

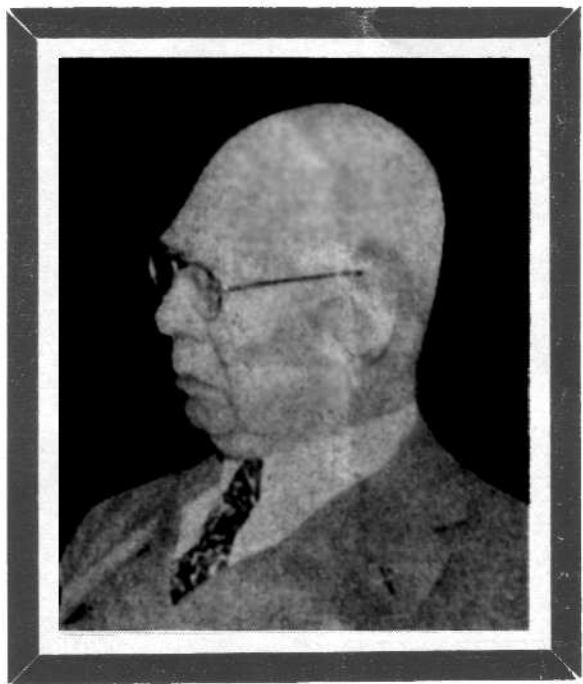


the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 13

FEBRUARY 1957

NO. 6



BRO. GEORGE BIRCH WRAY

The members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York mourn the loss of our beloved friend and 1st Vice President, who died suddenly of a heart attack on January 22, 1957. A kindly and warm person and, despite his years, a very active figure and devoted to the many organizations in which he served. Bro. Wray was the Dean of the Office Furniture Industry in this country, and one of the founders of the National Office Furniture Association. He was a resident member of the N. Y. Athletic Association and a Trustee of the Collectors Club of N. Y. Born in Apollo, Pa., August 15, 1882, he graduated from Kiskiminetas ("Kiski") Spring School in 1902 and attended Washington & Jefferson College. All who knew him will miss him and mourn his passing. He was affiliated with Independent Royal Arch Lodge #2 F. & A. M., New York.

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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VOL. 13 NO. 6



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GEORGE CAMNITZER	1943-1945
SAM BROOKS	1945-1946
JACOB S. GLASER	1946-1948
FERRARS H. TOWS	1948-1949
RUSSELL B. ROANE	1949-1951
ARTHUR I. HEIM	1951-1953
CARL H. PIHL	1953-1955

★ Deceased.

By attending the March 1 meeting, you will be paying your respects to the men who have done much toward building the Masonic Stamp Club of New York.

★ MEETINGS ★

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

Next Meeting

Mar. 1—Past Presidents' Night.

MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK 1957 PROGRAM

Apr. 5—Master of Philately Degree.
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.

MASTER OF PHILATELY DEGREE TO BE CONFERRED IN APRIL

In the December 1956 issue of *The Masonic Philatelist* it was announced that the Master of Philately Degree would be given by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York on Friday evening, March 1, 1957. Due to the inavailability of several key members of the team on that evening, and the desirability to allow more time for rehearsal and preparation, it has been decided to postpone this event for one month.

Several members from distant points have indicated their desire to be present for this affair this year and it is hoped that this postponement will not interfere with such plans. It is sincerely hoped that a large number of members from outside the Metropolitan New York area will be able to come to New York this year to receive the degree.

The Master of Philately Degree will be presented on Friday evening, April 5, 1957 at 8 P. M. at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th street, New York 16, N. Y. Members of the club are diligently preparing for this affair which is one of the highlights of the club's program every year. Members comprising the team are: Carl H. Pihl (Chairman), Thomas Phillips, Irwin M. Yarry, Sam Brooks, Frederick L. Hill, Emanuel M. Reggel, Morris Strauss, and S. Duffield Swan.

