. There were eight plate numbers to each of the large sheets, two on each pane, over, under, or beside the fifth stamp from the corner. There were nine plates made but only four were used—No. 19783-6. Those not used—No. 19787-9, No. 19800-01. Total stamps issued were 51,452,406.

Brother Sullivan was a lawyer by profession and was a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1774, also in 1780. He was elected attorney general of New Hampshire in 1782. Was state president (now called Governor) in 1786 and held this office three times. Was U. S. District Judge in 1789. Was appointed a brigadier general in 1775 and commanded at Winter Hill, in the siege of Boston; served in Canada, and conducted the retreat from that colony after the death of Gen. Thomas. Was promoted to major general in 1776 and was credited with the preservation of the army on Long Island. He was taken prisoner, but exchanged for Gen. Prescott. He then resigned from the army because of ill health and again took up politics. In 1786 he saved the state from anarchy and secured the ratification of the new Federal Constitution.

He was raised in 1767 as a member of St. John's Lodge No. 1, Portsmouth, N. H. and later served as Worshipful Master. He was the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of N. H. in 1789 and was re-elected in 1790. He was buried with Masonic honors at Berwick, but his body was later reinterred in the Congregational Cemetery near Portsmouth.

GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE

Brother Anthony Wayne was born at Easttown, Penn. on Jan. 1, 1745, and died at Erie Penn. on Dec. 15, 1796. (Easttown is now Easton).

Depicted on the 2c carmine rose stamp, issue of Sept. 14, 1929 (Scott's #680) is the memorial group designed for the Anthony Wayne Memorial monument located at the spot where the Battle of Fallen Timbers took place, on Aug. 20, 1794. This spot has since been set aside as a park, known as Fallen Timbers State Park, on the west side of the Maumee river, not far south of the city of Maumee, Ohio. W. J. Sherman of the Ohio State Archaeological & Historical Society furnished the photo from which the vignette was engraved. These stamps were printed from flat plates in sheets of 400 subjects with vertical and horizontal guide lines along which the sheets were cut into post office panes of 100. There were eight plate numbers, two on each pane, over or under the fifth stamp from the outside corners on the top and bottom and the fifth stamp down or up on the sides. There were eight plates used—#19824-31. Total number issued were 29,338,274. One plate flaw (or variety) has been discovered; on the plate #19827LL-99th stamp there is a small blur outside the right frame line.

Brother Wayne was acquainted with Ben Franklin in his youth, who got him interested in public affairs. He was a surveyor in Pennsylvania and in Nova Scotia. In 1775 he recruited and led a Penn. regiment in the American Revolution for the Canadian campaign. In recognition of his services he was made a brigadier in 1777 joining with Washington. He led a division at Brandywine, was in command of one flank at Germantown and on July 15, 1779, he stormed Stony Point, N. Y., a feat which won him the name, "Mad Anthony Wayne." In 1784 he retired from the army and became a member of the Penn. Legislature, but in 1792 Washington recalled him to active duty as Commander-in-Chief with rank of Major General in command of the regular army. Wayne was successful in his campaigns against the British and Indians, particularly at Fallen Timbers, and effected the treaty of Greenville on Aug. 3, 1795, thus opening the Northwest to civilization. He was still Commander-

in-Chief of the Army at his death the next year, 1796.

He was reputed to be a Freemason but his Lodge has not been identified with certainty. Bro. Phil A. Roth, **Masonry in the Formation of Our Government**, 1927, page 82, says "He was a member of Winchester Lodge #12, according to some statements, but they do not mention the state. We believe he was a member, having often been mentioned in toasts in Masonic Lodges in the East. at that time. . . ." Bro. Julius F. Sachse in **General Lafayette's Fraternal Connections**, 1916, page 5, alludes to "Brothers A. Saint Clair, William Irving, and General Anthony Wayne." However, there is a monument over his grave placed there by the Grand Lodge.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY, A MASON

Depicted on the 7¢ denomination of the regular series of 1922 (#559) is the likeness of William McKinley, 25th President of the United States, from a photograph. First day of issue was May 1, 1923 at Washington, D. C. and Niles, Ohio, his birthplace.

Brother McKinley was president from 1897 to 1901, being assassinated at Buffalo, N. Y. during the Pan-American Exposition on Sept. 6, 1901, and dying before his term of office was up on Sept. 14, 1901 in Buffalo. He was a member of the Methodist Church. He was born at Niles, Ohio on Jan. 29, 1843 and died from wounds of the assassin on Sept. 14, 1901. He is buried at Canton, Ohio.

During the Civil War, 1861-5, McKinley then a lieutenant (afterwards a major) was stationed at Winchester, Va., where was located a hospital for Confederate wounded. In making the rounds one day with the regimental surgeon he noticed that the doctor was on very friendly terms with several Southerners, giving them money or tobacco. When he got the chance, he inquired the reason for such friendliness, whereupon the surgeon told him that the wounded Confederates were brother Masons, and that it was not only a duty but a pleasure to be able to relieve their necessities. McKinley thereupon expressed a desire to become a member and his petition followed.

He petitioned, was elected and initiated May 1, 1865 in Hiram Lodge #21, Winchester, Va.; passed May 2, 1865; raised and dimitted, May 3, 1865 and 1867, respectively. He affiliated with Canton Lodge #60, Canton, Ohio

on Aug. 21, 1867. He was a charter member of Eagle Lodge #431, Canton, Ohio on June 2, 1869. This lodge later was renamed William McKinley Lodge #431. (Another source states this lodge is #43).

