

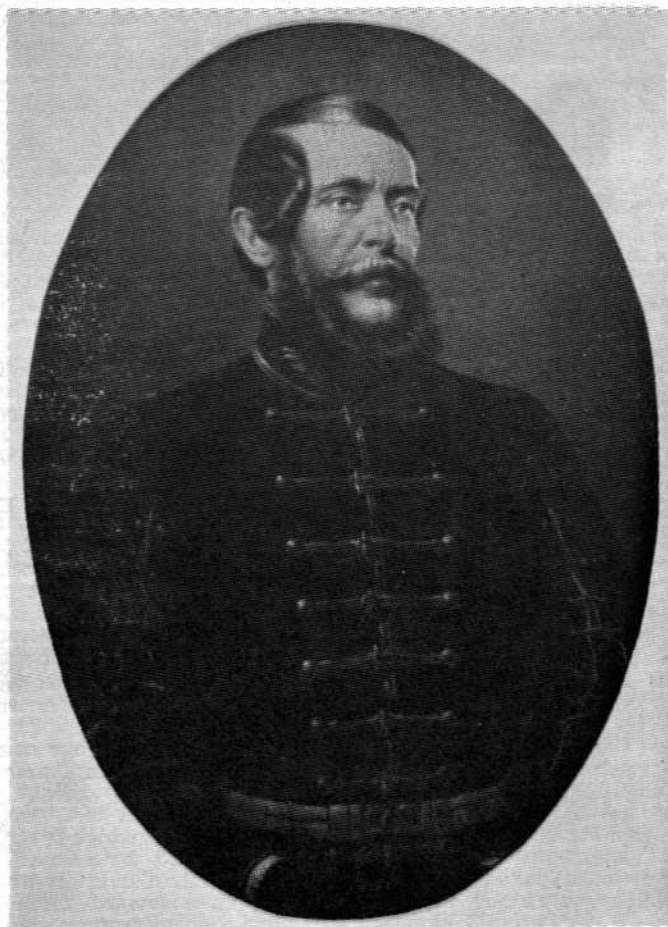


the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 15

SEPTEMBER 1958

NO. 1



BRO. LOUIS (LAJOS) KOSSUTH
A Fighter for Freedom—A Champion of Democratic Ideals
A Great Mason.

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

SEPTEMBER 1958
VOL. 15 NO. 1

MSC Silver Anniversary Year



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Member of the
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THE COVER

As you read this issue you will realize how proud we are that Bro. Louis (Lajos) Kossuth is being honored as a "FIGHTER FOR FREEDOM." The beautiful portrait on our cover was painted by Bro. M. Aurel Rasko of Ehlers Lodge #953, New York in 1940 from a contemporary daguerrotype for the Hungarian Reformed Federation of America, and it hangs in the Kossuth Building in Washington, D.C. We wish to thank the Federation for their permission to print this painting and for their contribution of other material. To the American Hungarian Federation and to Louis Cahn, Secy. of Cincinnati Lodge #133, in which Bro. Kossuth was raised, our appreciation for the many items of interest supplied.

MEETINGS

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

*Exceptions:

September 12, 1958 (2nd Friday)
January 9, 1959 (2nd Friday)

PROGRAM 1958-1959

Sept. 12—Arthur W. Deas Night.
Oct. 3—Theo. Roosevelt Night.
Nov. 7—Charles W. Johnson Night.
Dec. 5—Ralph A. Barry Night.
Jan. 9—Al Van Dahl Night.
Feb. 6—Past Presidents Night.
March 6—Thomas Phillips Night.
April 3—Ferrars H. Tows Night.
May 1—Harry A. Konwiser—8th Birth-day Celebration.
June 5-7—Silver Anniversary Week-end. Annual Meeting, Annual Dinner, Master of Philately Degree and Picnic.

Each of the above meetings will have special features, to be made known to the members as soon as arrangements have been completed. As we go to press arrangements are being made to honor our first President, Bro. Deas, by featuring a discussion on coins, for Bro. Deas was a leading numismatist.

As for that week-end, now being planned, it will include wives, mothers, daughters and sweethearts, so if you are coming from some distance, start making your plans, NOW.

President's Report

1957 - 58

This past season has proven beyond doubt the tremendous impact that the club is making in promoting Masonic Philately. The membership has now passed the 500 mark, with increasing interest and inquiries from all parts of the world.

In approaching our next year, which is our Silver Anniversary, the prospects look very bright. The Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y. has arrived at a plateau from which it can move toward greater and broader plans for its growth than ever in its history. How we move toward these broader horizons depends upon the officers and members. The various committees that will function must be national in scope and provide a thorough prospectus for this Silver Anniversary.

