

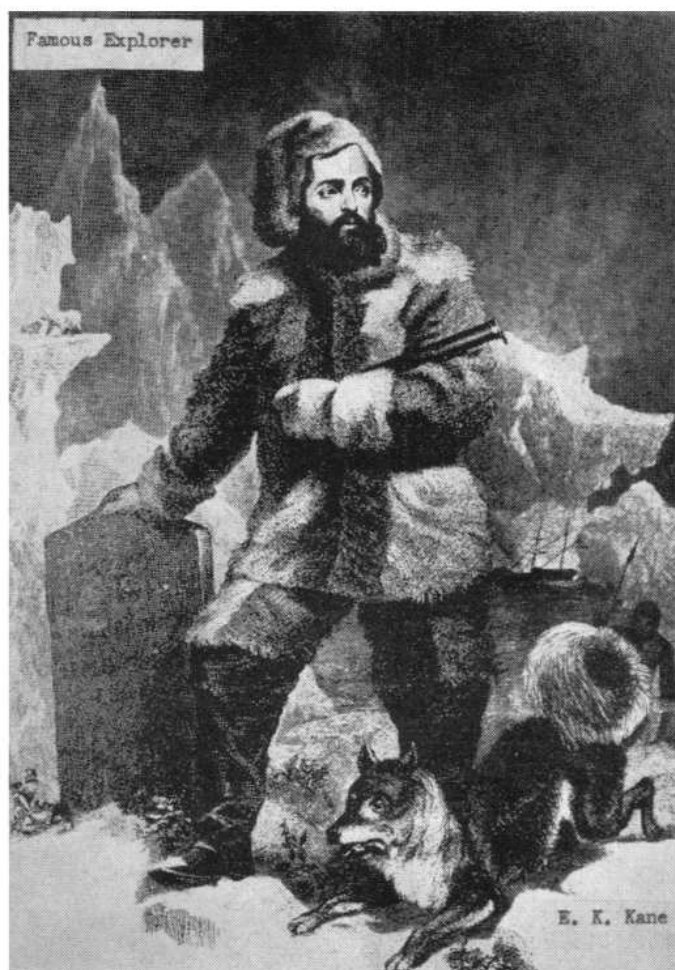


# *The Masonic Philatelist*

VOL. 17

NOVEMBER 1960

NO. 3



# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

NOVEMBER 1960  
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## By the sign of the Gavel

The October issue of The Masonic Philatelist was the first under the editorship of Brother Norman Sehlmeier who did a bang-up job for which we extend the thanks of the Club. His enthusiasm is great and I know that the Philatelist is now in good hands. Many congratulatory letters have been received.

Again, the Editor's job can be made so much easier by the cooperation of all who read this and, again, I repeat by your sending to him articles of Masonic philatelic interest. Don't be bashful, send in articles, and if they are not so well written, we will edit

## ★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Each Month  
Collector Club Building  
22 East 35th Street, N.Y.C.  
3rd Meeting - Nov. 4, 1960  
Politics - Members Exhibit  
Prizes

them for you.

Thanks to those brothers who exhibited at our last meeting, which helped to make it such a success. Now that Winter is drawing near, and nights are longer, no doubt most of you will be getting out your stamp collections and working on them. Why not line up something for a forthcoming Members' Exhibit Meeting?

Let the Editor know about your stamp interests and activities.  
**THANKS.**

—Emanuel M. Reggel.

## OUR COVER

The picture on our cover is that of Brother Elisha Kent Kane, who was born on February 3, 1820; raised in Franklin Lodge No. 134, Philadelphia, on April 13, 1853; died February 16, 1857.

It is taken from the "Portrait Gallery of Eminent Americans," and is from an original painting by Alonzo Chappel.

See the feature article within by our Junior Past President, Dr. Irwin M. Yarry.



## GEORGE CATLETT MARSHALL

This stamp was issued October 16, 1960 by Western Germany to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of General Marshall.

Born: December 31, 1880, Uniontown, Pa.

Died: October 16, 1959, Washington, D.C.

