



the Masonic Philatelist

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MARCH 1956

NO. 7

HONORING
175TH ANNIVERSARY
GRAND LODGE
F. & A. M. - STATE OF NEW YORK



1781

1956



DANIEL D. TOMPKINS MEMORIAL CHAPEL
MASONIC HOME, UTICA



SPONSORED BY MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF N.Y.

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

MARCH 1956
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In and Around the Club

Our last meeting, "Past Presidents' Night," was another success, with large numbers of our members being present.

All who spoke were Past Presidents of our Club. The program started with Bro. Henry W. Holcombe showing Match and Medicine stamps, and early covers.

Bro. Dr. George Camnitzer showed stamps and covers relating to the Boxer Rebellion.

Bro. Sam Brooks spoke and showed stamps with Masonic cancellations.

Bro. Carl E. Pelander displayed a cover from the first Lodge formed in California—a very unusual cover.

Bro. J. Glasser was attending a meeting concerning Fipex, but arranged to have one of our brothers show his stamps bearing Masonic cancellations.

★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Each Month
Collectors Club Building
22 East 35th street

April 6th — Master of Philately
Degree and Turkey Hash.

May 4th — Fipex Doings — at Fipex
Open House to all Masons.

In Memoriam

Bro. Charles D. Carpenter
Bro. Clarence W. Hennan
Bro. James M. Sweeney
May their souls find eternal rest.

Bro. Russell B. Roane told amusing stories.

Bro. Arthur I. Heim showed some covers marked with the letters O. A. T. which he is looking for the exact interpretation of, as it is not really known what they stand for. These covers originated in the Belgian Congo. Has anyone got the answer?

Bro. Tom Phillips added a few words about the Boxer Rebellion.

MASONS ARE AMERICA'S HEART!

Every line of America's history is written with Masonic inks, sweetened with Masonic love, blessed with Masonic Brotherhood, reddened with Masonic blood. . . . From pioneer days to atomic defense you find members of the Craft making the American Dream! Tom Paine writing The Crisis . . . Washington and his many Masonic officers suffering through Valley Forge to victory . . . there's Kit Carson, Lewis and Clark, Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, Oglethorpe, Lindbergh, Sam Gompers, Irving Berlin, Blackjack Pershing, George M. Cohan, Generals Robert E. Lee, MacArthur, Ridgeway, Clark and Doolittle . . . Admirals from Farragut to Coudrey . . . empire builders like Astor, Mellon, J. C. Penney, Wanamaker and Morgenthau . . . football coaches like Stagg, Kerr and Bierman . . . just a few tintypes of thousands of Freemasons whose names symbolize free opportunity in free America!

"Spirit of St. Louis," the plane in which Charles A. Lindbergh, a Mason, made the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean, was pictured on a 12¢ stamp which Cuba issued last November.

SPECIAL ATTENTION should be paid to the cover of this issue (Daniel D. Tompkins Memorial Chapel Masonic Home, Utica) as it will be used with the design of the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory and the George Washington Masonic Shrine, shown here. These three designs will appear, beautifully engraved on the envelopes, together with the special Masonic Cancellation (the first time a special cancellation has been approved by the Post Office Department).

Each Brother should get a set of these unusual covers for himself and his friends as they will be unusual covers to own. The money made by the sale of these covers will go to the Grand Lodge F. & A. M.—State of New York for its charities.



Mailing date May 1-2.
from New York City.

Send for

Masonic Cachets & Cancellations

(One Dollar for a set of three)

MASONIC CACHETS, Pleasantville, N. Y.

Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition

FIPEX "FIRST DAYS" ARE ANNOUNCED

MORE NEWS ABOUT FIPEX A Date Worthwhile Keeping

New York—Dates of the four "first days" that will feature the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition—FIPEX—to be held from April 28 to May 6, 1956 in the New York Coliseum—have been announced. On Saturday, April 23—the opening day of this great international stamp show—the special FIPEX souvenir sheet will be placed on sale in the FIPEX Post Office that will be in operation in the New York Coliseum.

This souvenir sheet will consist of the 8¢ and 3¢ stamps of the regular issue that feature the design of the Statue of Liberty. The eight-cent value will be printed in the carmine and dark blue shades of the regular stamp, while the three-cent value will be printed in the characteristic violet color of the regular stamp. The souvenir sheet will be mounted in a folder with an inscription honoring FIPEX and bearing a facsimile of the signature of Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield. Advance indications are that this will be one of the most attractive souvenir sheets ever issued for an international philatelic exhibition. In addition, it is considered that the choice of stamp design is most appropriate in view of the theme of FIPEX—"Freedom over the World"—which is carried out in the FIPEX emblem, picturing the Statue of Liberty surmounting the globe.

