



the Masonic Philatelist

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NO. 7



Editor's Note Book The MASONIC PHILATELIST

MARCH, 1958
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THE COVER

Through Bro. Herman J. Lichty of the Geo. Washington Chapter of the MSC, we were given permission to use, for a Birthday Anniversary cachet, a picture of the chair used by Bro. Geo. Washington, when he sat as Master of the Alexandria (Va.) Lodge. We thought that you would like to see the entire setting of this chair: the painting of George Washington above the chair and above the painting the Masonic symbol. Our thanks to the Master of Alexandria Lodge and to the Custodian of the Museum of the National Memorial Temple, in Alexandria.

IN MEMORIAM

BROTHER ROGER H. BRYANT
BROTHER FREDERICK W. THOMAS
May they find peace everlasting.

MEETINGS

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

- Mar. 7 Palestine-Postal History talk and showing by Bro. Oscar L. Winklestein.
Apr. 11 Master of Philately Degree. (See announcement this issue). New Discoveries and Items of Masonic Philately by Members.
May 2 Members Competition — One frame of 12 pages.
May 16 ANNUAL DINNER—Hold this date: Franklin Bruns, M. C., Honored Guest: Robert Fellers. (See announcement this issue.)
June 6 Annual Meeting. Reports of Committees and Election of Officers.

COMING EVENTS

- April 11—MASTER OF PHILATELY DEGREE NIGHT. **Please Note: CHANGE OF DATE!** Instead of first Friday in April, this meeting will be held on the second Friday night. Be sure to let the Secretary know that you intend taking the degree. **ALSO:** It is expected that a delegation from Grand Lodge will be present to accept an additional check for a Masonic charity, the result of our cachet sales.
May 16—ANNUAL DINNER — This is a must. Our guest of honor: Bro. Robert Fellers; Presentation by Bro. Franklin Bruns; Master of Ceremonies: the inimitable Bro. Harry Lindquist. Bro. Jake Glaser heads the Dinner Committee and he will be assisted by Bros. Carl Pelander, Milnor Peck, Herman Kerstein and Irwin Yarry. Details will soon be sent out and suffice to say: **Make your reservation early.**

WELCOME!!**Greetings to our new members:**

CAPT. LORNE L. ALLMON
6661 Phoenix Ave., Riverside, Cal.
Elk #586, Moorhead, Iowa.

ONAS J. DAVIDSON, JR.
90 Washington St., Rumson, N. J.
Bethesda Lodge, Valparaiso, Chile

WILLIAM M. DURAND
Box 21, Magnolia, New Jersey.
Parkside #217, Camden, N. J.

JOHN T. GOOSETREY, JR.
677 Duquesne Ter., Union, N. J.
Gavel #273, Union.

ELMER F. HACKER
5627 Southwest Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
Pomegranate #95, St. Louis.

CYRUS HOUGHTON HOISINGTON
141 State St., Windsor, Vermont
Vermont Lodge #18, Windsor.

FREDERICK B. HOODLESS
17 Rose St., Kitchener, Ont., Canada.
Grand River #151, Kitchener.

LEON E. HUNTER
29 N. Drexel St., Woodbury, N. J.
Florence Lodge #87, N. J.

HAROLD J. LITTLETON
4 E. Dale Rd., Northfield, Wilmington,
Del. Parksley #325, Parksley,
Virginia.

**PAST PRESIDENTS NIGHT
MEETING: FEB. 7, 1958**

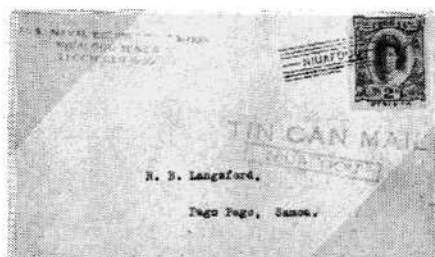
"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night, stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." A fine slogan for our gallant mail carriers, but certainly does not apply to our philatelic brethren. There were some brave souls who dared the elements on this meeting night, with its sleet, rain, snow and high winds, and for them, a rewarding evening.

Bro. Milnor Peck showed the artist's drawings of the two coming cachets sponsored by the MSC and they were enthusiastically approved. Elsewhere in this issue are the details of the First Day covers of Paul Revere and of James Monroe, as well as the extra birthday anniversary cover of George Washington, issued and sponsored by the Geo. Washington Chapter #1 of the MSC.