General Marshall, a descendant of another great Mason, Chief Justice John Marshall, attended Virginia Military Institute and entered the Army on graduation in 1901. He devoted his energies to the study of Military science and soon became known as a keen student of military tactics.

In World War I, he received the D.S.M. and decorations from other Governments. After the War, he rapidly rose in rank and when World War II came he was given direct charge of mobilizing, organizing, equipping and training one of the greatest Military forces in history. He was the right-hand man of President Roosevelt on all military matters connected with the President's conferences. It was Marshall who selected Eisenhower as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe. December 16, 1944, he was given the highest Military Rank of our Country, General of the Army.

At the end of the War, he conceived his famous plan of rebuilding and reconstructing Europe, thus helping millions of starving and destitute people, especially in Germany. It is probably this reason that Germany honors him with the issuance of this Stamp.

He served his Country in many ways. He was Chief of Staff, Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State, Ambassador to China, and Special Ambassador on several occasions. For his sponsorship of the Marshall Plan to aid Europe, he received The Nobel Peace Prize in 1953.

President Truman referred to him as a "great Statesman, a great soldier and above all a benefactor of mankind."

December 16, 1941, M.W. Ara M. Daniels, Grand Master of Masons in the District of Columbia, called an Occasional Lodge, held in the auditorium of the Scottish Rite Temple. At this meeting, General Marshall was made a Mason "at sight." It was a gala occasion, which brought together, Grand Masters, Past Grand Masters and other distinguished Masons from many jurisdictions. The chairs were occupied by Grand Lodge Officers of the District of Columbia. The Degrees were given in abbreviated form and the General was Raised by the Grand Master.

Making a Mason "at sight" is a rarely used prerogative of a Grand Master. Other famous Masons, made in this manner were General Douglas MacArthur and President William Howard Taft.

It is interesting to note that the General's father, George C. Marshall, Sr., was prominent in Masonic affairs in Uniontown.

Brother Marshall was honored by the Masons of the State of New York, when on February 7th, 1950, he received the Grand Lodge Award Medal. At that time he was National Director of the American Red Cross. As at his Raising ceremonies, a distinguished group of Masons gathered at a luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria. The medal was presented by the Grand Master, M.W. Frank M. Totton, and the Citation was read by M.W. Charles W. Froessel, Past Grand Master. Judge Froessel declared, in making the citation, "We pay tribute to a great American, of illustrious lineage, a great soldier and a great humanitarian. As long as American history is written, your name will be enrolled among those of the truly great in our history."

Note: My thanks to Brother Wendell K. Walker, director of our Grand Lodge Library and Museum, who sent me articles from the "New Age" of January 1942 and the New York "Masonic Family Magazine" of March-April 1950. The stamp photo and other pertinent material came from a press release of the World Wide Philatelic Agency.

—Samuel Brooks.

#### IN AND AROUND THE CLUB

We were glad to see our Curator of Archives, Bro. Osterlund, present and looking well at our last meeting. Shelton had been on the sick list for several months.

Nice letter was received from Brother Herman Herst, Jr., of Shrub Oak, New York. If any member of the Club orders a copy of "Nassau Street," mentions that he is a member and requests autograph on the book, "Pat" will be glad to oblige. In addition, for each such order received directly by him, we understand that the Club's treasury will be benefitted.

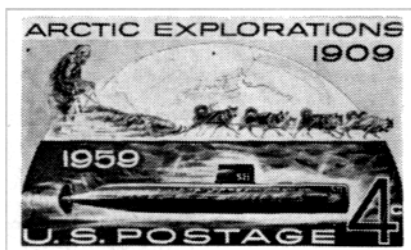
Due to a printer's omission, the article on page 4 of the October issue, captioned "Masons on Stamps," failed to carry the byline that it was submitted by Bro. Franklin R. Bruns, Jr. The trip to Santa Fe described in the article, was made in his official capacity as Director of Division of Philately, Post Office Department, Washington, D.C. Brother Bruns is a Past Master of Gramatan Lodge, Bronxville, N.Y. He was Curator of the National Postage Stamp Collection in the Smithsonian Institution, and prior to that he had been stamp editor for many years of the New York Sun and later the New York World Telegram & Sun. Presently he is also stamp columnist for the Herald-Tribune Syndicate.

