



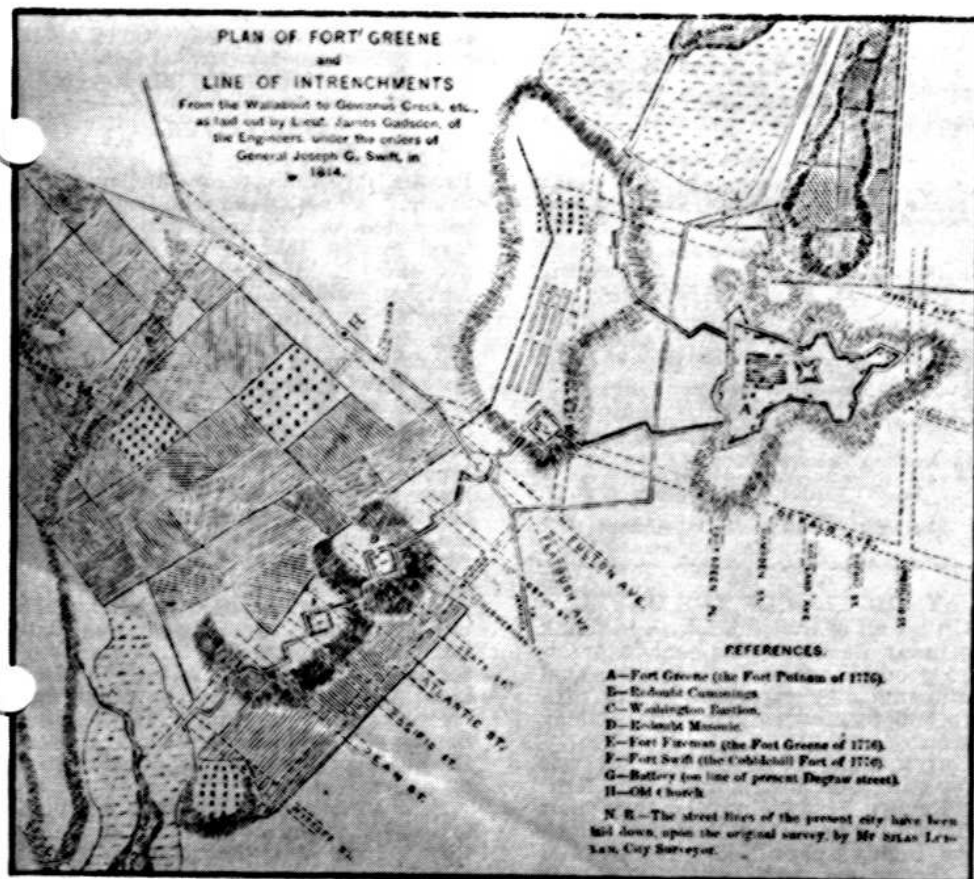
the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 16

JANUARY 1960

NO. 5

Map of Fort Masonic



The MASONIC PHILATELIST

JANUARY 1960
VOL. 16 NO. 5
M. S. C. Silver Anniversary



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BY THE SIGN OF THE GAVEL

On behalf of the club I wish to thank the many Brothers who sent in greetings, good wishes, and also for the kind sentiments they expressed to our officers and members during the holiday season.

Our meeting of December 4th was interesting and instructive. The British Empire Study Group showed four different types of collections which were highly specialized. I wish that all of our members could have been present to have seen them because the owners of these exhibits are the people

who do research and their knowledge and findings is written into our stamp catalogue for future reference.

The January 8th meeting was "Member's Exhibition Night" and several of our Brothers exhibited. An enjoyable evening was had by all present!

Our meetings have been well attended. It is gratifying to see this. The Treasurer says that the dues are coming in pretty good and asks if the delinquents will help him by sending in their dues now (Don't procrastinate!—Do it today!)

For our April 1st meeting, we are arranging to confer the Degree of Master of Philately on all Brothers desirous of it, and attending the meeting. Please let us know if you intend to be here. This is an opportunity for out-of-town members to receive it. We confer this degree only once or twice a year, hence this advance notice.

Brothers, please exert every effort to send in news items and articles about your collections for our journal.

