BROTHER HARRY M. KONWISER

To Whom This Issue Is Dedicated
The MASONIC PHILATELIST
JUNE 1959
VOL. 15 NO. 10
M. S. C. Silver Anniversary

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THE COVER
We were fortunate to discover that Bro. Sam Brooks had such a fine portrait of Bro. Harry M. Konwiser, taken but a few years ago. Bro. Harry has since had several physical set-backs and is now confined to bed, at the Masonic Home at Utica, New York. While we have devoted some pages of this issue to him, we could fill a large volume with the many articles he has written in the past for the Masonic Philatelist, "Stamps," Western Stamp Collector and other periodicals. On page 4, we have listed only a few of the books and pamphlets written by him, many of them rare and collectors items.

MSC Silver Anniversary Year

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

IN MEMORIAM
Our beloved friend and Secretary
BRO. ALVIN D. LURCH
"None knew you but to love you None named you but to praise."

As we again go to press, our task is saddened and most difficult with the passing of Brother Al Lurch. We missed him at the Silver Anniversary week-end, for which he had worked hard, but momentarily we were all pleased to hear that improvement in his physical condition enabled him to leave the hospital and that he was soon to be out and around. The Grand Architect ruled otherwise.

Al was a secretary for the past two years and had just been elected for a third term.

Born in New York City, May 31, 1896, he graduated Stuyvesant High School, NYC. He attended Columbia University (2 years) and Pace School of Accounting (2 years). He was employed for many years with Dun & Bradstreet, first as a reporter and then as a Report Reviewer. He was recently appointed as an S.I.C. expert, an important part of the work done by "D & B." He was also Editor of the stamp column "The Stamp Post," which appeared in the house organ, "Dun's Bulletin."

A member of the Ivanhoe Lodge #610, New York, since 1933, he served as Master in 1937. Since that time he has been their treasurer. He was long a member of the MSC and his interests were Topicals (Maps, etc.) collected with much enthusiasm.

Many members of the MSC participated in the Masonic services held by members of Ivanhoe Lodge.
We gathered this evening to pay tribute to Brother Harry M. Konwiser on his eightieth birthday. Brother Konwiser is now located at the Masonic Home at Utica, N.Y., but we know that if it had been possible for him to make the trip to New York City, he would have been with us at this meeting. Our roster lists Brother Konwiser's activities as 'U.S. Postal History; Author.' His contribution to philately in the field of Postal History constitutes the most detailed study of the subject that has ever been written. Brother Konwiser has written many articles on the subject which have appeared in the outstanding philatelic publications. His United States Stampless Cover Catalog is a reference book of high standing. Texas Republic Postal System is also one of his authoritative writings on the Postal System from 1835 to 1945.

Brother Konwiser was a member of the Executive Committee, Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition - Filipex - held in the Spring of 1958. He has also appeared as a member of the Board of Directors of The Association For Stamp Exhibitions, Inc., to mention but a few of his connections in promoting our hobby. Brother Konwiser was the first editor of The Masonic Philatelist which was noted by Bro. Sam Brooks who also described in detail a number of pictures of Bro. Konwiser which appeared in the frames around the room, which had been taken for the most part by Bro. George Curnitzer at Filipex.

Bro. Brooks introduced a close friend of Bro. Konwiser, Bro. Harold J. Snyder, who gave us a most interesting talk about Bro. Konwiser, covering his philatelic activities as well as his personality, in which he praised Bro. Konwiser highly for his friendliness and also for his willingness at all times to be helpful to those seeking information in the field of philately.

A number of members spoke of Bro. Konwiser and his activities, including Bro. Jacob Glaser and Bro. Dr. Irwin M. Yarry. Bro. Glaser spoke of his connection with Filipex while Bro. Yarry stated that it was due to his association with Bro. Konwiser which began at Filipex in 1936 that he joined the Masonic Stamp Club.

