



the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 15

JANUARY, 1959

NO. 5

· GREETINGS OF THE SEASON ·



The MASONIC PHILATELIST

JANUARY, 1959
VOL. 15 NO. 5

M. S. C. Silver Anniversary



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The Ralph A. Barry-Al Van Dahl
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of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York



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THE COVER

Because we did not send our Holiday Greeting cards to many members, we have had it re-printed on the cover of this issue. Your Editor wishes you and yours a Happy, and a Healthy New Year, as do your Officers and your Board of Governors. We would like to see more of you attending the meetings, but if you do not live in the immediate location, we would enjoy hearing from you, frequently.

PROGRAM 1959

Jan. 9—Second annual pre-meeting Cocktail Party, to start the New Year on a good-fellowship relationship. Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Place: 8 East 96th St., NYC near cor. Fifth

MEETINGS

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

*Exceptions:

January 9, 1959 (2nd Friday)

Avenue. Home of Herman Kerstein
All members are invited.

Jan. 9—Al Van Dahl Night. Immediately following party, and at 8:00 p.m. sharp, the Masonic Philatelist will be host this night dedicated to its benefactor. Bro. Harry L. Lindquist will be the speaker.

Jan. 30—The second of a series of "Swap Nights." Those who attended the previous one on October 31, enjoyed every moment. For those who wish, an a la carte dinner specializing on German cuisine, and at reasonable prices. Come early (about 6:00 p.m.) and stay as long as you wish. Entirely informal and lots of fun. If you are a good trader, you should do well. Bring one stamp or a trunkful. Bro. Joe Ferrola has made all arrangements for an enjoyable evening. Place: German Masonic Temple. Location: on 15th St., NYC (between 2nd & 3rd Ave.). Date: January 30.

Feb. 6—Past Presidents Night.

March 6—Thomas Phillips Night.

April 3—Ferrars H. Tows Night.

May 1—Harry A. Konwiser 80th Birthday Celebration.

June 5-7—Silver Anniversary Weekend. Annual Meeting. Annual Dinner, Master of Philately Degree, Picnic.

Each of the above meetings will have special features, to be made known to the members as soon as arrangements have been completed. We would like to have a good attendance at each of these meetings for much work is being done by your Program Committee to make these meetings outstanding and their only reward is your appearance. Besides, you will be in for some mighty pleasant and informative evenings.

Plan for that Silver Anniversary Weekend... NOW!! Some of the events are being arranged so that women may attend. There will be stamp exhibits and prizes and it is not too soon to get that collection in good and proper form.

MSC Silver Anniversary Year

Brother Ralph A. Barry Night

December 5, 1958

We gathered this evening to pay tribute to the memory of our Brother Ralph A. Barry, President of The Masonic Stamp Club, 1938-1939. Brother Barry gained the heights of philately not only as a collector but also by way of The Fourth Estate, having been a working member of the press, serving as editor of the philatelic section of the New York Herald-Tribune.

The high standard of his work in that field is best attested to by the fact that Col. Hans Lagerloef, who was a great admirer of Bro. Barry, placed in competition the Ralph A. Barry Memorial Trophy, a silver bowl, to be awarded annually to the editor of a stamp column, appearing in a United States newspaper, who most closely attained the excellence displayed by Bro Barry.



Bro. Franklin R. Bruns

The speaker of the evening was our Bro. Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., who like Bro. Barry, had been a philatelic editor, in which field he distinguished himself as an outstanding authority, resulting in his appointment as Curator of the Division of Philately and Postal History at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. in 1951. He continued in that position until Nov. 18, 1957 when he was appointed Director of the Division of Philately of the Post Office Department.

The strength of the tie that binds is in the depth of its foundation. Bro. Bruns, Jr., by an excellent choice of words and the ring of sincerity in their presentation proclaimed his admiration for Bro. Barry. Toward the close of his talk Bro. Bruns, Jr., sounded the

depth of his feelings when he said of Bro. Barry, "He was my Patron."

—Alvin D. Lurch, Secretary.

