



the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 13

JANUARY 1957

NO. 5



The MASONIC PHILATELIST

JANUARY 1957
VOL. 13 NO. 5



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



EDITOR

Herman S. Kerstein
P. O. Box 123
Manhattanville Station
New York 27, New York

ASSOCIATED EDITORS

John A. Mirti
644 Melrose St., Chicago 13, Ill.
R. M. Needham
108 N. Mt. Pleasant Ave., Lancaster, Ohio

OFFICERS

President — Thomas Phillips
1st Vice-Pres — George B. Wray
2nd Vice-Pres. — Dr. Irwin M. Yarry
Dr. Irwin M. Yarry Secretary
31-12 54 Street Woodside, N. Y.
Russell B. Roane Treasurer
126 Tenth Avenue New York 11, N. Y.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Dr. Benj. Grossman 3 years
Charles Lott 2 years
Emanuel M. Reggel 1 year

Treasurer Emeritus

Harry M. Kouwiser

Membership — Carl E. Polander
545 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

Back Numbers Masonic
Philatelist — Harold E. Gunter
141-06 Glassboro Ave. Jamaica 4, N. Y.

Editor's Note Book

No excuse, mind you, but did you know that it is just about one full month from the time we close an issue for the printer, to the time you receive the finished copy? So . . . while we cannot be first with all the news we send you, we can correlate philatelic news with Masonry; we can bring you the news about the activities of our members; keep you well informed about club news and activities . . . if we can do all that, we'll be happy. This leads us up to our explanation of the very fine article about our George Washington Chapter #1 of the Masonic Stamp Club, in the December 1 issue of STAMPS, while it was not until December 15 that our own MP was placed in the mails.

* MEETINGS *

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

Next Meeting

FEB. 1.—Stamps of the Leeward
Islands, by Dr. Irwin Yarry.

In Memoriam

BRO. ROBERT L. MAUNDER
May his soul find eternal rest.

More than half of the questionnaires have been returned, and while we are told that this is quite a high percentage, we would like to bring it up to 100%. Won't you please complete the blue form that we enclosed with the November issue, and, if you cannot locate it, we will send you another. From those returned, we are amazed at the splendid records of some of our members; surprised at the number of authors, columnists and lecturers we have in our midst, and we intend to share some of these items with you. From time to time, we will "spotlight" some brothers, while others will get the "thumb-nail sketch" treatment.



Out in the Alaska wastes is Bro. Hubert M. Wellons, who would like to correspond with some of the members. He tells us that he collects mint U. S. and his wife is a General Collector (Scott Int'l. album), so there must be many who could, and should, write. The address is Box 768, Wrangell, Alaska. We may have a story, later, for Bro. Wellons is a Prof. of Engineering, State of Washington, member American Military Engineers, Arctic Institute and we hope to learn about the work he is doing so far up North.



Bro. Yarry is preparing a fine talk on his Leeward Island collection for our February meeting, and we urge all who can be present, to do so.



And there should be a record turnout on the Master of Philately degree night, from all the responses we have received. Those who expect to be candidates, don't forget to notify Secretary Yarry of your intentions. Plans must be made in advance.

MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK 1957 PROGRAM

Mar. 1—Past President's Night.

Apr. 5—Master of Philately Degree. Members notify Sec. Yarry if they intend to present themselves for initiation. (Please note that this was originally scheduled for the March meeting).

May 3—Annual Members' Exhibition. Plan now to bring your treasures for others to enjoy. Originally planned for February but moved up to give time for preparation.

June 7—Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. Be sure to reserve this date. Grace us with your presence.

Bro. John V. Shelse,
Chairman, Program Committee.

Please Note: All meetings begin at 8 P. M. The Board of Governors meets at 7:30 P. M. on each meeting night. Many of the members meet for dinner on each meeting night at 6:00 P. M. at Sacher Restaurant, 41st Street and Madison Avenue, New York City. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Welcome !!

Greeting to our new members:

WILLIS H. BARDWELL
321 East 43rd St., New York 17, N. Y.
Brookline, Mass. Lodge.

FLORUS A. BOWMAN
208 Menlo Street, Brockton 43, Mass.
Marine Lodge, Falmouth, Mass.

STANLEY EDWARD BRAUTICAM
104 N. Pear St., Olympia, Wash.
Harmony Lodge #18.