The 3¢ commemorative stamp honoring FIPEX will be issued on Monday, April 30. This stamp will bear a reproduction of the New York Coliseum, the magnificent new exhibition hall which is now rapidly nearing completion at Columbus Circle in New York City. A most attractive engraving has been prepared for this stamp that will picture the splendid \$35,000,000 structure in which FIPEX will be held. The opening of FIPEX at 11:30 a. m. on Saturday, April 28, 1956 will coincide with the opening of the New York Coliseum itself.

On Wednesday, May 2 the six cent air mail envelope to be issued in recognition of FIPEX will be placed on sale. Details regarding this issue have not been released as yet by the Post Office Department, but it is believed that this air mail envelope will be an outstand-

ing item, marking a noteworthy departure from previous issues of this type.

The fourth special issue honoring FIPEX will be the two-cent postal card that will be placed on sale on Friday, May 4. No definite details about this card have been announced by the Post Office Department but it is believed that it will be printed in two colors. If this proves to be correct, it will be the first bi-colored postal card to be issued by the United States.

These four special issues in honor of the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition confirm the stated intention of the United States Post Office Department to support FIPEX in every way possible. This is the first time that the department has honored an international philatelic exhibition with four special postal issues. Other plans of the department for participation at FIPEX are equally unprecedented.

OUR JOB

Getting out a paper is no picnic.

If we print jokes, people say we are silly.

If we don't they say we are too serious.

If we clip things from other papers, we are too lazy to write them ourselves.

If we don't we are stuck on our own stuff.

If we don't print every word of all contributions, we don't appreciate genius.

If we print them, the columns are filled with junk.

If we make a change in the other fellow's write-up, we are too critical.

If we don't we are blamed for poor editing.

Now, like as not, some guy will say—
We swiped this from some other sheet.

We did.

KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

The Temple of King Solomon occupies importance in legendary Freemasonry. The cedars of Lebanon, gold of Ophir, quarries of Palestine and priceless jewels contributed to the undertaking started in 1012 B. C. A Holy of Holies or innermost chamber was the depository of the Ten Commandments.

MERCHANT'S GARGLING OIL

By Bro. Henry W. Holcombe

Perhaps you may sometime have heard of Merchant's Celebrated Gargling Oil "A Liniment for Man and Beast"? The beasts, of course, were mainly horses which in those early days were indispensable on the farm and the roads. Maybe you have wondered how a suffering horse was cajoled into gargling the stuff? As a fact, at first the liniment wasn't intended for internal use, much less for gargling as we know and use that word, at all!

This doesn't sound like the beginning of a Masonic story, does it? But wait—the central figure over the years is no less a person than one of New York's Most Worshipful Grand Masters, John Hodge, who was elected to the Grand East in 1894.

Dr. George W. Merchant, a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, is said to have devoted his time and energies for 20 years before his business was established in Lockport, New York in 1833.

The Erie Canal completed in 1827 passed thru the struggling community of Lockport, in Niagara County. The canal was enlarged (1835-40) and the town continued to grow around a series of locks built to carry the canal thru Lockport Gorge. Some years later there was a continuous chain of railroads from Albany to Buffalo, precursors of the present New York Central. An early account of Lockport read: "it is 340 miles west from Albany, by canal, and 285 by railroad; 62 miles west from Rochester, by canal, and 56 by railroad; 31 miles east from Buffalo, by canal, and 25¼ by railroad. The distance from Niagara Falls by railroad is 21½ miles."

We can assume the business struggled along in those early years and it seems to have met with some success. That success was the call for a number of imitators to set up business. Dr. Merchant didn't have any protection at all until 1845 when the New York Legislature passed a bill making the counterfeiting or imitating a preparation a criminal offense. The name "Celebrated Gargling Oil" was copyrighted in 1852.

About 1855 the sole rights to Merchant's Gargling Oil were sold to one M. H. Tucker for the sum of \$50,000. Tucker had the backing of three prominent men in Lockport and Buffalo. The new owners began to

push the business and develop its possibilities.

Soon afterward John Hodge went to work for the Company. He was still in his teens having been born in Lockport in 1838. After a common school education he began the study of law but gave it up when an opportunity to enter business presented itself. When the firm of M. H. Tucker & Co. was incorporated in 1858, John Hodge was elected Secretary—a position he held for many years. He soon took one of Mr. Tucker's daughters as his wife. Thus when Mr. Tucker died in 1865, Hodge who already had control thru his wife, obtained a large share of the business and subsequently all of it.