Four of our Past Presidents were present at this, their night, and we were saddened to hear that Bro. Jake Glaser had been operated upon and

was hospitalized; that the illness of Bro. Holcomb's wife prevented his being present and that Dr. Camnitzer was too ill to attend. The four P. P. present, gave the following talks:

CARL PELANDER: A very interesting explanation of the TIN CAN MAIL of Niuafoou, Tonga and illustrated with several varieties of covers and cancellations, one of which appears below. The boats carrying mail could not get close enough to the island, so boys were employed to swim out with the mail in tin cans and return with incoming mail. It is said that because of the shark infested waters, the TIN CAN MAIL became CANOE MAIL.



SAM BROOKS: Showed a first Jet Air Mail cover dated 6/22/26 as well as some very interesting covers including "The Flying Doctor," First Day China, a cover with a 1st Baden-Powell stamp as well as a Brazil Boy Scout cover.

RUSSELL ROANE: Showed additions to his collection of the American flag on stamps, especially the sport stamps of Dominican Republic. And, as usual, Russ had some amusing stories to tell.

CARL PIHL: Displayed a hat-full of Stampless Norwegian covers, with P. O. cancellations showing roundabout routes taken. Carl had to be most accurate in his explanations for on the sidelines, checking each and every point was the other Carl, Bro. Pelander, a stickler for exactness.

ERRATA

We'd hoped you hadn't noticed, but the last two issues were incorrectly printed "VOL. 15," when they should have read "VOL. 14." Got by all of us, but not YOU, did it?

George Washington, The Mason

By HERMAN J. LICHTY

George Washington was just a little lad when his father moved his family to a farm on the Rappanock River, opposite Fredericksburg, Virginia, called Pine Grove Farm. This was later changed to Ferry Farm, the name of which it is known today. It was on this farm that George lived when the cherry tree incident happened. He attended school and took his Masonic degrees while living on this farm.

George Washington, the Mason, was initiated November 4, 1752, as an entered apprentice into Fredericksburg Lodge # 4 of Fredericksburg, Va., one of the oldest lodges in America. He passed Fellow Craft on March 3, 1753 and was raised a Master Mason on August 4, 1753. He lived his Masonry and demonstrated it in many ways. One of the first acts after being made a Mason was to take Governor Dinwiddie's message to the French in the Ohio country. He had to have an interpreter, so he returned to Fredericksburg and invited Jacob Van Braam, a Brother Mason to go with him.

The meetings of Fredericksburg Lodge were held the first Friday of the month, from March to September at 6 o'clock in the evening, and from September to March at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Washington traveled to and from lodge on horseback, leaving in the middle of the afternoon and never returning home until midnight.

Washington was a Mason through and through. He had a depth of religious spirit that few could fathom, so it was natural for him to return to Masonry to intensify his spiritual strength. Any Mason can readily understand why it made such a strong appeal to the Greatest American. Anyone who will read, even a little history of Masonry, will understand why this body was at once a magnet and comfort to Washington.

When Benedict Arnold deserted the American cause, Washington's disappointment was made more bitter because Arnold was a Mason. His comment was: "Now whom can we trust?"

On another occasion when Lewis Littlepage returned to his home in Fredericksburg, from the court of the King of Poland, after being decorated and honored by many of the courts

of Europe, the King requested President Washington to allow Littlepage to wear his decorations, and retain titles bestowed upon him. In spite of the fact that Littlepage was one of the greatest Americans of his time, and had done much for the American cause in the courts of Europe, and besides being a Brother Mason, belonging to his own lodge, Washington refused to grant this request on the grounds, that for an American citizen to wear decorations and go under a title in this country, would be against the ideals of Democracy and the principles of Masonry.

Washington often expressed his love for Masonry and his Mother Lodge at Fredericksburg, Va. Many of his closest friends and associates, his generals and military aides belonged to the Ancient Craft, and many of that number to his own lodge at Fredericksburg. In the formative period of this nation, when men had decided views on government, it was necessary for leaders to surround themselves with men whom they could trust. When an important post was to be filled, or an important message was to be delivered, Washington often selected a man as much of his Masonic affiliations as for his ability, because living his Masonry, he looked for others to live their Masonry also.

