



# *the* Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 13

OCTOBER 1956

NO. 2

## *That Is Masonry*

By Lowell M. Limpus, 32°

**A** mighty ruler doffed his pride and passed the guarded door  
To greet his own valet inside, upon a level floor;  
And there they stood in Brotherhood for all the Craft to see,  
Yet we suppose no eyebrow rose—for that is Masonry.<sup>1</sup>  
A warrior struggled through the snow to reach a drift-piled shack  
And strike a warm fraternal blow upon a farm boy's back;  
'Twas "Brother George" at Valley Forge; they shared a mystery  
And grip of hand **we** understand—for that is Masonry.<sup>2</sup>  
An Indian chieftain rushed to aid the victim at the stake  
Quick as the secret sign was made, for oath he would not break.  
We grant his name a certain fame, the while we may agree,  
Of different race they shared one grace—for that is Masonry.<sup>3</sup>  
A royal prince stepped freely down from "Antient" honors gained  
And bowed before his brother's crown, so that no rift remained;  
His yielded laurel wiped out the quarrel, price of Fraternity,  
But none that gazed could be amazed—for that is Masonry.<sup>4</sup>  
A president bowed low before the Master in the Chair,  
A servant he who worked next door, beyond the Three Lights' glare.  
'Twas quite correct to pay respect, and pay it seriously,  
When power and pride are laid aside—for that is Masonry.<sup>5</sup>  
The lesson clear before us lies; our Brethren made it plain—  
To bring light to our hoodwinked eyes; let not their work be vain.  
The great and good taught brotherhood for all the Craft to see;  
Let lesser men do likewise, then—for that is Masonry.<sup>6</sup>

### NOTES:

1 Emperor Frederick the Great is credited with raising his own valet.

2 George Washington is reputed to have attended Lodge at Valley Forge.

3 Chief Brant rescued Brother John McKinstry at the Battle of the Cedars.

4 Duke of Kent voluntarily resigned as Grand Master of the Antient Grand Lodge of England to

smooth the way for its union with the Modern Grand Lodge.

5 President Theodore Roosevelt attended a Long Island Lodge, the Master of which was the gardner

on a neighboring estate.

6 You and I.

"Most all these Brothers appear on stamps except YOU and ME."



ternally, J. F. Reinhardt, Jr.

P. S.—If I get duplicates I will return to you as someone else might want to do the same.

---

## My Masonic Collection

Pendleton, Oregon, Box 167

Dear Brother:

Following the accumulation of articles from Weekly Philatelic Gossip, the purchase of Bro. George B. Clark's "A Masonic Stamp Collection," and the articles by Bro. Mirt in the Masonic Philatelist, I found I had a large number of stamps of Masonic interest. I purchased a post binder with pages about 11 by 14 inches and went to work on a collection that has grown to quite large proportions.

On the left page, as one looks at it, there is the Masonic record of the subject portrayed on the opposite page. A number of years ago some magazine, LOOK, I believe, had an article and pictures about various branches of Masonry. The picture of a Lodge in the state of New York is on the first page of my Masonic stamp collection. The first few pages are full of stamps of that noted Mason, George Washington, followed by that other great Mason, Benjamin Franklin. There are several hundred stamps in that section.

Following are pages with stamps of the Masonic Presidents of the United States. Stamps portraying many of the great and noted men in our country's history, from John Paul Jones to Douglas MacArthur follow for many pages. There is a page with stamps from Nicaragua and the United States with Will Rogers' picture.

While they cannot be considered philatelic I have included a large number of autographs of Masons honored by stamps issued. These autographs include one by Harry S. Truman as P.G.M. of Missouri, 33rd. There is one of Theodore Roosevelt on a White House card, and among others George Dewey, Edwin M. Stanton, Will Rogers, Edward VIII, R. I. of Great Britain, and many others. A book, Freemasonry in the Western Hemisphere, helped to find names of Presidents of South American republics who were Masons and whose faces appear on stamps. Recently in the book, Military Lodges, 1733-1899, I found that William IV, King of Great