When the Revenue Act of 1862 became effective, the firm affixed stamps of the regular issue to their nostrums. In 1869 two private dies were engraved for them—1¢ and 2¢—and stamps from these plates were used until just before the Act was repealed in 1883.

John Hodge was indeed a progressive citizen and highly esteemed in Lockport. Civic projects always had his whole-hearted support. Invariably he was active in the work and often contributed liberally. He was also keenly interested in fraternal affairs. In 1861, at the age of 23 he was initiated, passed and raised in Niagara Lodge, No. 375, F. & A. M. in Lockport.

John Hodge was an ardent believer in advertising. He seems to have used every medium imaginable. The company first used envelopes with rectangular illustrated corner cards and still later some were back printed. Almanacs, note books, testimonials, and circulars of all descriptions were printed. Ads appeared in many publications of the time. Country fair programs invariably had a full page ad. Later on thousands upon thousands of special envelopes were printed at the instance of the firm, with their ad on the reverse and the corner card of the user on the front. These were sold to hotels, livery stables, merchants and probably anyone who would pay the nominal price of 60¢ per thousand—which was the cost. Even post cards were not overlooked, with a narrow ad at top of reverse and the user's name below.

Yes indeed, John Hodge, believed in advertising. He was the man who bought an old canal steamboat for the sole purpose of decorating it with blatant banners of Merchant's Celebrated Gargling Oil, and then sent the

ADDED PAGE

The following images applicable to this article were added. The Scott Catalog number for the stamp is RS179 (Private Die Proprietary Stamps). Ed.



Why limp about & pain endure,
When GARGLING OIL
is sure to cure?

MERCHANT'S
GARGLING OIL
A
LINIMENT
FOR
MAN &
BEAST.

SOLD BY
ALL DEALERS
throughout
THE WORLD.

THE GUYTON CITY CO. BUFFALO, N. Y.

FIRST INTRODUCED, 1833.

MERCHANT'S GARGLING OIL is the standard Liniment of the United States, and is good for Burns, Scalds, Rheumatism, Flesh Wounds, Sprains, Bruises, Lame Back, Hemorrhoids or Piles, Toothache, Sore Throat, Chilblains, Chapped Hands, and many other diseases incident to man and beast. Yellow Wrapper for animal, and white for human flesh.

Manufactured at Lockport, N. Y., by M. G. O. Co., and sold by all druggists.

OVER. JOHN HODGE, Sec'y.

boat triumphantly over Niagara Falls!

Over the years the business must have accumulated a wealth of correspondence—for in those early days nothing was thrown away. But where is it now? Here's the answer. In 1870 Hodge built a fine laboratory and office building on Market street in Lockport and shortly afterward the famed Hodge Opera House was constructed at the corner of Main and Market streets. These were indeed works to be marveled at in their time. But on January 5, 1881 the laboratory and Opera House were completely consumed by fire. Absolutely nothing was saved—except the vault contents. Had it not been for this catastrophe it is conceivable that one or more additional Lockport, N. Y. provisional stamps would have graced collectors albums today.

Twenty years after his raising, in 1881, John Hodge was Master of Niagara Lodge. In 1882 he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master and held that office three years. In 1885 came his election as Junior Grand Warden, to which he was annually re-elected for 6 years; in 1891 and 1892 he was elected Senior Grand Warden. During these years he was characteristically devoted to the building of the Masonic Home at Utica—where thousands of old people have been cared for and as many orphan children given an opportunity in life over the past six decades. In 1893 he held the office of Deputy Grand Master. And in 1894 at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, came his election to be Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York. Before completing his term of office, he passed to his reward on August 7, 1895, at the age of 57. The records of Grand Lodge relate that on the day of his funeral "business was entirely suspended in the city of Lockport, and all the citizens of that place, irrespective of sect or creed, joined in doing honor to his memory . . ."

Under the guidance of Mr. Hodge the profits of the Gargling Oil business increased year by year and over the span of some 40 years amounted to many millions of dollars. But after his death the enthusiasm and brilliance of his leadership was lacking. The firm's intensive advertising was abandoned and sales fell off immediately—it could be said almost to the vanishing point. In succeeding years the automobile and tractors continued to replace the horse, and sales further declined.

In 1933—just 100 years after Dr. Merchant established the business—I was passing thru Lockport. Largely out of curiosity but of course ever on the search for proprietary items made during the Civil War stamp period and still with the private die stamp affixed I walked down Market street. I soon came to No. 28, a small store with almost opaque glass windows. Inside the smell of liniment at once assured me I was in the right place. Here—after a century of service to ailing farm animals—in a whisky barrel with a huge brass faucet, Merchant's Celebrated Gargling Oil was still being mixed, then withdrawn for bottling and shipment to the many who still prefer horses to tractors.

