



the Masonic Philatelist

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BRO. GENERAL MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE
(1757-1834)

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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BY THE SIGN OF THE GAVEL

It is with a feeling of deep responsibility that I approach this 24th year of the MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK. The archives are full of so many outstanding members and events that have helped to make the Club a philatelic organization different from the usual stamp clubs that exist throughout our land. This difference is mainly due to our historic fraternity, and as Masons, we are bound together by stronger ties than just being fellow-collectors. The loyalty of membership has proven itself since so few resign, and except for the summons from the Supreme Master, the MSC of NY has continued to prosper and grow.

The past year has witnessed such a crucial strain upon our ranks when Brother Thomas Phillips, our president and Brother George B. Wray, our first Vice-president, were summoned to the

MEETINGS

First Friday of Each Month
Collectors Club Building
22 East 35th St., N.Y.C.

Next meeting: Sept. 6, 1957. Let us all attend this first meeting of the new year. It will be most interesting with many features planned.

Grand Architect's Sanctum Sanctorum. May their souls find everlasting peace. During the twelve years that I have served as secretary, I always felt the joy in doing a job and hope to serve as president with the same feeling. The club has selected a fine slate of officers in its choice of Bro. Alvin D. Lurch as secretary. Bro. Pihl, our new treasurer, and a past president, needs no introduction to our membership, for his work in philately has been sketched by many of our philatelic publications. Bro. Lurch has a background that should provide a wonderful future for our club. The balance of the officers are proven workers: Bro. Emanuel Reggel, formerly editor of the MP is now first VP; Bro. S. Duffield Swan, 2nd VP is an outstanding authority of Masonic Philately. In the editor's chair, Bro. Herman S. Kerstein will continue to put out those fine monthly editions that have been a personal tribute to his ability. The Masonic Philatelist is in excellent hands.

To our members may I extend the promise that with your help, your officers will do their utmost to continue the fine work of their respective predecessors and through the medium of "By the Sign of the Gavel," I will keep you posted on some interesting and exciting events that we are planning. May God bless you all.

—Irwin M. Yarry, President

Brother George S. Gaither, formerly of Buffalo, New York, and now residing in Union City, Penna., has now retired on a pension after serving the New York Central R.R. 40 years as a locomotive engineer. May you enjoy your leisure hours, Bro. Gaither, and find time to work on your stamp collection.

This Is It!!

September 6, 1957 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Bro. General Marquis de Lafayette; a great and liberal son of France; an able and good friend to the U.S.; and enthusiastic brother Mason, of whom we are all so proud. Our country will commemorate this anniversary with a postage stamp, and the Masonic Stamp Club of New York will issue a beautifully designed cachet, with the new Lafayette stamp, and cancelled on the first day of issue.

THE CANCELLATIONS!!!

The Post Office Department announced that there will be 3 First Day of Issue Points for this LaFayette Issue, namely:

Easton, Pennsylvania—the site of LaFayette College

Fayettesville, North Carolina—the first town in America named for LaFayette

Louisville, Kentucky—the opening day of the 1957 Kentucky State Fair is "LaFayette Day"

We will send you a complete set of 3 covers, one from each of the First Day of Issue Cities. All covers will be delivered unaddressed under separate cover.

Set of 3 covers \$1.00 or 6 sets of 3 covers, (18) for \$5.00

We urge you to buy several sets. Each set will contain the story of this beautifully embroidered apron, a gift that your Masonic friends will deeply appreciate. As has been our practice in the past, a Masonic charity will benefit from the sale of these cachets.

THE DESIGN!!!

Here is the first showing of the cachet design—the magnificent Masonic apron, embroidered by Madam Lafayette and presented in August, 1794, by Bro. General Lafayette to Bro. General Washington. Later the apron was presented to the Washington Benevolent Society of Pa., by the legates of Bro. Washington, and the Society, on July 3, 1829, presented the apron to the R. W. Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Penna., where it is now carefully preserved in the Library of that Grand Lodge.