—Emanuel M. Reggel

OUR COVER

The many people that know Sam Brooks have the pleasure of being able to say, "Here is a man who is genuinely interested in the craft and it is our good fortune that he has directed his avocation to stamps." He would have enriched numismatics if he would have directed his time to the study of coins. The difference between collecting and accumulating is as great as the difference between creativeness and apathy.

Sam Brooks has that rare and almost lost quality of genuine interest in what he is doing; this is not the destructive type of interest that a small boy may have in tearing off the wings of a butterfly so that it cannot fly again, but the small boy that catches a butterfly and admires it for its coloring and beauty, learns from older and more experienced minds how to mount the butterfly, goes to libraries and extracts information about the butterfly from the cocoon stage till its full development and progresses to the point that he learns about the family, its breeding habits, and from this one small butterfly becomes interested in the beauties of nature.

Sam Brooks has written a splendid article on a subject that was suddenly thrust upon him, the request to visit a neighboring lodge.

At this time, I would like to pose a question. If YOU, any one of you,



were asked to visit a neighboring lodge, would you be interested to learn about the historical background of the lodge? Of its meaning to the community? Of its meaning to Masonry? Sam Brooks has done this in this little to the gain of historical research and Free Masonry!

MINUTES OF MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF N. Y.

Bro. Brooks gave the invocation, followed by one minute of silent prayer for Bros. John H. Eiseman, Fred C. Post, Charles Maly.

The minutes of the last meeting were read in brief form.

As this is the British Empire Study Group night, the following members of that group were present to talk on their exhibits: Pres. Paul Lindenberg, Fred Kahn, Tom Fee, and Nathan Hals, two other visitors were present, Mrs. Ray Erenberg and Cliff Eastby, all were greeted by our president Bro. Reggel.

Dr. Swan took the floor to introduce the President of the British Empire Study group, Mr. Paul Lindenberg, who mentioned that his group also meets at the Collectors Club twice a month. (The B.E.S.G. had 16 frames of stamps all set up on exhibition and ready to make our evening an interesting one.)

Mr. Lindenberg introduced Mr. Fee who spoke on his two frames of Newfoundland, Mr. Fee said he was looking for a Masonic tie-in and could only find it through the Royal Family of Great Britain, a number of whom are Masons.

He spoke on Newfoundland cancellations, the past governments and quite extensively on the names of various towns, their origin and their cancellations. Canadian stamps are now valid in Newfoundland as it became a province of Canada in 1949.

Mr. Hals was next introduced and he spoke on his 4 frames of New Hebrides; he mentioned that he has made extensive use of Hydrographic maps of New Hebrides obtainable from the U. S. Hydrographic office at 45 Broadway, where maps of the various sections of the world may be purchased at a nominal price. Mr. Hals spoke on forged cancellations and stamp forgeries, of genuine locals and their scarcity, but of unknown use. The French and British have postal administrations in New Hebrides, but according to Mr. Hals, there is only one postmaster, one post office and one postal administration. (For those interested, Mr. Hals has the opening article in the S.P.A. Journal for December, 1959, entitled The Australian New Hebrides Co., Ltd. Local Stamps).

Mr. Lindenberg with two frames exhibited, spoke on various dies and plates and of his attempts to catalog and plate some of the issues, he elaborated on printing and the breakdown into panes.

Mr. Kahn, our last exhibitor, had part of his prize winning collection of Bermuda set up in eight frames, covering six values (2/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, 12/6 and pound) of Bermuda, 1938 and 1939 issues which were used throughout the war. He mentioned the great variety of papers, inks, perforations and printing processes used on this issue due to war restrictions and scarcities that existed during this period. One plate was used for vignettes on these stamps and this same plate was also used for the stamps of Leeward Islands and Nyassaland, which led to many plate flaws. Among other items, he mentioned that the silver test is the only true way to determine chalky paper.

Dr. Swan summed up and made comments on the frames in general. Bro. Reggel presented the four exhibitors with the club award certificate. Bro. Reggel mentioned our January meeting for member exhibitions. Mr. Lindenberg invited all members to visit the British Empire Study Group meetings. Meeting closed at 10:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Fred J. Gommo, Secretary.

