



the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 13

SEPTEMBER 1956

NO. 1



June 1, 1956—Bro. Tom Phillips presenting a check for the Masonic Research Laboratory to Bro. Raye Bourne (Past Grand Marshal and Chairman of the 175th Anniversary Committee of Grand Lodge of New York) and Bro. Captain (U.S.N. Rtd.) George Witherspoon, (Director of Publicity, and Editor of the Empire State Mason).

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VOL. 13 NO. 1



Published by
The Ralph A. Barry - Al Van Dahl
Publication Fund
of The Masonic Stamp Club of New York



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On the cover picture — Reading from left to right are Bros. Emanuel Reggel, George Wray, Irwin Yarry, Haye Bourne, Tom Phillips, George Witherspoon, Milnor Peck, and Russell Roane.

ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 1st, 1956

The last meeting of the 1955-56 season was a most encouraging event for all those present. The prospects for our club's future years have been bolstered during the past season by a series of events that have shattered even the most optimistic dreams.

The successful promotion of our Masonic cachet to commemorate the 175th anniversary of Masonry in New York state in itself would have been no small venture since as a result, we have been able to turn over to the chairman of the anniversary committee, Bro. Raymond Bourne, a check

★ MEETINGS ★
First Friday of Each Month
Collectors Club Building,
22 East 35th Street

for \$1500.00 as a contribution to the Medical Research Center at Utica, N. Y. The letter from the Past Grand Master of N. Y., M. W. Raymond C. Ellis, as reproduced in full in this issue, speaks for itself.

We were indeed honored by the presence of the Grand Marshall and Chairman of the 175th anniversary committee, Bro. Raymond Bourne, and Capt. Maurice M. Witherspoon, director of Public relations for Grand Lodge, both acting on behalf of the Grand Master, to receive the contribution.

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York can indeed be proud of its achievement in helping to raise this money for the Masonic brotherhood fund, which will go towards the Masonic Foundation for Medical Research and Human Welfare. The research center at Utica, N. Y., now in the process of construction, will be a lasting memento of our contribution.

To our cachet chairman, Bro. Jacob Glaser, who originally conceived the plan of a cachet in conjunction with the 175th communication of the Grand Lodge, and his committee we owe a vote of thanks. Bro. Glaser, with all his other commitments as chairman of construction for FIPEX, manager with Bro. Harry L. Lindquist to set up the special post office at Grand Lodge Library where the cancellations were applied, on May 1st and 2nd, 1956. To mention each and every member who has helped in this project would not be out of order but each one who has purchased a set of these beautifully engraved cachets has helped. We must however, give a vote of thanks to Bro. E. Milnor Peck, who was instrumental in working out the mechanics and design, the mailing and addressing, etc; although Bro. Peck as owner of the Fleetwood Cover Service, took this all in stride, we are happy that his know how helped put this across. To all those who have helped, the club is ever grateful. We were sorry that Bro. Glaser could not attend this annual meeting, due to his doctor's request that he take a well needed rest, but a resolution extolling Bro. Glaser's work on this cachet has been duly recorded.

The other major event of the past



Some Club Members who attended the last meeting of the season June 1, 1956.
Photographs are by Bro. Dr. George Camnitzer.

year was our participation in FIPEX; details of which were in the last issue of *The Masonic Philatelist*. However, to have run these two events concurrently, and provided manpower for FIPEX, plus the dozen frames on Masonic philately, manning the booth and greeting over a thousand visiting brothers, and dozens of chores, we should be proud that our club and its members have accomplished a gargantuan job. We have received publicity throughout both Masonic and philatelic channels which has placed the Masonic Stamp Club of New York among the outstanding stamp clubs of this country.

All these facts are now in retrospect and to realize that aside from the above, the club has increased its membership by over one hundred, all of whom by this time have been qualified by our able chairman, Bro. Carl E. Pelander. Ours is not just a stamp club, since we do operate under the authority of the Grand Lodge of N. Y., through the Board of General Activities. This increase in our club creates new responsibilities for our officers, who have now been elected, at this annual meeting. Fortunately, the same officers will continue, namely:

President—Thomas Phillips
First Vice Pres.—George B. Wray
Second Vice Pres. and Secretary—
Dr. Irwin M. Yarry

Treasurer—Russell B. Roane
Board of Governors — Emanuel Reggel 1 year; Charles Lott 2 years; Benjamin Grossman 3 years.