Order early . . . Order several sets . . . Each set will contain the story of the beautifully embroidered apron.

Masonic Cachets & Cancellations

(One Dollar for set of three)

Masonic Cachets, Pleasantville, New York

(See page 6 for further story about the Lafayette apron)

Bro. General La Fayette, Mason

As I have said frequently, one of the most prolific sources of information for the Masonic Philatelist is what might be regarded as "dry" reading—proceedings of a Grand Lodge. Scanning some old numbers of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, here is what I found.

In the 1883 volume there is an account taken from the Tennessee proceedings of that year. On May 4, 1825, Bro. Gen. Lafayette visited Nashville and was introduced to the Grand Lodge by Bro. (President) Andrew Jackson, P.G.M., given the grand honors and seated at the right hand of the Grand Master. To him, the then Grand Master said:

"The Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Tennessee, with all brotherly affection, tender you their sincere congratulations, and bid you welcome. They feel an equal pride and pleasure in recognizing you as a brother, and in receiving within these consecrated walls the early friend and companion of the illustrious and venerated Washington, with whom the name of Lafayette will be transmitted to the latest posterity, inscribed upon the imperishable rolls of a glorious immortality."

Commenting on that event, the 1883 Tennessee proceedings said: "What a glorious day for the Masons of Tennessee! There sat side by side within the Grand Lodge, Jackson and Lafayette. Jackson, the grandest man of his day, the soldier of iron-hearted valor, the successful defender of his country's rights; Lafayette, the daring and heroic young Frenchman, who of all others was most beloved by the people of America. Prominent Masons from all over the State had assembled there, being drawn hither by the interesting events then transpiring . . . What Mason can now, at this remote day, look upon this scene without feelings of pride?"

Where Lafayette was made a Mason has not been established. This is believed to have occurred in an Army Lodge at Valley Forge. He was an honorary member of the Grand Lodges of Delaware, Tennessee and New Hampshire and of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 (Washington's own). He was exalted in Jerusalem Chapter No. 8, R.A.M., New York and knighted in Morton Encampment No. 4, K.T., New York. He was also a Scottish Rite Mason.

Bro. Gen. Lafayette frequently spoke of Freemasonry. On one occasion, he said: "Freemasonry is an order whose leading star is philanthropy, and whose tenets inculcate an increasing devotion to the cause of virtue and mortality."

Past Grand Master Bert S. Lee of Missouri adds the information that Lafayette is one of the three honorary P.G.M.'s of the Grand Lodge of Missouri and that he attended the Grand Lodge on his visit to the U.S.

Grand Secretary T. E. Doss of Tennessee adds that the records of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee indicate that Lafayette was the only Mason ever elected to honorary membership in that Grand Lodge.

—J. A. M.



Gen. Marquis de Lafayette
"Brother Protector" O.E.S.

From the July, 1957 issue of the EMPIRE STATE MASON, we glean the following and interesting sidelight of Bro. Gen. Lafayette, the Mason. "The Ancient and Honorable Order of the Eastern Star," established prior to 1793, was introduced into the Colonies by General Lafayette, who is recorded in the "Thesaurus" as a "Brother Protector," the title given to Master Mason members.

La Fayette. His Biography

LA FAYETTE, MARIE JOSEPH PAUL YVES ROCH GILBERT du MOTIER, Marquis de, (1757-1834) born at the Chateau of Chavaniac in Auvergne, France, Sept. 6, 1757. At 13 orphaned, but a very, very rich orphan. At 16, married Marie Adrienne Fraicoise de Noailles.

Was Capt. of Dragoons when English colonies in America proclaimed their independence. He later wrote in his memoirs "at the first news of this quarrel, my heart was enrolled in it."