At the opening of the meeting tonight, Bro. Dr. Irwin M. Yarry, President, read several letters from those who had hoped to be with us to honor R.O. Konwiser. Brother Herman Herst Jr. of Shrub Oak, N.Y. and Mr. Ezra Cole, indicated that prior engagements had prevented them from being with us. No doubt many who were present tonight learned much of interest in connection with the study of Postal Markings, Stampless Covers and kindred philatelic material. There is little doubt but that to Bro. Konwiser this phase of philately has connected with it a greater interest than any other activity in the hobby. As one of the speakers said tonight Bro. Konwiser has expressed the thought that there is more personality behind a postal marking than expressed by a page of mint stamps.

Alvin D. Lurch, Secretary.

Shakespeare Society
3300 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington 8, D.C.
10th May, 1959.

Dear Brother Pelander:

My application for membership in the Masonic Stamp Club of New York together with the check covering it are being forwarded by one of the members in Washington, Dr. Albert R. Merz.

I was personally acquainted with Hon. Charles H. Johnson, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary, as his parents and my parents were close friends for many years. ‘Charlie’ praised you very highly on several occasions when I was with him.

When he passed through transition, I prepared an article about him that appeared in the New York Masonic Outlook during October, 1949, and I recently dedicated a little book to him about Billy Florence, which was prepared as a contribution to the Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children. A copy has been presented to the library of the Grand Lodge in New York.

Sometime in the future I will arrange to attend a meeting of the Masonic Stamp Club while I am in New York, and with all good wishes, I remain—Fraternally yours, Alexander Ueland.

MSC Silver Anniversary Year
Birthday Greetings!

We find it a rare privilege to greet Harry M. Konwiser on his 80th Birthday, but we can safely place this task upon Bro. Sam Brooks, a close friend of Harry, and we need only to quote from the Masonic Philatelist of 10 years ago, when Bro. Brooks, as Editor, wrote a short article on the 70th Birthday of his good friend:

"From discussions with some of his friends, we learned that Harry was born September 4, 1889, in Newark, New Jersey. He had a very pleasant boyhood and went to work for one of the Newark newspapers. Later he was a traveling auditor for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Someone then talked him into starting a cigar factory.

"This venture was not so successful, so Harry entered the publishing field. At various times he had papers for the Cigar Trade, Radio and Hotels. Then came his entry into the Philatelic field, where he remained to this day.

"Harry's collecting activities were in the formation of a very fine collection of Denmark which he gave up when a large batch of Texas correspondence came into his hands. From this grew his famous collection of Texas Postal History and his equally famous book on the subject, which is now a collectors item.

"He is an authority on Postal Markings, Postal History and Stampilless Covers. His books on those subjects are necessary for intelligent collectors of these items. Also expert in the detection of forgeries in Autograph collecting, his "baby" today is his new book, "The American Stamp Collectors Dictionary." (His "baby" is now 10 years old, and still a fine addition to any stamp collector's library.—Ed.) He has written for nearly every stamp paper published today, here and abroad. He has been a judge at many stamp exhibitions, but of late has declined that honor because he finds it a bit strenuous. He likes stamp collectors and they like him. He belongs to several stamp collecting groups but is most active in the MSC. He was one of the founders of the Club and has been active on the Board of Governors and for several years, as Treasurer.

"Harry is a life member of Justice Lodge #753, F.&A.M. of New York. He was initiated February 8, 1919; Passed March 22, 1919 and Raised April 12, 1919. He is active in all Lodge affairs, but has steadily declined all honors except that of Trustee. He has held that office for many years.

"This recital of past history may sound cold and bare, but this Gentleman is anything but that. Many are proud to call him . . . Friend. To this writer he is one of the finest persons he has ever known. May he grace our festive occasions for many, many years."

And so wrote Brother Sam Brooks of Brother Harry M. Konwiser, ten years ago. With Harry confined to his bed at the Masonic Home in Utica, New York, many of the above statements must be modified, but the esteem we all hold for our good friend changes not one bit.

