



# *the Masonic Philatelist*

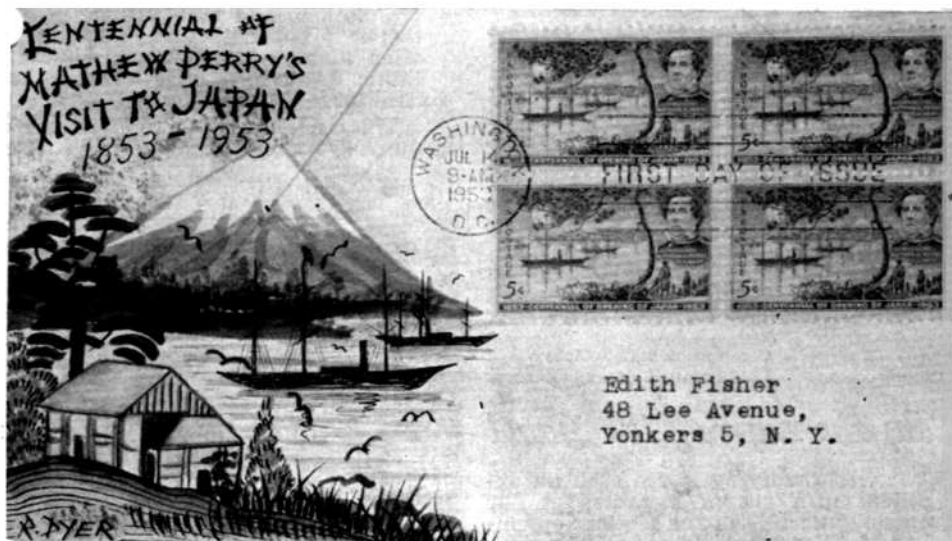
VOL. 17

OCTOBER 1960

NO. 2

## **Commodore Matthew Galbraith Perry**

Commemorative Stamp — Issue of 1953



Edith Fisher  
48 Lee Avenue,  
Yonkers 5, N. Y.

This stamp was issued to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of Perry's negotiations with Japan, which opened her doors to foreign trade after more than 200 years of isolation.

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

OCTOBER 1960  
VOL. 17 NO. 2

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Published by  
The Ralph A. Barry - Al Van Dahl  
Publication Fund  
of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York  
22 East 35th St., New York 16, N. Y.

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## *By the sign of the Gavel*

It was gratifying to see such an excellent turn out of members at our opening meeting of the season September 9th. Nearly everyone brought some interesting items to show and provided a thoroughly enjoyable evening, (the time passed all too quickly). It is hoped that this enthusiasm will continue through the year, as your Program Committee has arranged an outstanding schedule of programs of great interest and variety for the year.

Thanks to Bro. Leo Passon for his service as editor of The Masonic Philatelist for a job well done, but it is with

## ★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Each Month  
Collector Club Building  
22 East 35th Street, N.Y.C.  
2nd Meeting - Oct. 7th, 1960

## IN MEMORIAM

BRO. J. GORDON ROSSER  
May his soul find eternal rest.

regret that we accepted his resignation as Editor owing to his business activities that prevents him from giving the time needed to edit our paper.

Best Wishes to Bro. Sehlmeier. Now it is with pleasure that I announce that another member has picked up the editorial pen. Bro. Norman H. Sehlmeier is assuming the position of Editor with this issue. Certainly all members will join me in offering congratulations and best wishes. In addition it is hoped that all members offer tangible assistance to our new Editor in the form of articles and news items.

This is your publication and it requires your active support. THANKS.

—Emanuel M. Reggel.

## PROGRAM 1960-1961

Sept. 9—Summer Hash  
Oct. 7—Masonic Philately  
Nov. 4—Politics—Members Exhibit—Prizes  
Dec. 2—Guest—John Britt—Airmails, Essays, Proofs  
Jan. 6—Resolutions—Members Exhibit—Prizes  
Feb. 3—Curator's Night—Display the collections belonging to the Masonic Stamp Club  
Mar. 3—Guest—to be announced later  
Apr. 7—Old Eggs—Members Exhibit—Prizes  
May 5—Past Presidents Night  
June 2—Annual Meeting—Election

## MATTHEW CALBRAITH PERRY

By Walter R. Harbeson

Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry known as "the father of the steam navy" was born on April 10, 1794, at Newport, Rhode Island.