On Dec. 7, 1776, an arrangement was made by which La Fayette was to enter the American Armed Service as a major-general. When the British learned that he was fitting out a ship at Bordeaux with arms, their ambassador asked for the arrest of La Fayette, which was effected but he escaped from custody in disguise, and sailed from a port in Spain, where his ship had been sent from Bordeaux. He landed near Georgetown, S. Carolina and from there went to Philadelphia.

At 19, he presented himself to Congress and asked for the highest rank after the Commander-in-Chief. This refused, he offered himself as a simple volunteer, but because of his zeal, illustrious family and connections, he was given the rank of major general. (Even in the early days, one could pull rank.) The next day, La Fayette met George Washington and they became lifelong friends.

In his first battle, Brandywine, Sept. 11, 1777, he was wounded. When he recovered he secured command of a division as a result of a communication from Washington to Congress, Nov. 1, 1777.

Early in 1778 he commanded troops detailed for the Canadian Expedition. His retreat from Barren Hill, May 28, 1778 was considered masterly and he fought at Monmouth on June 28. After England declared war on France Feb. 6, 1778, La Fayette asked permission to re-visit France, which he did on Jan. 11, 1779 and remained away 6 months. The battle of Yorktown terminated his military career in the U.S.

He then returned to France where he was active in securing a general peace. In 1781, he was promoted to the rank of Marechal de Camp (major general) in the French Army. In 1784, he re-visited the U.S. as a guest of the nation.

In 1787, La Fayette joined the Assembly of Notables and became a leader in the French Revolution. On July 11, 1789 he presented to the National Assembly, a declaration of rights, modelled on Jefferson's Declaration of Independence of 1776. By acclamation, on the second day of the new regime, La Fayette was chosen colonel-general of the new National Guard of Paris. It was he who proposed the combination of colours of Paris, red and blue and the royal white into the tri-color cockade of Modern France.

In the Constituent Assembly he pleaded for the abolition of arbitrary imprisonment, for religious tolerance; for popular representation; for trial by jury; for emancipation of slaves; freedom of the press; abolition of titles of nobility and the suppression of privileged orders. He was the friend of liberty, as well as of order and when Louis XVI fled to Varennes, he issued orders to stop him. Shortly after he was made lieutenant-general in the army, he retired to private life.

However, in 1791, when three armies were formed to attack Austria, La Fayette was placed in command of one of them. But when he definitely opposed himself to the further advance of the Jacobin party in 1792, the assembly declared him a traitor. He fled to Liege, where, as one of the prime movers of the Revolution, he was taken and held as a prisoner of state for 5 years; first in Prussia and afterward in Austrian prisons. Napoleon stipulated in the treaty of Campo Formio (1797) for La Fayette's release. He lived in retirement during the First Empire but returned to public affairs under the First Restoration and he took part in the political events of the Hundred Days. From 1818-1824, he was deputy for the Sarthe, speaking and voting on the Liberal side.

He re-visited America in 1824 where he was over-whelmed with popular applause and was voted the sum of \$200,000 and a township of land. When he returned to France in 1825, he sat in the Chamber of Deputies for Meaux. During the Revolution of 1830 he took command of the National Guard. In 1834, he made his last speech—on behalf of Polish political refugees. He died on May 20, 1834.

THE APRON

The beautiful apron that appears on the cachets commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Brother General Marquis de Lafayette, were reproduced and sent to various Lodges in 1902. This is the letter that accompanied each such apron:

GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA,
F. & A. M.

Celebration of the Sesqui-Centennial
Anniversary of Washington's
Initiation as a Free Mason

To be held at Philadelphia on Wednesday,
November the 5th A.D.

1902; A. L. 5902

Masonic Temple, Philadelphia
October 22, AD 1902; AL 5902

To the Worshipful Master, Officers
and Brethren of Lodge No.

Dear Sirs and Brethren:

Herewith is sent to your Lodge, a reproduction on Satin of the Masonic apron which Madame de Lafayette worked on white satin with colored silks, and which her husband, Brother the Marquis de Lafayette presented to Washington, when he visited Mount Vernon, in August 1784.