Here are some of the books and articles written by Br. Konwiser:


His articles and columns in Western Stamp Collector, Stamps and other papers, were most prolific, and even today, repeats are printed by various newspapers and magazines.

The Canada Royal Visit stamp, June 18 and the Gâñada and U.S. St. Lawrence Seaway stamps June 26 remind us of the Masonic connections of Liz and Phil. Elizabeth II, daughter of a Grand Master, is Grand Patroness of each of the three Royal Masonic Benevolent Institutions conducted by the Grand Lodge of England: one for old people, one for boys and one for girls. Prince Philip Mountbatten (Duke of Edinburgh) was made a Mason in his father-in-law's lodge, Navy Lodge No. 2612, Dec. 5, 1952.—M.L.

MSC Silver Anniversary Year
**Masonic Cancellations 'Off Cover'**

**PART II.**

By Bro. S. Duffield Swan

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MSC Silver Anniversary Year
Masonic Cancellations 'Off Cover'

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By Bro. S. Duffield Swan

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

We who knew him, will all miss Brother Al Luch, so very much. Ever smiling, even tempered, hard working and always a gentleman. Rest in peace, Brother.

In the next issue we will have a full accounting of the Silver Anniversary Holler End, with many, many pictures (we hope); lists of exhibitors and their showings; the new Masters of Philately, and those who conferred the degree; the Annual Dinner and about as many anecdotes as we can remember. It will be issued before the next meeting in September. We also hope to have in your hands this Summer, the supplement to the Roster, with address changes of the old members; the list of new members and their respective collection interests and other pertinent information.

To the new members, since last September: If you have not yet sent in the blue questionnaire: do it now! Bro. Marshall Loke, of Rochester, N.Y. may have retired from business, but he sure has become active in his correspondence with this department. Many thanks for the nice articles, which we will use, from time to time. Some appearing in this issue are marked “M.L.” Interesting, are they not?

And that indefatiguable Bro. Walter R. Harbeson of Columbus, Ohio, has helped to swell our portfolio with some fine items on Masonic Philately. Particularly, some very new short items on the dedication of Washington Monument, which we expect to use on a special Washington issue, come next February.

Our new member from Hamilton, Bermuda, R. A. Fountain (won't you please send us your first name R.A.?) writes, "If you could let me know of any members coming to Bermuda on holiday, in advance, I will endeavor to show them some of the high lights of the island, as I have now retired... except stamps."

A very nice letter from Bro. Alfred Brasch of Johannesburg, S. Africa who only just returned home from a trip to Europe and Israel. We hope to print some of Bro. Brasch's articles on philately in coming issues, but we must disappoint him on one matter. He wishes to be elevated to the rank of "Master of Philately" and the only way possible is to be here in person. So unless he makes the long trek, it just can't be done.

A new member, Bro. Alexander Ueland of Washington, D.C., was recommended for membership by Dr. Albert R. Merz, both members of the Shakespeare Society of Washington, D.C. Bro. Ueland has written "A Biography of the Founder of the Shriner's," which he had dedicated to one of the founders of the MSC, Hon. Charles H. Johnson, Past Grand Master, and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York. We print his letter to Bro. Carl Pelandor, elsewhere in this issue. Another of our distinguished new members, Dr. T. Christie Innes, a churchman of great renown; world traveler; author, lecturer and Preacher. An active Presbyter included in both the Canadian and U.S. "Who's Who." A list of his activities is most impressive and we hope to have the space soon, to acquaint our members of this outstanding brother.

Bro. Richard M. ("Dick") Needham of Lancaster, Ohio, has had a hard time of it. His sciatic nerve was affected by Herpes Zoster ("shingles— to you"), but despite the aches and pains, he found time to write a nice article on "National Capital Sesquicentennial and the Masonic Fraternity," which we hope to use in the February, Washington issue. If our members like Harbeson and Needham send along enough articles, they will have written the coming February issue. Seems like a long way off, but as the dead lines whizz past, it's never too early to make plans.

