

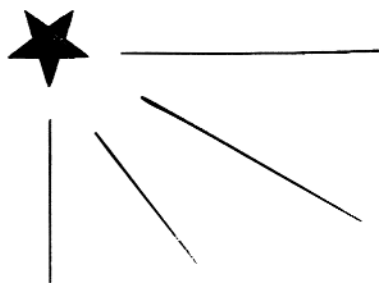


# *the Masonic Philatelist*

VOL. 15 (S/B 14)

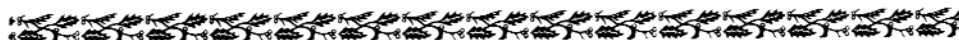
JANUARY 1958

NO. 5



1957 - 1958

## *Season's Greetings*



# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

JANUARY 1958  
VOL. 15 NO. 5



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National Federation of Stamp Clubs

## BY THE SIGN OF THE GAVEL "The World Is Mine Oyster"

Collecting stamps is a confining hobby, but its purposes and ramifications are world-wide. Each collector is a part of this international avocation with possible contacts in every corner of the globe. This poses a diametrically opposite and seeming ambiguous situation which can only be resolved by each collector. Are we collecting for our own enjoyment in a closed shell? This could be a wonderfully relaxing escape from our daily trials and cares. To the more adventurous, stamp collecting can open many channels of interest.

A special People-to-People Program is now being promoted by the National Federation of Stamp Clubs and endorsed by President Eisenhower, as

## MEETINGS

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

## Balance of 1957-58 Season

- Jan. 3—United States—1845-1895  
Talk and Showing by Bro. Charles W. Brooks.  
Pre-meeting Cocktail Party at home of Bro. Herman S. Kerstein, 8 East 96th St., N. Y. C.
- Feb. 7—Past Presidents Night.
- Mar. 7—Palestine—Postal History  
Talk and Showing by Bro. Oscar L. Winklestein.
- Apr. 4—Master of Philately Degree.  
New Discoveries and Items of Masonic Philately.
- May 2—Members Competition—One Frame of Twelve Pages.
- May 16—ANNUAL DINNER—Keep this date open for something very special.
- June 6—Annual Meeting. Reports of Committees and Election of Officers.

a means of bringing together stamp collectors here with those in other parts of the world. Bro. Harry L. Lindquist is in charge of the stamp-collecting phase of the Hobby Division. We can obtain contacts by individually joining this program by requesting names of people in countries with whom we can communicate in their own language.

Another method of getting our hobby out of the confines of our homes is by showing stamps at shows and clubs. Our club's program this year has been for this purpose. The October meeting was devoted to members showing their most interesting page; the November meeting was an Americas' Exhibit. Ten members each showed nine pages of their collections. The feature of this showing was the help from some of the experienced members who have judged shows, thus providing constructive advice. It is to one's own benefit to have his stamps properly mounted, for it is pitiful to see what happens to stamps that probably cost the collector large sums and sold for a pittance, simply because the stamps were stuck away in envelopes and shoe boxes. It is not the fault of the dealer or auction house when this happens—the fault lies with the collector for not spending a little time in properly mounting his collection.

Shakespeare's "The world is mine

oyster" has special meaning for us in pursuing our hobby—in the confines of our little shell or exhibiting and promoting philately.

—I. M. Y.

(In our October issue, we printed the story about a youth who "found" a note of 'G. Washington.' The following letters are self explanatory):

**GRAND LODGE  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
71 West 23 Street**

New York 18, N. Y.  
LIBRARY AND MUSEUM  
Wendell K. Walker  
Director

14 October 1957

W. Samuel Brooks  
520 Eighth Avenue  
New York 19, N. Y.

Dear Sam:

Page 8 of THE MASONIC PHILATELIST for October reminds me that I looked up the Washington letter when the Syracuse item first appeared in the paper. Enclosed are the results.

You may remember that another Washington letter, which we have here, was also reproduced in facsimile many years ago, and several finders of copies in more or less recent times have thought that they had originals.

All this was just for your information, because I thought you would be interested.

Best regards,  
Wendell

**Biog - WASHINGTON, George  
1732-1799**

Letter from William J. Paterson, Librarian and Curator, Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, September 13th, 1957:

Your letter of September 10th was received regarding the George Washington Letter, December 28th, 1796, found by a Syracuse student. I have been flooded with newspaper clippings, letters from our own brethren as well as from other Grand jurisdictions.