Ambassador George V. Allen, Di-

rector of the U.S. Information Service, recently presented his agency's Distinguished Service Citation to Harry L. Lindquist, well-known philatelic publisher and director of the Hobbies Committee of the People-to-People Program. This top award of the U.S. Information Service, is reserved for private citizens who have made outstanding contributions to the cause of international understanding.

## MASONRY AND POLAR EXPLORATION

Part 1 of a Series written by  
Dr. Irwin M. Yarry



In all the history of exploration the conquest of the polar world has held the fascination of mankind for many generations. The final efforts during this past Geophysical Year by the combined resources of many nations have been preceded by many expeditions in which Masons have played an outstanding role. Names like Byrd, Balchen, Peary, MacMillan, Kane, Stefansson and many others who were explorers and Masons, together with the financial and governmental encouragement of famous names like Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Edsel Ford, Jacob Rupert, King Edward VII, King George V, and Gordon Bennett, who were all Masons.

The attempts to find a northwest passage connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans led Sir John Franklin, a Mason, to set forth in 1845. His disappearance and subsequent efforts by his wife Lady Franklin to have the British Government send an expedition to find her husband, influenced Masons in the United States. Lady Franklin never gave up hope that he was still alive and, as a result of her plea, two vessels "Advance" and "Rescue," were outfitted by Mr. Henry Grinnell and, manned by the Navy Department, left New York on May 22, 1850 to find the lost Sir John Franklin. On board the "Advance," a brig of 144 tons, was a Dr. Elisha Kent Kane, U.S.N., a Mason,

with the rank of assistant surgeon, a name which has influenced polar exploration up to the present time.

Born February 3, 1820 in Philadelphia, the first of seven children of Judge John F. Kane and Jane Lee, as noted by his biographer, Dr. William Elder. A spirited and bold youth, fearless, and interested in science and adventure stories, at sixteen entered Yale college, which did not quite suit his potential. He finally found his leaning toward natural sciences and geography in his desire to become a civil engineer. His intended career was soon frustrated by an illness of rheumatic fever which endangered his life and left him with an incurable heart condition. He nevertheless realized that he could best help himself by studying medicine, and at the age of 22, received his degree at the University of Pennsylvania.

The next fifteen years of his short but exciting life, read like an adventure story of unbelievable and most arduous exploits that one can imagine. While en route to his post as physician to the first American Embassy to China, he visited the Andes, Ceylon, Bombay, Philippines, and Macao. He resided in China until his health failed, and then returned to America, traveling westward via Singapore, India, The Himalayas, Persia, Syria, Egypt and dozens of other countries that are covered in his biography by letters written to his friends and family. Serving as a surgeon, during the Mexican War, his constant search for adventure knew no bounds. Sick, but still seeking new exploits, we find our intrepid Dr. Elisha Kent Kane on the "Advance," heading for the Arctic in futile search for the missing Sir John Franklin, a fellow Mason. After sixteen months of the most hazardous experiences, Bro. Kane returned to New York on September 30, 1851.

His restlessness continued and, after a lecture tour and writing his book entitled "The U.S. Grinnell Expedition in Search of Sir John Franklin," we find our Dr. Kane making ready to try again for a trip to the Arctic regions. Mr. Grinnell furnished the "Advance" with money provided by a Mr. George Peabody, a merchant, plus a large sum of his own personal funds accumulated through his popular lecture tour of his Arctic expedition and discoveries. The "Advance" again left New York, on May 30, 1853. This exploratory voyage, with details of extreme hardship and peril, has been recorded by his associate, Dr. Hayes, in a book entitled "Dr. Kane's Second

### Expedition to the Polar Regions."

The expedition reached the 81 degrees latitude and the Arctic Sea. The book furnishes a memorable record of courage and endurance during the two and one-half years of this trip, which ended with the return of the "Advance" to New York on October 11, 1855. The aid furnished by relief ships sent out by our Government and Denmark provided the means for the safe return of the expedition.