Philatelic Visit to Fort Greene Lodge

By SAM BROOKS

A short time ago the Worshipful Master of Fort Greene Lodge #922, F & A.M. Brother Bernard Hahn, visited a meeting of The Masonic Stamp Club of N. Y. His purpose was to obtain speakers for a Masonic Philatelic Night at his Lodge. Brothers S. Duffield Swan and Sam Brooks agreed to show their collections October 27th last, at the meeting of Fort Greene Lodge. They meet at the Brooklyn Masonic Temple, Clermont and Lafayette Avenues, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Brother Swan was to show his fine collection of Masonic cancellations and Brother Brooks his collection of Masonic Philately. So much for the preliminaries. Those of you who have seen the collection of Brother Swan have named it the finest collection of its kind. Much thought and time and money has gone into locating covers and stamps; and in addition, information about some of the Masonic Postmasters who issued these cancellations. Truly it is an amazing array of elusive and in many instances unique cancels, properly identified and displayed.

My collection shown is the basic prize winning collection of Masonic Philately. However, the names Fort Greene, Clermont, and Lafayette suggested Masonic connections that I could not ignore. So, I prepared a small collection tying in stamps and stories.

There is a little park on the site of the Old Fort Greene, and thought of it, brought back many childhood memories. As a youngster, I lived on the lower East Side of Manhattan not far from the Brooklyn Bridge. On a pleasant Saturday morning, wrapped up lunches in hand, a group of us would walk across the Brooklyn Bridge and at times visit Fort Greene Park. My thoughts were of a pleasant little spot where we could sit and talk, play and eat the food we had brought along.

One land mark stood out! A tall granite shaft mounted on a square base which I know, is the Martyr's Monument. You could write a book about this monument, for it marks the spot where the bones of many soldiers are laid to rest. These were prisoners captured by the British during the Battle of Brooklyn, who died of unspeakable diseases in the holds of the hellish prison ships anchored off the

Brooklyn shore, in the nearby River. It is interesting to note that the monument was erected with funds provided by R. W. John Jacob Astor, Past Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

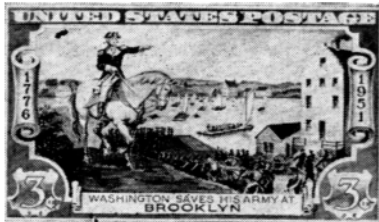
But back to Fort Greene and the part it played in the Battle of Brooklyn or as it is sometimes referred to, the Battle of Long Island.

Early in July, 1776, word reached General George Washington of the impending arrival of the British troops, and their plan to capture Brooklyn and then cross the river to take New York. It was part of a "Grand Plan" to capture all of the State of New York east of the Hudson, from Canada to the City, and thus effectively cut off the Colonial armies from New England.

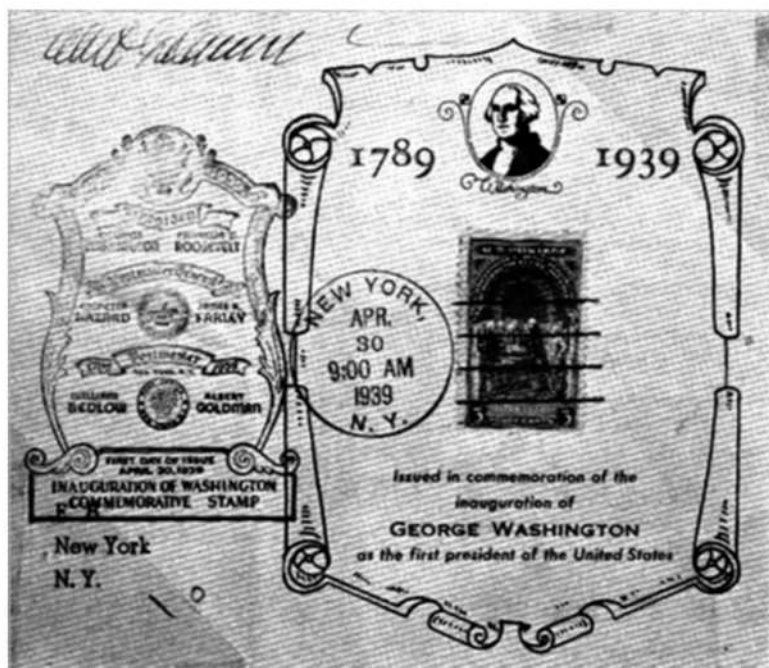
Washington and his generals decided to fortify the area around Fort Greene, then known as Fort Putnam. A corps of about 10,000 men were entrenched in the area, which commanded the East River and the approaches to the city from the ocean.

