



the Masonic Philatelist

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NOS. 9-10



United States Post Office "MASONIC HALL STATION," 71 West 23rd Street, New York City, which was in existence only two days, May 1-2, 1956. This is where your Masonic cachets were cancelled.

ANNUAL DINNER

A large number of Brothers turned out for our Annual Dinner, held on May 18th at the Masonic Club, 71 West 23rd street, New York City. Our president, Bro. Tom Phillips, introduced the guest supeaker, who was the Hon. Robert H. Shaffer, Postmaster of New York. He told several humorous stories and then spoke about some of the problems that confront the post office, such as the ever increasing amount of mail that must be handled and delivered. He discussed some of the more modern methods which may be used in the future. His talk was most interesting.

Brother Harry Lindquist who was Honorary Chairman for FipeX, Honorary Chairman The Association for Stamp Exhibitions, Inc., and Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee, spoke of the great interest shown by Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield in all the activities of FIFEPEX as he was to make a report to President Eisenhower who was particularly interested in it. He also told of the great understanding which philately had brought about between people of the world. It was another one of those memorable evenings, which will long be remembered. Thanks goes to Bro. Sidney F. Barrett, Chairman and his committee of the dinner for its success.

BRO. CLARENCE W. BRAZER

Clarence Wilson Brazer, D.Sc., doyen of specialist-students of stamp essays and proofs, died suddenly May 6 at his home in Flushing, N. Y. following a heart attack.

Doctor Brazer, who was 76 years old, was the moving spirit in the organization of the Essay-Proof Society in 1943 and was editor of its quarterly magazine, The Essay Proof Journal, from its first issue in 1944 through 1951. His standards for the magazine were high and under his editorship it attained rank as the most scholarly of philatelic periodicals.

His researches were responsible for existence of a major portion of the reference literature in the field of stamp essays and proofs. Besides innumerable articles in the Essay Proof Journal and other periodicals he compiled the Historical Catalogs of U. S. Essays and Proofs for the 1847 and Trans-Mississippi commemoratives of 1898 the standard work on U. S. Stamp Essays, and was consultant for proof and specimen listings in Scott's Catalog.

Doctor Brazer received many philatelic honors, including the Eidsness Plate in 1942 and the Luff award of the American Philatelic Society for philatelic research in 1946. His collections won numerous awards in exhibitions, including the grand award in 1937 at the Newark, N. J. show.

He had been a member of the American Philatelic Society since 1948 and was for many years chairman of its Essay and Proof Section. Many of his early writings on his specialty appeared in the American Philatelist. He was also a member of the Lansdowne, Pa. Stamp Club, the Masonic Stamp Club, the Society of Philatelic Americans, the Bureau Issues Association, the British North America Philatelic Society, the National Philatelic Museum, the Philatelic Foundation and the Collectors Club of New York.

A native of Philadelphia, he received a degree in architecture in 1899 from the Drexel Institute and in 1942 his alma mater awarded him the honorary degree Doctor of Science. After graduate work in town planning at Columbia University and France, he practiced architecture in Pennsylvania and New York, designing many buildings.

A collector since boyhood, Doctor Brazer developed an interest in essays and proofs as an adult and built extensive collections. When the depression of the early 1930s halted activity in architecture Doctor Brazer became a professional in philately, specializing in essays and proofs. A few years ago he suffered a heavy loss when his office was entered and most of his better items of stock were stolen. Those responsible for the theft have never been apprehended and none of the unique items stolen from Doctor Brazer have ever appeared on the philatelic market.

Doctor Brazer was a well-known figure at exhibitions and conventions and had attended most of the larger shows held in recent years.

BROTHER MEMBERS WIN AWARDS AT FIFEPEX

Silver Gilt Medals: George C. Slawson, Craftsbury Common, Vt. (U. S. Postal Cards); Bro. Marcus White, Worcester, Mass. (Nesbitt Issues and Postal Stationery).

Silver Medal: Bro. Henry Holcomb, New York City (U. S. Match & Medicines).

Silver Gilt Medal: Bro. Alex P. Watts, New York City (Jamaica); Bro. P. H. Wilde, Cardiff, England, (Hong Kong).



HARRY L. LINDQUIST

Honorary Chairman Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition; Honorary Chairman, The Association for Stamp Exhibitions, Inc.; Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee.