After Washington's death, this apron was presented by his legates, in 1816, to the Washington Benevolent Society of Philadelphia, and when that Society dissolved in 1829, it was presented to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. From the original apron, which is carefully preserved in the Library of the Grand Lodge, the Committee of Arrangements have had the reproduction made; in order to preserve it, it might be well to have it suitably framed.

For the Committee

John M. Lambertson

Secretary

Edgar A. Tennis

Grand Master, Chairman

At the anniversary dinner of the New York chapter of the American Topical Association, Brother Frederick L. Hill presented honorary COROS (Collectors of Religion on Stamps) membership #1000 to Ernest A. Kehr, stamp editor for the New York Herald Tribune. Brother Hill has a fine collection of Religion on Stamps, and has beautifully illustrated his album pages, many of which have won prizes, about which he wrote in an earlier issue.

The Smithsonian Institution's Division of Philately and Postal History recently announced new gifts to the holdings of the National Stamp collection and we noted the names of members of the MSC of NY as donors. Bro. Sol Glass of Baltimore presented deluxe proofs, many autographed by the engravers, of France, French Colonies. Bro. Harry L. Lindquist presented his collections of Danish and Swedish booklet panes, including many of great rarity. In the cover field donors of two or more specimens included Mrs. E. M. Peck (wife of Bro. E. Milnor Peck); Miss Hattie H. Bruns (sister of Bro. Franklin Bruns).



After the painting by Court which is in the Versailles Museum in France is the design by Ervine Meitzl for the 3c LaFayette issue for Sept. 6.

G. WASHINGTON CHAPTER NO. 1 ELECTS OFFICERS

The Annual election of officers of the George Washington Chapter No. 1 of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York resulted as follows:

George Wendt, President

J. N. Wong, 1st Vice President

Sol Glass, 2nd Vice President

E. Robert Clas, Secretary

Maj. Thomas Phillips III, Treasurer

80 Years Young!

We had to take a second look at his birth date for it is mighty hard to realize that our active member and my personal good friend, Bro. Harold Gunter was born September 28, 1877. But the records show that on that date, in Jamaica BWI, he was born on his father's cattle ranch. Graduated from the Kingston Collegiate, he entered the Mercantile Service until he came to our shores in 1902. He was engaged in a successful silk and yarn business until after World War I; after which he developed a mail order business in yarns and hand looms which he created.



Bro. Harold's knowledge of hand looms and the therapy in working them enabled him to be of great service to the Board of Education; the Commission for the Blind, the Deaf and Dumb; many hospitals for the Insane, as well as for the work in Prisons. He served many, and served them well. To these accomplishments can be added his inventions: the development of weaving material for the aeroplane wings in World War I; the screen for sound pictures; and later a system of ribbons for the dial telephones. In 1902, when he first came here, Bro. Gunter joined Girard Lodge #631, becoming its Master in 1911 and its secretary in 1914, a position he held for 18 years.

At the age of 10, he started collecting stamps, but it was not until his retirement did he pursue this hobby. He joined the American Philatelic Society of St. Louis when it was founded by C. H. Mekeel (away back when), but his real source of pleasure in philately, he tells us, is his membership in the MSC of NY. Here he has been active wherever he could find a place

to help. His activity at FIPEX belied his age and has attendance and participation in the Club's activities are quite outstanding. Bro. Gunter was married in 1910 and has a son and daughter. All hail Brother Harold Gunter, 80 years YOUNG . . . may he be an active member for many, many years to come.

—H.S.K.

You Are Invited

Bro. S. Clark Place, a member of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, is president of the Niagara Frontier Federation of Stamp Clubs, which will stage its eighth annual exhibition October 5 and 6 in the Sheraton Hotel, Rochester, New York.

The exhibition will bring together the stamps of members of federation clubs in Western New York and the Niagara Peninsula of Canada.