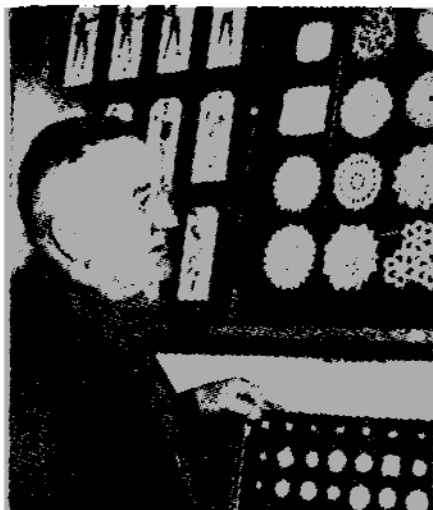
Prior to each meeting many of the members meet and have dinner to-

gether. Any brothers desiring to do so on April 5 or on any other meeting night are most welcome. We meet at 6 P. M. at Sacher's Restaurant, Madison Avenue at 41st Street, New York where good food and fellowship are

assured.

All members planning to present themselves for initiation as a Master of Philately are asked to notify Dr. Irwin M. Yarry (secretary), 31-12 54th street, Woodside, N. Y.

Bro. Louis Bobel, Hobbyist



On January 4, at one of the best attended meetings of the year, Brother Louis Bobel kept his audience so amused and interested that when the time allotted had expired, he was urgently requested to continue. He calls himself a "hobbyist," which he may well do, since his collections number 180, from rope knots and hand crocheting to coins and stamps. During his 50 years of collecting "little things people didn't want," he has managed to accumulate a large variety of philatelic items and he hopes, someday, to be able to feature them on color TV when "color TV is perfected." He displayed and spoke about his Volume I and Volume II, but he will be asked to return soon and show his Vols. III and IV.

His Vol. I contained 78 subjects and to list a few of them should convey why his audience wanted more: A Collector's Dream; Comical Cancellations; Curse of the Universe; Dead Letter Mail; Foil Cachets; Gutter Snipes; Slave Tax Stamps; Want Stamps, Albinos, etc., etc., etc.

Book II contains 80 subjects, including Ironworkers Stamps; Killer Can-

cancellations; Korea Errors; War Stamps; McNamara Stamps; Korpa Korga; P.O. Left-overs; Simulating Stamps; Proofs and Fakes; Pound Snuff Stamps; Paupers Food Stamps; Modern Stampless Covers, etc., etc., etc.

It would be quite impossible to repeat the many stories that accompanied the showings; to explain the obvious care that went into the presentation; to describe the handling of the many subjects. To Brother Louis Bobel, many thanks for such a pleasant evening. You will be asked to show your Volumes III and IV and to those of our members who live in this area, and who were unable to attend, we can only advise—Don't miss the next show!!!!

We have just taken a tabulation of our members and find that we are represented in 36 states, the District of Columbia, Alaska, and seven foreign countries. It is but natural that we have more members in the state of New York (146), followed by California (30), Pennsylvania (25), New Jersey (23), Ohio (20), Illinois (13), Massachusetts (11) and Maryland (10). At this point we mention that we have 10 members in Canada, 2 each in Argentina, Australia and Great Britain, and one each in Mexico and Netherlands West Indies.

CALLING ALL PHILATELISTS—

Frustrated, 22, dashed off a letter to Abigail Van Buren about a three-time loser, age 29, who's making eyes at him.

"We are both stamp collectors and she asked me up to her apartment to trade stamps and compare our collections," Frustrated wrote. "My conscience says 'NO' . . . Can you help me?"

Dear Abby said the boy better watch out, as the woman evidently collected husbands as well as stamps.

We pass it on as a public service to all young male stamp collectors.

Paul Sann, N. Y. Post.

Gothic Architecture On Stamps - - - Cathedrals

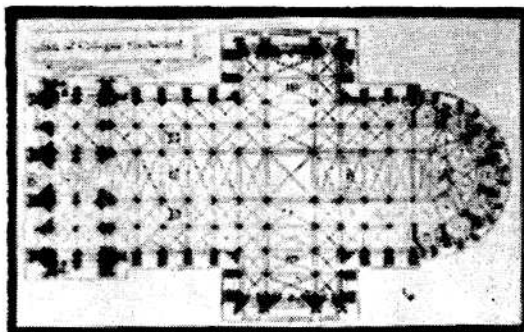
By Harry O. Henneman

The name GOTHIC was applied to a type of architecture . . . it was called a barbaric type. There was quite some resentment among a few leading authorities of the early period. It was also called the FRENCH style, but the name GOTHIC was used first and retained.

Gothic architecture is often called the POINTED Architecture, since it made use of gables, spires, high pitched roofs and pointed arches.

were used by which Masons could recognize each other. The meeting halls were called lodges.