He entered the Navy as a midshipman in 1809, and served on the schooner *Revenge* under his brother Oliver H. Perry, hero of the battle of Lake Erie. From 1810 to 1813 he served on the flagship "President," training under John Rogers. His diary gives an account of the chase of the "Belvidera" when Rogers fired the first shot afloat in the War of 1812. He spent the years 1833-43 on shore duty, for much of the time at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, of which he was commandant for part of this period. In 1837 he commanded the *Fulton*, one of the first naval steamships, having made valuable contributions to the development of the U.S. steam navy, and was promoted to the rank of captain, then the highest in that branch of the service. In 1843 he served on the African coast in suppression of the slave trade.

In 1846 he commanded a squadron and captured Frontera, Tabasco, Leguna and Tuxpan. In the following year he cooperated with General Scott in the siege of Vera Cruz during the Mexican War.

In 1852 he was sent to Japan to negotiate a treaty that would open up that country to commerce. Turning the treaty over to the representative of the Emperor on July 4, 1853, he sailed for China and returned to Japan to have the treaty signed on March 31, 1854.

Perry was a member of Holland Lodge No. 8, New York City, in 1819. He died on March 4, 1858.

Stamp #1021 commemorates the centenary of his negotiations with Japan which opened the doors of that nation to foreign trade. His picture appears on this stamp. Also shown thereon are the steam frigates "Susquehanna" and "Mississippi" and the sloops of war "Saratoga" and "Plymouth" in No Bay, Japan. A First Day Cover cancellation is illustrated on the front cover of this issue.

## THE FREEDOMS

It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have these three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience and the prudence never to practice either of them. (Mark Twain.)

## IN AND AROUND THE CLUB

Brother Sam Brooks reported the formation of a Masonic Philatelic Association in New South Wales, based on an announcement in the *Australian Stamp Monthly*. Our best wishes go forward to this new group.

A special prize was awarded at our last meeting to Brother Charles Sanna for what was judged to be the exhibit of most interest. It really could not be considered "Summer Hash," as it consisted of an overstuffed album crammed full of all sorts of U.S. Masonic stamp items.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Brother Reggel, our President, presented every member present with an interesting patriotic cacheted cover issued in connection with the 1932 George Washington Bicentennial, bearing the cancellation of "Washington Crossing, Pa." It is rumored that he intends to present a similar gift to the faithful who attend subsequent meetings.

Brother Herman Herst, Jr., of Shrub Oak, New York, has just published his long awaited book entitled "Nassau Street." Into this volume, "Pat," who is one of our leading stamp collectors and dealers, has packed hundreds of anecdotes, stories and memories of over a quarter century of stamp dealing and association with leading personalities of philately. "Pat" gave us an inkling of the contents during an interesting talk which he gave at our Club earlier in the year. Current reviews in the leading stamp periodicals are all extremely favorable. Price is \$5.00. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, no doubt Brother Herst would be glad to autograph same on receipt of your order, if you so request.

Brother Schwarz is engaged in a worthy project of sending packets of stamps to various organizations, as mentioned in the Secretary's report of the last meeting. If you have any duplicates, etc., which you care to give away for this purpose, please hand them to Bro. Schwarz at one of our meetings, or mail them to him: David Schwarz, 5 Coralyn Road, Scarsdale, New York. He also requests names and addresses of additional worthy recipients.

Thanks are extended to the Finance Committee, Bro. Charles Brooks, Chairman, for a job well done in auditing the books for the previous fiscal year.

A full page article by our octogenarian member, Jacob S. Glaser, entitled "Columbia 1953 National Philatelic Exposition FDC's," appeared in the September 10, 1960 issue of "Stamps."

## Douglas MacArthur



Bro. General Douglas MacArthur, 33°, is honored on a series of nine stamps issued by the Republic of the South Moluccas to mark the fifth anniversary of the liberation of the Pacific. Bro. Gen. MacArthur is shown saluting. Previously, his portrait was carried on three values of the Philippines (#519-21) issued in 1948. Prized items of this collection of the conductor of this service are three marginal blocks of four, each value autographed "Douglas MacArthur 33°" while the General was still in Tokyo.

The independence of the South Moluccas from Indonesia is still unrecognized, so the status of the new stamps will depend to some extent upon the final decision in the hearings before the United Nations.