The events during the past season, under the able guidance of President Thomas Phillips have been carried out with a full program of meetings—with Bro. George B. Wray, as chairman, a very active editor, Bro. Emanuel Reggel, a very busy treasurer, Bro. Russell B. Roane, and a worn-out secretary. But for the fact that Bro. Phillips is still carrying on, the rest of the officers will just have to go along. In this vein, let us try to establish a broader field of cooperation among our local members so that the work of the officers can be made a bit easier. This is not a plea, but a hope that more brothers would attend meetings, and work on the few committees. It would help a lot, and be so much fun.—Fraternally, Irwin M. Yarry, Secretary.

Independence Hall was used as the meeting place of the Grand Lodge of Philadelphia 1800-02. We might well add that this shrine of American liberty was in a large share the handiwork of early Masons.

Switzerland's 1945 war relief issue bears a figure symbolical of Faith, Hope and Charity, the three cardinal virtues.

O.A.T. MYSTERY MARKINGS

By Marian Carne Zinsmeister



The note on page 30, January 1956 **COVERS** by Frederick Patka regarding the mysterious "O.A.T. CANCEL" intrigued me. I knew we had some of these somewhere in our collection and after searching came up with two covers addressed to Chicago—one a cover from Odakra, Sweden, postmarked 30.11.45, addressed to an individual in Chicago and routed via England (figure 1), the second a cover from Belgium, postmarked 5.V.1945 addressed to a business house in Chicago, which by the way was censored by #496 (figure 2).

Hence it would seem that some letters **did come to America** bearing the "O.A.T." marking. However, at the time nothing was known about the marks and it is possible collectors have them in their collections without understanding the marks.

In the April, 1949, S.P.A. Journal, Dr. Gordon Ward of England explained five types of these O.A.T. marks he had found on covers in his possession, originating as he explained, in Norway, South and North Africa, Canada, Grenada, Europe—the first type a single line oval with the letters O.A.T. similar to figure 1; the second a double line oval with the letters; third a single line rectangular box with squatty letters similar to figure 2; fourth a single line box with elongated letters, and fifth the letters only, double lined made of diagonal lines. He stated number five came out of Norway. Dr. Ward at that time asked collectors over here to inspect their war cover collections to run down any further information they could on the use or types of these markings, but to date I have never seen anything additional in print on the subject.

Mr. Anderson who gave me all the covers received from his family in Sweden, received just this one bearing the "O.A.T." mark and he had no explanation nor did his family for why the mark was placed on the letter. It was placed there after it was received at the post office. True, it came air mail, and may have been forwarded to some place, like Tangier, and held there until sufficient mail was collected to make one shipment by plane.

Perhaps the above notes will bring to light further covers and information on this subject, whether it was a war measure, or whether the marking was used prior to or after the war, and whether the letters did really mean Onward Air Transmission or Outbound Air Transport.