The Cathedral of Strasbourg was begun in 1277 and finished in 1439 A.D. Opposite to the church was a building which served as the workshop of the masons and the stonecutters of the Cathedral. This workshop was the origin of an ancient fraternity of Freemasons of Germany. This lodge was unquestionably the chief lodge.

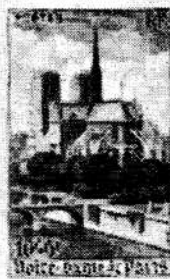
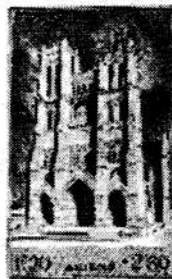


(Catholic Day Stamp (Germany) showing the floor plan of Germany's celebrated Cathedrals. Floor plan procured from "Dohme Gebauden," a book showing original floor plans).

Cathedrals were always built east and west, the high altar in the east (A) and the main entrance in the west, (B) and occasionally an entrance on the northern part. The inner plan was always in the form of a cross, (C to F and E to E), (C) the stem of the cross is called the nave. In gothic architecture little use was made of columns and piers externally, but were used extensively for the interior, slender shafts for ornament and massive for support.

The earliest example of pointed Gothic was the Cathedral of St. Denis, founded in 1140; then the Cathedrals of Notre Dame (Paris), Chartres and Rheims, completed in 1241 and Beauvais 1225-1272 A. D. Rheims and Amiens vied with each other as to which one was the most beautiful. Strasbourg, Cologne and Freiburg Cathedrals were started about the same time, in the 13th century.

Freemasonry became an institution in the middle of the 12th and the beginning of the 13th centuries. The Freemasons were skilled in masonry of every kind. A system of secret signs



AMIENS

NOTRE DAME

On April 25, 1459, the first statutes were drawn up. The fraternity consisted of Masters, Companions and Apprentices.

The authority of the lodge tribunal was over the Masons of Bavaria, Franconia, Hesse, Saxony, Swabia, Thuringen, Westphalia and the region of the Moselle. These lodges consisted of Operative Masons. Speculative Masonry did not take place until the 18th century.

The Cathedral of Cologne was consecrated in 873 A.D. and it burned in 1248 A.D. The present one had the corner stone laid on August 14, 1248 by Archbishop Conrad, in the presence of Emperor Frederick II. Up until 1509 A.D. only the choir and the surrounding chapels were finished, then the work stopped and only through subscriptions was the work finally completed.

The Cathedral is memorable on account of its connection with the labors of the Steinmetzen (Stone Masons) of Germany, whence it became the seat of one of the most important Lodges in Europe. The Grand Lodge of Cologne had under its dependence the Lodges on the west bank of the Rhine.

The Cathedral of Speyer was erected in the 11th century, the second and third assemblies of the Lodges were held at Speyer April 9, 1464 and April 23, 1469, by the Grand Lodge of Strasbourg.

St. Stephens Cathedral built in the 14th century, mainly from subscriptions by the "Spinnewetters" or Weavers, an order or guild consisting of several crafts, including Masons. This Cathedral is mentioned in the brother book of 1563, which contained the ordinances and articles of the Fraternity of Stone Masons, Chief Lodge of Strasbourg MDLXIII. The Grand Lodge of St. Stephen founded the Lodges of Austria, Hungary, Styria and all the countries adjacent to the Danube.



STRASBOURG

CHARTRES

COLOGNE

BEAUVAIS

THE STAMP POST

By Alvin D. Lurch



In the November issue of DUN'S BULLETIN, published by and for the staff of Dun & Bradstreet, there ap-

pears a new column, THE STAMP POST, conducted by our own Al Lurch. Bro. Lurch advises us that there is much interest in philately amongst his colleagues, and that he is beginning to receive some interesting letters. Nice going, Al, and the best of luck.

"Jacob S. Glaser, Philatelist and Friend Extraordinary," was the title of a tribute paid to Brother Jake in the December 19 issue of "STAMPS," in the biographical series "Flowers For The Living." It was a complete and warm story about a truly fine person, and we recommend that you read it.

We wish to commend Bro. Glaser for the fine talk given the Collectors Club of New York on January 19, when we displayed and spoke about his favorite collection of Colombia stamps. Deservedly, he was given a standing ovation by the large group that attended.