### NEW MEMBERS

CAPT. WILLIAM C. BALL  
P. O. Box 426, Bonita, Calif.  
John D. Willard #250, N.Y.C., N.Y.  
STEPHEN F. HEYER  
Main st. & Park ave., Herkimer, N.Y.  
HERKIMER #423, Herkimer, N. Y.  
HERBERT R. MOYSE  
Hamburg, New Jersey  
Samaritan #98, Sussex, N. J.  
BEN E. RUTMAN  
2087 Pinehurst av., St. Paul 16, Minn.  
Highland Park #336, St. Paul, Minn.  
DR. K. W. TENOVE  
St. Paul, Alberta, Canada  
St. Albans #145, St. Paul, Alta., Can.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Edwin Trachsler, 268 North 11th st.,  
Paterson 2, N. J.

---

Britain, was initiated 1786 at Plymouth and was W.M. of Prince of Wales Lodge from 1827 until his accession to the thorne in 1830. His portrait appears on Cayman Islands, 69 to 80.

The page I have allotted to Edward VIII has the four stamps issued during his short reign as King of Great Britain, and the 11 issued for Offices in Morocco.

There is a very great number of stamps of the Argentine Republic that portray Masons on stamps, and most of them are very cheap.

In 1935 Honduras issued a single stamp showing the Masonic Temple at Tegucigalpa. A large number of Presidents of Honduras who were Masons may be put on that page.

I should like to mention the one page I call the "Aanti-Masonic" page, which has the stamps issued by Serbia some years ago, also the Emperor of Russia, Paul I, and William H. Seward, Secretary of State in Lincoln's cabinet. Of interest along that line is "The Strange Disappearance of William Morgan."

The list of stamps of Masonic interest is endless, and I would be very happy to correspond with others who are interested in A Masonic Stamp Collection.

Fraternally yours, Homer P. Rogers.

---

Bro. George Camnitzer is now recuperating at his home. We hope and pray for his early recovery.

Bro. Harry M. Konwiser has been away from his usual haunts among the various spots of philatelic gatherings. We miss H. M. K. very much, and hear that he is taking a rest cure at a local hospital.

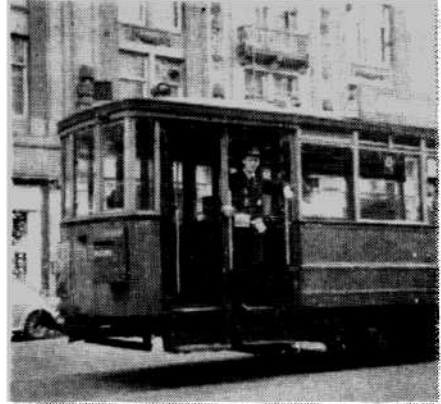
## Sojourn Abroad

Your editor was in Europe this summer and while there visited Bro. Phil Wilde, who extended a most cordial welcome to me. Bro. Wilde, who lives in Cardiff, Wales, is Western Auctions Ltd. He holds stamp auction sales throughout the British Isles. Bro. Phil will be happy to greet any of our Brethren who happen to travel that way.



Here is Bro. Phil Wilde in front of his store. He also has offices in the adjacent building.

While in Amsterdam, Holland, I noticed mail boxes on the front of the buses and on the rear of the street cars. They are for the convenience of the public to mail letters anywhere along the street car or bus routes. When the vehicles return to the center of the city, the mail is collected from them and taken to the Post Office, which is right at that point. I took these pictures with the hopes that you can see the mail boxes:



In Paris they have an open-air Stamp Market, held on Sundays and Thursdays along the Avenue Gabriel. This I visited. There were about sixty small stands, side by side. Small tables





were set up. The stamps were mounted on pages and then covered with protective mounts. They were hung on lines with pegs, which left them flapping in the breeze at times. There were also other stamps in books on the tables. The material shown was mostly French and French colonies. I have photographed one of these stands with the hope that you could get the effect. However the shadows thrown from the overhanging trees make it difficult to get a clear picture.

#### THE GUESTS' RECORD 1956

We have done it again, but on a larger scale and a great deal better. Housed in a 35 million dollar show case the finest philatelic exhibition in history was held in the New York City Coliseum April 29 to May 6, 1956. The grandeur of the exhibition, the displays shown and the number of visitors was greater, than any ever previously held.