The British, however, landed a superior force, and on August 27th a fierce battle was fought, in which the Americans were routed. Many prisoners were taken by the British, their fate sealed in the holds of the infamous prison ships.

That evening, under cover of darkness and the fog, a good part of the American Army managed to ferry across the river to New York. Then a delaying action was fought at the Battle of Harlem on another retreat to New Jersey. However, the loss of the Battle of Brooklyn proved a great blow to the American cause. To commemorate the Battle, a stamp was issued in 1951, showing Washington watching his army in retreat.



The new name of old Fort Putnam, which incidentally was named after Israel Putnam of Bunker Hill fame



was Fort Greene also named after a Revolutionary war hero, Nathaniel Greene. Both of these gentlemen were members of the Craft.

It was in August of 1814, that one of the greatest patriotic undertakings took place around Fort Greene. Most of the action in the War of 1812 took place around Washington, where the White House was burned, and along the Canadian border. Early in 1814, rumors reached the military authorities around New York that the British would soon attack that area. Again, Fort Greene was the focal point in an endeavor to repulse the British, should they attack there.

On the 9th of August, 1814, preparations were made to strengthen the Fort. Additional entrenchments were begun, all work being done by volunteers.

Each day new groups of workmen from various crafts and fraternal and social organizations came to work on the Fort. Many came from as far away as Newark and Morris County in New Jersey. This was not a local affair.

"Fort Masonic"

An article in the Sunday Brooklyn Eagle of August 24, 1879, tells how the Grand Lodge of Masons under the leadership of DeWitt Clinton, Most Worshipful Grand Master, arrived on

August 31st with about 750 Masons, ready to do their part. Special mention was made of the contributions by the members of "Old Fortitude Lodge" of Brooklyn. There were so many Masons working on the entrenchments that the area was called "Fort Masonic."

Late in September the works were completed and the military took over. Heavy artillery was mounted. The Brigade remained encamped at Fort Greene for about three months until peace was declared.

For a better understanding of the Fort Greene picture, refer to the photograph of an 1814 map of "Fort Greene and line of entrenchments." This map appeared in a booklet prepared by The Temple Club of the Fourth Masonic District of New York in September 1914. Ceremonies commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the erection of Fort Masonic, were held at the site of the old fort, now the Brooklyn Y.W. C.A. A suitable plaque was placed on the wall of the building.

For an interesting story about Fort Masonic, ask for this booklet from the Grand Lodge Library. Well worth reading is the entire story of this remarkable Masonic undertaking.

Now what about Clermont and La-

fayette, the two Avenues on which stands the Brooklyn Masonic Temple, the home of **Fort Greene Lodge?**

Washington Takes Oath

Clermont is the name of a fine manor house which stood on the banks of the Hudson a short distance to the north of New York. It was the home of a famous American and equally famous Mason, Robert R. Livingston. If you look at the Inauguration Commemorative stamp issued April 30, 1939, 150 years after the inauguration of George Washington as President you see the oath being taken by Washington on the Bible of St. Johns Lodge #1, and administered by Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, then Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York.



In 1909 a stamp was issued for the Hudson-Fulton Celebration.

It shows the steamship "Clermont" on its maiden voyage up the Hudson to Albany. It was Livingston who financed Fulton's experiments and Brother Fulton, out of gratitude for his benefactor, named his ship after Liv-



ngston's ancestral home. The Hudson-Fulton stamp was issued Sept. 25, 1909 to commemorate the centennial of its first navigation by steam. Robert Fulton was a member of Hiram Lodge in New York. Livingston was a member of the committee named to draw up the Declaration of Independence. In 1789, as Chancellor of the State of New York he administered the oath of office to George Washington. In 1804, Living-

ston was a special Ambassador to France, and with James Monroe, also a Mason, successfully conducted the negotiations for the Louisiana Purchase. A series of stamps was issued in 1904, and Livingston is shown on the 1¢ value.

This event was again commemorated in 1953, and Livingston is shown on that stamp.

Livingston died at Clermont, March 26, 1813.

Lafayette was raised in a military Lodge after his arrival in this country, where, and in what Lodge is not known, but it is known that he attended Lodge with Washington. In 1824 he visited the United States by invitation of Congress. He was received at many Masonic functions; addressed many Grand Lodges and was made an Honorary Member of various Lodges.