The following is the address made by Bro. Franklin R. Bruns, Jr.:

"First, I am proud to introduce my father-in-law Right Worshipful Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Colorado near the Grand Lodge of New York. (The members rose and applauded.) The years have rolled by with their good and bad. They have seemed endless and yet each day seems to have gotten shorter and shorter. Twenty-seven years ago I became part of the New York Sun. I had been a stamp collector for 11 years before that and I avidly read the weekly column in the Herald-Tribune, so that one of my first acts was to urge the N.Y. Sun to start a column on stamps. This it did on Jan. 23, 1932, and three months later I became Stamp Editor, just as "Balasea" opened its doors. Some, as Jake Glaser, remember the 19 year old kid who entered the scene at that time, April 23, 1932. I will always remember them, the Glaser's, Elkin's, Martin's, Fabian's, Bradley's, Wycherly's and all. I will also remember a kindly man, who might have been a "competitor," but who rather was a guide, and a sponsor . . . that man was Ralph A. Barry. I am here tonight as one of his friends—his co-workers—and his admirers.

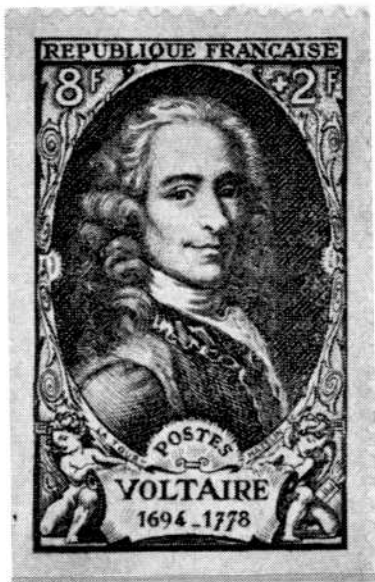
"Ralph Barry was a kindly man. He was a quiet man and he was a thorough man. Sensation-push-anger were not for him. His writings were well phrased and carefully checked for accuracy. He would rather be right than timely, even in the highly competitive newspaper world. It was natural, then, that his writings should be awaited with interest, and his statements should be accepted as fact. By the same token, his opinions were constantly sought, and his articles were frequently reprinted.

"Ralph Barry was not afraid — he wrote for the good of philately as he saw it. He was among the first to delve into the "Farley" imperforates and his writings were frequently men-

(Continued on Page 11)

Voltaire Was a Freemason

By BRO. RAY V. DENSLOW, PMG
(Editor—The Royal Arch Mason)



"I die adoring God, loving my friends, not hating enemies, and detesting superstition."

These are not the words of an atheist. They are the dying words of Jean Francois Marie Arouet, the pen name of a famous French author known as Voltaire.

Voltaire, as we shall call him, was born Nov. 21, 1694, in Paris, France. He died in the same city May 30, 1778. Different dates have been given for his birth and death, but the ones given here are generally accepted.

He was the outstanding author, playwright, encyclopedist, and outspoken critic of the established church in France. It is probably because of his criticism that his enemies (the church) labeled him an atheist—which he is not. Actually he was a Deist, which is quite different from Atheist. We who know him to be a Freemason know that the appellation was incorrect because to become a Freemason one must express a belief in Deity.

A writer in the Oregon Freemason best expressed Voltaire's status in the following:

"Voltaire used those great talents wherewith God had blessed him for

the welfare of his fellow men. He was one of the greatest champions of human liberty that ever lived.

He befriended the poor and oppressed; he fought every form of injustice and always resorted to the use of the pen rather than the sword.

He never attacked real religion, the sincere worship of God, or the honest faith of any man, but aimed his barbs at the hypocrites: those who used religion as a cloak to hide behind while they upheld oppression of the people.

How the scribes and pharises of his day did squirm when he unmasked their pretenses and pointed at them the finger of scorn.

It was the ideas of this Freemason and philosopher, set in motion, that led at least indirectly to the French Revolution which liberated the people from the rule of a tyrannical monarch and a corrupt priesthood."