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York had a share in this great and magnificent event. We had a booth similar to the one we had for the 1947 exhibition. In this booth we greeted the weary traveller with a welcome handclasp and a place to rest. At all times we had a goodly number of members present, to make the visitors feel at home and where the sojourner recorded his name and other information in the Guests' Record.

An analytical study of the Guests' Record reveals the following facts:

The total number of visitors was 1209 from 376 cities in 34 states of our nation. Also 10 foreign countries were represented from South America, Europe and Australia. They came from 663 Masonic lodges and 117 did not mention the lodge name. Truly a wonderful showing. It demonstrates very effectively the universality of the most popular of hobbies, namely

stamp collecting. A hobby that has proven to be one of the great common denominators of the human race. A hobby that equalizes the high and the low, the king and the pauper, the sage and the youth. If they are philatelists they are on a common level. A hobby which we hope may someday soon exemplify the great need for common thought and understanding throughout the world.—Morris Strauss.

#### MASONIC CACHETS

There are still a few sets of these cancelled on May 2nd, available. Send one dollar to your secretary for a set. Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, 35 East 35th St., New York 16, N. Y.

It was an oversight on our part that we did not mention in our previous issue that Bro. Robert A. Hanson, 1745 Alameda street, San Francisco, Calif. had won a bronze medal at Fipex. Belated congratulations Bro. Hanson.

#### WHILE THEY ARE STILL HERE

By R. W. Abraham Felt

Please say some kind words for the  
good while they're living  
Don't wait till too late when we  
stand at their bier  
Those who took from themselves  
and kept constantly giving  
Let's extol their vast virtues while  
they are still here.

At times we might relish some warm  
words of praise  
From those who remember our  
works of the past  
It would cheer dampened hearts and  
bring warmth of sun's rays  
And lend proof that good deeds  
throughout ages will last.  
So, let's make a vow—one that shall  
not be broken  
To remember those men who paved  
roads with good cheer  
By rewarding their labors with some  
worthy token  
Let them know that they're valued  
while they are still here.

(This poem is respectfully dedicated to the memory of M.W. Charles H. Johnson, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary Emeritus of Grand Lodge. May his soul rest in peace!)

No lodge is complete without an open Bible on the altar. The Bible is pictured on many stamps: 4d Pitcairn; 1.20 cr. Brazil; 3p Union of South Africa; 2.75 m. Finland; printing the Bible U.S. #1014.

# The Masonic Female College

By F. T. ANDERSON

The story behind the cover is often more interesting than the stamp or cover itself. Such is the case concerning a cover which I purchased through an auction a year or two ago. The return card intrigued me even when I saw it in the catalog before I became the successful bidder. It reads MASONIC FEMALE COLLEGE, COKEsbury S. C. It also has a cut showing a square with the two legs resting upon what appears to be a straight-edge and a nearly closed compass passing through the square at an angle. There are also several fancy lines which I cannot identify. As the rest of the envelope, it is addressed to Mr. B. R. Campbell of Laurens, S. C., is 2½ x 4½ in size and bears a #26 (Scott) stamp with a not very clear cancellation of Cokesbury, S. C. and only OCT of the date being legible.

Upon receipt of the cover, I was pleased to find the contents were still there. They consist of a printed invitation to the Commencement, October 22-25 (no year given) which is signed by F. F. Gary, Secretary.

A letter which I addressed to the Postmaster, Cokesbury, S. C., reached the hands of Mr. H. L. Watson of the Index-Journal, a newspaper at Greenwood, S. C. His interesting reply states in part "Cokesbury was once a thriving village and an educational center in Abbeville County. Its site is in what now is Greenwood County but the village is almost deserted and has no vestige of its once famous schools. The Masonic Female College building still stands but is no longer used and is in sad repair."