The stamp shown was issued in 1957 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Lafayette. Another stamp was issued in 1952 to mark the anniversary of his arrival in the United States.

Lafayette belonged to one of the noblest families in France. At the time of his decision to assist the Americans in their fight for liberty he was but 19 years of age, married, and with a baby daughter. After offering his services to Benjamin Franklin, then in France, he left for America and on arrival at Philadelphia, was received by Congress. He joined Washington and a warm friendship sprang up between them.

Lafayette served through the war and became one of the most popular foreign military men of that period. His return visit in 1824-25 was a triumphal tour across the country and organizations of all kinds vied with one another in their desire to honor him. Lafayette Avenue was of course named after the famous Marquis de Lafayette.

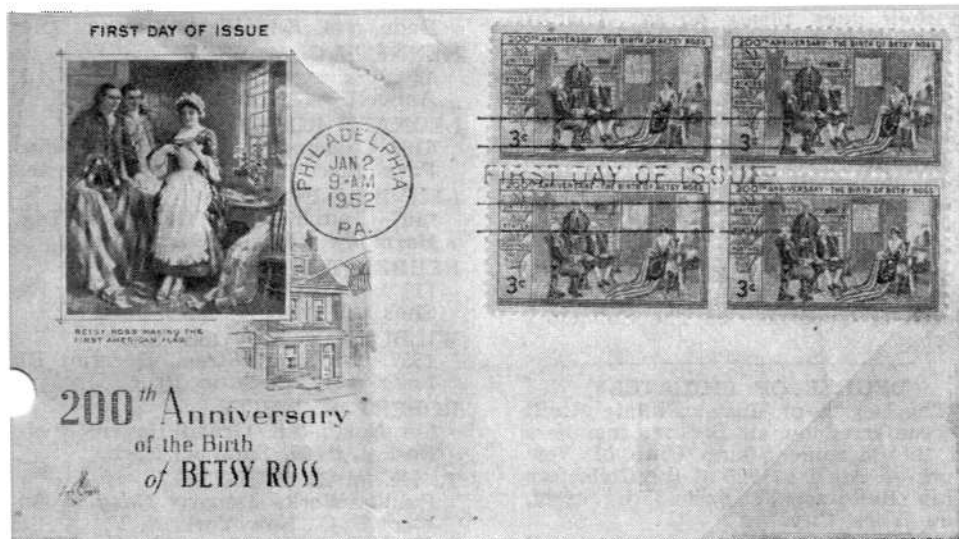
So we see that Fort Greene Lodge #922, F.&A.M., is indeed well named. Boasting a fine Masonic background in name as well as in deeds. How for-

tunate that its name is located on streets with names that bring to mind at once, some of our glorious Masonic history.

In closing, I must again thank Brothers Wendell Walker and Tom Robertson of our Grand Lodge Library for their aid in obtaining material needed

for this article. Also to Mr. H. Frank, Borough Director of the Brooklyn Park system for information about the Martyrs Monument. And last, but not least, to Miss Helen P. Belman, Librarian of the Long Island Historical Society, for her fine assistance in locating some of the local information.

Robert Morris 1734-1806



Robert Morris, the man who financed the American Revolution, was born January 31, 1734, in Liverpool, England, and came to America with his father in 1747.

After serving a few years in the counting house of Charles Willing in Philadelphia, he formed a partnership with Willing's son in 1754 which continued with great success until 1793.

In 1776 Morris was a delegate to the Continental Congress and signed the Declaration of Independence. He was twice re-elected to Congress.

He backed the government financially throughout the Revolutionary War. He also established the Bank of North America in 1781, and the same year was appointed Superintendent of Finance, serving until 1784.

From 1789 to 1795 he was U. S. Senator from Pennsylvania. He was offered the post of Secretary of the Treasury, but suggested the name of Alexander Hamilton for that office.

In his later years he became involved in land speculations in the west which

resulted ruinously and 3½ years were passed in confinement for debt. He was visited by Washington while in prison. He died in Philadelphia May 8, 1806.