The Rarity

By WALT TAYLOR
Undisturbed For Years

Where would that stamp be now? When did he see his stamp album last? He still had it somewhere. He had lent it to various people in the past, when he was still proud of it; but they always returned it. Mentally he went through all the possible drawers and cupboards where his stamp album might lie. It wasn't among his books, or it would have been seen during one or other of the many spring cleanings his house had received. Wherever it was, it must have lain undisturbed for years. That meant one of three trunks in the attic, or the steel trunk in the corner of the garage, which he used as a combined store-room and gardening shed.

Fresh In His Memory

But the Great Britain page was as fresh in his memory as when he was a boy; and he could see that stamp, mint, a bi-colored stamp, with the King's head, and "4½" in each corner—a bright red and green stamp. He had never seen another copy. That must be the rare stamp. £600 would be a godsend. He could spend £500 of it straight away, half of it on a small second-hand car: it would make a great difference to his life.

Not In the Attic!

He searched the attic first, hoping all the time that the damp had not got into his album; and when the last papers in the third trunk had been turned over and replaced, he went to his car-less garage, and moved the pile of debris from the rusty steel trunk. It hadn't been opened for years; and inside was a surprising accumulation of books which he had for-

gotten. Nothing valuable among them, until at last, three-quarters of the way down, was his stamp collection.

THE COLLECTION OF STAMPS Hobby of Kings, and King of Hobbies By CHARLES G. P. KNIGHT

Many people may be surprised to know that there are over six million stamp collectors in the United States. They are found in all walks of life, from little children to the highest government officials. The educational value, as well as the pleasure of stamp collecting is rapidly being recognized by educators. Many public schools, veterans' hospitals and other institutions have organized stamp clubs with excellent results. A great many countries have issued stamps picturing their industries, exports, heroes, scenery, sports and other objects of note. These alone, serve to impress children, and they begin to seek information about them. This leads to a deeper interest in their studies, especially geography and history. Some curious facts are connected with stamps. Take, for example, St. Kitts-Nevis, which in 1903 issued stamps with a vignette of Columbus, depicted looking through a telescope, seeking to sight land. This is a laughable error, as the telescope was not invented until one hundred years after Columbus died.

Then there is the story about how a stamp changed the route of the Panama Canal. Early in this century the route of the proposed canal was being fought in Congress, as to whether it should run through Nicaragua or Panama, with the Congressional Committee in favor of routing it through Nicaragua. A few days before it was voted on in the Senate, it was reported that Mt. Momotombo, which was beside the path of the proposed Nicaraguan route, had become active. This was officially denied, and a statement was made that the volcano was extinct. A young French engineer possessed some copies of a Nicaraguan stamp depicting this mountain in a state of eruption. He sent a copy of this stamp to each Senator and when the vote was taken, a few days later, the Panama route was passed, thanks to a postage stamp.

Some years ago, in Westchester County, at a stamp club meeting, one of the children told me he had heard there was a stamp with a picture of Satan on it. Upon telling his father about it his father had laughed and

promised him a stamp album if he could show him such a stamp. I assured the child there was such a stamp and secured for him a copy of the stamp issued by Serbia in 1904. This stamp shows two heads; those of Carageorge and Peter I. When this stamp is turned upside down, there is a perfect picture of his satanic majesty. The engraver of this stamp was a rabid revolutionist, and it was his way of showing hatred and contempt of the reigning dynasty. This story has a tragic but happy ending. Tragic for the engraver, who was executed for the crime of lese-majesty, and happy for the boy, who got his stamp album.

Dr. William T. Clark, Superintendent of the Masonic Home at Utica, New York, of which I am a member, has requested me to organize for the children of the Home a stamp club which will eventually include the adult members. In order to make this successful, we will have to call on our Masonic Brethren for assistance. May we say that if those who have any old, forgotten collections or accumulation of stamps, or are in a position to secure any foreign or United States stamps and will send them to us, their help will be gratefully appreciated. We hope the readers of this article who are stamp collectors will send us some of their duplicates periodically. It will also be appreciated if the Secretaries of the Lodges will read portions of this article pertaining to the club and its needs at their next meeting. All correspondence regarding the club, and letters containing stamps, are to be sent direct to the writer, in care of the Masonic Home. Thank you one and all for the cooperation we are confident this request will receive.