MSC Silver Anniversary Year

The groundwork for this has been prepared by the efforts of the various committees and officers during the past year. It is to these members that the club owes a vote of thanks and above all its whole-hearted support. I am happy to have had the association and help from such devoted and hard-working brother members. It is for the record to note that our membership chairman, Bro. Carl E. Pelander, has been most thorough in seeing that each applicant is in good standing in his lodge and often had to personally carry on a series of letters before the applicant has been proven acceptable. When at times, forty applications are being processed during a single month, this could become a full time job. However, Bro. Pelander still manages to run a successful stamp auction business. To his charming wife and co-worker, must be given credit for helping our hard-working chairman.

To our Editor of The Masonic Philatelist, Bro. Herman S. Kerstein, I must present a special bouquet of thanks—for he has been faithful and devoted to his responsibility. For the Masonic Philatelist alone he deserves the thanks of our members, but he has done so much more in the short time that he has been with the club. The new roster, about which it is only right to tell you, has been a one man job—Brother Kerstein's. I move a rising vote of thanks with hope that he will continue to serve in good health.

The work of our cachet committee is also a one man job. The specialist can produce and in Bro. E. Milnor Peck we are fortunate in having such a specialist. I doubt if any single individual has helped in publicizing the club as much as Brother Peck, and has provided a source of revenue to contribute to Masonic charities, plus hundreds of new members, and a boon to Masonic philately. I extend my thanks with my sincere best wishes. It is my hope that Brother Peck will continue to do this job that he knows so well.

For our secretary, Bro. Alvin D. Lurch, I am happy to have worked with for two reasons—one is that he took over my job, and second, as a new member, he too accepted his responsibility so remarkably well. Thank you Brother Lurch.

One of our past presidents, the chairman of the ritual committee, Bro. Carl H. Pihl, took on the treasurer'ship this past year. I must admit that he has served us well. His responsibilities as treasurer are not easy and to lighten

them each member should bring his dues up to date. To one who has been of great service to the club, our best to you Brother Carl H. Pihl.

The program this past year was in charge of Bro. S. Duffield Swan, no stranger to collectors of Masonic cancellations. In spite of some personal business changes that may have deterred any one from taking this job, he did provide an excellent program for the year. Nice going Doc.

The work of mailing notices has given our octogenarian member, Brother Gunter, a bit of a chore in his years of retirement. I know that his faithful performance is most deeply appreciated. Please keep well, Brother Gunter for the club's sake.

Last but not least, our able 1st vice-president, Bro. Emanuel Reggel, has been most valuable in advising and assisting me during the year, and with some leg-work managed to fill some very important chores for the club.

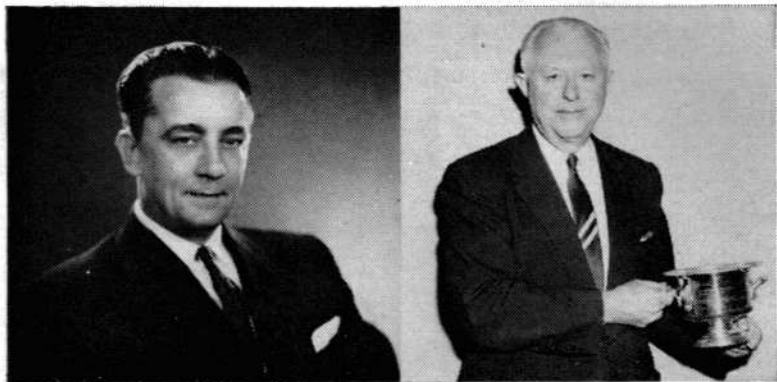
Many others have done their jobs especially Brother 'Jake' Glaser, who headed the Robert E. Fellers Testimonial Dinner Committee. My sincere thanks to all those who helped make this a success.

In summarizing the year's activities, several innovations were tried. The Cock-tail Party tendered to the members at the home of Brother Kerstein with all the fine, delicious food prepared and served by his charming wife as hostess, was a most delightful and never to be forgotten occasion. The members' exhibit was a bit different but very helpful, since the judges advised the members showing how to improve their displays for exhibition purposes. The testimonial dinner to Bro. 'Bob' Fellers should serve as a pattern for our Silver Anniversary Dinner which I hope will include the ladies.

In conclusion let me state that we have a very successful club and can look to the future with a great deal of hope. The ever increasing membership, the continued promotion of Masonic cachets, the formation of new chapters or regional representatives, the publication of a Masonic philatelic handbook, and even the acquisition of a building for our club are all possibilities for the future. I envision such plans and hopes and many others with great enthusiasm and feel that The Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y. can embark on such a program and continue to contribute to Masonic Charity with Benevolence and Good Fellowship.

Irwin W. Yarry.