Mr. Watson is preparing a book on Greenwood County and is an authority on the history of that interesting area. He included these pertinent facts about the Masonic Female College in his letter. "The warrant for Bascomb Lodge No. 81 A.F.M. was issued by the Grand Lodge of South Carolina June 3, 1851, and this Lodge No. 80 apparently very soon started plans for the establishment of a "Masonic Female College" at Cokesbury where an excellent school for boys had been in existence for nearly 20 years under support of the South Carolina Methodist Conference. On December 7, 1852 a representative from Bascomb Lodge presented its plans for a girls'

school before the Grand Lodge, which granted its approval. A charter for the Cokesbury Female College was granted by the General Assembly of the State on December 20, 1853, the cornerstone of the college building at Cokesbury was laid June 27, 1854 and the building was completed in 1856. It was a three-story brick structure. The school flourished for several years but there were financial difficulties even before the War Between the States. In 1874 the Masonic Female College building was sold in liquidation proceedings. About two years later it was acquired by the Methodist Conference School and the building continued in use as a school for many years, though no longer operated by the Masons.

Sometime in the 1880s, Bascomb Lodge No. 80 at Cokesbury became extinct but about ten years ago it was reconstituted and serves the section around Cokesbury, but the town of Hodges, a mile or two from old Cokesbury is the nearest post office and railroad stop."

Mr. Watson forwarded my letter to Major John W. Moore, a native of the Cokesbury community who now resides at Mt. Pleasant, S. C., near Charleston. Major Moore wrote me a splendid letter from which I quote. "Herewith are sheets clipped from a pamphlet which I have numbered in pencil. They will give you a good idea of what Bascomb Lodge tried to do, the extent of their success and at the same time an introduction to one of the most remarkable communities that has existed anywhere within the bounds of the United States.

The Masonic Female College operated in sessions of nine months beginning in January and usually ending in October. That Bascomb Lodge is a village of less than three hundred people should have had a membership of over one hundred and fifty when it was sixteen years old is truly remarkable."

An interesting sidelight in Brother Moore's letter is the statement, "I am a Past Master of Orange Lodge #14 of Charleston, S. C. which has never missed holding a regular communication since it was instituted in the 1780's. I was WM in 1915."

The clippings Brother Moore mentioned are from a booklet "Old Cokes-

bury in Greenwood County, South Carolina" written by him and published in 1954 by the Index Publishing Company of Greenwood, S. C. These pages contain many interesting items and include a number of pictures of the Masonic Female College and other buildings of the Cokesbury community. Space will not permit me to quote in full all the interesting facts from this booklet but I will try to include the high spots especially as they apply to Bascomb Lodge and the Masonic Female College.

The Boys' school as mentioned by Mr. Watson in his letter was called The Daugherty Manual Labor School of the South Carolina Conference. It was operated by the Methodist Conference. It was opened in 1836. By 1863 extensive repairs were needed and new buildings were replacing some of the old ones. "A little distance away to the south in full view was being erected the Masonic Female College, into which was going some of the materials from the Conference School buildings that were being torn down."

Several paragraphs in Brother Moore's pamphlet tell the story of the laying of the cornerstone of Masonic Female College, the parade and activities of the "Big Day" in Cokesbury. The principal address on the first day was given by a young Mr. Gray, a native son just graduated from Harvard. He opposed sectarian education and his speech was not at all well received by the citizens of Cokesbury, since the Conference School was their most important asset. However, on the following day a Col. Campbell is reported to have made "a capital speech in which he stressed the superiority of religion over every other consideration in training of youthful minds."

Regarding the parade preceding the laying of the cornerstone, "Promptly at 11:00 a. m., the Masonic procession which was formed in front of the home of Col. B. X. Herndon, moved in the following order: students of the Conference School, faculty of the same, civil officers of the State, the reverend clergy, and last the different kinds and degrees of Masonry. Of the Masons a spectator said "The Masons made a grand and beautiful display in the procession, challenging our highest admiration. In this work of female education they are engaged in a noble cause." After the ceremony a picnic dinner was served. "The dinner was abundant and excellent and we saw no one who was seemed not disposed

to appreciate and to do justice to it. In the crowd, estimated at not less than two thousand, there was not a drunken man, nor any form of dissipation, which certainly spoke well for Cokesbury and should be reassuring to parents who may wish to send their sons and daughters to Cokesbury to be educated."