He was initiated into Freemasonry April 7, 1778 at the advanced age of 84; the initiation took place in Paris in the famous Lodge of "Les Neuf Soeurs" (The Nine Sisters), the ceremony being conducted by the celebrated French astronomer, Joseph Lalande, with Conte de Stroganoff (Court Chamberlain of the Empress Catherine of Russia) and Colonel LaRoche, as wardens.

No one ever had a better escort into the Lodge, for these proved to be Benjamin Franklin of the United States and Count de Gebelin of France. The Lodge of which he became a member was composed of the most famous scientists and literary men of the day.

We are told that because of the extreme age of the candidate many of the usual preparations for admission were dispensed with, but certainly not the requirement that he express a belief in Deity. He was invested with a Masonic Apron, which belonged to Claude Helvetius.

Those who visit his tomb in the Pantheon in Paris, know that the motto which appears over his sepulcher, represents the true character of a noble individual: "Here Lies Voltaire." No more is required.

—From the Masonic World.
(Sent in by Bro. Walter Harbeson.)

CLARA BARTON
An Eastern Star
 By R. M. Needham



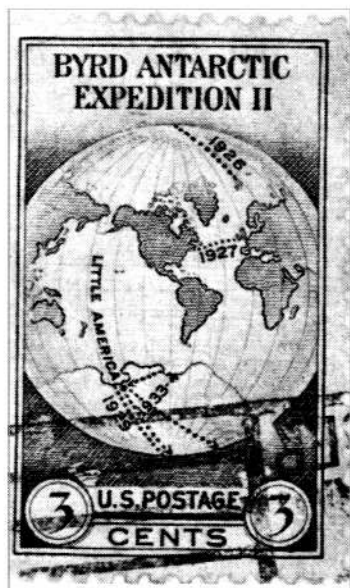
Depicted on the 3¢ Clara Barton commemorative issue of the United States of 1948 (Scott's #967) is the likeness of Miss Clara Barton, from a photograph of her furnished by the National Headquarters of the American Red Cross.

Miss Barton was born in North Oxford, Mass. on Dec. 25, 1821; died at Glen Echo, Md. on April 12, 1912. She was the founder of the American Red Cross. She was active during the Civil War distributing large quantities of supplies for the relief of the wounded soldiers, and later organized at Washington, a Bureau of Records to aid in the search of missing men. She took part in the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Franco-Prussian war, and was the first president of the American Red Cross until 1904. She was the author of the American Amendment providing that the Red Cross shall distribute relief not only in war but in times of other calamities.

Mrs. Minnie E. Keyes, Grand Secretary, Order of Eastern Star, in a letter dated May 29, 1928 gave the information: "The Chapter in Oxford, Mass. was named for her and with her permission in 1898, but she herself did not join until June 1906. The records show of June 29, 1906: 'After a short intermission, this Chapter received the great honor of being allowed to confer the degrees of this Order upon our illustrious namesake, Miss Clara Barton. It was an occasion long to be remembered as with feelings of pride and pleasure we witnessed the work so impressively and gracefully rendered and received. It was with quite reverential feeling that at its close we were privileged to take her by the hand as our sister'."

There is a legend that states that Miss Barton was given the degrees in her home by the founder of the Order,

RICHARD EVELYN BYRD
EXPLORER-MASON
 By Sam Brooks



The Little America stamp was issued on October 9, 1933, at the Philatelic Agency, Washington, D.C. Originally intended for use only on mail of the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition, it was later released for ordinary postage. On the globe are shown the routes of Byrd's earlier flights and expeditions.

Byrd was born at Winchester, Va., October 25, 1888.

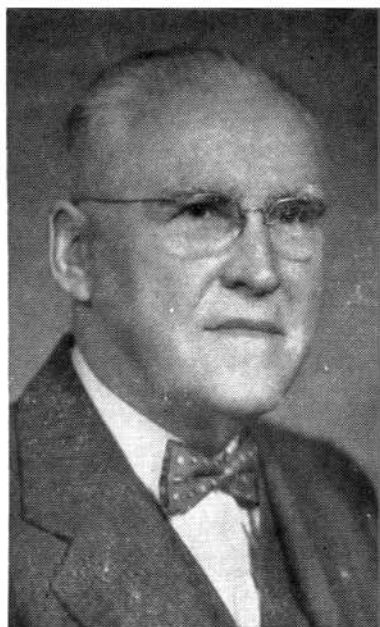
He was raised March 19, 1921 in Federal Lodge #1, Washington, D.C. on Feb. 18, 1928 he affiliated with Kane Lodge #454, New York City (sometimes called "Explorers Lodge").