Members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York are especially invited to attend the exhibition. A special exhibition post office will be set up for the show.

George Eastman and Susan B. Anthony will be honored at the show when the U.S. commemoratives in their honor will be used as the central design for the exhibition seals. The seals may be secured from Miss Ruth Stoertz, 61 Crawford Street, Rochester 20, N.Y., for 5 cents each or set of three colors for 10 cents. A stamped envelope should be enclosed.

Cacheted envelopes also are available from Miss Stoertz for 10 cents each or set of three for 25 cents.

Bro. Place will be happy to meet members of the Masonic Stamp Club who attend the Rochester show.

Brother Harry Konwiser has many friends among philatelists, and some of them owe their success to the help and advice he gave them for many years. Members of the MSC miss Harry very much and we learn that he appreciates hearing from you. Bro. Walker Van Zailen visited with Bro. Konwiser, who is now residing at the Masonic Home at Utica, and he was deeply appreciative. We hope many more of our brethren can stop in to see Harry in person, but if this is not possible, how about dropping a line or two, and wishing him well. Do it today.

Masonry On Stamps

The following check list of "MASONRY ON STAMPS" is the fourth in a series that has appeared in the MASONIC PHILATELIST through the kind permission of the author, Clarence W. Beltman, a member of the MSC of NY, and the publishers of TOPICAL TIME, the publication of the American Topical Association. The following list will conclude Bro. Beltman's checklists, as published, but we shall publish new lists from time to time and we ask our members to send along any names and information about Masons not included in this series, so that we might issue supplemental lists.

Hawaii

King David Kalakaua
Kamehameha IV
Prince William Pitt Leleihoku

#67-8 King
#31 King 1855
#36

Italy

General Guiseppe Garibaldi
Victor Emanuel
Guiseppe Mazzini

#289 Italian Patriot
#175 King
#141 Soldier, Statesman

Netherlands

King William II
Prince William I
William Pijper

#91 King 1792-1849
#196 King of England 1869
#B265 Musician

Philippines

Jose Rizel
Rev. Jose Burgos
Teodora M. Kalaw
Marcelo H. del Pilar
Graciano Lopez Juena
Manuel L. Quezon
Jose P. Laurel
Manuel Roxas
Apolinario Mabini
Andres Bonifacio
Paul V. McNutt
Epefania de Las Sontas
Trinidad Pardo Travera

#497 Soldier, Statesman
#N33 Catholic Priest
#B1 Lawyer, Legislator, Historian
#576 Lawyer, Statesman
#577 Founder of La Solidaridad
#408 First President of Philippines
#N37
#525 President
#N34
#505
#512 High Com. of Philippines
#B1 Lawyer, Critic, Writer, Musician
#B1 Physician, Statesman, Writer, Scholar

Miscellaneous Countries

King George V	Hanover	
Daniel O'Connell	Ireland #80	Statesman, Orator
Jan Sibelius	Finland #249	Composer
Abd el Kader	Algeria B61	Sultan of Arabia 1831-1848
Cecil John Rhodes	Southern Rhodesia #56	
Henri Dunant	Saar 1955	First Nobel Peace Prize Winner 1901
Sir Francis Bacon	New Foundland #92	Writer, Colonized New Foundland
Louis Kossuth	Hungary #624	Statesman, Soldier
Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles	Straits Settle. #40	Founder of Singapore
Alexander S. Pushkin	Russia # 1749	
Khedive Ismail Pasha	Egypt # 777	
Hans Christian Oerstad	Denmark #329	
Sveinn Bjornsson	Iceland #272-5	
Gen. Eloy Alfaro	Ecuador #409-12	
Lord Carrington	New Zealand #85-6	
Sir James Brooke	Sarawak #20	
Sultan Ibrahim	Johore #59	
Prince Nicolas	Romania #B29	
Gerhard Van Switen	Austria #B156	