The popular, tireless, but sick, Doctor left for Europe in October 1856, in an endeavor to regain his health, although he was then in the last stages of tuberculosis and a failing heart. Arriving in London, he was too sick to receive the acclamation of The Royal Geographical Society. Later, he left for St. Thomas in the West Indies, and went from there to Havana, where he died on February 16, 1857, at the age of 37. His formal remains were given every honor deserving of a national hero, on its being returned to Philadelphia. In addition to Congressional honors, thousands of adoring citizens, including many Masonic bodies, paid homage to this personality who had captured the imagination of the entire world.

It was not more than one year later that a Masonic Lodge honoring our hero was constituted in New York as Elisha Kent Kane Lodge No. 454. From this Lodge came a host of outstanding explorers and honors, which will be related in subsequent chapters to follow. In 1929 a shaft honoring him was raised at Kensico Masonic Plot, New York. Another Lodge which was named in his honor is Kane Lodge No. 183, located at Elkhart, Indiana.

(To Be Continued)

Note: Dr. Irwin M. Yarry would appreciate receiving any information as to possible Masonic affiliation of any of the following:

Mr. Henry Grinnell, born Feb. 13, 1799; died June 30, 1874 (Grinnell Land in the Arctic was named after him).

Mr. George Peabody, born Feb. 18, 1795; died Nov. 4, 1869.

Lieut. Charles Wilkes, U.S.N., born Apr. 3, 1798; died Feb. 8, 1877. (Wilkes Land in the Antarctic was named after him).

### OUR OCTOBER 1960 MEETING

Bro. Brooks, our Chaplain, gave the invocation.

Our President, Bro. Reggel, welcomed Bro. W. A. G. Huxsel of Montreal, Canada. Bro. Huxsel was asked to make a few remarks concerning his collecting activities—Study Club is his

hobby, belonging to two of them studying the ritual. A general collector when very young, now specializing in Canadian plate blocks, and Masons on stamps. Holds titles of P.M. and P.G.S.

Bro. Sehlmeier introduced a visitor, Bro. Harry Gibb.

Bro. Reggel mentioned hearing from Brothers Schwarz, Kuminoff and Paul Norris expressing regrets that they were unable to attend.

The matter of back issues of Masonic Philatelist was discussed with the idea of having a complete set of volumes available by our curator.

Mr. Michaels was introduced as a visitor from the Brooklyn Philatelic Club.

Program: The meeting was then turned over to Bro. Dr. Swan, Masonic Philately, Allied Masonic items. Bro. Swan called on:

Bro. Jake Glaser, who displayed his recent additions of Masonic covers and cancellations.

Bro. Manny Reggel, Masonic cancellations on various Masonic publications and envelopes.

Bro. Sanna, showed his second volume of Foreign Masons on Stamps.

Bro. Sam Brooks displayed the original collection on which his book is based. He also showed two awards this collection has received. First in a U.S. group and fourth in Masonic Philately and is the only collection to take a national prize.

Bro. Yarry, Photostat of letter from Adm. Byrd to FDR from Antarctica; also mentioned that he is working on a set of articles on Masons at the Poles.

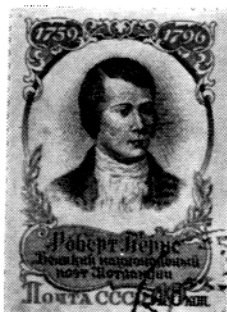
Dr. Swan closed the program showing his favorite subject, Masonic Cancellations on early U.S. covers. General discussion then followed, on Masonic cancellations, by Bros. Swan and Brooks mentioning that not more than five collections exist in this country having over 50 different cancellation types, of which Bro. Swan has one of the larger ones.

Bro. Reggel offered some books and catalogs to members present wanting same. All those present received a set of colorful Herm Island local triangles, courtesy of Pres. Reggel.

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Never lose an old friend,  
No matter what the cause;  
We wouldn't ever do it  
If we didn't look for flaws.  
The one thing worth while having  
Is the friend who stands the test,  
And who has one friend such as this  
Knows friendship at its best.