Byrd, member of a famous Virginia family, early in life showed his liking for the Navy and for exploration. At the age of 12, he made a round-the-world trip alone. In 1912 he was graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy. He accompanied the MacMillan Greenland Expedition in 1925. The next year he flew over the North Pole. In 1927 he made a flight across the Atlantic. He sailed on his first expedition to the Antarctic in 1929, and from his base there he flew over the South Pole.

Of the eighty-two members of his second expedition to Antarctica, sixty were Masons.

—From: Masonic Philatelist Nov. 1946.

The Al Van Dahl Story



Brother Al Van Dahl

Volume 8 Number 8 of the **Masonic Philatelist** appearing in April 1952, carried this lead story: "With this issue of the *Philatelist* another milestone in the affairs of the club has been reached. Through the generous cooperation of Brother Al Van Dahl, publisher of the *Western Stamp Collector*, arrangements have been completed for having our paper printed as you now see it . . ." Prior to April 1952, and dating back to March, 1944, the MP had been a photolith job, under the able guidance of Bro. Sam Brooks, but with the usual handicaps of such work. But Bro. Al Van Dahl changed all this through his generosity, and when this staunch Mason, keen philatelist and successful publisher died suddenly on March 3, 1954, his gracious wife Mrs. Arlene Van Dahl and her family carried on this work.

Al Van Dahl was born in Sweden, where his father was a druggist in Stockholm. He attended Heidelberg in Germany. As a boy his father bought him a small job press on which he learned printing, so that when he came to this country, he found work in

newspaper offices, where he learned to operate a linotype, and later he published a number of small weekly newspapers, but no great success came his way until he started a stamp column! Brother Van Dahl was a pioneer in this respect, as far as he knew, it was the first time that a country weekly newspaper was used in presenting stamp news. This was over 25 years ago in Mill City, Oregon, and the paper was called the *Mill City Logue*. The column turned out to be surprisingly acceptable so in a short while he moved to the present locale in Albany, Oregon and his paper became the *Western Stamp Collector*. Advertising patronage in those long ago days was difficult to come by. Times were not so good then, but success came and stayed.



Arlene M. Van Dahl

The wave of collecting that swept the country about the time of Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt, brought him more and more success until the *Western Stamp Collector* became one of the five large publications of stamp collecting. But the mark of success can be measured by the regard with which he was held by his employees. "Pop" Van Dahl, as he was known to them,

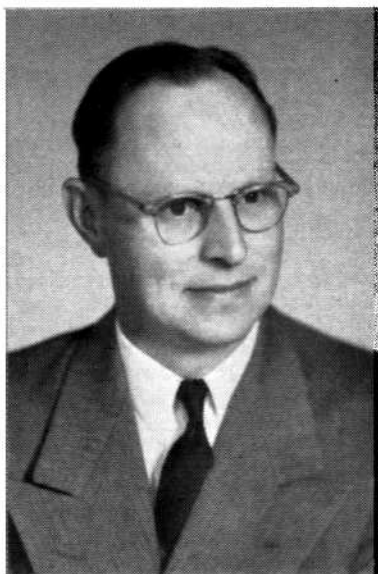


Mrs. Alma McLing

was considered quite wonderful and a generous loving person. He greeted each employee, every morning, in a warm and friendly way.

Naturally his main collecting interest was Sweden and we hope that his very good friend, Harry L. Lindquist will speak of this at our next meeting appropriately set aside as "The AL VAN DAHL NIGHT," honoring a most deserving member, no longer with us, but in our thoughts, always.