Bro. Ralph C. Huntington of Baltimore, Md. writes, "The last issue of the M.P. is of particular interest to me on account of the Joseph Warren story, since Warren Lodge #51, of which I was Master in 1941, was named for none other than M.W. Joseph Warren."

So nice of you, Bro. Amos C. Boss of Oneida, N.Y. to write that despite your inability to come to NYC for the "week-end," you would call on Bro. Harry Konwiser at the Masonic Home in Utica, instead. Thank you also, for the kind words about our efforts and improvements in the M.P.

One can always depend upon Bro. Herman J. Lichty of Washington, D.C., for kind and helpful words: "Believe me we, (the GW Chapter) are 100%
behind you in your endeavors. It (Editor) is not an easy task, and what is more, it is a thankless one. There are only a few who realize the amount of time and work a job of this kind entails." But letters like this are ample satisfaction and a balm.

Several nice letters commiserating with us on our moving chore, but we are through with it and settled in our new business location. One of the nicest thoughts was the one sent by Bro. Marshall Loke: "In that case (moving) you will need a fresh identification tag for your keys, so please accept the enclosed keycheck with my compliments." Such a nice gesture, with my name and new address engraved on it. Many thanks.

Received a copy of the "History of the George Washington Chapter No. 1, of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York." A splendid job of editing, format and content, for which we believe Bro. Herman J. Lichty is greatly responsible.

Address Correct?

Please Note: With the issuance of the supplement to the Roster, please check with the address on the envelope containing the MP, and if incorrect, advise us at once. We will try to give you a correct Roster, but we need your cooperation.

WASHINGTON POST OFFICE NAMES

Was the Washington, New Hampshire, post office the first post office town of that name? Or was the North Carolina post office named Washington the first of the many Washington offices of today?

The answer isn't factual, it seems to me, no matter where it originates! Some records indicate the New Hampshire post office named Washington was established on September 22, 1776. This date was mentioned by your reporter in this periodical, a few years ago.

Washington, North Carolina, claims "first honors" because while this town was incorporated in 1782, it had been a town for many years, some say since 1776. Georgia "gets into the act" as having an early Washington-named post office? As does Connecticut, etc.

Reference to Morse's Gazetteer, 1798 shows Washington post offices as in Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Plus the Federal City—Washington, then in the "Territory of Columbia."

In 1800 the list of Washington-named post offices showed post offices named Washington in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi Territory, New Jersey; also, Washington, as in Beaufort county, North Carolina; Washington Court House, in Washington District, North Carolina. And, of course, Washington City, as the Capital City was known to the record. The Post Office town handstamp of these periods read "WASHINGTON CITY" dated circle, 1799-1801, or "WASHINGTON CITY" dated circle, 1802-09. The "WASHINGTON CITY" abbreviation is also known used in the 1804-09 period.

Samuel Osgood, Postmaster General, in his Jany, 22, 1790 report listed "The places where the Post Offices are kept." This 1790 list, comprising 75 post offices, showed a Washington-named post office in North Carolina. Does this mean this was the first Washington-named post office in the United States? The chief office of the U.S. was — at this time — located at Philadelphia.

One might assume the owner of a cover handstamped WASHINGTON (as in North Carolina), say for 1790 date, would be a pleasant item to own? Your correspondent's friend, Robert S. Phillips, at present with the A.E.H.L. at Army Chemistry Center, Maryland, would be happy to see such a Stampless Cover, and might want his friend Arthur F. Black, also a North Carolina Markings Specialist, to see such a postally marked item. They might settle for any marking of the early 1800's (or thereabouts).

Many towns, counties and sections had the Washington names in the early days of the United States of America. Many more places acquired the name in later years and most of these are still operating, as can be seen by anyone interested by merely looking at the nearest list of town names. For a list of post offices named Washington, see the latest edition of the United States Post Office directory at your public library, or at your post office.