RUSSIA HONORS ROBERT BURNS, BARD AND MASON By JOHN A. MIRT

It remained for Russia to come up with the first stamp honoring Scotland's great bard and Mason, Robert Burns. A recent 40k issue (No. 1859) bears his portrait and commemorates the 160th anniversary of his death.



Born January 25, 1759, in the parish of Alloway, Scotland, Bro. Burns was initiated in St. David's Lodge, Tarbolton, July 4, 1781, and passed and raised in the following October. A year later, he and other members of St. David's reconstructed St. James Lodge in Tarbolton as "Tarbolton Kil-winning St. James" now No. 135. Meetings were held in Cross Key Inn. It was to the Brethren of this Lodge that he wrote his famous "Farewell" in contemplation of a trip to Jamaica, which never materialized.

And you, Farewell! whose merits claim
Justly, that highest badge to wear!
Heav'n bless your honor'd, noble Name
To Masonry and Scotia dear!
A last request, permit me here
When yearly ye assemble a'—
One round, I ask it wi' a tear,
To him the Bard that's war awa' . .

Bro. Burns was a zealous and enthusiastic Mason throughout his short life—he died in Dumfries, July 21, 1796, at the age of 37. Many of his poems were written for and dedicated to the Craft. His eloquence was often displayed at the festival board and poetry flowed from his lips. In his third year as a Mason, he became Deputy Master and frequently conducted the proceedings of his Lodge. On March 1, 1787, he was inaugurated as poet laureate of Canongate-Kil-winning Lodge No. 2, Edinburgh. That year he also was made a Royal Arch Mason in St. Ebbe Lodge, Eyemouth—at an "encampment" especially convened to honor the poet.

The last five years of his life were spent in Dumfries where in 1788 he became a member of St. Andrew's Lodge. He attended Lodge regularly and Freemasonry inspired many of his productions.

His life was beset with tragic poverty and frequent disappointments. Nevertheless, his poems are unsurpassed for their beauty and their music. They poured out his feelings for his people and his country.

Freemasonry honored him in 1818 with the constitution of a "Robert Burns Lodge." Two years later, at Doon Brig, near his birthplace, the foundation of a monument to his memory was laid with Masonic ceremonies.

The new stamp deserves an honored place in a Masonic collection. It's too bad that it had to be Russia to pay him the first philatelic honor.

'FAMOUS PHILATELISTS'

Brother Sol Glass, from the West, travelled East and not only found Light, but became most active in Masonry and Philately.

A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and educated there, he enlisted in the U. S. Army Ambulance Corps, during World War I. He was raised in Harmony Lodge #142 in Milwaukee. One of the greatest thrills he ever experienced was the raising of his son Jerrold, in Amicable Lodge #25, Baltimore, and Bro. Glass is still deeply grateful to them for having been extended this courtesy, even though he was not a member of the Amicable Lodge.



SOL GLASS

Author of "U. S. Postage Stamps 1945-1952" and a regular contributor to BUREAU SPECIALIST is only part of the story of Brother Sol, for here is a partial list of his activities:

- President, Bureau Issues Association
- Trustee, Philatelic Foundation
- Trustee, National Philatelic Museum
- Council Member, American Philatelic Congress.
- Governor, Essay-Proof Society
- Director, Association for Stamp Exhibitions
- Past President, Baltimore Philatelic Society



A 1000-pruta Israeli stamp showing a seven-branched candlestick, surrounded by the emblems of the 12 Tribes of Israel at the time of the building of the Temple of King Solomon.

Past Chairman, Board of Vice
President APS

Member, Collectors Club, New York

" Soc. of Philatelic Americans

" American Topical Society

" Washington Philatelic Society

" Masonic Stamp Club of N. Y.

Fellow, Royal Philatelic Society,
London.

Since 1929, Brother Glass has been an executive of Hutzler Bros. Co., one of Baltimore's leading department stores. He is also an Accredited Observer at the United Nations.

(In our December issue, we inadvertently omitted the name of Bro. Sol Glass as one of the charter members of the new George Washington Chapter #1 of the MSC of N. Y. We are proud of his affiliation with our club).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor Masonic Philatelist:

At a recent meeting of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, our Secretary read a letter from a Brother, who inquired if he could use some of the material printed in the "MASONIC PHILATELIST," **provided he gave proper credit** to the author and to the paper. The request was rather novel,

in that the writer offered to identify the source of his material.