Fellers and Bruns Are Honored



Robert E. Fellers, first director of the Division of Philately in the Post Office Department, and Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., who now holds that post, are shown here as they received the first Leo and Samuel August First Day Cover Awards last month at a testimonial dinner given at the Essex House, Newark, N.J., by the American First Day Cover Society.

Mr. Fellers is shown holding the silver bowl inscribed "The Leo and Samuel August First Day Cover Award, 1958, for Outstanding Contributions to the Hobby of First Day Cover Collecting. Presented to Robert E. Fellers."

A similar bowl, suitably inscribed, was presented to Mr. Bruns, who is pictured at the left.

Besides the inscribed trophy bowls, both Mr. Fellers and Mr. Bruns received \$500 U.S. Savings Bonds.

The awards have been instituted by Leo and Samuel August, proprietors of the Washington Press, to encourage interest and research in the collecting of first day covers.

H. L. Lindquist, chairman of the National Federation of Stamp Clubs, presided at the testimonial dinner at which the Leo and Samuel August awards were given for the first time. Speakers included Bernard Ring, executive vice president of the American First Day Cover Society; Jack M. Pomerantz, society president; Norman H. Lee, society secretary, and the donors of the award. Greetings were read from many well-known philatelists.

Mr. Fellers, receiving the award, told of his beginnings in the postal service and of the growth of first day cover collecting he witnessed in the years be-

fore his retirement in 1957.

Mr. Bruns told of seeing the growth of first day cover collecting during the years he was stamp editor of the New York Sun and during his service as curator of the Division of Philately and Postal History in the Smithsonian Institution before he assumed the Post Office Department position late last year. He outlined plans of the postal service for future issues and told of some of the innovations planned for the future.

Place cards of the 3¢ Gunston Hall commemorative were used as place cards at the dinner which was attended by nearly 100 individuals who are prominent in the philatelic world.—Western Stamp Collector, July 19, 1958.

"Prosperity is not always, gentlemen, a guarantee of the future, if it be not accompanied with a constant resolution to obey the call of the genius of the time. Nay, material prosperity is often the mark of real decline, when it either results in, or is connected with a moral stagnation in the devoted attachment to principles. Rome was never richer, never was mightier than under Tarjan, and yet it had already the sting of death in its very heart." (Kossuth: Lexington, Mass., May 11, 1852.)

"Freedom never yet was given to nations as a gift, but only as a reward bravely earned by one's own exertions, own sacrifices, and own toil and never will, never shall it be obtained otherwise." (Kossuth: Boston, Mass., Faneuil Hall, May 14, 1852.)

Sidney F. Barrett



We had already gone to press with our June issue when we learned of the passing of Bro. Barrett, who died at the Greenport, Long Island, Hospital, on June 18. Bro. Sidney had been ill for quite some time, but his death came as a shock to all who knew him. He was 65 years old.

Bro. Barrett started as a full-time stamp dealer in September 1909, and has been continuously in business for the past forty-nine years. From 1909 to 1911 he was connected with the Manhattan Stamp Company, followed by eleven years (1911-1922) with Stanley Gibbons, Inc., under the late Eustace B. Power. In 1922 he became associated with Edward Stern in the Economist Stamp Company, and this association proved so satisfactory that in 1929 the company was incorporated with Bro. Barrett as a partner. He continued in this capacity until the firm was dissolved in 1951. Since then he has operated under his own name.

Sidney Barrett has always taken an active part in organized philately and held many important positions. For

some years he was president of the American Stamp Dealer's Association, and while in that capacity made many trips throughout Europe which resulted in numerous important contacts.

He was an active worker in the First International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in the United States in 1913, and in the following ones, held in 1926, 1936, 1947, and 1956, he was on the board of directors and had charge of several important committees. He was also a director of the Association for Stamp Exhibitions, Inc., under whose supervision these international shows were held.

Bro. Barrett was treasurer of the Association for Stamp Exhibitions for many years, as well as of the National Federation of Stamp Clubs, and the American Stamp Dealers' Association, posts which he held right up to the time of his passing. He had also been an active worker over many years in the Collectors Club of New York, and was on its board of governors. He was a life member of the American Philatelic Society and the Junior Philatelic Society of London, as well as holding membership in many other organizations. Among these are the Society of Philatelic Americans, the National Philatelic Museum, American Air Mail Society, Aero Philatelists, Inc., Masonic Stamp Club, Scandinavian Stamp Collectors Club, the Bureau Issues Association, and others.

Bro. Barrett was constantly in demand as a speaker and judge at exhibitions, and always had an interesting message to give.

For the past few years he had also been the editor of the Scott specialized catalog, in which he had made several desirable innovations.

Bro. Barrett is survived by his wife, May Barrett, who has also gained a host of friends in the philatelic field; and a daughter, Mrs. Walter Schuman, also two grandchildren and two sisters. In his passing we lose another one of philately's "Greats," whose place it will be impossible to fill.