Companion McKinley received the Mark, Past, and Most Excellent Master, degrees, on Dec. 27, 1883; and the Royal Arch degree on Dec. 28, 1893 in Canton Chapter #84, R.A.M., Canton, Ohio. He was knighted in Canton Commandery #38, K. T., Canton, Ohio; receiving the degrees of the Red Cross on Dec. 18, 1884; and Malta and Templar on Dec. 23, 1884. Sir Knight McKinley was elected a life member on Dec. 23, 1896, of Washington Commandery #1, K. T., Washington, D. C. He was elected to honorary membership on Oct. 26, 1898, of the Illinois Masonic Veterans Association.

A gold card presented to him by California Commandery #1, K. T., San Francisco for his reception there on May 22, 1901, came by gift after McKinley's death into the possession of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania thru the kindness of Brother John Wannamaker, formerly Postmaster General.

On May 6, 1897 he reviewed the parade of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia from the White House, Washington, D. C.; on May 19, 1899, visited his Mother Lodge (Hiram #21), Winchester, Va.; Dec. 14, 1899 saw him participating in the Masonic ceremonies incident to the centennial observance of the death of Brother Geo. Washington, Mt. Vernon, Va. On Oct. 11, 1900, again reviewed the parade of D. C. Knights Templar from the White House; on May 22, 1901 attended a reception of Calif. Commandery #1, K. T., San Francisco, the gold card of invitation having been delivered to him at the White House in December, 1900. —Needham's Trestle Board.

George N. Malpass is new president of the Confederate Stamp Alliance; Van Dyk MacBride, J. H. Scruggs Jr., Earl Antrim, Stanley Ashbrook, vice presidents; J. W. Crigler, secretary.

To start the new unfolding year, may hope beat high and skies be clear. Helpful people are always the most hopeful.

To-Day is the To-Morrow you worried about yesterday and all is Well!

To the attentive eye, each moment of the year has its own beauty.

CUBAN COMMEMORATIVES

The design for the Cuban flag was suggested by a Mason, Narciso Lopez, member of Lodge "La Estrella Solitaria del Oriente de Louisiana" (The Solitary Star of the Orient Lodge of Louisiana). It was in 1849 as a leader and spokesman of his countrymen in exile in New York that he said his followers should have a banner around which to rally. He drew upon Masonic symbolism when he proposed that the flag include a five-pointed star within a triangle.

The flag flew for the first time from atop the building of the New York Sun on May 11, 1850. Eight days later, it waved over Cuba when Lopez landed at Cardenas. It spurred independence-minded Cubans to fight on despite repeated reversals. The forces of Maximo Gomez, Jose Marti and Antonio Maceo, all Masons, carried the flag in the final struggle for independence. Worshipful Master Narciso Valdes, keeper of the lighthouse at Morro Castle, Havana, hoisted the flag over that fort on May 20, 1902, when freedom was achieved, and the tyrannical rule of Spain ended.

Some of the foregoing events are commemorated on Cuban stamps. The centenary of the flag was observed by the issuance of a series in 1950. Lopez, who was executed following his seizure by the Spanish authorities in 1851, is pictured on a 2c stamp (No. 459); his landing with the flag at Cardenas, on a 5c airmail (No. C41), and the flag over Morro Castle on a 25c airmail, (No. C43). Excellent examples of the flag are to be found on a 10c stamp of that series (No. 461) and on a 5c issue of 1936 (No. 335), the latter showing Gomez' army marching behind the banner.—Mirt.

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

Many of the early members of the Rotary Club of Chicago, organized in 1905 and out of which grew the present Rotary International, were Masons. Of the original group, four are still living. Of these, three are Masons. Harry L. Ruggles, first treasurer and only surviving original officer, is a member of Exemplar Lodge No. 966, Chicago. Robert C. Fletcher is a member of LaGrange Lodge No. 770 of LaGrange, Ill., and recorder of Trinity Commandery No. 80, Knights Templar, LaGrange. Charles A. Newton is a member of Golden Rule Lodge No. 726, Chicago, and of the Scottish

Rite Bodies of Chicago.

Although Paul P. Harris, founder of Rotary, has been referred to as a Mason (see Vol. 4, page 13), research in Masonic circles does not produce any confirmation. Bro. Ruggles was actively associated with Mr. Harris in the formation of the organization and was the introducer of the practice of community singing at Rotary gatherings.

Rotary's program of "Service Above Self" is in accord with all religions. Its aim is for a better understanding between peoples of all nations. In these Rotary is in agreement with the spirit of Freemasonry, but there is no connection between the two.

Next to the Red Cross, Rotary is probably the most postally-honored organization in the world. Its recent 50th anniversary was commemorated by the issuance of postage stamps by the United States, Australia, Brazil, Cuba, France, Panama, Philippines, Egypt, South Korea, Tunis, Dominican Republic, French Morocco, Nicaragua and Belgium. In the past, Austria, Cuba and Brazil have issued Rotary stamps. — From Mirt

RHYME OF THE CITIES

Said little Junior to the Owl, I've heard you're wondrous wise, and so I'd like to question you—now please don't tell me lies.

"The first thing, then, I'd have you tell, my empty mind to fill, pray, was it the canned corned beef that made Chicago ill?"

"I've heard it said, yet do not know, in fact, it may be bosh—then tell me, is it lots of dirt that makes Seattle Wash?"

"Another thing I wish I could inform my writing class is, just how many priests it takes to say the Boston Mass?"

"This is the time of running debts, as you surely know. This secret, then, impart to me—how much does Cleveland O?"

"In ages, too, you must have learned, more so than many men; so tell me in a whisper, when was Miss Nashville Tenn?"

"It takes great heat the gold to melt, and iron takes much more. Then, is it true that way out west the rain melts Portland Ore?"

The owl then scratched his feathered pate; "I'm sorry little man. Ask someone else—I cannot tell. Perhaps Topeka Kan."