—Harry M. Konwiser.
George Washington Chapter No. 1

The election meeting of the George Washington Chapter was held on Sunday afternoon, June 21, with a better than average attendance, from members residing in Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia. The meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman J. Lichty of Washington, D.C.

The meeting was highlighted with an interesting resume by Sol Glass (the new president) of his most recent trip abroad. He fascinated the members with a detailed description of his personal tour of the French Bureau of Engraving and Printing. From a technical standpoint, there is a great difference between the French and American methods of printing stamps. He related how the tour was arranged through the American Embassy, furnishing him chauffeur, interpreter and all the necessary credentials. He also told how the American Embassy arranged a special tour of the Royal Mint in London. While in Mainz, Germany, he witnessed the hand printing of the Gutenberg Bible. "Sol" presented the chapter with a hand lettered facsimile of a page from the Gutenberg Bible. He also exhibited a number of mementos, some of which were made especially for him, which included Germany, Poland, Austria and France. The real purpose of his trip abroad was to attend the Interposta Exhibition at Hamburg, Germany. Here he exhibited his famous air mails which took two awards.

Mr. Kessler, a member of the 1851 Specialist Club, was guest speaker and gave an exhaustive explanation of the research and possibilities in collecting United States 1851 stamps, including reengraving, plating, postmarks and unusual cover markings.

"Ed" Buckmaster, Curator of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial (Alexandria, Va.) and a member of the Chapter, exhibited photographs of the first launching of a missile carrying mail, as well as one of the actual covers of which 1,000 were dispatched by Postmaster Summerfield. He also announced that Alexandria-Washington Lodge #22, of Alexandria, Va., had granted permission to use the original trowel (used by George Washington at the cornerstone laying of the National Capitol on September 18, 1793) attendant to the laying of the cornerstone of the new facade on July 4, 1958, at our Capitol here in Washington, D.C. The silver trowel with an ivory handle will be used at Masonic ceremonies by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and several nearby subordinate lodges of Maryland and Virginia. Bro. Buckmaster informed the Chapter that he had obtained permission to photograph the mural showing George Washington laying the cornerstone of the Capitol in 1793, which now occupies one wall of the Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, for use as a cachet. It was thereupon immediately determined that the Chapter sponsor a special cover to be postmarked July 4, 1959, at Washington, D.C. A committee was appointed to prepare and issue the cover using offset printing. The price was set at 50 cents each or three for $1.00. Full details of how to obtain them will be given in the next issue of the Philatelist.

Final business of the meeting was the election of officers which are as follows:

President, Sol Glass.
Vice-President, Herman J. Lichty.
Second Vice-President, James W. Zellickofer.
Secretary, Robert Clas.
Treasurer, Ralph C. Huntington.

The first action of the new president, was the appointment of an executive committee consisting of the five elected officers plus the immediate past president, which committee will exercise complete operation of the Chapter between stated meetings.

After the meeting was adjourned Mr. and Mrs. Herman J. Lichty served a tasty buffet supper.

The French stamp June 15 picturing Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, an early member of Lodge Alsace-Lorraine in Paris (Oct. 14, 1875), should please collectors of Freemasons on stamps as this is the first time his likeness has appeared philatelically although his famous statue of Liberty has been used on many stamps.—M.L.

MSC Silver Anniversary Year
Welcome New Members!

RICHARD A. BRUDER
128 W. 45th St., New York 31, N.Y.
Dunton Lodge #1017, Queens, N.Y.

R. A. FOUNTAIN
Box 122, Hamilton, Bermuda
Turks Island Forth #647, Turks Is.

DONALD F. GARRETT
4405 Wear Ave., Jackson 9, Miss.
James A. Myers Lodge #619, Jackson

WILLIAM R. HALL
27 Howard St., Massena, New York
Massena Lodge #513, Massena

VIRGIL G. HANSON
3952 Longfellow Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
Minnehaha Lodge #165, Minneapolis

HOWARD H. HOLMES
6315 Pine Ave., Bell, California
Rising Light #397, Huntington Park, California

DR. T. CHRISTIE INNES
2402 Barrington Dr., Toledo 6, Ohio
Occidental #22, San Francisco, Cal.