The following information is taken from a copyrighted 1951 lengthy article by this writer which appeared in *Temple Topics*, Chicago, and "Cable-tow," official publication of the Grand Lodge of The Philippines:

The Masonic membership which Bro. Gen. MacArthur holds is not a casual one. It is meaningful—something to serve as a rule and guide in his transactions with mankind. He put these principles into effect in the military occupation of Japan. As a result, when he was recalled from Japan last year, his departure was regretted by the people of that country.

Bro. Gen. MacArthur was made a Mason "at sight" in Manila, January 17, 1936, while stationed there, and shortly thereafter he became a member of Manila Lodge No. 1. He received his Scottish Rite degrees later in the year. On December 8, 1947, the sixth anniversary of Pearl Harbor, the 33°

was conferred upon him at ceremonies in the American embassy in Tokyo—a fitting place and occasion. When the Supreme Council 33° of the Philippines was formed in 1951, he became a member of the Council and its Grand Orator.

Philippine Masons hold Bro. Gen. MacArthur in the highest esteem.

When the Japanese swept over the Islands, Masonic temples were seized, records and buildings destroyed and many Masons tortured, even murdered. It was his open support that enabled Freemasonry to be reborn, after liberation, in a country where an overwhelming Catholic majority has been extremely antagonistic.

Freemasonry and Japanese ideology and totalitarian aims were incompatible, and before the war the Imperial Government made every effort to suppress the activities of the Craft. Under the liberal policies established with American occupation, Freemasonry was given an opportunity to establish itself in that country. Today, there are several lodges working under charters of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

Thus, with the "blessings" of Bro. Gen. MacArthur, a new era has come to the Japanese.

From "Masonry on Postage Stamps" by John A. Mirt.

## Masons On Stamps

Although it has been my privilege to be active in the world of stamps for over a quarter of a century, I find that there are still many things to learn, and particularly when it comes to the association of stamps and Masonry.

Recently—on June 17 to be exact—I was requested to represent the Post Office Department at Santa Fe, New Mexico, when the new 1¼¢ regular postage stamp depicting the "Palace of the Governors" was first placed on sale. Two days before leaving for there, I received a copy of the *Masonic Philatelist*, and learned that the Palace of the Governors and the Territory of New Mexico had Masonic connotations.

Charles Bent, first territorial governor, was initiated into Masonry on June 8, 1822 in Missouri Lodge No. 1, St. Louis. Christopher ("Kit") Carson, of no small fame, was a frequent visitor to Santa Fe. He was initiated into the Craft in Montezuma Lodge No. 109 at Santa Fe on March 29, 1854, and was subsequently passed and raised in the same lodge.

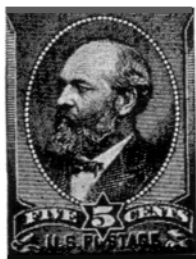
An impressive part of the first day ceremonies at Santa Fe was a special showing of "Ben Hur" written by General Lew Wallace. This great epic was finished while Wallace was governor of the New Mexico Territory, and therefore occupant of the Palace of the Governors. General Wallace was raised in Fountain Lodge No. 60 in Covington, Indiana, and later affiliated with Montgomery Lodge No. 50, Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Thus my visit to Santa Fe, and my participation in the ceremonies there, were closer than they otherwise might have been.

The Masonic Philatelist and the Masonic Stamp Club of New York have done an outstanding job in bringing to light factual information about stamps honoring Masons and Masonry. Anyone, whether a collector of stamps or not, will find this publication, and affiliation with this group, very informative.

The United States has recently begun honoring foreign "Champions of Liberty." Four of the eight honored or to be recognized by the end of 1960 were Masons, and the son of a fifth was a Mason. Those within the Craft were Simon Bolivar, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Lajos Kossuth, and Jose de San Martin. The son was Jan Masaryk, whose father, Thomas G. Masaryk, was included in this series early in 1960.

#### MORE ABOUT PRESIDENT GARFIELD

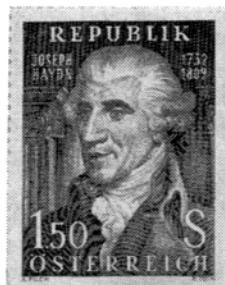


Our September 1960 issue of "The Masonic Philatelist" contained a very interesting article by Bro. Walter R. Harbeson concerning President James A. Garfield. Mention should be made that the illustrations on the cover and on page 7, being copies of the original application of Garfield to join Magnolia Lodge No. 20, Columbus, Ohio, and his handwritten request to demit in order to affiliate with Garrettsville Lodge No. 246, are very unusual items and have only recently come to light. We are indebted to Bro. Harbeson for hav-

ing furnished us with copies of these original documents.