Bro. Al Van Dahl was elected to the "Hall of Fame" of the American Philatelic Society.



David G. Blake

Your Editor did not know Bro. Al Van Dahl personally, but is in close touch with the lasting contribution that he has made to the Masonic Stamp Club. It is only right and fitting that we should know and recognize all that is being done for us through the generosity of the Al Van Dahl Publication Fund. The present owners of the WSC are Mrs. Arlene Van Dahl, (OES), her son-in-law David G. Blake and her daughter, all actively engaged in Van Dahl Publications (including "Covers"). The present editor of WSC is the capable and hard working William W. Wylie.

Because we want you to meet some of the people who are responsible for



Wm. W. Wylie

the MASONIC PHILATELIST, we are fortunate in being able to present some of them pictorially. First and foremost is our right arm, albeit 3000 miles away, the charming and hard working editor of "COVERS," who accepts our inanities and idiosyncracies with so much grace, Mrs. Alma McLing. It is she who handles well the mess of material we toss her way each month, and informs us that to her it is a labor of love. Little wonder, then, that we are so deeply appreciative. Next are the ones with whom we have little contact but who, none-the-less, turn out the job, month-in and month-out.

We picture three linotypers, and while we understand that Bob Clemans and George Wilson do the type-setting on our paper, we cannot point out which is which. Next our thanks to cover these several past years for the actual printing is "Si" Simonis who does such a splendid job. With a member-



ship that covers every state in the U.S., and so many foreign countries; with our ever expanding list of members; with the several changes in addresses; with the deletions and other changes you get some idea of the job being done by the girls in the mailing room. Our several hats are off to you for work well done as attested by the minimum of gripes received, and we are proud to present you pictorially to our members. Now, no matter how efficient the work of the mailing room, there is one final step and that is the delivery to the post-office. With a shake of the hand and a pat on the back, we thank you, Ray Talbert. To you all, from all of us, many, many thanks!

To my mind stamp collecting is like love or liquor. People will give up nearly all else; become so enamoured of either or both that little else counts. Most people become too old for love and too careful for liquor, but it has been my experience that few ever get too old for stamp collecting.—Percy L. Pemberton.

BY THE SIGN OF THE GAVEL

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York has reached the stage of responsible maturity in celebrating its Silver Anniversary. The half-way mark of this celebration is only a point to recall the several outstanding personalities we have honored.

Arthur W. Deas, Theodore Roosevelt, Charles H. Johnson and Ralph A. Barry, all outstanding members of our craft, have each left his own heritage for us to remember and emulate. It is only through our Masonic fraternity that men of this calibre find the common denominator—a telephone executive, a president of this great democracy, a great social leader, and an engineer builder of bridges—all had the common touch that makes for greatness.

In carrying out the balance of this year's program, we are anxious to share it with our members in all parts of the world. Altho all these past events have been so lucidly described in the *Masonic Philatelist*, I am hoping that many of you will come to New York to share in our Silver Anniversary week-end on June 5th, 6th and 7th, 1959. We are planning our Annual Dinner, Exhibition, Meeting, Master of Philately Degree and Picnic for this gala week-end, and of course your ladies are invited. All the details will be published in the forthcoming issues of the *Masonic Philatelist* together with how you can participate in these events.

May I extend the Season's Greetings to all and Best Wishes for the New Year.

—Irwin M. Yarry, President.

MSC Silver Anniversary Year

Welcome New Members!

CHESTER A. ALLEN

17159 W. Sierra Hy., Saugus, Calif.
Frontier City #422, Oswego, N.Y.

WALTER J. BEHRENS

111-35th St., Washington 19, D.C.
Anacostia #21, Washington, D.C.

JOSEPH JAY BENCHO

147-40 9th Ave., Whitestone 57, N.Y.
Schiller #304, Brooklyn, N.Y.

AARON D. BERNSTEIN

2915 Tyson Ave., Phila. 49, Penna.
Mizpah #245, Camden, N.J.

NELSON J. BRIGGS

RD 3, Box 187-A, Bel-Air, Maryland
Abadeen #187, Abadeen, Md.