He was connected with several organizations and was both a 32nd Degree Mason and a Shriner.—"Stamps."

KOSSUTH—ON RUSSIA (Over 100 years ago!)

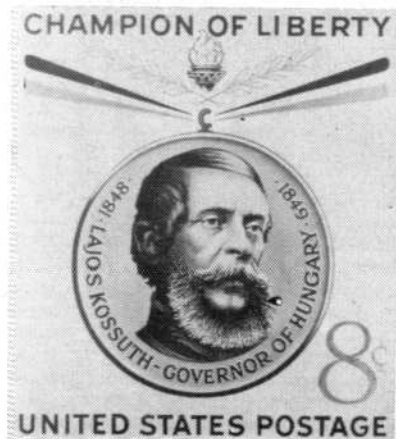
"One thing I am sure of, and that is, that Russia triumphant in Europe, can and will attack you in your most vital interests, and can hurt you mortally, without even resorting to war." (Pittsburgh Festival, Jan. 26, 1852.)

Fighters For Freedom

Part 2

Lajos (Louis) Kossuth

By JOHN A. MIRT



Of especial interest to American Masonic philatelists is that of Kossuth (1802-1894), who was made a Mason in the United States.

Kossuth, a Budapest lawyer, worked for the separation of Hungary from Austria. He proclaimed the Hungarian Republic in 1849. The movement for freedom failed when Russian forces joined with Austria to suppress the revolution, and Kossuth was forced to flee the country.

(Ironically, in 1952, Communistically-dominated Hungary which suppressed Freemasonry, issued a 20¢ stamp in his "Holiday of Liberty" series bearing the portrait of Kossuth.)

In 1851, by Congressional resolution, a United States battleship was sent to bring him from England. On December 7, 1851 (a century later) the **New York Times**, commenting editorially on the 100th anniversary of Kossuth's arrival on American soil, said in part:

"On December 7, 1851, the cannons boomed, the church bells rang and the whistles of the boats in New York harbor went full blast as Louis Kossuth, Hungary's dauntless exile, stepped ashore at the battery. New Yorkers by the thousands gave him a wildly enthusiastic welcome . . . He caused so much excitement here because he symbolized something dear to Americans

—the spirit of freedom."

The editorial raised some question whether Kossuth should be honored because the newspaper considered him a chauvinist—an over-zealous and extravagant glorifier of his country, yet added: "But we do not honor him for his chauvinism but because he did, for all his faults, burn with the clear passion of freedom."

While here, Kossuth under date of February 18, 1852, petitioned Cincinnati Lodge No. 133, F. & A. M., Cincinnati. The petition was somewhat unusual. It read:

"The petition of the subscriber respectfully sheweth that having long entertained a favorable opinion of your Ancient Institution, he is desirous of being admitted a member thereof, if found worthy.

"Being an exile for Liberty's sake, and having no place of fixed residence, is now staying at Cincinnati; his age is 49½ years; his occupation is to restore his native land, Hungary, to its national independence, and to achieve by community of action with other nations, civil and religious liberty in Europe.

Louis Kossuth."

The petition was made a "case of emergency" and action taken thereon. The degrees were conferred within two days. A week later, speaking before Center Lodge No. 23, at Indianapolis, Kossuth said:

"The Masonic brotherhood is one which tends to better the conditions of mankind, and we are delighted to know it enlists the attention of so many Brethren among you as we find surrounding us here . . . To one like myself, without a country or a home, dependent upon the hospitality of strangers for life and protection, a great substitute for all my privations is, I find, to be surrounded by Brethren of the Masonic Order."

On another occasion, Kossuth said: "If all men were Freemasons, oh, what a worldwide and glorious republic we should have!"

In the **Freemasons Monthly Magazine** of June 1852, I found a most interesting account of his visit to the

Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in Boston, May 10, 1852. More than 400 were present, and hundreds were turned away.

"Could the doors of the Grand Lodge have been thrown open, and the public found space to hear his remarks, they would have seen that the oracles of Ancient Craft Masonry at all times and in all places, wherever uttered, breathed only the freedom of man, attachment to good order, and love of virtue," said the magazine. "The great Magyar only spoke, in his eloquent way, the true principles of the Institution."

Kossuth was quoted as then also saying: "Masonry has never flourished where a country is ruled by despotism."

That statement, made a century ago, holds good today. Speculative Masonry was established in Hungary more than 200 years ago. In 1920, the Symbolic Grand Lodge of Hungary was suppressed by a governmental decree. That order was rescinded in 1946, but in June 1950, the government announced that the lodges of Freemasonry in Hungary had been dissolved.

The reason, according to the official statement, was that the lodges were "the meeting places of the enemies of the People's Democratic (Communist) Republic; of capitalistic elements, and of the adherents of western imperialism."