RICHARD S. BOHN

President, The Association for Stamp Exhibitions, Inc.; Chairman, Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition.



SOL GLASS



HARRY M. KONWISER



FRANKLIN R. BRUNS, Jr.



JOHN W. NICKLIN



FERD BAROVICK



GEORGE CAMNITZER



CHARLES H. LOTT



CARL E. PELANDER

Members of The Masonic Stamp Club of New York who were on the Executive Committees of FIPEX.



CARL H. PIHL



SIDNEY F. BARRETT



JACOB S. GLASER



FRANK ZELTMAN



GEORGE B. WRAY

Silver Medal: Bro. Marcus W. White, Worcester, Mass. (Great Britain); Bro. Carl E. Pelander, New York City (Tonga); Bro. Alex P. Watts, New York City (Samoa).

Bronze Medal: Bro. Irwin M. Yarry, New York City (Hong Kong).

Silver Medal: Bro. George Camnitzner, New York City (German Colonies).

Bronze Medals: Bro. Carl H. Pihl, Albertson, N. Y. (Norway 1856); Bro. Arthur I. Heim, Albertson, N. Y. (Belgian Congo); Bro. Jacob Glaser, Brooklyn, N. Y. (Colombia); Bro. Frederick Barovick, Brooklyn, N. Y. (Miniature Sheets).

Silver Medal: Bro. Jacob Glaser, Brooklyn, N. Y. (Colombia).

NEW MEMBERS

Bro. Phil Margulies, 455 F. D. R. Drive, New York 2, N. Y. Girard #831, N. Y. C.

Bro. James L. Marlin, 4019 Kottler Dr., Lafayette Hill, Penna. Henry W. Williams #624, Phila, Pa.

Bro. R. P. Scholte, 2280 Academy Dr., Grand Rapids, Mich. Pella #55, Mich.

Bro. Peter A. Schwerdt, 2191 Capilano Rd., No. Vancouver, B. C., Canada. Mosaic #162. Vancouver, B. C., Canada.

Bro. Yale J. Shapiro, 657 E. 26 St., Brooklyn, N. Y. Franklin #447, N. Y. City.

Bro. Wm. E. Salomon, 320 Highview, Silver Spring, Md. M. M. Parker #27, Washington, D. C.

Bro. Chester E. Wing, Route 3, Hastings, Mich. Woodland #304, Woodland, Mich.

Bro. Capt. Harry Anderson, P. O. Box 735, Knapp Rd., Masik Beach, N. Y. Hill Grove #540, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Bro. John J. Egbert, Jr., 256 Garfield Pl., Brooklyn, N. Y. Cornucopia #563, Flushing, N. Y.

Bro. Robert E. Middleton, P. O. Box 335, Essex, Ont., Canada. Central #402, Essex, Ont, Canada.

Bro. Dr. Frank N. Marzullo, 1207 Ditmas Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. Cavour #872, N. Y. City.

Bro. Richard Van Riper Sr., 200 Livingston Ave., Orange, N. J. Union #11, Orange, N. J.

Bro. Benj. A. Rogow, 1705 Andrews Ave., New York 53. Mt. Scopu #1075.

Bro. Dr. Oton Blaustein, Viamonte 550, Buenos Aires, Argentina. T. G. Masaryk #391, Buenos Aires.

Bro. Parsek Parsekian, 900 West 190 Street, New York 40, N. Y. Sylvan Grove #275, N. Y.

Bro. Roger H. Bryant, 85 Forest St., Worcester 9, Mass. Morning Star, Worcester, Mass.

Bro. Archibald Ostrander, Schuyler Hts., Apt. 20d., Albany, N. Y. Schodack union #87, East Greenbush, N. Y.

Bro. Harvey D. Brink, 145-61 8th Ave., Whitestone 57, N. Y. Daniel Carpenter #643, N. Y. City, N. Y.

Bro. W. R. Fleischer, 96-11 65 Road, Forest Hills 74, N. Y. Pioneer #20, N. Y.

Bro. Chas. Essig, 1253 East 29 St., Brooklyn 10, N. Y. Minerva #792. Brooklyn, N. Y.

Bro. Max Kohane, 317 Exhibition St., Melbourne, Australia. Philatelic Lodge # 552, Victoria, Australia.