Garfield's picture first appeared on No. 205, issued April 10, 1882, illustrated above. Subsequently it was shown on Nos. 216, 224, 256, 305, 558 and 825.

#### FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN



Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809), the Austrian composer, had a long friendship with Wolfgang A. Mozart (1756-1791), beginning in 1781. It is probable that his petition to Freemasonry was the result of this close association.

The following information is from "Mozart and Masonry" by Paul Nettl, copyrighted 1957:

Lodges in Vienna were numerous and Mozart's circle of friends was composed largely of Freemasons.

Mozart was initiated into the lodge "Zur Wohltätigkeit" on December 14, 1784. He had been proposed for membership on December 5, 1784 and he became No. 20 in the lodge register.

On December 24, 1784, he paid an official visit to the lodge "Zur wahren Eintracht" (true harmony) before being passed to the second degree at the request of his mother lodge. The ceremony took place on January 7, 1785, at the 343rd meeting of the lodge "Zur wahren Eintracht."

The entry into the minutes of this meeting says: "After the lodge was opened in the first and second degrees, two entered apprentices were passed to the second degree with the usual ceremony. They were Vincenz Marquis Canarisi at the request of the very worshipful lodge "Zur aufgehenden Sonne" (rising sun) in Brunn; and Brother Wolfgang Mozart at the request of the very worshipful lodge "Zur Wohltätigkeit."

In the minutes of the next meeting of the lodge "Zur wahren Eintracht," Mozart's name is not mentioned but Haydn's appears. According to these

minutes, it was proposed to "initiate the Petitioner Joseph Haydn, music director to Prince Esterhazy." After being balloted on January 24, 1785, Haydn was initiated into the Lodge on February 11, 1785. The initiation had been arranged for January 28, but did not take place on that date as Haydn was prevented from coming.

At the meeting on February 11th, he was presented and accepted as the "Petitioner Joseph Haydn, son of Matthias, 51 years old, born on May 1, of Roman Catholic faith, a commoner, born in Rohrau in Austria, by occupation music director to Prince Esterhazy."

(The foregoing submitted by Bro. Marshall S. Loke.)

Additional data regarding Haydn is that as musical director, he wrote German and Italian operas, works for wind instruments, the clavier, stringed quartets and symphonies, notably among them "Farewell," "Joy" and the exuberant "Surprise." In 1791 he was commissioned by the great London conductor, Salomon, to write six symphonies for England, which he directed himself. Six additional great symphonies were written during a second visit in 1794. The "Emperor's Hymn" (1797) was possibly suggested by "God Save the King," two choral works, "The Creation" (1799) and "The Seasons" (1801), crowned the end of a great career. Beethoven was for a time his pupil.

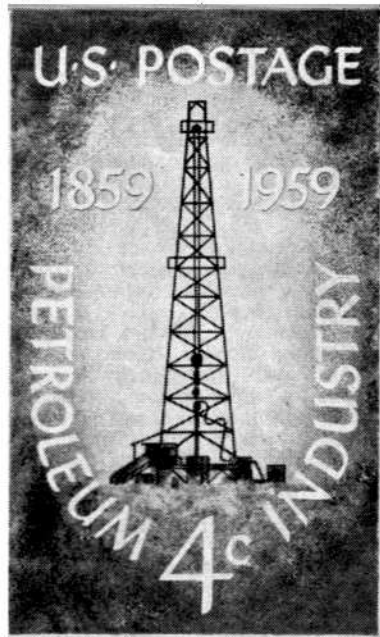
## OIL STAMP

By Walter R. Harbeson

The following appeared in the "Sohioan," a publication of the Standard Oil Company of Ohio.