RICHARD P. BROWN

110 Van Liew Ave., Milltown, N.J.
Midway #185, St. Paul, Minn.

LEWIS J. CALLISON

7633 Glengarry, Whittier, Calif.
Greenleaf #670, Whittier.

W. LAWRENCE CANNON

930 Park Circle Dr., Fresno 2, Calif.
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J. B. CARLIN, JR.

Box 6745 Hollywood P.O.,
Memphis, Tenn.
Ancient Landmark #210,
Ashland, Wis.

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Cade-Rothwell #1151, Houston

JOHN C. CLYMER

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Landmark #1168, Dallas

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Seaview Lodge, Revere

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H. Stanley Goodwin #648, Bethlehem

RENO R. DILENSCHNEIDER

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Brainard #336, Fremont

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508 E. Cleveland, Guthrie, Oklahoma
Guthrie Lodge #35

JOSEPH FIORITO

Box 72, Fancher, New York
Murray #380, Holley, N.Y.

ROBERT H. FRANZ

901 Hamilton St., Manitowoc, Wis.
Manitowoc Lodge #65

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Minnesota

Khurum #112, Minneapolis

DR. HENRY J. GOECKEL

191 No. Lehigh Ave., Cramford, N.J.
Azure #868, Bronx, N.Y.

HERBERT J. HENNEKA

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Mozart #436, Philadelphia

THEODORE E. HESS

5254 Ditman St., Philadelphia 24, Pa.
Frankford #292, Philadelphia

SAMUEL E. HOLLAND, JR.

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Theo. Roosevelt #210, Carteret

HARRY L. HOLTON

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Van Rensselaer #400, Hoosick Falls

GEORGE W. KAHLER, JR.

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The Barton #6, Hamilton

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Co. Apt. 20B, Flin Flon, Man., Can.
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Los Corritos #674, Long Beach

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Laurel #972, Brooklyn

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513 Rotteck St., Baden, Pa.
Ambridge #701, Ambridge, Pa.

MAXWELL G. McGEE

Jackman Station, Maine
Mt. Bigelow #202, Stratton, Me.

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Editor's Notebook

At the end of the old year and with the beginning of the new, it is customary to make resolutions for 1959 and to give thanks for the past. As Editor, I am deeply thankful for the many, many letters received from our members, and if all of them were not answered, we will try to do better in 1959. Most of them were kind, with valuable suggestions, while a few were deservingly critical. With our fast growing membership, we will try to serve you well, for this is your paper, and we welcome your viewpoints, but more especially would we be thankful for your contributions: articles, items of interest, personals.

We note with pride that at the APS Convention on Oct. 22-26, that the name of our late Bro. **Sidney F. Barrett** was added to the Philatelic Hall of Fame. At the same Convention the ATA Trophy was won by Bro. **Fredrick L. Hill**, with his exhibit, "Religion on Stamps."

It is this kind of letter that we are happy to print: from Bro. **Geo. W. Starling**, 332 Cherry St., Timmins, Ont., Canada: "Sure enjoy the Masonic Philatelist; only wish there was more of it, also have made a couple of good contacts, and appreciate their correspondence. Wish I could find a new more brothers like myself who are shut-ins that I could write to and help pass so much of this spare time. Stamps are a fine hobby for those who cannot do much else. Best wishes to you and yours, and keep up the good work." ... Bro. **Summerfield J. McCartney** of 211 N. Greenbrier St., Arlington, Va., is seeking more information on Masonic Philately writes: "I would like to inquire through the MP is there any brother who knows of any stamp (the issue of any country) showing the picture of a Winding Staircase (the Fellowcraft degree)." If you do, please write directly to him ... Could have held a MSC meeting right in the center of the Armory at the ASDA Show. **Doc Yarry** and I were discussing the Registered Mail wrapper that carried the Hope Diamond, with Mr. Turner, the new Curator of the Smithsonian, when we espied **Doc Swan** and **Al Lurch** coming toward us. By the time they joined us **Carl Pelander** came along, arm in arm with Bro. **Milton Greenbaum** of Saginaw, Michigan.