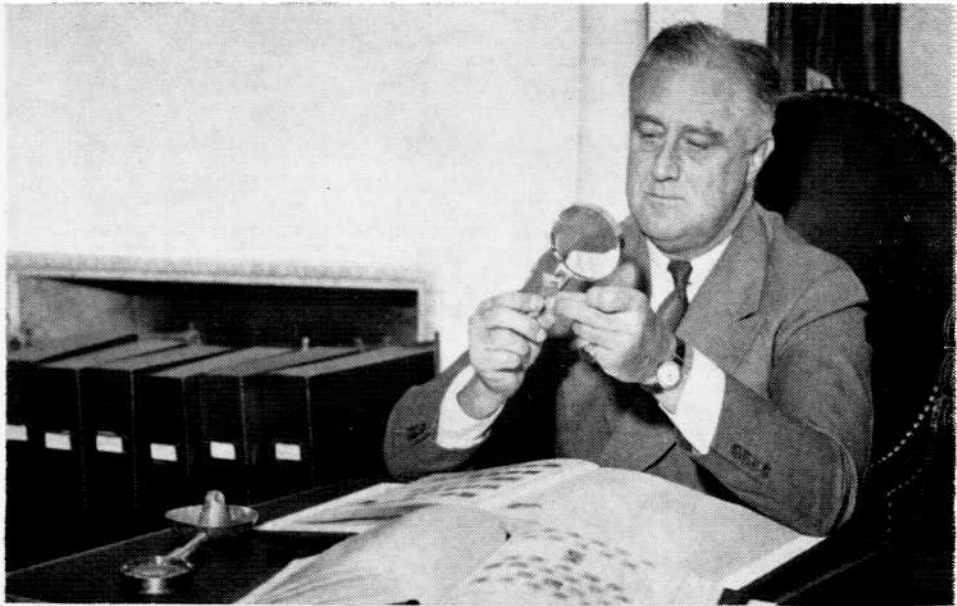


Benjamin Franklin was active in Freemasonry 60 years. He took his degrees in 1730-31 in St. John's Lodge of Philadelphia. He became Grand Master in 1734 and published the first Masonic book in America, a reprint of Anderson's "Constitution of Free Masonry."

William B. Travis who defended the Alamo (on our new 9¢ stamp) was a Mason. In 1836 during the struggle of Texans for independence from Mexico, Travis, Davy Crockett and the entire force of 187 frontiersmen gave their lives in the cause.

United Nations issues 2¢ 1943 (#907) and 5¢ 1945 (#928) can be placed in a Masonic collection. The late President Roosevelt was a Mason and appointed another, Arthur H. Vandenberg, to help draw up the U. N. Charter.

The 8¢ Rotary stamp typifies the Bible quotation "Let There Be Light."



BRO. FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

Born, January 30, 1882, Hyde Park, New York.

Died, April 12, 1945, Warm Springs, Georgia.

Raised November 28, 1911, Holland Lodge No. 8, New York City.

September 22, 1930, accredited Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, near the Grand Lodge of New York.

He personally raised his three sons in Architect Lodge No. 519, New York City. Elliott, on February 17, 1933; and James and Franklin D. Jr., on November 7, 1935.

He was the only President to serve more than two terms. He passed away a short time after he was inaugurated for his fourth term.

FROM NEEDHAM'S TRESTLE BOARD —

CASIMIR PULASKI, A MASON

Depicted on the 2¢ carmine rose stamp of the United States, issue of Jan. 16, 1931 (Scott's #690, Minkus #CM95) is the likeness of Count Casimir Pulaski, Polish patriot and leader, from an etching by H. B. Hall in Jones' History of Georgia. He is known as the Father of the United States Cavalry. Pulaski, a Polish nobleman, had lost his all in Poland's fight for freedom against the Russian invader, came to America in 1777 and enlisted as a volunteer officer. As a result of his bravery and leadership in the Battle of Brandywine, Congress gave him the rank of Brigadier-General and put him in charge of the cavalry. He later died from wounds received while leading a cavalry charge against the British at Savannah, Ga. in 1779. He died aboard the U. S. Brig Wasp and was

buried at sea.

Brother Pulaski was born in Poland in 1748 of a noble family, inheriting the title of Count at his father's death. But due to the Russian invasion and his resistance to same, he lost all he had and was forced into exile with a price on his head. And then sometime between 1772 (when he disappeared from Poland) and 1777 when he arrived in America, he met Ben Franklin who persuaded him to help the American colonies in their fight for freedom. Date of birth not known by writer, but death occurred on Oct. 11, 1779.

According to the Masonic historian, H. F. Gould, Pulaski was made a Mason in a Military Lodge in Georgia shortly before his death.

Due to the friendship between Polish and American peoples and the former being in this country in large numbers, it was thought a good idea to

issue this new stamp from several first day cities where large segments of the population were Polish. So, the cities consisted of: Savannah, Georgia, where he was killed; Chicago, Ill.; Gary and South Bend, Ind.; Detroit, Mich.; Brooklyn, Buffalo, and New York, N. Y., Cleveland and Toledo, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Milwaukee, Wis. Printed by flat plate printing with 400 subject plates, divided into 100 subject P. O. panes by horizontal and vertical guide lines terminating in arrows. There were four plate numbers, one to each pane. Twelve plates were made and all used: #20416-27; issued 96,559,400. Positions of plate numbers were in the top and bottom margins, above or below the fifth vertical row on the left panes, and the sixth vertical row on the right panes.

So mote it be!