WILLIAM D. CHAPMAN
15844 Muirland St., Detroit 38, Mich.
Loyalty Lodge #488, Detroit
Collects used British colonies.

L. W. CHRISTENSON
1423 Blackmore Road, Cleveland
Hts. 18, Ohio.

Brento D. Babcock Lodge #600.

LOUIS COHEN
2641 S. Walter Red Drive,
Arlington 6, Va.
Daytona Lodge #147.

CHARLES W. ECKERT
Macada Rd., RD #2, Bethlehem, Pa.
H. Stanley Goodwin Lodge #648,
Bethlehem

WARREN L. EHRIG
215-05 43rd Ave., Bayside, New York
Bayside Lodge #999

CHARLES WILLIAM EVANS
2 Broad Street, Rochester, N. H.
Humane Lodge #21, Rochester

WALTER R. HARBESON
1582 Richmond Ave.,
Columbus 3, Ohio
Mansfield Lodge #35, Mansfield, O.

PAUL S. KNEELAND
Holly, RD #2, New York
Newark Lodge #83, Newark, N. J.

JOHN H. LONT
151 Pine Hill Rd., Spencerport, N. Y.
Etolian Lodge #479, Spencerport

S. CLARK PLACE
67 Southview Terrace, Rochester 20,
New York.

Eunice Lodge #830, Caledonia, N. Y.
Change of Address:

Harry A. Segeritz, 363 Madison street,
Albany, New York

Robert A. Miller, P. O. Box 875,
Santa Rosa, California

Alfred S. Thompson, 81 Schuyler Ave.,
Arlington, New Jersey

Eliot M. Nordheim
8891 - 20th Ave., Brooklyn 14, N. Y.

**Mail Is Being Returned - Can Anyone
Supply the Correct Addresses**

of the Following:

Ralph A. Freed, Jr.
Richard Van Riper, Sr.
Julius M. Falese
Col. Arthur W. Hodges

BRO. RUSSELL ROANE wants it known that he appreciates the many thoughtful, kind and seasonable wishes received from so many of the members, when remitting their dues. While he cannot acknowledge each such message he thanks one and all . . . and to those who have not sent in their dues, he wishes to send his thanks, in advance, but he fondly hopes you will remit soon and help him complete that phase of his work.

January 26, 1957 marks the 77th birthday of Brother General Douglas MacArthur, 33°. Bro. Gen. MacArthur was made a Mason "at sight" in Manila, January 17, 1936 and became a member of Manila Lodge #1. On December 8, 1947, the sixth anniversary of Pearl Harbor, the 33° was conferred upon him in the American Embassy, in Tokyo. Philippine Masons hold Bro. MacArthur in the highest esteem and have stamps of three values in his honor #519-520-521, issued in 1948.

LAST CALL !!

Without your cooperation we cannot complete our roster. Please . . . fill in the blue form and mail it today.

**LET'S FINISH THE JOB!!
JOIN THE MARCH OF DIMES**



(Illustrated by projected slides, the stamps of Congo from the first issue through the overprinted issues of 1923, were shown at the December 7 meeting. This form of display permitted the group to see every detail of every stamp.)

Stamps of Congo

By ARTHUR I. HEIM

After the explorations of Stanley in 1874-76, the International Congo Association was formed, headed by King Leopold II of Belgium. Many European countries had claims to the territory, but in 1884 the United States stepped in and recognized the Association as a sovereign power. Recognition by the principal European nations followed and in 1885 an international conference recognized the Congo Free State under the rule of Leopold. For all practical purposes the country had the status of a personal possession of the King. Late in 1908, the King relinquished his personal claims and turned the administration over to Belgium as a crown colony.

The first issue of the Congo Free State consisted of stamps bearing the profile of King Leopold II, copying the design of the Belgian issue of 1869. The date of issue was January 1, 1886. Of this issue, the 5 franc (#5) was printed in only 4800 copies, of which a substantial number were overprinted "Colis

Postaux Fr 3.50" for parcel post use.

The next issue was in 1887, bearing the full-face portrait of Leopold. The 5 franc stamps of this issue also were overprinted for parcel post and are quite scarce. The 10 franc stamp (#13) was largely used for fiscal purposes, although occasionally there was some postal usage.

