

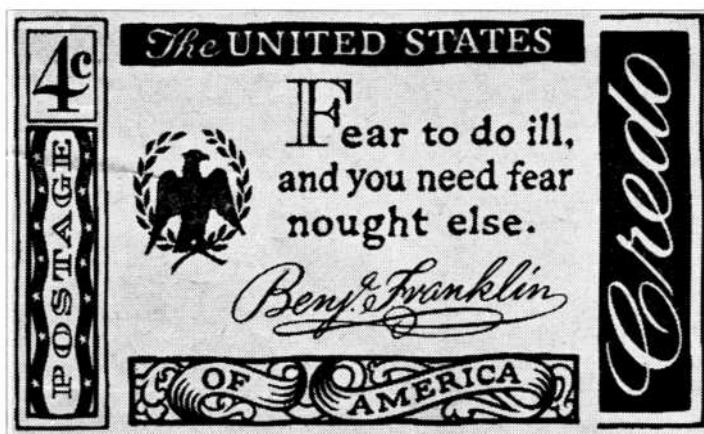


the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 16

MARCH 1960

NO. 7



4¢ Franklin Credo for issue March 31, Philadelphia, Pa. will be issued with some changes in design. Rather than "Benj. Franklin" as used on the Declaration of Independence, the signature was changed to the more commonly known "B. Franklin."

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

MARCH 1960

VOL. 16 NO. 7

M. S. C. Silver Anniversary



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BY THE SIGN OF THE GAVEL

Brothers Joe Munk, Charles Sanna, Warren Ehrig and your writer left New York Sunday morning, February 21, for Washington, D. C. We spent the day pleasantly, en route and sight seeing.

The following day, being George Washington's Birthday, was to be spent as guests, with the George Washington Chapter No. 1 of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York.

Brother Robert (Bob) Fellers breakfasted with us at our hotel and then drove us around in his car, showing us the sights.

At noon we arrived at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Va., where lunch was served. This was followed up by the Chapter putting on the Philat Degree.

Then we made a pilgrimage to Mt. Vernon, where we visited the tomb of Bro. George Washington. Many wreaths had been placed there, by Masons. We spent some time viewing the Mansion, Out Buildings and Gardens before we left for dinner, at a fashionable dining place, on the banks of the Potomac.

This annual dinner of the Chapter was given in honor of Brother Sol Glass, its President, who is leaving soon, for a "Round-the-World" trip. Bro. Robert (Bob) Fellers acted as Toastmaster. Bro. Kerstein showed slides belonging to Bro. John Mirt of Chicago, Ill. It was a nice affair! We all wish Bro. Sol Glass and his wife a wonderful trip.

Finally, we left Washington, D.C., and were on the way home.

In my opinion, all Masons, who visit the Nation's Capital, should not fail to visit the magnificent George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Va. It is unrivalled in historic interest and beauty.

The Degree of Master of Philately will be conferred on all Brothers desiring it, at our meeting on April 1, 1960 at 8 p.m. If you are interested, please send in your name.

—Emanuel M. Reggel.

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILATELY

The Degree will be conferred on April 1, 1960, at the meeting in the Masonic Stamp Club room, 22 East 35th Street, New York City. A few members have written expressing the desire to take the degree; among those writing are:

Joel J. Berger, 17 Glenwood Ave., Northampton, Mass.

K. C. Massey, 42 York Street, Lambertville, N.J.

Stanley A. Kosan, 216 Windsor Rd., Staten Island, N.Y.

As you will see by the addresses of the three Brothers listed they are coming from near and far! Why not bring the little woman into New York, let her do shopping, and see a show, and you can have a chance to become acquainted with the fellow members of YOUR MASONIC CLUB!

Franklin, The Mason



As part of the Presidential series, on the $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ stamp, is the portrait of one man who is not a President, but who is regarded by the American people as practically equal to George Washington in the formation period of our country—Benjamin Franklin, patriot, statesman, philosopher, economist, author and a leader in almost every outstanding endeavor or movement of his time. The life of Franklin is of particular interest to Masons and collectors of stamps. Thousands of books have been written about his life and deeds. His epigrams and work have passed into folklore of his country.

It has now become a practice, if not an unwritten law that Franklin's portrait should appear on the first or smaller values of the postage, more commonly in use, because he was the Deputy Postmaster General of the Colonies and upon the formation of the United States he became the first Postmaster General. And such is his renown for the many improvements in postal service, that it is therefore fitting that his portraits should appear on every regular issue of stamps. Masonically, Benjamin Franklin is outstanding. He was elected a Worshipful Master in 1732 and became the Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Pennsylvania in 1735. He issued the first Masonic book published in America which has become one of the rare and valuable documents in existence, a reprint of the Anderson's

Constitutions.