Kossuth is honored on numerous Hungarian stamps.

How Kossuth Was Made a Mason

Your Editor enjoyed corresponding with the sincere and cooperative Secretary of Cincinnati Lodge No. 133 F. & A. M., Brother Louis Cahn, and from him we received detailed transcripts of the meetings held by his Lodge on February 18-19-20 & 21st, 1852. It was in these special meetings that Louis Kossuth, Col. Count Gregory Bethlen, Peter A. Nagy, Paul Haynik and Dr. Julius Utosy (Strasser) presented their petitions; then initiated Entered Apprentices; passed to the degree of Fellowcraft and finally raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons. At each meeting there was a large attendance of brethren and visitors, as might be expected.

The hand-written petition of Louis Kossuth, still in good and readable condition, is a part of the archives of the Lodge, and we show it in this issue. It read as follows:

"To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of Cincinnati Lodge Free & Accepted Masons No. 133:

"The petition of the subscriber respectfully showed that, having long entertained a favorable opinion of your ancient institution, he is desirous of being admitted a member thereof, if found worthy.

"Being an exile for liberty's sake, he has no place of fixed residence but is now staying at Cincinnati, his age is 49½ years, his occupation is to restore his native land Hungary to its national independence and, to achieve by community of action with other nations,

civil and religious liberty in Europe."

Signed: Louis Kossuth.

Recommended by:

F. Bodman

Augustus Wm. Beyse

Cincinnati, Ohio. Feb. 18, 1852.

Brother Cahn advises us that Bro. Kossuth and his staff were royally entertained by the city officials of Cincinnati and cordially acclaimed by the citizenry. When we questioned the possibility of Peter A. Nagy, raised with Kossuth, as being a possible relative of the now martyred Imre Nagy, he informed me that it was quite possible, but that the name "Nagy" is quite common in Hungary, "such as Smith and Jones in these United States." We pursued the thought no longer. Bro. Cahn also added that he had been told by friends, who travelled abroad that "a monument was erected to Bro. Kossuth in Budapest and that on it the fact is related that he was a Free Mason in Cincinnati, although our records relate that, immediately after their raising, all of them (5), requested their demits and we have no record that these were later submitted to any Lodge in Europe."

May we add that since these Fighters for Freedom had to take refuge in Italy, there may not have been the opportunity of affiliation with a Lodge, at that time.

Wheeling, Va., originated a black grid cancellation for the 1847 first U.S. stamps.

Editor's Notebook:

We hope that our members enjoyed the Summer and will now pick up their pens or start pecking on their portables. As was expected, our correspondence fell off considerably, enabling us to do some reading and research on the Erother to whom this issue is dedicated: Louis (born Lajos) Kossuth. Frankly, I had heard the name before but knew little about this dynamic person, and the more I read of him, the greater the respect and admiration became. So much so, that I could have devoted twice the number of pages just quoting parts of his brilliant speeches. In England and the United States, these profound words were spoken in English, which he taught himself during his four years in prison, and in a manner of speaking he did his post-graduate work in English, in the Jozsef barracks. His first request was for Arnold's English grammar, Walker's English dictionary and the English text of Shakespeare's works. A few years later he held immense English and American audiences spellbound with his oratory.

We are deeply grateful to the Hungarian Reformed Federation of America for adding The History of Hungary to our library; and to the American Hungarian Federation for its kind invitation to be present when the Postmaster General personally will hand out the first sheets of the Kossuth commemorative. To the Hungarian Reformed Federation for "KOSSUTH—A MAGYAR APOSTLE OF WORLD DEMOCRACY" by Endre Sebestyen. It is from these wonderful books and these fine people; from the Masonic Review of Cincinnati; from the gracious Secretary of Cincinnati Lodge #133 that we gathered so much material. We are also indebted to the Council of Freemasons of Hungarian origin for their booklet "Kossuth, Liberator and Mason."

Little wonder then, that in the eight months that Kossuth was here in the U.S. he received honors such as have never been given to a visiting foreigner. Two hundred and fifty poems extolled his greatness including one by John Greenleaf Whittier, who greeted him as "the noblest guest;" one by James Russel Lowell, which we print on page 11.