"September 13, 1859 was a hot and sticky day in New York City and subscribers to Horace Greeley's popular daily Tribune were treated to news designed to cool them off. The lead story was about a 'flying machine man' named Cook who was building an 'aerial car' which could 'navigate the air at will and with an inconceivable velocity.' For those readers who did not immediately fold the Tribune into a fan, there was another much smaller item datelined Titusville, Pa. It read as follows:

'Perhaps you will recollect that in 1854 there was organized in the City of New York a company, under the name of Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company, which passed into the hands of New Haven capitalists and was then removed to New Haven. In 1858 the



directors leased their grounds and springs to Mr. E. L. Drake, well known on the New Haven Railroad. He came out here in May last, commenced to bore for salt or to find the source of oil which is so common along Oil Creek. Last week at a depth of 70 feet, he struck a fissure in the rock through which he was boring, when, to the surprise and joy of everyone, he found that he had tapped a vein of water and oil, yielding 400 gallons of pure oil 24 hours (one day)."

I have run across an interesting anecdote regarding Wilkes Booth. It seems that he had been a romantic favorite for a spell in the oil entertainment field, but one day lost his shirt as a result of one of history's first dry holes. A short time later he left town, went to Washington and shot President Lincoln in Ford's Theater. For years it was local barbershop speculation whether Lincoln would have lived a ripe old age if Booth's well had been a gusher.

The first oil well was drilled over 100 years ago (August 27, 1859) at Titusville, Pennsylvania, by Edwin L. Drake, who was a member of Oil Creek Lodge No. 303, now known as Titusville Lodge No. 754.



**OUR SEPTEMBER 1960 MEETING**

Bro. Brooks gave the invocation, followed by one minute of silent prayer for Bro. John Gordon Rosser, deceased.

Bro. Reggel, our President, greeted visitors—Leroy Crandall of Los Angeles, Calif., and his father, Bro. Earl W. Crandall of Union, New Jersey.

Bro. Schwarz, who for a long time has been donating, on his own account, packages of stamps to various worthy organizations, and has recently been doing so as a Club activity, submitted a report. He has sent packets of over 1000 stamps each to the following organizations in the name of our Club: Stamps for the Wounded of New York. Sisters of the Good Shepherd of N.Y. Kings Junior Philatelic Society, Brooklyn.

Children of Bellevue, New York.  
White Plains Hospital of New York.  
Veteran Administration, Billings, Mont.  
Veteran Administration, Kingsbridge, New York.  
Veteran Administration, Brookings, Oregon.

Bro. Schwarz requests members to submit names and addresses of additional worthy recipients (organizations rather than individuals), as well as donations of stamps for this purpose.

Bro. Heim, one of our past presidents, was welcomed back from his recent trip to Europe and spoke briefly on that subject.

The meeting was then turned over to our Program Director, Bro. Doc. Swan, who spoke about "Summer Hash" in general, and passed around some of the Masonic and other covers which he had collected during the Summer, including a visit to his Alma Mater, Monmouth College.

Bro. Heim displayed his collection of Congo and other Africa. Bro. Salomon spoke about his collection; in particular his recent acquisition of 2¢ Black Hardings. Bro. Brooks displayed his collection of current stamps and covers, which were very colorful, from the Free Republic of China (Formosa), and recommended that country as an interesting and inexpensive sideline.

Brother Fred Wendel showed three items which he prizes very highly. Brother Sanna exhibited and spoke at length regarding his Masonic collection of U.S. Bro. Camnitzer showed an advertisement sent to him in connection with a toothpaste campaign ("Doc." being a dentist), but what really interested him was the advertisement on the reverse side of the page, featuring stamps and in twenty different languages. Bro. Grossman displayed some

of his first day covers. Bro. Reggel then exhibited his complete World Refugee collection, which he had accumulated during the Summer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.  
—Fred J. Gomme, Secretary.

**NOTICE**

Pursuant to the By-laws, notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York will be held on November 4, 1960 at 8:00 P.M., at our regular meeting place, for the purpose of acting upon the following proposed amendments to the By-laws:

- (1) Be it resolved to amend the By-laws of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Sec. 4, Initiation Fee and dues, by deleting "Dues of two dollars (\$2.00) annually are payable in advance on the 1st of January" and substituting "Dues of three dollars (\$3.00) annually are payable in advance on the first day of July. Dues for the period from January 1, 1961 to June 30, 1961 shall be remitted, and all dues paid in advance on the date of the approval of this resolution shall be credited as full payment for the years for which the dues were paid."
- (2) Be it resolved to amend the By-laws of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Sec. 11, Chapters, by deleting the words "in the Metropolitan New York area (New York City and Westchester and Nassau Counties)" and substituting "within a radius of fifty (50) miles of the headquarters of the Club in New York City, N.Y."

(Note: This Special Meeting will coincide with our Regular Meeting Night.)