During his journeys in England and on the Continent, he was constantly improving his connection with the Masons of those countries and the records show that throughout his public career he continued to be deeply interested in the Craft and used his Masonic contacts as opportunities for becoming better acquainted with the more important men to the advantage of the American Colonies.

It is doubtful if any other man of equal fame and as much engaged in affairs of first importance to our country has ever devoted himself to Freemasonry so zealously for so long a period of time.

Franklin was actively associated with the Craft for 60 years.

He took his degrees in 1730-31 in St. John's Lodge, Philadelphia, which then also functioned as a Grand Lodge.

In 1776, while American ambassador in France, he affiliated with Masonic Lodges in Paris, including the Lodge of the Seven Muses, and enlisted the sympathies of prominent French Masons in the American movement for independence. Subsequently, he headed various Masonic bodies there. He died in 1790 at the age of 84.

His description of the so-called "secrets" of Freemasonry bear repeating:

"Freemasonry, I admit, has its secrets. It has secrets peculiar to itself, but of what do these principally consist? They consist of signs and tokens which serve as testimonials of character and qualifications, which are conferred after due instruction and examination.

"These are of no small value. They speak a universal language and are a passport to the support and attention of the world. They cannot be lost so long as memory retains its power. Let the possessor of them be expatriated, shipwrecked or imprisoned, let him be stripped of everything he has in the world, still their credentials remain, and are available for use as circumstances require.

"The good effects which they have produced are established by the incontestable facts of history. They have stayed the uplifted hand of the destroyer, they have subdued the rancor



of malevolence and broken down the barriers of political animosity and sectarian alienation.

"On the battlefield, in the solitudes of the uncultivated forest or in the busy haunts of the crowded city, they have made men, of the most hostile feelings and the most diversified conditions, rush to the aid of each other

with special joy and satisfaction that they have been able to afford relief to a Brother Mason."

The foregoing article on Benjamin Franklin is a compilation of articles by Arthur W. Deas and John A. Mirt, for which the Editor extends due appreciation.

MY MASONIC STAMPS AND AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION

By Homer P. Rogers



MASONIC RECORD

North Star #241, F.&A.M. Warren, Pa. Life Member. Occidental Chapter #235, R.A.M. Warren, Pa. Umatilla Council #6, R.&S.M. Pendleton, Oregon. Recorder Emeritus and Life Member.

I was very much interested in Bro. Harbeson's splendid article on Autographs for Masonic Philately in February Masonic Philatelist and would like to tell the Brothers as briefly as I can about my Masonic Stamp Collection and some of my Masonic Autographs. As I look it over tonight I'm afraid I will not be able to include all I'd like to in one instalment.

I have a large album with pages about 11½ by 13½ inches and have pasted the Masonic record of the subject on the left hand page and the stamp portraying the Mason on the right hand page. On the first page there is an interior view of a Lodge in New York State that I cut from some magazine several years ago. (Possibly Look.) According to the arrangement of the Square and Compasses the Lodge is ~~then~~ on the Master Mason Degree. Several pages follow with stamps of George Washington and snap shots of the U.S. Capitol that I took many years ago. On one of the pages facing the Benjamin Franklin stamps there is a snap shot of his grave in Philadelphia that I took in 1926.

On the page opposite the stamp honoring Anthony Wayne I have a snap shot of the Anthony Wayne block house that I took about 1920 in Erie,

Pa. and a post card of it that I got in Erie when I was there in 1952 on my last trip east. Until a few months ago cigarettes had a stamp with the portrait of Dewitt Clinton, a past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York. I finally got around to save one.

At this juncture it may be well to mention the page of Anti-Masonic stamps, which includes, besides William H. Seward and Millard Fillmore, the series of 4 stamps issued in 1941 by Serbia to commemorate the Anti-Masonic Exposition held that year.

Among the pages of stamps of Presidents who were Masons I have an autograph of Theodore Roosevelt on a White House card, and an autograph "with best wishes" Wm. H. Taft. One day I "sat me down" and wrote to Harry S. Truman asking him for his autograph as Past Grand Master of Missouri to be used in connection with the stamps of Brazil and Ecuador that show his portrait. In addition to the P.G.M.Mo. he included 33°. Next I find a snap shot of the grave of Rear-Admiral Peary that I took in 1925. The stone represents a globe with the North Pole marked by a star. Here is an autograph of George Dewey signed at Manila Nov./98. On the same page is an autograph of Douglas MacArthur with a First Day Cover from the MacArthur, W. Va. post office dated Apr. 15, 1942. I sent him a letter a few years ago at the Waldorf Astoria Towers asking for his autograph and he wrote it at the bottom of my letter and enclosed it in the stamped addressed envelope I had sent him. There is a very pretty cacheted cover from the dedication of the Will Rogers Field at Oklahoma City on June 28, 1941.