We did say that correspondence fell off, but we could depend upon a few of the faithful to keep us on our toes,

and those include Bros. **Walter R. Harbeson**, of Columbus, Ohio; **Albert R. Merz**, of Washington, D.C., and **Charles C. Sanna**, of good old Staten Island, N.Y. Bro. Harbeson wants facts, and after he gets them, he wants them backed up. For instance: when Bro. F. Walter Mueller 33rd, of Sparta, N.Y., had an article in New Age, in which he listed Thomas Jefferson and Madison as Masons, Walter questioned his source of information. From Bro. Mueller, he received the following: "Oh yes, further data on Jefferson and Madison how authentic I cannot say but have run across this since writing you. In a fine large A. J. Holman Company, Holy Bible, 20th Century edition, there is listed Thomas Jefferson, Charlottesville Lodge #90, Charlottesville, Va. Also James Madison, Hiram Lodge #49, Westmoreland County, Va. . . ." So what does Bro. Harbeson write Bro. Mueller? He wants more information about where the Bible is and where the Brother read about Jefferson. Bro. **Raymond Houghton**, of Scotia, N.Y., asks about sending extra stamps to the Masonic Home in Utica, where he once sent his stamps. We checked with Utica and were sorry to learn that this work is no longer being done there. Seems that it was dropped and no one took it over. Bro. Houghton asks about one of our members now in residence there, and we presume he means Bro. Harry Konwiser, whose health would not permit him to do this work. And, Bro. **Sanna** wants to know when the MSC will be holding its next exhibition. He has been working all Summer on some "new ideas" that should move philately ahead (or back) many years. Bro. **Alvin Lurch**, our hard working Secretary, submits some interesting data: The MSC added 174 new members during the past year; but we were saddened with the passing of 15 of our Brothers. There were 15 new names added to the Master of Philately degree. The addition of these members brings focus on two of our members, who work hard all year long, in their quiet and efficient manner: Bro. Carl Pelander who, with the aid of his lovely wife, processes all applications, and that is a real tough job. And our octogenarian from the wilds of Jamaica, Long Island (and did you notice that his collections center on Jamaica, B.W.I.?) who never fails to keep our memories jogged about attending meetings. He pens all those cards himself, and what a steady handwriting has our good Brother **Harold**

Gunter. From that far-off kingdom in Asia, Afghanistan, we have a brief but most interesting note from **Bro. Colonel Arthur W. Hodges:** He advises us that the address in the Roster, an APO mailing has "a usual travel time of two to six months. The international mail address takes about two months by regular mail, about ten days at most by air mail." Little wonder, when you realize that Kabul, Afghanistan is bounded on the north by USSR, on the west by Iran, with a corner of Red China and the disputed Jammu and Kashmir touching it in spots. Wish we could get some interesting observations from Bro. Hodges, for this little independent buffer state has much to be written about. His preferred address? OArma, American Embassy, Kabul, Afghanistan.

THE GET-TOGETHER OF A LIFETIME—JOIN US!

On January 6, 1959 the great Cunard Liner, S. S. Mauretania will leave New York City for 13 eventful days to the Caribbean ports of Nassau, St. Thomas, Martinique, Trinidad, Curacao and Havana. Masons, Eastern Stars and their friends from all over the United States and Canada will enjoy fraternal and friendship-filled, luxurious days together. Cunard's completely air-conditioned and all first-class Mauretania guarantees all this for as little as \$325.00 per person.

New York State's Grand Master and Grand Lodge Officers will hold Masonic receptions each day so that it will be a great opportunity for closer Masonic friendships. Only 600 will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. For full information and deck plans write immediately to R. W. M. M. Witherpoon, Empire State Mason Cruise Committee, 71 West 23rd Street, New York 10, New York. Phone ORegon 5-3720.

WHAT'S NEW, HERMAN?

Some people need publicity agents, but not Bro. Herman Herst, Squire of Shrub Oak, New York. Most enjoyable reading are his paid advertisements in "Stamps" and other papers but it's the free advertising he gets, to which we call your attention. Note all the free space he received on the helicopter crash in Brussels? How often does a helicopter crash? . . . only when Herman is aboard. And how often does an entire pouch of registered mail disappear? . . . only when it belongs to Herman. True, they caught the thief, who had destroyed much of the

contents, so it was obvious he was no philatelist. He would have held on to those wonderful items sold by Bro. Herst.

Seriously, however, we want to call your attention to a very readable and most enjoyable house organ issued by Herman Herst, called "HERST'S OUTBURSTS," which he sends out every once-in-a-while. The most recent one of 20 pages was a dandy, and all you need to do to receive these issues, is to send him six self-addressed stamped envelopes, and tell him we sent you.

MASTER OF PHILATELY DEGREE

In our last issue, we mentioned that splendid degree work was performed immediately after the Annual Dinner, but we did not give credit to the fine team that did this work, nor did we mention the names of our new Masters of Philately. The degree team was composed of Bros. Emanuel Reggel, Carl Pihl, Dr. Grossman, Morris Strauss, John Shelse, Dr. Yarry, and our excellent Orator, Alvin D. Lurch.

From the George Washington Chapter #1, Washington, D.C., the following brothers had conferred upon them the degree of Master of Philately:

Robert E. Fellers, Sol Glass, James N. Wong, E. Robert Clas, Herman Lichty, Carl E. Wald, Ralph C. Huntington and William E. Salomon.