—Emanuel M. Reggel, President.

**MacARTHUR'S LANDING HONORED BY PHILIPPINES**

The Philippines in October 1956 released a 5¢ stamp to commemorate the landing of the United States liberation forces on Leyte in 1944. The design reproduces the marker erected on the spot where General Douglas MacArthur, a 33° Mason, landed and bears the inscription: "MacArthur's Leyte Landing, U.S. Liberation Forces, October 20, 1944."

In 1948, Philippines issued a series of three stamps (Scott's Nos. 519-521) bearing the portrait of Gen. MacArthur.—Mirt.

# LETTER FROM JOHN MIRT

My failure to provide material for the Masonic Philatelist lately has been due to a lack of time to devote myself to the research and preparation of articles. My work has increased considerably, and I have been doing a lot of work and travelling. My wife is beginning to wonder if she has a husband. The last three week ends have been devoted to attending meetings, two of them requiring my presence at 7 a.m. Sundays for preliminary arrangements. At the beginning of this month I had one medical meeting here which required my moving into the headquarters hotel for five days, although I live only four miles away. Next week I'm leaving for Cincinnati.

On top of this, I made a foolish suggestion to my bosses a couple of months ago. Last year, I had an exhibit on what doctors did toward the development of the automobile. This went over big at medical meetings of the American Medical Association in Atlantic City and Dallas, and in other parts of the country.

I had to open my big mouth and suggest another popular exhibit would be one on "Medical Pathfinders on Postage Stamps," and that lectures on that subject, illustrated with colored slides of postage stamps would appeal to professional and lay audiences at medical meetings. I received the "GO" light on both. Now, I am stuck!

I submitted the suggestion to the AMA, with sample pages of the exhibit. The idea was met with great enthusiasm. They have allotted me 20 feet of wall space at the annual meeting in Miami in June although they had to turn down several hundred applications from physicians for scientific exhibits. Not only that, they have asked me to prepare an article on the subject for one of their medical publications. This is to be illustrated with stamps in color. The Illinois State Medical Society is taking the exhibit for their annual meeting in May, and also wants articles for the Illinois Medical Journal.

Things would not be too bad if I had the stamps to go along with these exhibits and lectures. I have had to start virtually from scratch. That means that I have been doing a lot of shopping for illustrations, and a lot of reading up on medical history.

So I ask all the members of the Masonic Stamp Club to forgive me

for being lax in my contributions. As soon as things ease up a little—I've been saying that for a year or more—I will get back into swing again.

Meanwhile, my regards and be wishes to all of you.

## SVEINN BJORNSSON (1881-1952)

### First President of Iceland

(Iceland #272-3-4-5)

Sveinn Bjornsson was born Feb. 27, 1881, in Reykjavik, Iceland, the son of Bjorn and Elisabet (Sveinsdottir) Jons-son.

After schooling in Reykjavik he went to Denmark and prepared for a career in law at the University of Copenhagen, receiving his degree in 1907.

In 1908 he married Georgia Hoff-Hansen whom he met while studying law. They had six children.

Bjornsson had a distinguished career as a lawyer. He became a member of the bar of the Superior Court of Iceland and was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court. In 1914 he was elected to the Althing, Iceland's legislative assembly; and was Minister to Denmark 1920-41. During his life he participated in many diplomatic missions and important conferences in the United States and Europe.

When the Germans occupied Denmark in World War II and all connections with Denmark and its king were cut off, the Althing elected Bjornsson as Regent June 14, 1941. Iceland was formally declared a republic on June 17, 1944. The first act of the new parliament was to elect Sveinn Bjornsson to the office of president.

He was one of the founders of Edda Lodge in Reykjavik (Jan. 6, 1919). The Sovereign Grand Jurisdiction of Iceland was constituted on July 23, 1951 and Sveinn Bjornsson was Grand Master of Icelandic Freemasons at the time of his death Jan. 25, 1952.

— Marshall S. Loke

In a check list of U.S. Masons or stamps, the name of James Otis given as one of those on the Inauguration-of-Washington stamp (U.S. #854). This is not correct. According to James R. Case, Connecticut historian, the Otis in the picture holding the Holy Bible is Samuel Allyne Otis (1730-1814), secretary of the senate and a Freemason. James Otis, the political leader, died in 1783 nearly six years before the inauguration took place.—Marshall S. Loke.