Then there is an autographed letter written by William J. Bryan in 1897. He has not appeared on any stamp but was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Lincoln, Nebraska, the same Lodge of which General Pershing was a member. As I come to the foreign section of my Masonic Stamp Collection the first autographed letter I find is one written by William IV Jan. 1820, in St. James Palace, London. He was initiated in 1786 at Plymouth and was King of Great Britain 1830-37. One of the prized autographs in my collection is that of Edward VIII, signed EDWARD R I. I have every stamp issued showing his portrait from that ½ cent of Newfoundland picturing him as a baby. Gustavus III, King of Sweden,

formed the Swedish Rite of Freemasonry and Gustavus V was a 33rd degree Mason.

The page of Masons on Argentine stamps is very colorful and I like the stamp showing the Masonic Temple in Tegucigalpa issued by Honduras in 1935. I have a whole page of stamps issued in honor of Kossuth, and two commemorating Robert Burns.

The lists of Masonry on Stamps as published by the Masonic Philatelist and the articles in the Philatelic Gossip have been very helpful. I also got a lot of help from books borrowed from Grand Lodge libraries, especially one by Ray V. Denslow on Masonry in the Western Hemisphere.

In addition to all this Masonic material I have put a large number of post cards of Masonic Temples in my album as I have been able to collect them.

The editor, of course, has my permission to edit this long letter as he sees fit and I shall welcome letters from brother members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. Though I am 73 years old I am still interested in Masonic philately and want to be of help.

Fraternally,

Homer P. Rogers
Box 167
Pendleton, Oregon.

IN AND AROUND THE CLUB

Our Treasurer wishes to express his sincere thanks to Brother Peter A. Schwerdt, 2191 Capilano Rd. North, Vancouver, B.C., CANADA for a beautiful cover from Nassau, to Brother John A. Mirt for a beautifully cacheted Masonic cover, to Brother Wm. E. Salomon for a first day Boy Scout cover. It's these little tokens of appreciation that bring sunshine into his busy life.

One fine day your Editor is going to submit a picture of our Treasurer and all will be able to see for yourselves a tireless worker of the Masonic Stamp Club, but you will also notice that our illustrious Treasurer has lost a lot of hair that nature originally endowed him with; also that the few remaining hairs are gray. PLEASE, SEND IN YOUR DUES! SAVE THE HEAD OF BROTHER MUNK! DON'T LET JOE LOSE THOSE REMAINING GRAY HAIRS BECAUSE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN TO SEND IN YOUR DUES! DO IT NOW! MAIL HIM

YOUR CHECK! IT'S YOUR DUTY TO THE CLUB, TO OUR TREASURER, AND HIS GRAY HAIR!

Brother J. M. Cleveland writes, "Sorry I am late with my dues, have been out of state taking X-ray treatments following an operation in Nov. Use the balance for any needed club activities."

CONTEMPORARY OF FRANKLIN AND WASHINGTON

The 3¢ stamp issued in Philadelphia, Pa., on Jan. 15, 1955 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts reproduces a painting, "Peale in his Museum." This is a self-portrait by Charles Wilson Peale, a Mason and collector of natural curiosities as well as an outstanding portrait painter of his days. Peale helped to found the academy, the oldest of its kind in the United States.

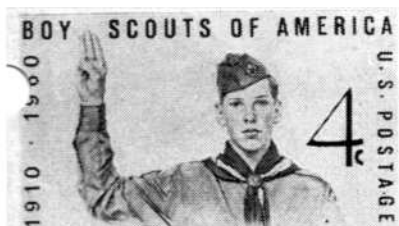
Peale, born in Maryland in 1741, in his early days was a master in saddle making, watch making and the silversmith craft. Becoming interested in art, he studied in this country and abroad, in London. Returning to this country, he made his home in Philadelphia. He served as a Captain in the Continental Army during the War of Independence. Among the portraits he painted were 14 of George Washington over a range of 13 years—1772 to 1795. Of these, four were reproduced in the Washington bicentenary series of 1932—on the ½¢, 1½¢, 3¢ and 5¢ stamps.

After the Revolutionary War, Peale served in Congress. He became interested in natural history and when there was a movement on for the formation of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts he served as one of its active sponsors. With the establishment of the Academy in 1805, he put on exhibit his large collection of natural history curios as well as his paintings. He died in Philadelphia in 1827.

Peale was a Mason, according to records of Williamsburg (Va.) Lodge, now No. 6. "Brother Peale" is referred to in several instances in 1775 minutes in connection with his borrowing from the Lodge of a portrait of Peyton Randolph, Provincial Grand Master, for copying purposes.