Robert Morris is claimed by some researchers to have been a Mason having been initiated in one of the old Pennsylvania lodges. However the name of his lodge is not given, nor are the dates of his receiving the degrees. It is said that Washington presented him with a Masonic apron which he wore on several public Masonic occasions.

The Betsy Ross stamp of 1952 (U. S. No. 1004) shows Robert Morris as a member of the flag committee. They are (l. to r.) George Washington (seated), Hon. George Ross (standing) and Morris (seated).—Marshall S. Loke, 56 Langford Road, Rochester 15, N. Y.

Editor's Note:

It is both of historical significance and philatelic knowledge, to learn about the men that helped shape the

destiny of our nation. Such a man was Robert Morris and it is with due thanks to Bro. Marshall S. Loke that we have this fine article.

NOTICE ON DUES

Brother Joe Munk, our Treasurer, reports that dues are coming in nicely and most Brothers are thanking him for the First Day U.N. cancellation. Would the members who have not sent in their dues, please do so. Thanks for your co-operation.

In and Around the Club

Bro. Alfred C. Horn of West Haven, Conn., has been reported ill. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Bro. Carl E. Pelander, our membership chairman, has been under the weather, and resting up. We hope that he will be able to attend our meeting soon in good health.

Bro. Doctor Irwin M. Yarry is to be congratulated for being elected to the Board of Governors of The Collectors Club.

DEGREE OF PHILATELY

The Degree of Master Philately will be conferred on all Brother members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York on April 1, 1960 at the Collectors Club Building, 22 East 35th Street, New York City.

This is an event that happens to fall on April Fools Day but no fooling, you will have one of the thrills of your life both philatelically and Masonically. If you can come in for this wonderful event please let your editor, Leo Passon, 1250 Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn 30, N. Y. know of your desire and we will be most happy to forward the information to the persons responsible for giving the degree.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

EDWARD C. ABBOTT

Fort Meade South Dakota
Olive Branch #47, Storgis, S. D.

PAUL C. ALTHOUSE

442 W. 2nd Ave., Parkesburg, Pa.
Oildale #688, Bakersfield, Calif.

GORDON ARLINGTON

44 Randolph Ave., Dover, N. J.
Acacia #20, Dover, N. J.

ARNOLD D. BELCHER

R. R. #1 Chalfont, Bucks Co. Penna.
University #610, Phila. Penna.

ERNEST E. CALKINS

725 Loch Lomand, Bakersfield, Calif.
Oildale #638, Bakersfield, Calif.

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4381 No. Bend Road, Cincinnati 11, O.
Cheviot #140, Cincinnati, Ohio

W. M. LANS

27 Primulastr, The Hague, Holland
Hiram Abiff #68, The Hague.

A. MORELAND LAZIER

320 Weeks Street, Jamestown, N. Y.
Mr. Moriah #145, Jamestown, N. Y.

WALTHER M. LAZIER

1707 Von Phister St., Key West, Fla.
Dade #14, Key West, Fla.

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Amwell #12, Lambertville, N. J.

LEONARD ROSNICK

6106 Cavanaugh, Houston 21, Texas
Park Place #1172, Houston, Texas

LENNVILLE ROGERS

1307 Church Street, Galveston, Tex.
Harmony #6, Galveston, Texas

REUBEN TUNICK

111 65th Ave., Philadelphia 20, Pa.
Shekinah #246, Phila. Penna.

WILBURN E. R. VOSS, SR.

1357 E. Walnut Street, Decatur, Ill.
Ionic #312, Decatur, Ill.

ROBERT E. WHITE

514 North 5th, Grand Haven, Mich.
Boston #146, Saranac, Mich.

T. HERMAN WHITING

Public Works Depart. Navy #138.
Fleet P. O., New York, N. Y.
Civil & Military #726, Hamilton,
Bermuda

The giant "Christ of the Andes" stands on the mountainous border between Chile and Argentina. The statue commemorates a 1902 pact that settled a border dispute between the countries. The inscription reads, "Sooner shall these mountains crumble into dust than Argentines and Chileans break the peace which at the feet of Christ the Redeemer they have sworn to maintain."

A line pair is a pair of U.S. stamps with the guide line between each found in coils.

Formosa (Free China) added a United Nations symbol series to worldwide UN in May to honor the World Health Organization WHO.

Collectors of sports on stamps have limited the supplies of the Poland 1956 Melbourne Games issue — prices advance.