Bros. Harry Lindquist and **Herman Herst**, always in a hurry, stopped long enough to exchange greetings, but before they departed the group had swelled to an even dozen with **Joe Ferrola**, **Warren Ehrig** and **Dr. Grossman**. By this time the crowd forced us to break up this impromptu meeting ... If anyone wonders how much stamp collecting has taken hold, he needed only to witness the surge of young and old into the Armory, and on Saturday afternoon we saw a line extending from the ticket window, four abreast, extending down the stairs and along Park Avenue from 34th to 33rd Street, and that is one long block ... A most interesting cover from Bro. **Morris "A" Goldberg**, stationed in Japan and an unusual invitation to attend the Open Installation of Officers for 1959 at the Yokosuka Navy Base. Writes Bro. Goldberg (why is the middle initial in quotes "A"?).

"Being in the USN for almost 16 years, I collect mint stamps of all the different countries I visit, besides mailing a letter home from each port or city I visit in a foreign country. In this way I know the exact date that I was at that place. I also correspond with stamp collectors I have met in foreign countries." Join the Navy and build a stamp collection ... Bro. **Bert C. Lamble**, of 133 Matchedash St., N. Orillia, Canada, writes: "If there is anything on this side of the Border I can do at any time for the members, do not hesitate to let me know." ...

We have an answer from Bro. **J. T. Lang** of Denver, who sent us a fine album page, headed "MASONRY ON POSTAGE STAMPS." We had inquired if these were available to other members and Bro. Lang advises "I designed the album pages and had them printed here in Denver primarily for my own collection. However, several Brothers here have purchased some of my extra sheets, and if members of the Masonic Stamp Club desire sheets, I would be pleased to let them have them at what they cost me. This is 10 cents per page." If members write direct to Bro. Lang at 536 So. Vine St., Denver 9, Colorado, be sure to include return postage. ... Bro. **Edward Weiner** of Ft. Pierce, Florida, admonishes us with a suggestion: "Please record my opinion as being opposed to the inclusion of any subject except

(Continued on Page 12)

RALPH A. BARRY NIGHT

(Continued from Page 3)

tioned in Congress, when an investigation was imminent. It was my privilege to work with Ralph A. Barry on a number of occasions—on committees and on programs—and I was thereby enabled to gain an excellent insight into his character and his abilities. He was a friendly man, wise in his way, and cooperative beyond normal expectations. A chore assigned to him, and accepted, could be considered done. He was modest, asking no headlines or spotlights. Having done his job, he much preferred to sit back and let others take the accolades. In his lifetime he received honors, it is true, but not what he deserved. One recognition I know he treasured was his appointment to the Council of the American Philatelic Congress. For some time he was the only New Yorker to hold this honor. On his death, recognition came swiftly when the American Philatelic Society named him to its "Hall of Fame." Being honored along with such "greats" as Sir Rowland Hill, John Nicolas Luff, Frederick J. Melville and others, amply bespeaks his own greatness.

"We of the Masonic Stamp Club revere him for his many services to this group. His special interest was the Masonic Philatelist. The existence of the "Ralph A. Barry Fund," to assure the continuance of the Masonic Philatelist emphasizes this interest, and attests to the realization of his fellow members that his work—his love—should be continued. With your indulgence I would like to continue on for a few minutes more, and on a more personal vein. As Masons, we know that a length of cable tow has great significance. I was not a Mason when I first knew Ralph Barry. I was not a Mason when I first met such as Harry L. Lindquist, Robert E. Fellers, Sidney F. Barrett, Carl E. Pelander, Jacob Glaser, Arthur W. Deas, John A. Fox, John W. Nicklin, and a host of others, all Masons. (And all members of the MSC. Ed.) I could not help but recognize how wonderful all these men were to me as I struggled to build my future. Equally, I could not help but recognize the dedication of my father-in-law, R. W. Chester A. Garfield, to his Lodge. I knew of the great interest Masonry held for two of my uncles—William H. Bruns and

Jacob Franz. I was also aware that my aunt, Hattie H. Bruns, was a long-time member of the Order of the Eastern Star. It was this aunt, incidentally, who interested me in stamp collecting, and who encouraged me to delve deeper and deeper. It was she who took me to my first "big" stamp show, the International of 1926.