At the end of the 1854 session there were three graduates and in 1857 an enrollment of 78. "In 1858, the Board of Visitors, made up of representatives of the various Masonic Lodges of the State, expressed themselves as highly pleased with the work of the college and advised the addition of two teachers." Enrollmen increased to one hundred and twenty-five in 1859 with a graduating class of sixteen. However, financial difficulties increased as time went on and were naturally multiplied during the War Between the States and its aftermath, so that "after the graduation exercises of 1874 the institution gave up the struggle. Thus and there ended the undertaking of Bascomb Lodge No. 80 A.F.M. of Cokesbury, to give South Carolina a Masonic College."

Included in the booklet is an imposing list of men who were students at the Conference School and who became citizens of high standing in military, political, educational, religious, business and other activities. In proportion to the size of enrollment this small school would no doubt put to shame most of our large colleges and universities. The same could probably be said of the women who attended the Masonic Female College.

#### FREDERICK W. VON STEUBEN, A MASON

By R. M. NEEDHAM

Depicted on the 2¢ commemorative issue of 1930 of the United States (Scott's #689, Minkus #CM94) is a likeness of Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, Prussian officer who joined Washington at Valley Forge (at the instigation of French Minister of War, Count de St. Germaine) to serve as inspector general of the American army. As a result of his reorganization and training of the raw army, he was ever after referred to as "The Drill Master of the American Army." The design is from a medallion on a memorial tablet by Karl Dautert, at Magdeburg, Prussia, von Steuben's birthplace. This stamp had eight plates: #20267-70, 20281-4. Under the LL#20269 there came to light a full sheet of imperforated stamps, a new

rarity, an error. There were two other such sheets discovered and both were returned to Washington, D. C. for disposal. The fourth pane never turned up. The discovery was from the Midland, Texas post office.

Brother von Steuben was born at Magdeburg, Prussia on Sept. 17, 1730 (thru some misconception or error, his birthdate was thought to have been Nov. 15, 1730), which was only discovered thru efforts to have this stamp issued on the 200th anniversary of his birth. St. Germaine introduced von Steuben to Ben Franklin in 1777, and the General consented to come to America and aid in the American cause. To von Steuben is due the credit of training the Continental Army.

His Masonic affiliations in the old country do not seem to have been published, but he did bring these, with rank of Past Master to Holland Lodge #8, F.&A.M., New York, N. Y. and attended many communications. He seemed to have been named an honorary member of the aforementioned lodge, but became a member of Trinity Lodge #12, F.&A.M., New York City. After the Yorktown surrender, he remained in the U.S.A., giving up his German rank and title to nobility and became a citizen. In passing, it might be stated here that **Quatuor Coronati**, the great London Lodge of Research, credits his original Masonic affiliation to the Rite of Strict Observation.

He became a member of a church in New York City and identified himself with the people in a democratic way. He died Nov. 28, 1794.

---

“ 'Tis the hand we grasp with  
friendly clasp  
That gives us a hearty thrill;  
'Tis the good we pour into other's  
lives  
That comes back our own to fill;  
'Tis the bitter we taste from an-  
other's cup  
That makes our own seem sweet;  
'Tis the aid we give to those in  
need  
That makes our happiness  
complete.”

—Wisconsin Freemason.

---

New Hampshire's "old man of the mountains" tells us that 40 of the state's 69 governors have been Masons. We like this stamp's slogan "Live Free or Die."

## KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

The Temple of King Solomon occupies an important position in legendary Freemasonry. The grandeur and magnificence of the structure, its faultless proportions, the splendor of its ornamentation, and the immense treasures expended in its erection, have given it a renown unparalled in the annals of architecture.

The erection of the great structure devolved upon King Solomon, who devoted much time and labor in accumulating the materials and treasures necessary for accomplishing the work. The cedars of Lebanon, the gold of Ophir, the quarries of Palestine and priceless jewels contributed to the pious undertaking. Further aid being required, Solomon applied to his friend, King Hiram of Tyre, who not only supplied valuable material but sent many Tyrian workmen, among whom was one celebrated for his skill in architecture, whose scientific attainments and nobility of character made him the peer of kings.

The edifice, which stood for 410 years, was destroyed by fire after the capture of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. Caliph Omar in 637 A.D. ordered a mosque to be erected on the site of the ancient temple. The beautiful structure, known to Christians as the Mosque of Omar but to Mohammedans as the Dome of the Rock, still stands today.