The Holy Bible on which Washington took all three Masonic obligations, is kept in a fire-proof vault, within the lodge room at Fredericksburg. It is protected by a covering of strong glass and can be seen at any regular communication of the lodge. On a few exceptional occasions it has been taken to Masonic gatherings to grace the proceedings. Whenever it is taken from the lodge at Fredericksburg it travels under guard. The Minute Book of the lodge shows the entry of Washington's three steps in Masonry. This is also kept in the lodge room with the Holy Bible.

When Washington moved to Mt. Vernon he was elected an honorary member of Alexandria Lodge #30. This lodge operated under a charter granted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. After all the Provincial Charters had been withdrawn the Grand Lodge of Virginia was petitioned on

April 28, 1788, to form Alexandria Lodge #22 with George Washington as its first Master. On December 12, 1805 the name of the lodge was changed to Alexandria-Washington Lodge.

While Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge Washington took a large Chippendale chair from his library at Mt. Vernon and presented it to the lodge. It has been used for 118 years but now is only used on special occasions and at the annual installation of officers.

The trowel and working tools used by Washington when he laid the cornerstone of the U. S. Capitol on September 13, 1793 belongs to Alexandria-Washington Lodge. The trowel is silver with an ivory handle. It cannot be used or taken from the lodge room unless every member receives due notice and with two-thirds majority voting at a regular communication. President Eisenhower recently used this trowel to lay the cornerstone of the new State Department Building in Washington, D. C.

The cornerstone ceremonies at the Capitol were conducted under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. Washington acted as Grand Master pro tem for the occasion. Washington is the only President to serve as Master of his lodge during a term of office. The gavel used at the cornerstone ceremonies belongs to Potomac Lodge. The apron presented to Wash-

ington in January, 1781, by Watson and Cassoul, friends of the General, was worn while he was Master of Alexandria Lodge and while he laid the cornerstone of the Capitol.

In 1793, the lodge requested General Washington, then President and living in Philadelphia, to sit for a picture, and employed William J. Williams of that city to execute the work. Washington approved the likeness, and late in 1794 it was received from the artist and accepted by the lodge. The picture is devoid of idealism. The artist's instructions being, "Paint him as he is." This Mr. Williams appears to have done, bringing out in bold relief several facial blemishes, which the General is known to have possessed, and which are shown in a modified form, if at all, by other artists. It is well worth the trip to the George Washington National Memorial in Alexandria, Va., to see. The portrait was used in 1932 for the 9-cent George Washington Bi-Centennial stamp.

During his lifetime Washington had many honors bestowed upon him, and many were offered that he could not accept, especially that of Grand Master and General Grand Master. He did accept honorary membership in other lodges, but did not demit from his Mother Lodge, Fredericksburg, Va., #4. The reports of the Grand Lodge of Virginia shows that Fredericksburg Lodge #4, was the only lodge reporting the death of Brother George Washington.

Members Send News and Greetings

One of the pleasures of serving as treasurer of your club is that you hear from many members, far and wide. Many of them thoughtfully send greetings to all of the other brethren.

Harry L. Kinne, long a faithful member in and around New York, writes from Clearwater, Florida that he keeps busy and active—was scheduled to make a talk at the local stamp club on United Nations' stamps. He wishes everyone A Happy New Year. **Raymond W. Houghton** of Scotia, New York expresses the hope that Bro. John Mirt will resume his series, "Masonry on Postage Stamps." **Ralph C. Huntington** of Baltimore, Maryland sends a two dollar contribution to the Publication Fund. Thanks Bro. Huntington. **William H. Dabel** of San Fran-

cisco, California writes that there are many new members on the Pacific Coast and hopes that they can get together for mutual benefit. Bro. Dabel, who visited New York several years ago, says he has dropped precancel collecting and is concentrating on Germany. **Richard M. Needham** of Lancaster, Ohio sent a cover marking the 150th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Thanks, Brother Needham. **Arthur Schleif** of El Segundo, California says he may move to Florida; would like to know how he may obtain advance notice about new issues. Bro. Schleif should subscribe to a good stamp publication such as *Western Stamp Collector* (Albany, Oregon). Notes of appreciation were received from several members who received

complimentary 1958 dues cards (sent to all members who joined after October 1, 1957). **L. R. Devilbiss** of Fawn Grove, Pa., **Howard P. Miller** of Butler, Pa., and **Charles C. Sanna** of Staten Island, N. Y. Both Bros. Miller and Sanna also sent some stamps that will be put to good use.