Bro. Frank H. Weis, A.P.O. 239, Box R, Armed Forces, % P. M. San Francisco. Calif. Green Point Lodge #403, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Bro. H. L. Woodruff, 719 E. 233rd St., New York 66, N. Y. Hopewell Lodge # 596, Bronx, N. Y.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Harry L. Kinne, 6 South Orion Ave., Clearwater, Fla.

Sol Glass, Apt. 3-B, 6414 Park Heights Ave., Baltimore 15, Md.

Julian Wille, 5641 E. Thomas Road, Phoenix, Ariz.

Edward J. Whiting, 25 Kings Circle, Malvern, Pa.

MASTER OF PHILATELY DEGREE

A most impressive turnout of members assembled at a temporary meeting room which the club had to occupy, provided the setting for the degree team on April 6, 1956. Our usual spacious meeting room had been pre-empted by the Fipex committee, meeting of which many of our own club members were busily engaged. In spite of the conflict of these events, eight candidates presented themselves for the master philately degree, including a distinguished visitor, Bro. Max Kohane of the Philatelic Lodge F.&A.M. #552 of Victoria, Australia, who conveyed fraternal greetings from the only philatelic lodge in the world. Bro. Kohane was elected to membership by acclamation and thus became a candidate with seven other members for the degree.

We are happy to announce that the following brother members have fully qualified for the Master of Philately degree:

Max Kohane	Diego Quintero
J. Edward Kraus	Philip Rosenbaum
Elias Mikkelsen	Frederick Thomas
Joseph Munk	Horace Woodruff.



Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield explains to Brother Richard S. Bohn, Chairman of FIPEX, the mechanics of the Talking Mail Box!

FIPEX FULFILLS PREDICTIONS AS GREATEST STAMP SHOW IN HISTORY

New York—As the doors closed on the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition on Sunday evening, May 6, the comments from every side confirmed the pre-show prediction that FIPEX would be the finest international stamp show ever staged anywhere. Records were broken in every phase of activity connected with the huge undertaking.

Richard S. Bohn, FIPEX Chairman, stated that the show fulfilled his every expectation. Reactions from Americans and other nationals indicated unanimously that FIPEX will go down in history as the greatest international philatelic exhibition ever held. Mr. Bohn stated that he was proud to have had a part in this epochal event. He also paid tribute to the splendid cooperation received from the United States Post Office Department.

During the nine-day show the total attendance was 268,000, an increase of 34 percent over the previous high established at CIPEX in 1947. The opening day, April 28, established a new record for a single day's attendance at an international stamp show when 60,000 persons went into the New York Coliseum to see FIPEX. Attendance on Saturday, May 5, was 46,000 which also exceeded the previous high for one day.

Nearly all of the 105 dealers with booths at FIPEX expressed themselves as well pleased with the show. Huge throngs crowded all dealers' booths on practically every day. Largest transaction reported by a prominent dealer was the sale of a single stamp for \$8000. The special FIPEX Post Office did a land office business with long lines in front of all windows most of the time. Late in the week it was reported that 2,013,019 copies of the souvenir sheet had been sold. At the same time 5,251,299 three-cent Coli-



Lounge of The Masonic Stamp Club of New York at FIPEX. Some of the members, reading from left to right (standing): Bros. Dr. I. Yarry, Phil Wilde, Roy Schwartz. Sitting: Mrs. I. Yarry, Harry Konwiser, Mannie Reggel, Joe Ferola, and a visitor signing the guest register.

seum stamps, 510,000 air mail envelopes and 1,080,000 post cards had been sold. These figures are incomplete and it will be several days or a week before the final figures are available.