# RUSSIA AND SATELLITE HONOR ROBERT BURNS, BARD AND MASON



It remained for Russia and a satellite, Romania, to come up with stamps honoring Scotland's great bard and Mason, Robert Burns. A Russian 40k issue (No. 1859) bears his portrait and commemorates the 160th anniversary of this death. Romania issued a 55b stamp (No. 1265) three years later.

Born January 25, 1759, in the parish of Alloway, Scotland, Bro. Burns was initiated in St. David's Lodge, Tarbolton, July 4, 1781, and passed and raised in the following October. A year later he and other members of St. David's reconstructed St. James Lodge in Tarbolton as "Tarbolton Kilwinning St. James'," now No. 135. Meetings were held in Cross Key Inn. It was to the brethren of this Lodge that he wrote his famous "Farewell" in contemplation of a trip to Jamaica, which never materialized.

And you, Farewell! whose merits claim

Justly, that highest badge to wear!  
Heav'n bless your honor'd, noble Name  
To Masonry and Scotia dear!

A last request, permit me here

When yearly ye assemble a' —

One round, I ask it wi' a tear,

To him the Bard that's far awa' . . .

Bro. Burns was a zealous and enthusiastic Mason throughout his short life—he died in Dumfries, July 21, 1796, at the age of 37. Many of his poems were written for and dedicated to the Craft. His eloquence was often displayed at the festival board and poetry flowed from his lips. In his third year as a Mason, he became Deputy Master and frequently conducted the proceedings of his Lodge. On March 1, 1787, he was inaugurated as poet laureate of Canongate-Kilwinning Lodge No. 2, Edinburgh. That year he also was made a Royal Arch Mason in St. Ebbe Lodge, Eyemouth—at an "encampment" especially convened to honor the poet.

The last five years of his life were

spent in Dumfries where in 1788 he became a member of St. Andrew's Lodge. He attended Lodge regularly and Freemasonry inspired many of his productions.

His life was beset with tragic poverty and frequent disappointments. Nevertheless, his poems are unsurpassed for their beauty and their music. They poured out his feelings for his people and his country.

Freemasonry honored him in 1818 with the constitution of a "Robert Burns Lodge." Two years later, at Doon Brig, near his birthplace, the foundation of a monument to his memory was laid with Masonic ceremonies.

These stamps deserve an honored place in a Masonic collection. It is too bad that it had to be Russia and Romania to pay him this philatelic honor.

—John A. Mirt.

## AMONG OUR MEMBERS

Bro. Mark G. Snow, of Cleveland, Ohio, sends us an article entitled "For Whom the Class is Named," which appeared in the last Reunion Program of the Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Cleveland, Ohio. The Class was named after one of our own members, Most Wor. Bro. William R. Pringle, 33°, a Past Grand Master of Masons of the State of Ohio.

Ill. ∴ William R. Pringle was born in Cleveland in 1900, was educated in the public schools there and is a graduate of Western Reserve University. Admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1921, he practiced to 1933. He was elected to the Ohio Legislature in 1930 and 1932 and resigned in 1933 to enter the employ of East Ohio Gas Company as attorney. He was later elected secretary of the company and a director, in which capacities he is currently serving. He is also secretary and a director of Lake Shore Pipe Line Company, a director of Shaker Savings Association and Ohio Chamber of Commerce and a trustee of Hiram College.

He is a Past Master of Windermere Lodge No. 627, and also a member of Windermere Chapter No. 203 R.A.M. Windermere Council No. 113 R.&S.L. Heights Commandery No. 76 K.T., and A.S.S.R., Valley of Cleveland.

His other Masonic affiliations are: Life Member, Al Sirat Grotto and trustee of Humanitarian Fund, M. O. V. P. E. R.; Al Koran Temple; Past Grand Tall Cedar, Cleveland Forest No. 70, Tall Cedars of Lebanon; Vice-President, Cleveland Masonic Library Association trustee Ohio Masonic Home; member, Masonic Relief Association; and trustee, A.S.S.R.



From 1941 through 1943, he was District Deputy Grand Master, and was elected Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, 1949-50.

In addition to being awarded medals for Masonic service and being an honorary member of a number of organizations including one hundred sixty-five Ohio Lodges, Ill. Bro. Pringle, is a member of St. Benedict Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Cleveland Court No. 14, Royal Order of Jestors, and Cuyahoga County Memorial Lodge. He was crowned and became a member of the Supreme Council, 33°, in Boston in 1951.