Greetings and best wishes for the New Year were sent to all of the members by the following brethren: **Frederick Z. Bennett** of Maumee, Ohio; **Dr. Morris Herman** of Davidson (Saskatchewan) Canada; **William H. Kne-meyer** of Winter Park, Florida; **Harold Matters** of St. Petersburg, Florida; **John A. Mirt** of Chicago, Illinois; **S. Clark Place** of Rochester, New York; **Jewell I. Potter** of Oneida, New York; **Hollister M. J. Ruch** of Easton, Pa.; **Chester E. Wing** of Hastings, Michigan; **Paul Wirth** of Millbrae, California; and **George A. Urlaub** of Queens Village, New York. Thanks one and all for your greetings. May each of you enjoy good health and realization of your fondest hopes during 1958.

May I remind all members who have not yet sent in their dues for 1958 to do so at their earliest convenience. Dues are \$2 per year; checks should be made out to the club and sent to

the treasurer at 206 Derby Street, East Williston, New York.

—Carl H. Pihl, Treasurer.

Dear Bro. Kerstein:

Some corrections of the article on page 6 and with all due apologies to Bro. Rogers of Pendleton, Gustavus V and Christian IX are listed as 33rds, they should be XI grade, the highest in the Swedish Rite, tho their XI° is the equal of our 33° in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of our Scottish Rite.

Baynard in his History of the AASR states that the first Lodge was established in Stockholm by Count Axel Erickson Wrede-Sparre in 1735 and was its first WM. Also I think you will find that Christian IX reigned 1863-1906.

I have sat in Lodge in both Oslo and Stockholm and can assure you that there is a tremendous difference between the Swedish Rite and our York and Scottish Rites, tho the lessons they teach are similar.

I hope the above will be helpful to the Brethren of the MSC. Best wishes from the far East, that is west of you.

—F. Z. Bennett.

Masons On Stamps

(Brother Elmer Edens has compiled a check-list of Famous Americans, and he gives much credit to the various articles written by Bro. John Mirt, as well as to the several references in the MASONIC PHILATELIST. With all that, however, we say he has done a splendid job, and this is the first of a series, all numbers used are from Scott's catalog.)

George Washington

U.S.A.: 2, 4, 10, 13, 17, 25, 31, 36, 37, 39, 56, 58, 59, 60, 62, 64, 65, 66, 68/70, 72, 74, 78/9, 82/3, 85, 85C, 85D, 85E, 88/90, 94, 96, 97, 99, 101, 104, 106/7, 109, 111, 115, 126, 136, 147, 158, 169, 184, 194, 207, 210, 211B, 213/4, 219D, 220, 248/52, 265/67, 279B, 301, 319/22, 332/42, 344/47, 349/51, 353/56, 358/66, 375/82, 384, 386, 388/89, 391, 393/6, 405/13, 424/30, 441/59, 462/69, 481/96, 498/507, 519, 525/36, 538/46, 554, 577, 579, 583, 595, 599, 599A, 606, 634, 634A, 645, 646, 647, 660, 671, 688, 703/15, 720/22, 727, 785, 804, 839, 848, 854, 947/8, 982, 1003/4, 1011, 1031/32, 1048, K1/K7, K17/18, PR1, 4,

5, 8, 7X1, 9X1, 03, 12, 17, 27, 37, 59, 74, 85, 95, 106, 109, 116.

CANAL ZONE: 73, 84, 97, 101, 115, J16.

GUAM: 88.

PHILIPPINES: 214, 227, 240, 248, 258, 268, 282, 289A, 297/298, 347, 396, 424, 446, C10, 25, 43, 49, O12.

PUERTO RICO: 211, 216.

ECUADOR: 509/13.

FRANCE: 243/44.

CONFEDERATE STATES: 13.

GUATEMALA: C42.

IRELAND: 103/04.

CUBA: 222.

HAITI: C11, RA9/16.

LIBERIA: 300, C54/6.

BRAZIL: 191, 480.

HONDURAS: C99b.

MONACO: 354.

COLUMBIA: 641.

MEXICO: 827, C168.

POLAND: 267, 319.

SAN MARINO: 267, 269/71.

TURKEY: 820.