What the student has is a heliographic reproduction which was made by J. Carbutt, 54 North 9th Street, Philadelphia (printer) in 1877. It was used as an insert in a volume printed by our Library Committee of that year. It is worthless as we have the original Washington Letter here in the Museum.

Several of these so-called facsimiles

have been found and the finder thinks he has something. A few years ago one was offered to me and the owner wanted \$30,000.00 . . .

When the December issue of the Freemason is printed I will have an article on this letter.

### NOVEMBER 1, MEETING

There was a fine response on the part of the members to show nine interesting pages of their respective collections, with the added incentive of having them judged and corrected for future exhibitions by three capable men: Bros. Sam Brooks, Jake Glaser and Carl Pihl. The frames were, as follows:

BRO. HAROLD GUNTER: Intrepid men from 1861-1957

BRO. GORDON SHOOP: Start of a collection relating to U. S. History

BRO. WARREN EHRIG: British selections

BRO. JOSEPH MUNK: Washington's Bicentennial 1932

BRO. JOSE RUEFF: Venezuela States

BRO. HERMAN KERSTEIN: Costa Rica, the beautiful

BRO. ALVIN LURCH: Rotary

BRO. RUSSEL ROANE: Old Glory

BRO. EMANUEL REGGEL: Early Canada

BRO. IRWIN YARRY: Leeward Islands

We refer our members to the "Sign of the Gavel" in this issue, wherein our good president Dr. Yarry calls attention to members breaking out of their shells of self containment. At these informal exhibits, each member has a chance to learn how best to arrange his collection; how to show it to others and especially what is needed if one expects to enter competition. We are always amazed to find how few members take advantage of the advice given gratis by our "pros." You will note, also, how often the old-timers seek this means of brushing up their work, so we earnestly hope to see many more of the newer members display their pages at future meetings.

### THREE MEMBERS CLICK

At the recent exhibition of the Nassau-Suffolk Stamp Clubs, NASPEX, held at West Hempstead, Long Island, New York, three of our members received awards. Bros. Irwin Yarry and Fred Hill received first prizes and Bro. George Camnitzer a second prize.

## Indian Territory Stamp A Masonic Memorial

By JOHN A. MIRT



It may come as a surprise to many collectors that the Indian Territory stamp (No. 972) has hidden behind it a story of Freemasonry at work.

Issued in 1948, the stamp commemorates the 100th anniversary of the arrival in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) of the five Civilized Indian Tribes—the Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, Muskogeese and Seminoles. That migration was made possible because the principles of Freemasonry prevailed when differences of opinion existed.

I found the beginning of this story in a history of the Prince of Wales Lodge No. 259, London, instituted in 1787. It reports that Gen. William A. Bowles, a white chief of the Creek Nation, was admitted as an honorary member of the Lodge and "was received with the unanimous applause of the whole Lodge."

After another visit to England in 1790 he returned again to command the tribe. He also carried with him the appointment by the Grand Lodge of England as Provincial Grand Master of Creek, Cherokee, Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians, so that he could introduce Freemasonry among the Indians.

The spirit of the Craft was to gain such a firm foothold among the Indian tribes in the first half of the 19th century that its force for good was to be demonstrated at a time when this nation was faced with a crisis.

The scene shifts to a history of Federal Lodge No. 1, Washington, which reports that on April 25, 1848, William P. Ross, chief of the Cherokees, was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The history continues:

"He and other headmen of the Cherokee Nation were at the capital to arrange a treaty made necessary by the late enforced removal of the tribe from Georgia to the Indian Territory. These headmen were arrayed in two hostile factions, and the negotiations were at a standstill.

"But at one of the meetings of Federal Lodge, the rival leaders, all Freemasons, were brought together by the exertions of Worshipful Master S. Yorke AtLee and other members, and the treaty was then unsuccessfully concluded."

Ross was chief of the Cherokees for 40 years and on his death in 1866 he was buried with Masonic rites.

The story switches to the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire for 1848. Bro. Okah Tubbe, an Indian of the Choctaw tribe, was a visitor at the annual meeting. He addressed the Grand Lodge. This was followed by a discussion of plans for the establishment of Masonic lodges of "red men" of the various tribes in Indian Territory.