In November 1894 the "Mols" issue came out. The issue was so called because the stamp designs were taken from dioramas prepared by Mols and Van Engelen for the Antwerp Exposition in 1894. All stamps from here on were engraved and printed by Waterlow and Sons in London, except the 3.50 fr. and the 10 fr. which were prepared by Waterlow Bros. and Layton, also in London. Both the 5 and 10 centimes stamps were bought up by stamp dealers in Belgium and very few saw postal usage. The 15c and the 40c did not appear until November of 1896 and the 3.50 fr. (for parcel post, principally) and the 10 fr. were issued in May of

1898. To take the place of the 5c and 10c, these values were issued in new colors in January of 1895.

In May of 1900, the issue appeared in new colors for all the centime values, conforming to the conventional colors of the UPU.

When the country became a Belgian colony, the Free State stamps were overprinted CONGO BELGE, issued January 1, 1909. Eight different handstamp types were used in Brussels, but few found their way to Congo and they are scarce postally used. Using the type V as a model, a typographed overprint was prepared and applied, also in Belgium. In addition there were eight different handstamps applied in Congo.

March 1909 saw the issuance of a limited official reprint known as the "Princes Issue," of the type II or type V Brussels overprint and of the typographed overprint. These differ slightly from the regular issue. Many were postally used, although all are scarce.

In June of the same year a new definitive issue of four values appeared with the name of the country in French, hence the "Monolingual Issue." Political pressure brought about the change to the "Bilingual Issue" in 1910, with inscriptions in both French and Flemish.

The Modified Bilingual issue appeared in 1915. In this issue is found a retouching of the center plates of all the centimes values, and for most of these the stamps with centers from the original plates are relatively scarce.

The stamps appeared in 1918 with blue centers and a surcharge for the benefit of the Red Cross.

When Belgium was invaded in World War I, considerable quantities of the 1915 issue were captured by the Germans and most were returned when hostilities were concluded. The stamps were demonetized and overprinted with new values for the centimes values and with "1921" for the francs values. This issue of 1921 was known as the "Recovery" or "Recuperation" issue. Since the order to overprint said "all stocks," some stamps remaining of issues prior to 1915 were also overprinted.

As supplies of the 1921 issue dwindled, a new overprint was applied in 1922 for the centime values to conform to a change in postal rates.

Later in 1922 the "Boma Surcharge" was applied in Congo to four values. There were several printings which provide a fruitful source of material for study, including two interesting errors (Scott No. 82 and what would

be No. 83, although that number has been dropped from the Scott listing).

Finally in 1923 at Elisabethville the 1921 and 1922 stamps overprinted 30c on the 10c stamp were further surcharged 0.25, particularly for the use of the Union Miniere du Haut Katanga, the mining combine. The latter surcharge was a handstamp and occasionally was inverted.

With this issue there came to an end a series of stamps of considerable philatelic interest. All issues had plate varieties, retouches, re-entries, etc. for both the center plates and the frame plates. There were also many perforation varieties and overprint varieties, including missing letters, inverts and doubles. Last but not least are the inverted centers of the 10c and 10 fr. stamps which, particularly the latter, are far scarcer than the catalog would lead you to believe.

Illustrated are the parcel post overprint on the 5 fr. of the first issue (Q1) and the 3.50 fr. of the 1898 issue (#29).

HELPFUL HINTS

By Herman Herst

TO UNCURL STAMPS

If you have stamps that insist on curling into tight little balls that resemble the Dead Sea Scrolls, with a little care they can be saved, and restored to their normal flat appearance. In the case of valuable stamps, it definitely pays, especially since the gum can be saved.

Put the stamp in its curled up form in a glassine envelope, and with one end of a pair of tweezers, gently straighten out the stamp from the middle outwards, keeping the envelope itself under slight pressure so that as the stamp straightens, it does not regain its former shape.

With a finger, put pressure on the straightened out portion, and gently use the tweezer to straighten out the other half of the stamp. Be doubly careful that any corner perfs are straightened out, and not folded under. When the stamp is entirely flat, still inside the envelope, grab the envelope with either hand, between thumb and forefinger, and rub it back and forth over the corner of a desk or table. Don't be afraid to damage the stamp, for it is safe inside the envelope as long as it is kept in motion across the table edge.

The static electricity generated in the stamps by the fast motion will remove the curl, and the stamp when removed from the envelope will then and henceforth lie flat.