Special Covers

Masonic Cachets, Pleasantville, New York

SPECIAL COVERS

On April 18, the Paul Revere stamp will be issued in Boston, Mass., and on April 28, the James Monroe stamp will be issued from Montross, Virginia. Both of these men were Masons and our Club welcomes the opportunity of honoring them with First Day covers, in these beautifully designed and finely engraved cachets:

Despite the fact that the Paul Revere stamp is a 25¢ denomination, these two covers, together with the special birthday anniversary cover for Bro. George Washington, will be sold at the price of \$1.00 for all three. The Geo. Washington birthday cover is sponsored by the George Washington Chapter of the Masonic Stamp Club of N. Y. and bears a MASONIC TEMPLE cancellation from Arlington, Virginia and dated Feb. 22. It will also carry three Washington 1¢ stamps.

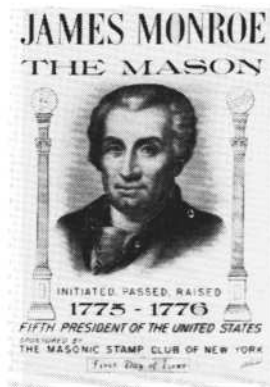
ONLY A LIMITED AMOUNT OF

CACHETS WILL BE ISSUED, and these will go to the first orders received. If you are a collector of MASONSONS ON STAMPS or if you want these cachets to send to others, be sure to send your order and check today to:

MASONIC CACHETS
Pleasantville, New York

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

On Saturday, February 22, the George Washington Chapter of the MSC held its annual pilgrimage to Mt. Vernon. The regular meeting of the chapter was held at 11:00, after which a lunch was served. Private cars and busses left the Masonic Hall at 12:30 with many members and their families and friends. After spending a very pleasant day together, the return trip was made at 4:30 P.M.



BRO. ROGER H. BRYANT

Roger H. Bryant, of Worcester, Massachusetts, died of a heart attack in his home on Wednesday night, December 4, 1957. He was division master mechanic of utilities at American Steel & Wire Division, U.S. Steel, since 1932.

Mr. Bryant was widely known in the philatelic field, where he had been active for many years in a number of societies. He was president of the National Precancel Society, secretary-treasurer and former president of the Worcester Philatelic Society, and former president of the Worcester Stamp Club. He was perhaps most widely known throughout the country for his work with the Bureau Issues Association, of which he was the national secretary. He was also a member of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, the Collectors Club of New York, the Wachusett Philatelic Society, and the New England Precancel Club.

Mr. Bryant was born in Wareham, Mass., and received his bachelor degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1920; two years later he received his electrical engineering degree there.

He was a member of the Morning Star Lodge of Masons.

(This very interesting letter from Bro. Philip Wilde of Cardiff, Wales, to Bro. Emanuel Reggel:)

Dear Manny:

The Hobbies Exhibition was so large at Cardiff this year that it was necessary to erect extremely large marquees. To the organizers, and everybody concerned, this was a marvelous idea and several days before the newspapers had publicity for this Hobbies Show as the greatest achievement of the moment.

We all know of the belated hurricane which swept the Atlantic and caused the unfortunate disaster to the "PAMIR," but nobody realized that the tail end of this would finish up on the Welsh coast and Bristol Channel.

Unfortunately, this decided to happen on the first day of the show, or

rather the day that was for the privileged viewers and the Exhibitors Preparation day. The South Wales Philatelic Society had been invited to exhibit and yours truly, my daughter Pat the secretary and several members of the Society worked like Trojans to get the show ready. When it was finally prepared and the stamps laid out, cellophane-covered (with some cases glass protected) everybody was highly delighted—until the next morning. This was the tragedy caused by the tail end of the hurricane which had to pick out the very tent in which was the stamp exhibit, and the enormous marquee was blown down. As luck would have it, it all fell down on to our side of the exhibit and our material was covered again when the tent was flat, but I always say that there is some destiny which guides certain people, and we were able to straighten our show again. One of the chief characteristics of the Welsh people is that though this marquee blew down at eleven o'clock at night, willing helpers worked all night and had it re-erected by nine o'clock the following morning, the official day.

During the first day the gale continued and if one can consider the humorous side it was the fact that as soon as the wind and rain was strong enough it came through the roof in one hand and mops, etc., in the other.

On the second day it was as though nothing had happened, the weather was fine and everybody was all smiles, and typical of the true British spirit it was all forgotten about and our lecturers were busy explaining to the visitors how interesting stamps really were.

Naturally a few of the mint stamps were no longer mint, but every member accepted his exhibits back without a single claim or grumble and congratulations came in right and left to the organizers for their wonderful efforts during a difficult session.

—P. H. Wilde.