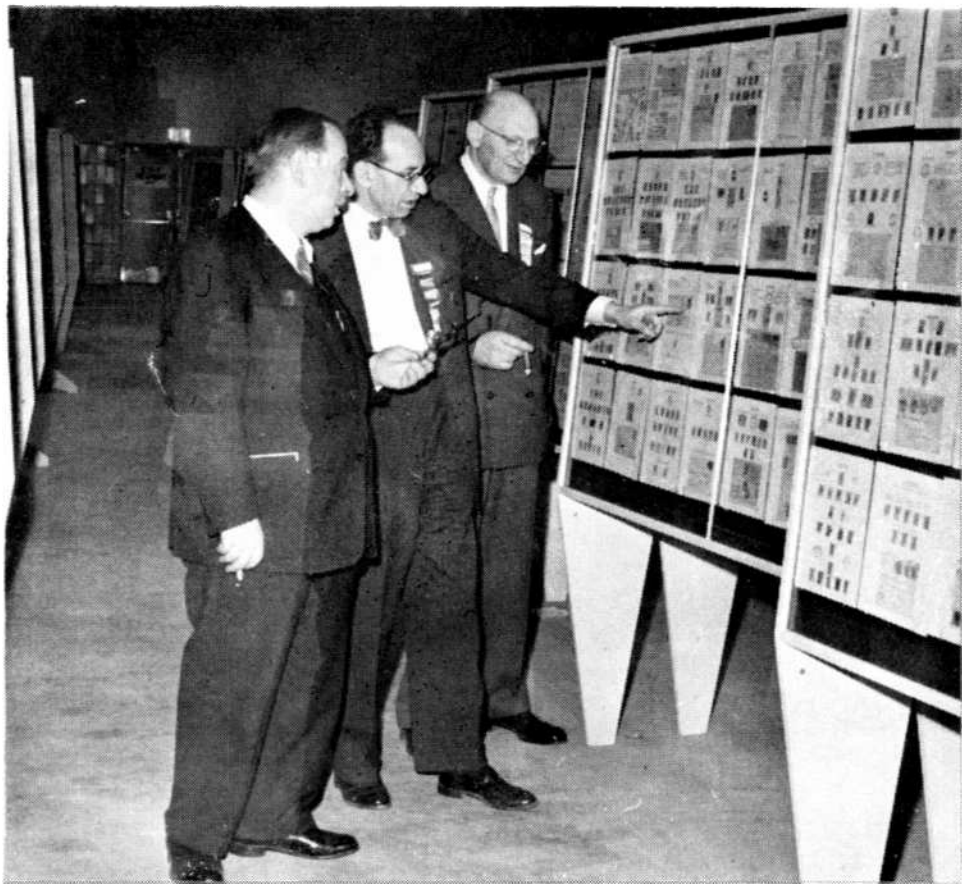
First Day cancellations were applied to 88,470 souvenir sheets and 370,935 covers bearing the three-cent Coliseum stamp at the FIPEX Post Office, it was reported by Department officials. First Day figures for the other two issues were not available at the time this was written. Robert E. Fellers, Director of the Division of Philately, declared that he was well pleased with the sales of the four special issues provided for FIPEX. In addition, sales of other commemorative issues were brisk, he stated.

From an artistic and philatelic viewpoint, the United States Post Office Exhibit was an unqualified success, far surpassing any previous display of the

department. It enjoyed large crowds of visitors at all hours. The feature, "Birth of Stamp" proved most popular although the talking mailbox ran a close second.

Other features at FIPEX that proved popular were the exhibits of the Universal Postal Union, the Smithsonian Institution, the Hall of Color, the Swiss Postal Administration and the Junior Exhibits. Naturally, the World's Most Valuable Stamp—the one cent British Guiana of 1856—played to a full house during the entire show. Also popular were the 35 lounges of various philatelic societies, most of which had special displays of stamps in frames nearby.

Although there were a total of 3392 frames in the entire show, the most amazing and surprising feature were the 2340 competitive frames. Never before has such an aggregation of phi-