Six years later, the Grand Master of Georgia presented Col. Peter P. Pitchlynn, a chief of the Choctaws, to the Grand Lodge. Bro. Pitchlynn gave a

favorable account of the condition of the Craft in his tribe.

Then, in 1856, the Grand Master of Arkansas, speaking before his Grand Lodge, said:

"Among our red Brethren in the Indian Territory the Order is taking deep hold, and now embraces a goodly number of lodges and brethren. The members of these lodges compare very favorably with their paleface neighbors. In fact, it is reported of them that they exemplify **practically** the Masonic teachings and ritual by living in the constant discharge of those charities and moral virtues so forcibly inculcated in our lectures."

In 1868, when a further treaty between the government and the five Indian tribes was negotiated, the leading spirits in the delegation of Indians were Masons.

In the years to follow, some of these "red men" were to attain the highest honor Symbolic Masonry had to offer—Grand Mastership. Some were to rise to leadership in state affairs, others to important positions in national activities.

The seed for all this, sown when this nation was in swaddling clothes, sprouted and grew into a living and lasting thing under the beneficent Light of Freemasonry.

**BRO. FRANKLIN BRUNS, JR.  
APPOINTED DIRECTOR  
DIVISION OF PHILATELY**

**Change of Address**

**Nov. 18, 1957**

**Division of Philately, Smithsonian  
Institution, Washington 25, D. C.**

**New Address:**

**Director, Division of Philately**

**Post Office Department**

**Washington 25, D. C.**

**Franklin R. Bruns, Jr.**

The above Change of Address card is a masterpiece of understatement, as it served to inform us that on November 18, 1957, Bro. Bruns would assume the post of Director of the Division of Philately of the Post Office Department. The appointment had been announced on Nov. 2, by Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield.

As pointed out in an earlier issue of the MP, Bro. Bruns has been Curator of the Division of Philately of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington,

D. C., since 1951 and prior to that philatelic editor of the New York Sun from 1932-1950, and he held a similar position with the New York World-Telegram and the Sun from 1950-1951.

By taking over this new work, the MSC is justly proud that another of its members holds this lofty office, a position vacated recently by another one of our members, Bro. Robert E. Fellers, who resigned on Sept. 30, 1957.



**AWARDS OF DISTINCTION**

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield is shown above presenting to Bro. Fellers the "Superior Achievement Award" of the Post Office Department, on the day that Bro. Fellers retired as Director, Division of Philately. The award was given in recognition of his services since 1914 in the postal service, and particularly his service in furthering the Post Office Department's philatelic activities since 1933. Bro. Fellers has received many awards for his work.

Admiral Jesse G. Johnson, Director of The American Philatelic Society, presented the A. P. S. Award of Philatelic Distinction to Robert E. Fellers, retired director of the Division of Philately, Post Office Department, at ceremonies in New York. Plaque, created by L. S. Werner reads "Awarded to Robert E. Fellers, Sept. 30, 1957, in recognition of his many services to philatelists while employed by the Post Office Department of the United States."



—Photo by Adrienne Boutrelle, N. Y.

Scene at Collectors Club of N. Y. Bro. Harry L. Lindquist acknowledging the Lichtenstein Memorial Award. (L. to R.) John J. Britt, Chairman of the Award and past president of the Collectors Club; H. D. S. Haverbeck, Vice-Pres.; General C. W. Wickersham, Pres.; Bro. Lindquist; and seated at the right, Mrs. Louise Dale, daughter of Alfred F. Lichtenstein, in whose memory the Award was established.

#### TO BRO. HARRY L. LINQUIST THE LICHTENSTEIN MEMORIAL AWARD

The Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial award for distinguished service to philately was presented to Bro. Lindquist at the Collectors Club of New York on November 6, 1957, following a dinner in his honor, under the direction of John J. Britt, Chairman of the Lichtenstein Memorial Award.

At the Club General C. W. Wickersham, President of the Collectors Club, called the meeting to order and after briefly outlinging Bro. Lindquist's achievements for the Club and philately in general, he called upon Mrs. Louise Dale, to make the presentation. Mrs. Dale is the daughter of the man in whose memory the award was established. Bro. Lindquist is the sixth philatelist to receive the Award, which was established by the Collectors Club in 1952.

Several congratulatory telegrams were read, among them one sent by Dr. Yarry on behalf of the Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y. with congratulations and a toast to "your good health

with hopes for continuing philatelic achievements."