The Mosque is pictured on 10¢ and 20¢ Trans-Jordan stamps issued in 1954 (Nos. 311 and 313). It also is shown on a number of Palestine stamps issued between 1927 and 1945, and on Turkey Nos. 581 and 585 of 1919. Numerous Abyssinian (Ethiopian) stamps issued prior to 1918 carry a picture of King Salomon's elaborate throne. The Ark of the Covenant is shown on recent Israeli stamps.—Mirt.

---

The new 9¢ stamp of the regular series shows "The Alamo," a Franciscan mission in San Antonio, Texas, built about 1722. In 1836, during the struggle of Texans for independence from Mexico, the mission was converted into a fort. A force of 187 frontiersmen commanded by William B. Travis, a Mason, defended it for nearly two weeks against an overwhelming Mexican army. Every man, among them Davy Crockett, a Mason (see Vol. 4, page 30), gave his life in the cause.—Mirt.



## ADDED PAGES

In October 1956, the following photograph was on the front cover of *Life* magazine. The story presented was titled, **Busy Brotherly World of Freemasonry: The Antient Fraternity is Thriving in America.** A key to the individuals shown is on the next page.



**MASONS**  
CONTINUED



**STATE GRAND MASTERS** shown on cover are identified in this numbered key. They are 1956 Grand Masters, photographed when they convened in Washington. 1-W. V. Fentress, Va. 2-W. W. Boothe, Texas. 3-J. H. Gick, N.J. 4-H. T. White, Neb. 5-S. W. McIntosh, D.C. 6-H. Marcano, P. R. 7-J. A. Eaddy, S.C. 8-F. W. Nicholas, Ohio. 9-H. A. Speich, Wis. 10-P. L. Powers, Maine. 11-R. E. McWhinnie, Wyo. 12-W. W. Johnson, Mass. 13-W. J. Craig, Mo. 14-H. R. Ruusi, Mich. 15-M. H. Pierce, Del. 16-C. B. Wilson, Ariz. 17-V. L. Walters, Miss. 18-L. F. Murch, N.H. 19-M. E. Ryan, Colo. 20-T. L. Nunn, Ala. 21-R. R. Douglass, Iowa. 22-H. H. Hammill, Utah. 23-S. E. Kelsey, Kan. 24-R. W. Meier, Wash. 25-G. D. Wells, S. Dak. 26-C. G. Johnson, Mont. 27-W. R. Howard, Okla. 28-D. A. Long, La. 29-N. V. Miller, Ark. 30-J. A. Batch-

elor, Ind. 31-F. R. Adams, Vt. 32-F. W. Laws, N. Mex. 33-M. T. Sonntag, Ill. 34-A. W. Dowell, Md. 35-R. T. Lord, Fla. 36-C. W. Rinehart, W. Va. 37-W. L. Hillyer, Minn. 38-C. H. Pugh, N.C. 39-E. V. Stewart, Calif. 40-M. Kidder, N. Dak. 41-C. M. Gordon, Idaho. 42-L. G. Immonen, Nev. 43-J. H. Smith, Conn. 44-H. H. Conn, Tenn. 45-F. B. Layman, Ky. 46-R. C. Ellis, N.Y. 47-E. Bolliger, Ore. 48-B. L. Amon, Ga. 49-A. T. Curtis, R.I.

Grand Master C. H. Nitsch of Pa. appears on pages 108, 109. Since LIFE's picture was taken, these new Grand Masters have been elected: C. H. Baldwin, Ariz.; J. H. Manwaring, Conn.; C. R. Lucas, Fla.; K. J. Baumgartner, Kan.; A. L. Burbank, Me.; F. M. Dodge, Mich.; O. L. Danek, Minn.; J. H. Buehrer, N.J.; H. C. Denny, N. Mex.; N. Turk, N.Y.; J. C. Vance, N.C.; L. W. Temple, S.C.; N. L. Roberts, Tenn.

In 1956 the number of Freemasons in the USA was at about 4,000,000. It increased slightly, and then in 1966 it took a downward trend and by 2010 the number was about 1,376,000. It continues to decline. This means that the average loss is 49,000 members per year.



Grand Master Charles H. Nitsch.