—John A. Mirt.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Daniel Carter Beard

SIR BADEN-POWELL (not a Mason) was Founder of the Boy Scouts of Britain—he organized a corps of boy messengers during the Siege of Mafeking. The fine Boy Scout movement is now worldwide. (See Note)

The 3¢ postage stamp issued June 30, 1950, to honor the work being done by the Boy Scouts of America in building character and future citizenship, is of Masonic interest. The stamp pays homage to Daniel C. Beard, a Mason, who at his death on June 11, 1941, was a member of Cornucopia Lodge

No. 563, Flushing, N.Y. He led in the formation of the Boy Scouts in 1910. The stamp shows the Statue of Liberty—a beacon light of freedom to all men—which was designed by a Mason, Frederic A. Bartholdi. The statue's cornerstone was laid with Masonic ceremonies, Aug. 5, 1885, by the Grand Lodge of New York.

The latest stamp to honor the Boy Scouts of America shows a marked contrast to the previous stamp. Modern simplicity of design, clean cut lines, it concentrates on its single theme, Boy Scouts of America. The new colors add something to U. S. stamps that is novel; not the regular red and blue colors on white paper that we have become so accustomed to expecting.

ALBERT B. GRAHAM, A MASON

By R. M. Needham, 32° K. T.

Depicted on the 3¢ 4-H Club stamp is a boy and girl, symbolizing the help to all boys and girls in farm work which the 4-H club does for them. This issue of the United States of 1952 (Scott's #1005, Minkus #CM347) depicts the 4-H emblem, a 4-leaf clover with the H in each leaf, signifying: "I pledge—My Head to clear thinking. My heart to great loyalty. My hands to larger service. My health to better living, for my club, my community, and my country."

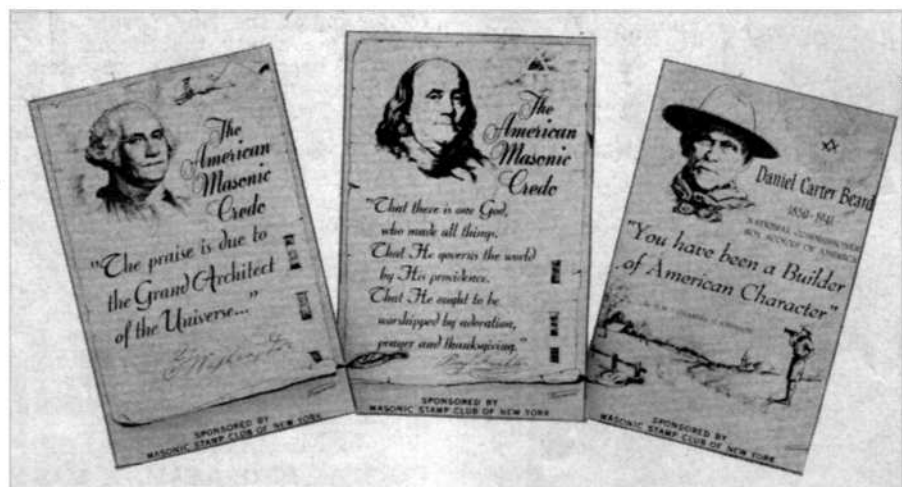
On Jan. 15, 1902, Albert B. Graham, a teacher in agriculture in Springfield, Ohio, began a Farm Youth Club, which was the forerunner of the present 4-H Clubs of the U.S.

At his death in 1960, he was still a member of good standing in Social Lodge #217, F.&A.M., at Lena, Ohio. He was raised in 1890.

NOTES ABOUT MEMBERS

Brother Marcus Moses, Centennial Lodge #763, F.&A.M., Sixth Manhattan District, was honored by Fidelity Post #712, American Legion which held a "Marcus Moses Night" on January 21st. On this occasion Marcus was presented with a silver life-membership card in the American Legion. Marcus is not only a credit to Centennial, but apparently wins honors in all organizations with which he is associated. Congratulations to a member of the Masonic Stamp Club!

Note: This information has been corrected to avoid confusion.



Three Beautiful Masonic Covers — Reproductions of pen and ink drawings by the famous portrait artist — M. A. Rasco:

Brother George Washington—January 20, 1960, at Mt. Vernon, Va.

Brother Daniel Carter Beard—February 8, 1960, at Washington, D. C.

Brother Benjamin Franklin—March 23, 1960, at Philadelphia, Pa.

Each cover is cancelled on the "First Day of Issue" for each special stamp. These cacheted covers are designed exclusively for the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. The number issued are, of course quite limited and most desirable for a Masonic collection.

**The price of the three (3) covers is only one dollar per set.
Six (6) sets of three covers for \$5.00.**

Important: These sets of three covers will be mailed under separate cover, shortly after the Franklin stamp is issued.

Please get your orders in right away — to-day to:

MASONIC CACHETS
Box 244, PLEASANTVILLE, N. Y.