Many members of the MSC were in attendance, including Bros. Frank Bruns, Jake Glaser, Sol Glass, Sidney Barrett, Carl Pelander, Al Lurch, Emanuel Reggel, Dr. Yarry, Fred Barovick, Herbert J. Block, Irwin Heiman and Herman Kerstein.

#### THE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROGRAM

Little wonder that Bro. Harry Lindquist received the Lichtenstein award for distinguished service to philately, for one only has to review a few of his recent activities. Not alone Editor and Publisher of the weekly magazine STAMPS as his vocation and President of the National Federation of Stamp Clubs as his avocation, Bro. Lindquist has assumed the Chairmanship of the Hobbies Committee of President Eisenhower's People-To-People Program.

At the recent meeting of the chairmen of the various committees, it was found that there was the greatest response to the "Hobbies" part of the program, so successfully has this been

handled by its chairman. We wish to suggest to any of our members who desire to correspond with fellow-philatelists in other countries to contact H. L. Lindquist, Chairman Hobbies Committee, People-To-People Program, 153 Waverly Place, New York 14, New York.



**MEET: BRO. JOHN A. MIRT**

(Perhaps no one is more responsible for the interest in Masonic Philately than Bro. John Mirt who, for over five years, produced a monthly service called "MASONRY ON STAMPS," which was distributed internationally. The entire profit from this service was turned over to Masonic charities, and when John discontinued this work, about a year ago, we received a great many letters expressing regret over this discontinuance. We were asked to take over what John had started, even a request that we "insist" upon his not dropping his service. We are indeed happy to learn that "being relieved of some of his other activities, he will again produce articles, through the *Masonic Philatelist*. The first of such articles appears on the opposite page.)

Born: Grove City, Pa., December 23, 1897. Spent early days in coal mining community; went to work as copy boy Pittsburgh Sun, at age of 14 after one year of high school. Became financial

editor in 1919 after general reporting, writing society news and copyreading on sports desk.

Went to Chicago in 1922 and in sequence became financial editor Chicago Journal of Commerce, Chicago Evening Post and associate financial editor Chicago Daily News. In 1935 the News assigned Bro. Mirt to investigate the financial activities of local and state governments, his revelations causing unhappiness amongst politicians. In 1946 he opened and headed for 1½ years, the Chicago bureau of Newsweek, and then went into public relations.

Worked for 5 years as assistant director of press relations of the American Medical Association and in 1954 went out on his own. Now public relations counsel for Illinois State Medical Society, Intl. College of Surgeons and other medical organizations. Part of work consists of writing releases on medical papers so layman can understand them.

Raised in Standard Lodge #873 AF & AM, Chicago, 1929. Master in 1936. Secy. past 6 years, resigned Dec. 6. Member of Royal Arch, Scottish Rite, Shrine and Order of Eastern Star (Past Patron). Member 5 Masonic research lodges, including American Lodge of Research, New York; Quatuor Coronati Lodge, London.

Interested in Masonic Philately and has been actively engaged in research in that field for past ten years, during which he produced the aforementioned monthly service. Bro. Mirt belongs to no other philatelic organization, except the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, and of this, we are rightly proud.

#### **DEGREE NIGHT APR. 4**

Because there are so many members desiring to obtain the degree of Master of Philately, we call this early attention to the date, in order that those residing at a distance may now make plans to attend. We suggest that those who contemplate attending and taking the degree, contact Dr. Irwin Yarry or Bro. Alvan Lurch. By all indications, we expect an excellent turnout.

#### **SEASON'S GREETINGS**

Those serving with the publication of our *Masonic Philatelist* wish each and every club member all the joys of the Christmas season. For the New Year, may there be health, happiness and peace for all.