WARREN CALVIN LEVECKE
140 Cherry St., Silverton, Oregon
Silverton Lodge #45, Oregon

WILLIAM R. PRINGLE
23640 Bryden Rd., Cleveland 22, O. Windermere #627, E. Cleveland, O.

COL. CHARLES G. RAU, USA
2935 Stevenson Dr., Pebble Beach, California
Glebe # 181, Arlington, Va.

WILLIAM H. RICHARDS, JR.
106 Greenaway Rd., Rochester 10, New York
Madison #33, Madison, N.Y.

CECIL ALBERT RYDER, JR.
2389 Giffels Dr., Cuyahoga Falls, O.
Tallmadge #756, Tallmadge, Ohio

LESTER WILLIAMS
10046 Elise Dr., Afton 23, Missouri
Good Hope Lodge #218, St. Louis

ALEXANDER UELAND
3900 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington 8, D.C.
La Fayette Lodge #18, Washington, D.C.

Baseball Hall of Fame

By Bro. Marshall S. Loke

This U.S. stamp (Scott No. 855) honoring the Centennial of Baseball and the opening of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was placed on first day sale June 12, 1939, at Cooperstown, New York, where, as one story has it, baseball in its present form originated.

The Hall of Fame at Cooperstown is a baseball museum maintained for the benefit of the public, where relics of the game are preserved. There are also pictures, documents of baseball history, and bronze plaques of the game's immortals.

Of the outstanding players of baseball's past who are represented in the Hall of Fame, a good proportion have been Freemasons. To mention a few we would include:

Grover C. Alexander, St. Paul Lodge No. 82, St. Paul, Nebr. (expelled for un-Masonic conduct).
John F. Baker, Coats Lodge No. 102, Easton, Md.
Charles A. Bender, Robert A. Lamberton Lodge No. 487, Philadelphia, Pa.
Tyrus R. Cobb, Royston Lodge No. 82, Detroit, Mich. 32°, Shriner.
Edward T. Collins, Solomons Lodge No. 466, Tarrytown, N.Y.

James Emory Fox, George W. Bartram Lodge No. 298, Media, Pa.
Rogers Hornsby, Beacon Lodge No. 3, St. Louis, Mo. R.A.M. and Commandery.

Carl O. Hubbell, Meeker Lodge No. 479, Meeker, Okla.

And there are others: Robert M. Grove, Walter P. Johnson, Christopher Mathewson, Herbert J. Pennock, Tris E. Speaker, Harold J. Traynor, etc., etc.

MSC Silver Anniversary Year
MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF NEW YORK

Our 25th Silver Anniversary SPECIAL

Our 25th Silver Anniversary Special—and Special they are these three Beautiful Masonic Covers—each depicting a Masonic subject of interest to all Masons.

Brother Andrew Jackson was one of the great Masters of his time. His Masonic career was as colorful and dramatic as his military and political life.

Brother Peary, a member of Kane Lodge #454, F. & A. M. New York, was one of the Famous members of that old lodge of explorers.

The Masonic monument erected on Bunker Hill is a memorial to the many Masons who fell in that history making battle.

Each cover is cancelled on the “First Day of Issue” for the special stamp relative to the particular cover.

It is the opinion of many that the covers being put out by “OUR CLUB” will in the near future become “Collectors Items.” The number cancelled are, of course, quite limited.

The price of these three covers, Our 25th Silver Anniversary SPECIAL is ONLY $1.00 for the three covers — 6 sets of 3 covers for $5.00.

The covers will be mailed to you after June 17th, “First Day” for the Bunker Hill Issue.

Please get your orders in right away — TODAY.

MASONIC CACHETS, Box 244, Pleasantville, New York
More Beautiful Engraved Designs Sponsored by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York

Printed by Van Dahl Publications, Inc., Albany, Oregon