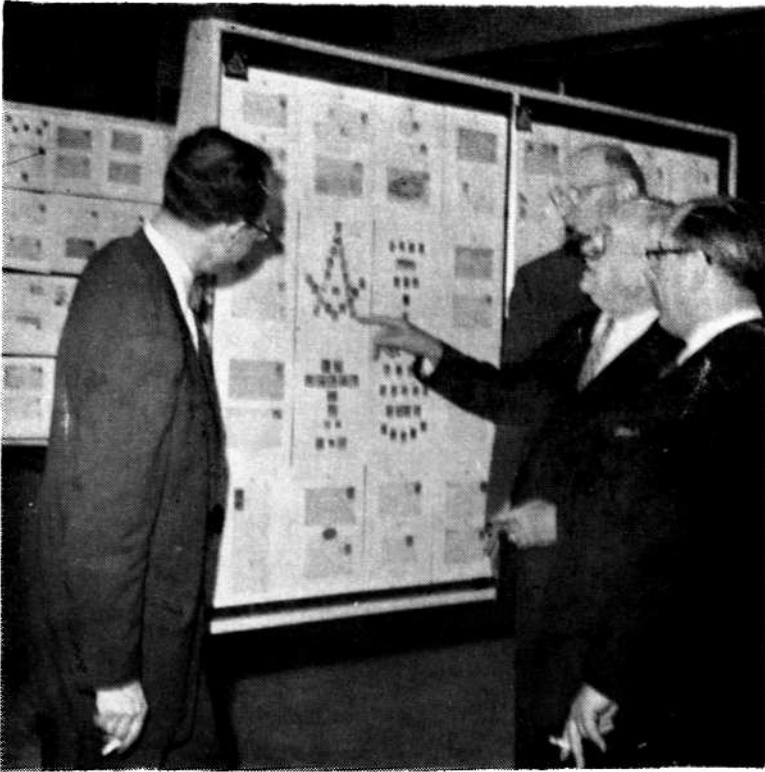
Brother Dr. Yarry points to his prize winning Hong Kong exhibit, describing it to Bro. Wilde and Bro. Reggel.

latelic gems been seen under one roof. The best and most important collections of the entire world were on display at FIPEX. There were some 700 exhibitors of which 350 received prizes. A third of these prizes—125—went to collectors from outside the United States. These collectors represented 32 nations. England led with 38 awards, followed by Canada with 11 and Brazil with 10. Of the 225 awards received by Americans from 21 states and the District of Columbia, New York received 100, Illinois 30, New Jersey 20, Maryland 15, Pennsylvania 13 and Ohio 10.

The Board of Judges, headed by Lt. Gen. Cornelius W. Wickersham, broke a tradition when they awarded the Grand Trophy for the best exhibit in the show to Robert Hoffman of Monte-

video, Uruguay for his collection of Uruguay, 1856-64. Also believed to be a first was the award of major trophies to two ladies. Mrs. Prentice Cromwell of New York City received the trophy for the Best 20th Century Collection and Mrs. Ethel D. McCoy of New York City received the Arthur E. Summerfield Trophy for the Best United States 20th Century Collection.

It is believed that the observations of Hugo Fraccaroli of Brazil, one of the world's foremost philatelists and a member of the Board of Judges, will be of interest. Mr. Fraccaroli said, "Unquestionably, Saturday, April 28 and Sunday, April 29 were the two most glorious days that world philately has ever known. For on those two days we saw and participated in an unforgettable spectacle of philatelic



Brother Harry Konwiser points out some Masonic cancellations to some brother members. Note arrangement on one album page.

The photographs, with the exception of the FIPEX executive committees are by the courtesy of Leslie Gross, 304 West 58th Street, New York City.

enthusiasm and activity never seen before in any part of the world. FIPEX is, without exception, the most important and impressive exhibition of philately that has ever been organized. All records have been broken."

Continuing, Mr. Fraccaroli stated, "I have had the opportunity of participating in the last five international philatelic exhibitions in the world and I may safely say that FIPEX has surpassed them all by a very large margin, and unquestionably is the greatest and the most important. The Board of Judges had great difficulty in judging because of the large number of important collections that were exhibited. For 40 years I have been active in philately and I can declare that FIPEX is the very highest point reached by international philately."

Another member of the Board of Judges from abroad stated, "Anyone who received an award at FIPEX

should consider themselves very fortunate as the caliber of the exhibits was far and away the best that has ever been seen at any one international show. A bronze medal at FIPEX is equivalent to a silver-gilt medal at any other international philatelic exhibition."

Philatelists attended FIPEX from nearly every state of the Union and practically every one of the free nations of the world. It is believed that never before have there been so many collectors from so many different countries. In the International Salon there were exhibits from 69 countries which participated officially in FIPEX. Harry L. Lindquist, Honorary Chairman of FIPEX, who had charge of foreign participation, stated that this was the largest number of foreign governments that had ever taken part in an international exhibition. The International Salon contained much



priceless material that did not escape the notice of great numbers of visitors.

Summing up, the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition appears to have borne out the statement of President Dwight D. Eisenhower to the FIPEX Committee wherein he said, "Philately unites peoples." Certainly FIPEX achieved that and in so doing accomplished what is perhaps its finest service to philately.

A REPORT FROM THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

By BRO. FRANKLIN R. BRUNS JR.