Israel issued a 150pr. stamp showing a Menora, or seven-branched candlestick. The Menora is a part of the furniture in Royal Arch Masonry and is reported to have been used in the temporary place of worship during the building of the second Temple in Jerusalem.

Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Philippine independence leader, was coroneted a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason February 13, 1955.—Mirt.

Finland issued a stamp to commemorate the 90th birthday of the composer Jean Sibelius (Suomi Lodge No. 1 Helsinki). In 1935 he was awarded the New York Medal for Achievement.

Masonic Cancellations On Early U. S. Stamps

By DR. S. DUFFIELS SWAN

Part 5.

The following listing of Post Offices known to have issued Masonic cancellations shows the stamp used, Postmaster, if he has been established as a Mason, the Swan Classification of Cancellation Type, and the Rarity Scale:

Post Office	Stamp	Postmaster	Mason	Class	Rarity
Grandview, Ill.	65	Isaac Hewett		V	1
Greenfield, Mass.	65	Lewis Merriam	M	IV & VIB	5
Greenwood Depot, Va.	65	Lucy A. Bruce		IVB	1
Grinnell, Iowa	156	Wm. S. Leisure		IV	1
Hailey, Idaho	205	Henry Bews	M	IV	1
Hartford, Conn.	114	Edward S. Cleveland		II	2
Haverhill, Mass.	136	David Boynton		II	2
Holderness, N. H.	27	Edward F. Smyth		III	2
Holly Springs, Miss.	184	—		IV	1
Huntington, N. Y.	U59	Hewitt J. Long		XV	1
Island Park, Noble Co., Ind	184			XIV	1
Island Pond, Vt.	65	James W. Davis		V	1
Jacksonville, Ill.	148			XIII	3
Jeffersonville, Ind.	65	William A. Ingraham	M	IV	2
Jersey City, N. J.	184	John G. Gospill		VIII	1
Kennebunkport, Me.	65	Geo. R. Andrews	M	V	1
Kopperl, Tex.	184			III	1
Lancaster, N. Y.	65	Thurston Carpenter & Luther C. McNeal	M	III	1
Liberty, Kan.	210			V	1
Little Georgetown, W. Va.	213	—		IVB	1
Lonsdale, Pa.	73	Post Office not found in Govt. Records, of the period.		III	1
Louisville, Ky.	65	John J. Speed		IV	1
Lowell, Mass.	114	John A. Goodwin		VII	1
Ludlow, Mass.	27	W. S. Miller		V	2
Lyme, Conn.	158	Hiram Beckwith	M	IV	1
Manhasset, N. Y.	158			XV	2
Marengo, Iowa	65	John R. Serrin		III	1
McConnellsville, Vt.	158			IVB	1
McMinnsville, Tenn.	145	—		IVB	1
Memphis, Tenn.	158	X		VB	2
Middlebury, Vt.	65	John Cobb		IB	3
Middleville, Mich.	65	John F. Emory		IV	1
Mittineague, Mass.	27	Luke Bliss	M	III	5
Mobile, Ala.	65	Byron R. Pierce		IV	2
Mohawk, N. Y.	UX11	Thomas Cunningham	M	X	2
Mt. Holly, N. J.	210	J. Fred Laumaster		XIII	1
Mystic Bridge, Conn.	114	John A. Rathbun		IV	2
Nashua, N. H.	88	Geo. W. Swain	M	IV	5
New Orleans, La	114	X		IV	1
Newport, Tenn.	27	David W. Stewart	M	IV	2
Newton, Kan.	145			I	1
New York, N. Y.	65	X		IV & XI	3
Norfolk, Va.	65	Elijah W. Whipple		V	1
Norristown, Pa.	158			X	1
North Conway, N. H.	65	Durgin Eastman	M	IB & XII	2
North East, Pa.	U83	William Jones		II	2
Norwich, Conn.	27 & 114	Capt. Henry B. Tracy		I	2
		Jabez S. Lathrop		IV	2
Norwich, Vt.	65			V	1
Oriskany Falls, N. Y.	114			III	1
Pacolet Mills, S. Car.	(1930)	Jesse J. Glass — (Not a Mason)		IB	5
Painesville, O.	114			V	1
Painted Post, N. Y.	114	Henry D. Edwards		IV	2
Palmyra, N. Y.	158	Edward S. Averill		I	2
Pepperell, Mass.	65	Henry Loring		III	2
Philadelphia, Pa.	65	X		XV	5
Pittston, Pa.	114	George M. Richert		VI	1
Pomfret, Conn.	65	Thomas W. Williams		II	2
Pontiac, Mich.	65	Solomon S. Mathews		V	2

(TO BE CONTINUED)