'Famous Philatelists'

As Curator of the Division of Philately and Postal History at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C., Franklin R. Bruns, Jr. is the highest ranking United States official



in the field of philately. Aside from his exacting work at the Institution Frank is a prolific writer, and is also presently planning the New Museum of History and Technology, which will be within the orbit of the Smithsonian Institution itself. Bro. Bruns

is the author of several books, including "Stamp Collecting, Your Introduction to a Fascinating Hobby"; Fel's "Profitable Stamp Guide" and others.

Frank Bruns was born in the Bronx, New York, in 1912 and later lived in the adjacent city of Yonkers, N. Y. where he graduated from high school. He worked for the New York Sun and in 1932 became the stamp editor, continuing that position with the New York World-Telegram & Sun, until his resignation a short while ago. In 1941 and 1942 he was the recipient of the "Barry Bowl" awards, as the editor of the most outstanding newspaper stamp column.

Bro. Bruns has a formidable list of memberships, some of which are these: Past President and present member of the council of the American Philatelic Congress; member of the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club and former Secretary and Editor of the "Collectors Club Philatelist" (1942-1948); Director of the Association of Stamp Exhibitions, Inc.; member, and former regional representative of the American Philatelic Society; member, Society of Philatelic Americans; American Stamp Dealers Association; Essay-Proof Society; American Air Mail Society; Aero Philatelists, Inc.; Masonic Stamp Club of N. Y. and others. At the recent Fipex show he was a member of the International jury and as Philatelic Adviser for the Republic of Liberia, Bro. Bruns is responsible for the designing and production of its stamp.

As we go to press, we have occasion

to extend our best wishes and the sincere congratulations of the members of the MSC to Bro. and Mrs. Franklin Bruns, Jr. on the birth of a baby girl, Katherine Ann, born December 2.

A TRIBUTE TO A QUARTER-CENTURY OF SERVICE



R. W. Ernest J. Clark

In 1932, the Worshipful Master of Neptune Lodge, No. 317, of the Third Manhattan District was appointed during his tenure of office to serve as Assistant Grand Lecturer in his District. Although preoccupied with his duties as Master of his Lodge, the then W. Ernest J. Clark embarked upon his additional tasks with that ardor and sincerity which have characterized his activities during the period of almost two and a half decades that has elapsed since then.

As is customary with the Assistant Grand Lecturers of the Manhattan Districts, Brother Clark supplemented his duties in that office with an active participation in the administration of the Manhattan Masonic School and devoted himself to that work with equal fidelity and enthusiasm. Two years later, he was appointed Grand Director of Ceremonies of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. In the same year, he was also elected as treasurer of the School, and he served in that capacity for four years. Election as Secretary of the School then followed in 1938. The duties of that office were faithfully fulfilled by R. W. Clark until 1942 when he was chosen as President of the School. This position of leadership of the School was retained by Brother Clark for nine years.

Throughout this span of almost a quarter of a century, Brother Clark has established himself as a capable ritualist. His record of service and his devo-

tion to the principles of the Fraternity have amply demonstrated that the lessons taught by our Masonic ritual, so well exemplified by Brother Clark, are meaningful and dynamic. In the performance of his duties as Assistant Grand Lecturer, he has fulfilled the ideals attached to that office by our late Grand Lecturer, The R. W. Henry G. Meacham, in his renowned book,

"Our Stations and Places." Both by the number of years of service in that office as well as by his achievements, R. W. Ernest J. Clark has indeed earned for himself the title of "Dean" of the Assistant Grand Lecturers of the Manhattan Districts.

R. W. I. Sidney Worthman, A.G.L.

1st Manhattan District



CUBAN MASONIC STAMPS

One of the greatest tributes paid by any nation to Freemasonry was the issue on June 5, 1956 of two special stamps showing the great new Masonic Temple in Havana, probably the most outstanding building in that city. The stamps are 4c and 12c (centavos), the 12c being an air mail. The commemorative envelope bears the statement

"Commemorative Series of the inauguration of the Grand Temple, National Masonic, first day, June 5, 1956." To this has been added the words of the great national hero—Jose Marti—"Freemasonry is an active form of liberal thinking." The envelope, first day cover, carried the cachet with Masonic insignia.