Other members, attending the Dinner, also received this degree and it was the largest number initiated at one time:

Bros. Richard C. Dahlem, Samuel A. Poe, E. Milnor Peck, Charles C. Sanna, Norman H. Sehlmeier, John W. Nicklin, William E. Salomon and George W. Rumsey.

Congratulations, all.

"Do you know, Gentlemen, what I consider to be your most glorious monument? If it be, as I have read, that when your engineers draw geometrical lines to guide your wandering squatters in the solitudes where virgin nature adores her lord, they place on every thirty-sixth square of the district marked out to be a township, a modest wooden pole with the glorious mark: POPULAR EDUCATION. This is your proudest monument." (Kossuth: Press Banquet, NYC, Dec. 15, 1851.)

"Protectorate is always the first step which Russia takes when desiring to conquer." (Syracuse, N.Y., June 4, 1852.)

OF AND ABOUT LOUIS KOSSUTH

The record shows that Louis Kossuth was born in Monok in 1802. His family was of Lutheran persuasion, and its roots went farther back in the Danube's soil than history remembered. His education was the traditional one for the landowning class of his day, classical instruction at the Piarist School at Satoraljanhely, followed by a legal course at Eperjes. After this, young Kossuth studied philosophy at the College at Saropatak. These were the most liberal Protestant institutions of his day. They gave Kossuth not only the inspiration to be free, but the basic thoughts that freedom belonged to all men, that it was inherent property, not a granted right.

Even at school, Kossuth demonstrated something that people wanted. He seemed to exude the feeling of liberty. Loved reverently by the populace, he was elected to a proxy seat in Parliament where he served from 1832 to 1836. This was followed by his election as a full voting member. This act by the people appeared to be the green light for Kossuth to start the widespread preaching of the Washingtonian ideals, which were diametrically opposed to the authoritarian government of the Hapsburg dynasty. These ideas resulted in a four year prison sentence for Kossuth. During his confinement, Kossuth managed to procure a Holy Bible, a copy of Shakespeare's Works and an English Dictionary. With these as his only tools, Kossuth taught himself English, a skill which stood him in good stead during his later life in England and the United States. As you read his speeches, it is well to bear this fact in mind.

As Finance Minister in the Government of 1848, he represented the Opposition Party and as their undisputed leader, Hungary declared its independence of Austria and even though they had a small, but gallant army, it could not resist the hordes of Russian troops introduced by Austria to put down this revolution. Kossuth fled to Turkey where he was held prisoner until intercession from a sympathetic United States resulted in his freedom.

The United States had promised immediate recognition of the Hungarian Republic as soon as separation became stable. Due to the unprecedented interest on the part of the American people in the whole attempt at liberation and in the noble character of Kossuth as a man, the U. S. S. Mississippi was dispatched to bring him to free

soil. He first went to London, and arrived in New York on December 5, 1851, on the S. S. Humboldt.

Reliable contemporary observers stated that Kossuth's welcome in New York equalled that later rendered Admiral Dewey after the victory at Manila Bay. He spoke before Congress and proclaimed his intention to seek sympathetic, financial and political aid for the freedom and independence of Hungary, within the limits of our laws. This Apostle of Freedom witnessed some of the most brilliant parades New York had ever seen. The populace lined the streets for miles. He was presented to the New York Bar Association as "the personification of the great principle which forms the cornerstone of our own revered constitution . . . the right of self government."

FROM SPEECHES BY KOSSUTH

(After becoming a Mason in Cincinnati, in Cincinnati Lodge #133 on February 20, 1852, he visited many Lodges throughout the country, where his speeches were sought and well received. Here, we bring you excerpts from several of those made.)

CENTRE LODGE #23,
INDIANAPOLIS:

"**WORSHIPFUL MASTER:** It is a great pleasure to myself and friends to be received by you with so warm a greeting. We are deeply indebted to the brethren and yourself for the expressions of sympathy. The Masonic brotherhood is one which tends to better the conditions of mankind, and we are delighted to find it enlists the attention of so many brethren among you as we find surrounding us here.

"Besides the great antiquity of the order, which should endear it to all good Masons, its excellent precepts and high moral teachings must induce all good members of the order to appreciate its benevolent purposes and useful works. To one like myself, without a country or a home, dependent on the hospitality of strangers for life and protection, a great substitute for all my privations, I find, is to be surrounded by brethren of the Masonic Order."

GRAND LODGE OF
MASSACHUSETTS:

"From early youth I was predisposed by my sentiments and religious inclinations to search out truth, and when found and seen to follow it with faith all the rest of my life. The principles of Masonry are not contrary to the

principles of freedom and humanity, but, in my opinion, they tend to promote and strengthen the welfare of the community. As to my own country, the members of the House of Austria have ruled my native land by our own free choice for three centuries, and only Joseph II had the reputation of being a Mason and promoting the Masonic Fraternity. Freemasonry then flourished in Hungary, but it has since been put down. When called a short time since to be Governor, I knew times were then too full of danger for Masonry to prosper.