The Smithsonian Institution, home of the National Postage Stamp Collection, in Washington, D. C., is looking forward to a new building which will permit far greater emphasis being placed on its great philatelic holdings, and postal history. Congress has already authorized the planning of \$36 million museum on Constitution avenue, between 12th and 14th streets, and has already appropriated roughly \$2¼ millions for the initial planning.

The new museum will be devoted to History and Technology, and will replace the old Arts and Industries Building on the Mall which presently houses the national stamp collection.

Where a small corner of a wing is devoted to the exhibits of philatelic and postal specimens, present planning calls for two large halls approximating 5,000 square feet apiece, and

possibly a third.

One hall, already tentatively planned, calls for increased display of the tremendous worldwide collection of postage stamps, and postal stationery, along with new accessions and outstanding classics. Provision has also been made for the tracing of stamp production from the original drawing through the completed stamp.

The second hall, as presently conceived, will be devoted to postal history with its varying ramifications.

The National Postage Stamp Collection can properly be considered as being forty-five years old this year, since the entire Post Office Department exhibit was transferred to the Smithsonian Institution in 1911. Prior to that the Smithsonian had received a small collection formed by one of its Secretaries, Professor Spencer F. Baird (1888) and from David W. Cromwell of New York (1908) comprising some 20,000 U. S. and foreign

At present the Smithsonian's Division of Philately holds in excess of one million stamps and envelopes, and is particularly strong in United States postage and revenues and general foreign. Many prominent collectors and professionals have bequeathed or donated wonderful additions—sharing in the hope that the United States will one day have a truly exceptional display—for all collectors to see, to enjoy, and to refer to when necessary.

**WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT,
A MASON**

By R. M. NEEDHAM

Depicted on the 4¢ regular issue of 1930 of the United States (Scott's #685, Minkus #519) is a likeness of William Howard Taft, the 27th President of the United States, who served from 1909 to 1913. Source of portrait unknown to the writer. This stamp had ten plates: #20136-7, #20140-1, #20172-5, #20203-4, with the last three being the scarcer ones.

Brother Taft had a distinguished career before and after his term in the White House. He was a federal judge, Solicitor General of the U. S. under Benjamin Harrison, dean of the University of Cincinnati law school, President of the Philippines Commission, first civil governor of the Philippines, Secretary of War and provisional governor of Cuba, among other things. His administration dissolved the Stanard Oil and American Tobacco Company trusts, set up the Department of Labor, and drafted the 16th and 17th Amendments authorizing the income tax and the direct election of Senators. Defeated in 1912, he became a lecturer and Yale law professor. Appointed Chief Justice of the U. S. in 1919, he served until his death in 1930. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio on Sept. 15, 1857; died in Washington, D. C. on March 8, 1930.

Brother Taft was made a Mason "at Sight" (Grand Master convened a Lodge of such assisting Brethren as

he deemed necessary and the three degrees were given concisely on the one occasion) on the afternoon of Feb. 18, 1909 by R.W. Charles S. Hoskinson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. In the evening of the same day, Brother Taft witnessed the conferring of the Master Mason degree in full form on one candidate, all work being done by Kilwinning Lodge #356. All the above was given in the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Cincinnati. He was given a demit from the Grand Lodge of Ohio and Brother Taft presented same to Kilwinning Lodge #356, F. & A.M., all on the same day above mentioned. On April 14, 1909, he was duly elected a member of that Lodge.

His Masonic activities after that were many and varied. On June 5, 1918 he was elected an honorary member of Crescent Lodge #25, F. & A.M., Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He visited Temple-Noyes Lodge #32 in the new Masonic Temple in Washington, D. C. on April 22, 1909. On June 15, 1910 found him enjoying fellowship with American Union Lodge #1, at Marietta, Ohio. He was a visitor on Feb. 22, 1911 at Alexandria-Washington Lodge #22, Alexandria, Va. Visited St. John's Lodge #1, Newark, N. J., on May 13, 1911, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

Brother Taft had also, in his elected position of President of the U. S., taken part in the Masonic cornerstone or dedication ceremonies of public buildings. No further details known of his Masonic activities.

THERE ARE AVAILABLE 75 SETS OF MASONIC CACHETS, **CANCELLED MAY 2nd**, MASONIC HALL STATION, AT \$1.00 PER SET, for any Brothers who want them.