The articles printed in the MP are not always the pure original thoughts of the writer, yet sometimes they are, but the information given has usually appeared in some Masonic writing, perhaps even 100 years ago. But, Brothers, do you realize the amount of real work that goes into the research, even for a small article? For example the small items of John Mirt, that appear often in the MP take days of patient search into many old volumes.

I say use any of the items appearing in our magazine, but do give proper credit to the author and the MP.

I am prompted to mention a case where this courtesy was not followed. We wrote a short history of the Mason Stamp Club, which was published by the "Empire State Mason." Lo! and Behold! not long ago, the same article, almost word for word, appeared in two national stamp magazines. No credit was given to either the writer or to the "Empire State Mason."

Actually, no harm was done and, no doubt, none was intended. The Club received some nice publicity, but it would have been much nicer if credit

had been given to the source of the material.

Fraternally,
Sam Brooks.

Editor, Masonic Philatelist:

I am writing in behalf of the many children who are members of our school stamp club, to request the stamps from foreign mail for distribution among them. We are attempting to interest the children in a worthwhile hobby which we hope will ultimately teach them how to make better use of their leisure time and thereby cut down the delinquency problem.

These children, in the main, come from underprivileged homes and there-

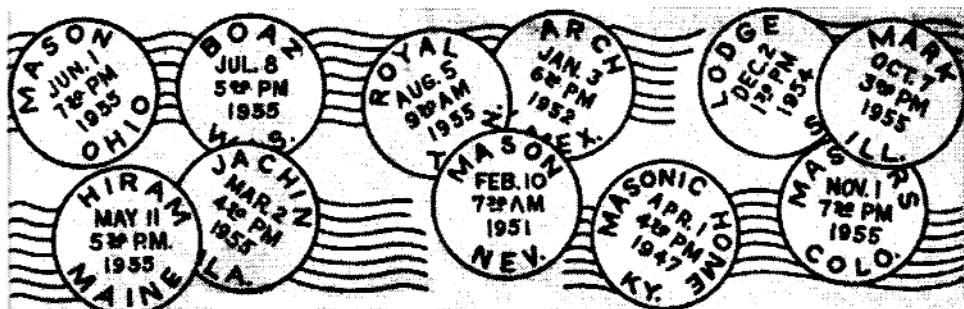
fore are unable to purchase stamps. We are calling upon you and your organization to assist us in the task of supplying them with foreign stamps from the mail of your members.

Thank you for your generosity and cooperation. We would be most grateful, if you found it possible to keep us on your mailing list and send us these foreign stamps from time to time.

Sincerely yours,

George Gordon, Faculty Advisor,
Junior High School #149,
Sutter Ave. & Wyona St.,
Brooklyn 7, N. Y.

(Your Editor will accept your offers of these stamps, and will send them as a group contribution, from time to time).



MASONIC PLACE NAMES

In the Masonic Philatelist of September, 1948, our Harry Konwiser collected a number of names of post offices bearing Masonic connotations. In a recent issue of the Royal Arch Mason, Wm. R. Denslow elaborates upon these names, and it is from his article that we take the above banner heading. He tells us that KEYSTONE, S. Dakota was so named by an early prospector, after his Royal Arch watch charm. A hasty survey of the U. S. Official Postal Guide gives us a remarkable list and we suggest this as a basis for an interesting collection. Here are some of the place-names that we found:

(When there is more than one post office by the same name, we list the

number in parentheses following the name; otherwise we show the state if there is but one such name):

Mason (10); Blue (2); Lodge (3); Royal (7); Arch (N. Mex.); Boaz (4); Jachin (Ala.); Hiram (6); St. Johns (5); King (4); Tyre (2); Solomon (3); Steward (Ill.); Warden (2); Masters (Colo.); Chaplain (2); Secretary (Md.); Tyler (7); Faith (2); Hope (14); Charity (Mo.); Fidelity (Ill.); Light (Ark.); Temple (9); Freeborn (Minn.); Accord (2); Five Points (4); Friendship (7); Cable (2); Tow (Texas); Square (Butte, Mont.); Compass (Lake, Florida); Levels (W. Va.); Center Point (4); Circle (2); Ebb (Fla.); and Floe (W. Va.); Mark (Ill.); Keystone (7); Triangle (3); Symbol (Ky.), etc., etc., etc.