"From Russia, no sun will ever rise. There is sky and air and water there; but to find the sunlight where it most spreads and lightens the path of freedom, we must come to America. All who now suffer from oppression in the East, look with hope to the free institutions of this Western world; for it should be remembered that although this country, the United States is west of Europe, it is East of Asia; and from this east, light may again dawn on that denighted region." (How prophetic was this Brother, over 100 years ago.)

ST. JOHN'S LODGE #1,
NEWARK, N. J.:

"It is not given to man to choose his destiny, but it is given to all to fulfill the part which Divine Providence has assigned them, and therefore it is not pride, but humility which makes me say that I have, by the will of Providence, a mission assigned to me, to be the advocate of principles of brotherly love, not only in the smallest circles, but to try to raise that principle to be the ruling among nations."

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI,
MARCH 3, 1852:

"Oh, if all men were Free Masons, what a world-wide and glorious republic we should have."

KOSSUTH . . . HIS PASSING

True to his oath, Kossuth never returned to Hungary alive, so long as a Hapsburg sat on Hungary's throne. Most beautifully has the events surrounding Kossuth's death and funeral been described by Right Worshipful Morris Cukor, Grand Representative to the Symbolic Grand Lodge of Hungary near the Grand Lodge of New York, on the occasion of the ninety-sixth Masonic birthday of Louis Kossuth and the hundredth anniversary of the Hungarian revolution:

"On March 20th, 1894, at Turin, Italy,

the soul of Kossuth was wafted to Heaven on the prayers of his enfranchised countrymen. The people of Hungary, ever grateful to the warm-hearted Italians for their magnanimous hospitality to Kossuth, immediately arranged that the earthly remains of their national hero be restored to the bosom of his passionately beloved soil: April 4th was the day and Budapest, the place. The Hungarian-American societies, stirred by the emotion, at once organized for a token funeral in New York. The roster of the Committee, headed by the then President Grover Cleveland, was a veritable "Who's Who" in America.

A POETIC TRIBUTE

(One of the greatest tributes ever paid to Bro. Kossuth were the lines penned in his honor by the bard of freedom, James Russell Lowell.)

"A race of nobles may die out,
A royal line may leave no heir;
Wise Nature sets no guards about
Her pewter plate and wooden ware.

"But they fail not, the kinglier breed,
Who starry diadems attain;
To dungeon, axe and stake succeed
Heirs of the old heroic strain.

"The zeal of nature never cools,
Nor is she thwarted of her ends;
When gapped and dulled her cheaper tools,
Then she a Saint and prophet sends.

"Land of the Magyars, though it be
The tyrant may relink his chain,
Already thine the victory,
As the just Future measures gain.

"Thou hast succeeded; thou hast won
The deathly travail's amplest worth;
A nation's duty thou hast done,
Giving a hero to our earth.

"And he, let come what will of woe,
Has saved the land he strove to save;
No Cossack hordes, no traitor's blow,
Can quench the voice shall haunt
his grave.

"I Kossuth am; O Future, thou
That clear'st the just and blott'st
the vile,
O'er this small dust in reverence bow,
Remembering what I was erewhile.

"I was the chosen trump wherethrough
Our God sent forth awakening
breath;
Came chains? Came death? The strain
He blew
Sounds on, outliving chains and
death."

Reserve Your Masonic Cachets . . . NOW!

Lajos (Louis) Kossuth

Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt

Now in preparation, and soon to be announced, are two outstanding covers of interest to all Masons in general, and philatelic Masons, in particular.

No collection on Masonic Philately could be complete without a first day cover of that great apostle of freedom, Lajos (Louis) Kossuth, about whom much has been written in this issue, and to whom it has been dedicated. A special design is now being prepared by a famous Hungarian artist, and will soon be made available for your inspection.

Although our government is not issuing a Theodore Roosevelt commemorative, the Masonic Stamp Club of New York intends honoring this great American and outstanding Mason, with a cachet on the 100th anniversary of his birth, and our October issue of the Masonic Philatelist will be dedicated to him. We will use the Forest Conservation stamp on this first day cover, and rightly so, for Brother Teddy Roosevelt was one of the country's most vehement advocates of forest conservation.

These two beautifully designed and finely engraved covers will soon be offered through our committee on MASONIC CACHETS, giving all details on price and mailing. But we have been advised that once again, only a limited number will be printed, so keep in mind that as soon as you receive full information, that you will send in your order . . . without delay. As usual, part of the proceeds will be donated to a Masonic charity and the balance to the MSC building fund.

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