"These people, my relatives and those in the world of stamps, were "good" people. True, there were others who were wonderful to me; who were also "good people," but with my leanings it was only natural that I should want to associate myself with Masonry. I do know that I finally spoke the right words, and shortly was accepted into Gramattan Lodge #927 of Bronxville, N.Y. It was then, and is now, one of the most wonderful steps I have ever taken. My progress through the various chairs was fraternally encouraged, and eventually I was permitted to sit as Master. My devotion to Gramattan Lodge, and the many wonderful men I am privileged to know as a result of my membership, has helped me from dimitting, even though I have since moved to Washington. In closing, I hope you will forgive me if I "preach" for just a moment. All Masons are not "good" men, and all "good" men are not Masons. Let us, as Masons, dedicate ourselves to the encouragement of others, as Ralph A. Barry and the others did to me, so that our light will shine and cause others, now and in the future, to remember us as "good" men. Thank you all."

Brother Harry Konwiser (in the Nov. 1947 issue of the MP) recalls the story by the late Ralph A. Barry, in 1935. He pointed out that it was due to the advertising genius of Postmaster General John Wanamaker (a member of the craft) that the series of 17 large stamps used in the Columbian series was because he had two ideas in mind, both of them new in the stamp world. Foremost, wrote Barry, was advertising the Chicago World Fair and secondly, the profit likely to accrue from selling stamps to collectors. In the first he was successful, but the dollar values of the series proved a stumbling block and raised the wrath of collectors. Barry commented on the speculation that developed in the higher values when "several so-called smart individuals thought they saw a chance for a clean-up and bought and bought,

close to \$100,000 worth of the high values. Since there was no immediate demand, the speculators liquidated at a loss." Many of the older collectors (in age) recall having had offers of the dollar Columbian stamps, in multiple pieces, at under face!!! (At least they say so.)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

(Continued From Page 10)

Masonic Philately in our publication . . ." Wish you would explain further, Bro. Edward, to specific items you wish omitted. Thanks . . . Does any member hear from **Charlie Lott**? Once, one of our most active members, we miss him very much. Better yet, if you read this item, Bro. Charles, please let us know what keeps you away? . . . Bro. **Charles Sanna**, of Staten Island, continues to amaze us with his philatelic maneuvers. Not content with the letter from Clementine Churchill, he now displays an autographed picture of the Pope, in appreciation of the well thought out cover and clever cancellations. We have at hand two poems by Bro. Charlie, in blank-blank verse, and in all modesty, we cannot print them because they cover your editor with a cloak and halo, completely ill-fitting and undeserving. Terribly Schmaltzy.

If you haven't read the new issue of **Herst's Outbursts**, do so as soon as possible. Bro. Herman Herst does a swell job, and as we pointed out before, all you need to do is to send 6 self addressed and stamped envelopes and you will receive the current issue and the next five. A real bargain . . .

Starting to receive Christmas and New Year cards, the first to arrive, FDC of the UN Human Rights stamp, with a lovely card from Dr. Duffield Swan . . . We are somewhat taken back to learn that members of the club are using the roster for the solicitation of stamp business. We cautioned about this matter in the foreword of the recently printed Roster and it is hardly a nice thing to do. In fact, it is most un-Masonic. We know that the various membership lists of organizations are so used, and little can be done about it, but when solicitation of our members, mentioning specifically Masonic connections and giving that as the *raison d'être*, it is bad business and Masonic ethics. We urge you let us know if you still receive any such solicitations . . .

Welcome, New Members!

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Trinity #200, Sioux Falls

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Hillman #481, Youngstown

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Brooklyn #225, Oakland

WALTER P. WELLS

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Eulalia #342, Coudersport

EDGAR W. WHEELER

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Friendship #417, Detroit, Mich.