WORTHY OF REPEATING

Thank you . . . thank you very much William W. Wylie ("It's Worth Mentioning"), for your timely item about H.M.K., in the Western Stamp Collector, and because you found it worth mentioning, we find it worth repeating:

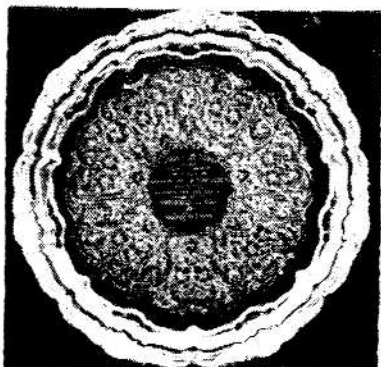
♦ Harry M. Konwiser's many friends over the country will probably be interested in learning that he's now living at the Masonic Home in Utica, N. Y. His health has been poor since his wife's death about a year ago and at the Masonic Home he not only has the care he needs, but the companionship of Masonic brethren.

All of us realize how much HMK, as he usually signed his letters, has contributed to the literature of stamp collecting and postal history. His United States Stampless Cover Catalog and the American Stamp Collectors Dic-

tionary are significant reference works and during his active years in stamp collecting he contributed innumerable articles to the stamp papers, compiled auction catalogs and gave his wholehearted support to all the major exhibitions and important philatelic activities.

While he's not able to do much letter writing now on account of failing eyesight there's no doubt that he'd appreciate holiday messages from his friends so it's to be hoped that a lot of Christmas and New Years cards will be addressed to Harry M. Konwiser, New York Masonic Home, Utica, N. Y.

Congratulations and best wishes to Bro. Irving L. Weiner upon being elected W. Master of King David Lodge #994, New York.



The center of the beautiful prize pictured above, is inscribed as follows:

NORMAN H. LEE TROPHY

for the

GRAND AWARD

—FIRST—

AMERICAN FIRST DAY COVER

SOCIETY EXHIBITION

NOVEMBER 1956 • NEW YORK CITY

Presented to

FREDERICK L. HILL

for

RELIGION ON STAMPS

Bro. Hill entered his first day covers of Israel and Marian Year. We enjoy receiving mail from Fred Hill, for his envelopes are beautifully designed and his Spencerian handwriting is flawless. Congratulations and Best Wishes.

Here's where you don't have to cry over spilt milk; in fact, you can laugh about it.

The next time you spill ink on a good stamp, or the next time that in soaking your stamps, they come out discolored because the color of the paper ran, or because they came up against a stamp with colors that were fugitive, you can restore the stamp to normal color with ease, simply but putting it in a cup or glass, and covering the stamp with a bit of milk.

Cream is even better. Just let it stand overnight, and if you caught the stamp quickly enough, the next morning you'll notice that the milk or cream has turned the color that the stamp was, and your stamp will be back in its original shape, unharmed, and just as bright as it was before being discolored.

Anna Held made the milk bath famous; philatelists can improve upon it, and get some practical value out of it.

—Herst's Outbursts.

WE ARE SORRY TO LEARN

That Bro. Charlie Lott was hurt in an automobile accident. Now recuperating.

Bro. Nat Worley, who is affiliated with the Grand Secretary's office, recently suffered a stroke. We are certain he would like to hear from his friends. His residence is 89 Crooks street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

And so would Bro. Alex Koomanoff, of 505 West 111th Street, New York City. He has been quite ill and is confined to his home.

BUILDERS or WRECKERS

I watched them tearing a building down

A gang of men in a busy town
With a ho-heve-ho and a lusty yell
They swung a beam and a side wall fell.

I asked the foreman are these men skilled

Are they men you would hire if you had to build

He gave a shrug and said "No indeed
Just common labour is all I need
I can easily wreck in a day or two
What builders have taken years to do."

I thought to myself as I went my way
Which of these two have I tried to play

Am I a builder that works with care
Measuring life by the rule and square
Am I shaping my deeds to a well laid plan

Daily doing the best I can
Or am I a wrecker who walks the town
Content with the work of tearing down

(Anonymous)

Submitted by William E. Webster 32°

P.M. Kempenfeldt #673,
Barrie, Ontario.

Every President from Tennessee

Jackson Johnson Polk



has been a Mason and, curiously enough, the birthplace of all three was North Carolina.