## Welcome - Greetings To Our New Members!

- ALBERT C. BAUSERT  
2149 58th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Globe Lodge #588, N. Y.
- THOMAS W. BROWNBACK  
205 Louis Dr., Morrisville, Pa.  
Charity #190, Norristown, Pa.
- L. REESE DEVILBLISS  
Fawn Grove, Penna.  
Friendship #663, Fawn Grove.
- ROBERT MORRIS DEWEES  
652 So. Ellen Rd., Newport News, Va.  
Transportation #337, Ft. Eustis, Va.
- GODFREY W. EHRGOTT  
1035 N. Lawrence Ave., So. San  
Gabriel, Cal.  
Montebello #451, Calif.
- RUSSELL L. FLOYD  
416 E. Cecil, Waynoka, Oklahoma.  
Waynoka Lodge #422, Okla.
- CHARLES RUCKLE GAINS  
6836 East End Ave., Chicago 49, Ill.  
Richard Cole #697, Illinois.
- WILLIAM WITHEROW HARDY  
3901 Oglethorpe St., Hyatts, Md.  
Mt. Hermon #179, Hyattsville, Md.
- WILLIS B. HARPER  
7016 Bramble Ave., Cincinnati, O.  
Walnut Hills #483, Cincinnati, O.
- JOHN M. de HARTOG  
Box 230, Waupun, Wisconsin  
Waupun Lodge #48.
- HOWARD BRIAN HELGESEN  
719 W. Hillcrest, Palatine, Ill.  
Palatine Lodge #314.
- CHARLES H. LESLIE  
1610 Lee Ave., McKeesport, Pa.  
Youghiogeny #593, McKeesport.
- KENNETH WALTER LUKE  
425 W. 2nd St., Eldon, Maryland.  
Ionia #381, Eldon.
- HERBERT L. MCKEE  
906 E. Providencia, Burbank, Cal.  
Jas. Madison #572, Los Angeles.
- ALEXANDER D. McMURTRIE  
321 Talfourd St., Sarnia, Ont., Can.  
Victoria #56, Sarnia, Ont., Canada.
- EMIL MICK  
1434 N. Ridgway, Chicago 51, Ill.  
Ben Hur #818, Chicago.
- HOWARD PAUL MILLER  
220 Chicora Rd., Butler, Penna.  
Wm. H. Miller #769, Butler.
- W. CARSON MITCHELL  
Treadwell, Del. Co., New York.  
Delhi Lodge #439, N. Y.
- BYRLE C. MOGH  
4521 Johnson Ave., Western Springs,  
Ill. Western Springs #1136.
- NORMAN MOVSHOW  
11 N. Newport Ave., Ventnor City,  
N. J. Justice #285, Atlantic City, N.J.
- PAUL E. NAGEL  
4205 N. Keystone Ave., Chicago 41,  
Ill. Hamlin Pk. #1069, Chicago.
- HAROLD K. NORTON  
66 Andrew Rd., Manhasset, N. Y.  
Paumanok #855, Great Neck, N. Y.
- EDWARD M. NOSS  
105 Mulberry St., Coraopolis, Pa.  
Coraopolis #674, Pa.
- CHARLES ALEXANDER ORLICK  
23 N. Woodlawn Ave., Lavale, Md.  
East Gate #216, Cumberland, Md.
- WILLIAM F. RAYL  
526 Broadway, Clarksburg, W. Va.  
Hermon #6, Clarksburg.
- WILLIAM A. REYNOLDS  
Beulah, Colorado.  
Park Hill #148, Denver.
- HOLLISTER M. J. RUCH  
816 Porter St., Easton, Penna.  
Syracuse #501, Syracuse, N. Y.
- CHARLES C. SANNA  
216 Lily Pond Ave., Staten Is., N. Y.  
Antwerp #26, N. Y.
- WILLARD L. THOMES  
343 Central Ave., Humarock, Mass.  
Corner Stone, Duxbury, Mass.
- ARTHUR H. WALPOLE  
12237 Harvard Ave., Chicago 28, Ill.  
Garden City #141, Chicago.
- HARRY A. WILSON  
P. O. Box 510, El Campo, Texas.  
El Campo #918, El Campo.
- BRUCE E. WOODBURY  
2910 Bapaume Ave., Norfolk, Va.  
Gate City #14, Gary, S. Dakota.
- KENNETH L. YEISLEY  
1532 Burnwood Rd., Baltimore 12,  
Md. Pickering #146, Baltimore.
- SEYMORE L. ZIV  
2147 Longshore Ave., Phila. 49, Pa.  
Bayse Newcomb #745, Phila.

Your editor has received many letters which would interest our members, but lack of space in this issue prevents us from publishing selections from them. In our February issue we shall devote much space to this interesting feature. To our many correspondents . . . please be patient with us . . . we will answer your letters when the pressures of work are lessened.

—Ed.