POLAR STAMPS

There is Masonic interest attached to the 3½d stamp issued by Australia which shows a map of the Antarctic continent and the South Pole, in the exploration of which Masons have played an important role.

Robert Falcon Scott, a member of Drury Lane Lodge No. 2127, London, reached the South Pole only five weeks after it was discovered by Amundsen in 1912. Scott perished on a return trip two months later.

Rear Adm. Richard E. Byrd, a member of Elisha Kent Kane Lodge No. 454, New York (named after a Mason who was an early explorer of the Arctic regions) made the first aerial flight over the South Pole in 1929. Adm. Byrd dropped a Masonic flag as he flew over the pole. His companion on the trip was Bernt Balchen, member of Norseman Lodge No. 878, Brooklyn, the Scottish Rite bodies of New York and Kismet Shrine Temple, Brooklyn. Bro. Balchen dropped his Shrine fez over the pole.

Byrd made further expeditions to the Antarctic. He informed this writer that on one of these expeditions, the majority of his crew were Masons. These men assembled at Little America in the South Polar region on February 5, 1935, as the First Antarctic Lodge No. 777, New Zealand Constitution. Thus, Freemasonry was carried into the frozen lands of the South Pole.

Little America is pictured on a 3¢ stamp issued by the United States in 1933 in connection with Adm. Byrd's second Antarctic trip. In this writer's collection is a cover bearing this stamp

and postmarked "Little America, Antarctica, Jan. 31, 8:00 PM, 1934." Some years ago, Adm. Byrd on a visit to Chicago autographed this cover for me. The design of the stamp, No. 733, was repeated in a souvenir sheet in 1934 (No. 735) and in a special printing in 1935 (No. 753).—Mirt.

MALLET AND CHISEL

We are indebted to the same source for the information in the following item concerning the working tools of a mark Master—the Mallet and the Chisel. These instruments, Bro. Denslow points out, have an underlying symbolic meaning not readily apparent.

"Their practical purpose is explained in the Mark Master lecture, but the candidate is not told that with these tools he can communicate with another brother, for it is with these instruments that he makes the Masonic cipher alphabet," he writes. "It is with these instruments that he can place his individual mark upon each piece of work which he may have completed for the building of the Temple. He is taught that he has an individual responsibility, and that each piece of work which he presents has a distinct personal value; that his work must be square and true, and that those who inspect will, through his mark, be able to detect imperfect work presented by impostors.

"But most important is the thought that each of us must perfect our own lives; that it is in our power to build a substantial structure or an imperfect one. Our lives are like blocks of stone which the sculptor, by striking off bits here and there, may form into a beautiful work of art, the value of which depends solely on the vision of the artist himself.

"The Chisel and Mallet are the instruments for producing his masterpiece. So, does the Mark Master, using his Chisel and Mallet as spiritual instruments, perfect his character by striking off all those vices and irregularities which mar a life, and reveal perfect character, the finest gift one can offer to the Great Overseer."

(A sculptor with mallet and chisel is shown on two Italian stamps of 1948—10 lire and 30 lire, Nos. 493-494).—Mirt.

Both the east and west zones of Germany have issued stamps to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of Johann Schiller (1759-1805), poet and philosopher, who was a Mason.

New York, June 28, 1956

Major Thomas Phillips—This is just a note to thank you and through you the Masonic Stamp Club of New York for your most generous contribution to the Medical Research Center now being constructed at Utica, New York.

Your contribution, which came at the close of the campaign, raised our total to over \$520,000 in cash. This sum, coupled with the approximate \$650,000 raised the preceding year, has placed the Foundation in a position in which they have the money to build and equip this Laboratory and to assure its operation for two or three years ahead.

I know that the Foundation itself would wish me to convey to you the thanks of the Board and to assure you that it is such generous acts as yours that make this work worthwhile.

We do not know when the building will be completed because of the steel strike but we are moving along as fast as possible and hope that within a year we will be actively engaged in research.

Again, my most sincere thanks.

Fraternally, Ray Ellis, Past Grand Master.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart wove a Masonic theme into many of his musical works, especially apparent in "The Magic Flute." He wrote hymns for the dedication of a Masonic Temple in Vienna.

For a Knight's Templar collection: Monaco five values in the Knights in Armour design of 1951.

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