In addition to all of these activities, we are glad to learn that our distinguished member still finds some time to keep up his interest in philately.

### WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT



With the issuance of the 4¢ Japanese-American Amity and Commerce stamp on September 28, 1960, the Washington Monument appears on a postage stamp for the first time since 1928 when it was shown on the 2¢ and 5¢ International Aeronautics Conference stamps #649/50.

The monument, erected to perpetuate the memory of a great American Mason, Brother George Washington, is a tapering shaft or obelisk of white marble 555 feet in height and 55 feet square at the base, and is said to be the tallest masonry structure in the world.

Its simplicity of design, attributed to Robert Mills, is in keeping with the modesty of the great patriot it commemorates. Architect Mills has often been referred to as a Mason although no proof of membership can be found.

Erection of the monument with funds obtained by popular subscription was authorized by Congress in 1848.

The cornerstone was laid July 4, 1848, with elaborate Masonic ceremonies.

The trowel used on this occasion was the one used by Washington himself at the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol in 1793, and is the cherished possession of Alexandria-Washington Lodge.

The capstone weighing 3,300 pounds was set in place on December 6, 1884, and the monument was dedicated February 21, 1885.

A magnificent view of the City of Washington, D.C. and a broad expanse of Maryland and Virginia may be seen from its windows 500 feet up.

Japanese cherry blossoms are also featured on the new stamp. The cherry trees were a gift of the City of Tokyo to the City of Washington. The ceremonial planting of the first tree took place in 1912 when Mrs. William Howard Taft, wife of the President of the United States, officiated. The trees ordinarily bloom early in April, but this depends upon seasonal conditions.

It was Brother Matthew C. Perry (U.S. #1021), a member of Holland Lodge No. 8, New York City, who succeeded in negotiating a treaty with Japan in 1854 which opened up that country to commerce. For further information regarding Brother Perry and the stamp honoring him, refer to the article which appeared in the October 1960 issue of *The Masonic Philatelist*.

The vignette of the stamp pictured above was engraved by Matthew D. Fenton; the lettering and numeral by Robert J. Jones; the design by Miss Gyo Fujikawa. The seal of the American Committee for the United States-Japan Centennial was used for the pictorial portion of the first day cancellation at Washington, D.C. on September 28, 1960.

—Marshall S. Loke.

### MASONIC STAMP COLLECTING

The following letter has been received from our faithful correspondent, Brother Marshall S. Loke, of Rochester, New York.

"This windy autumn day I have been reviewing my albums, and I am sure that you would enjoy looking them over, too.

"My collection of Masonry on stamps is divided roughly into three sections, one being for American Masons, another for foreign Masons, and a third just for miscellaneous, including symbols and other items of Masonic interest. In addition, there are Masonic covers, including those sponsored by the Masonic Stamp Club, dating from the 175th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

"In this collection, each subject has

a separate page with one or more stamps pertaining to the same and a condensed write-up which tells the story briefly—who the man was, his statistics, his Masonic biography and, wherever possible, some unusual or interesting fact.

"Under General John Sullivan, for example, I mention that he raised some members of his command near Elmira, New York.

"Under: George Rogers Clark, I mention his leg amputation with music from fife and drum furnishing the only anaesthetic; John Marshall, that the Liberty Bell cracked while tolling for his death; Samuel Clemens, how he sent to his home Lodge a gavel cut from cedar from the Lebanon forest; Richard E. Byrd, how 60 of the 82 members of the Second Antarctic Expedition were Masons.

"Also: how King Frederick VIII of Denmark initiated all of his three sons; how Johann W. von Goethe refused to be hoodwinked but promised to keep his eyes closed during the ritual; how Narciso Lopez designed Cuba's flag using Masonic symbolism and so on.

"On the Cedars of Lebanon page of section 3, the story is illustrated not only with one of the cedar stamps but with a timber stamp of Nigeria showing the timbers being conveyed 'by in sea floats'.

"One page is devoted to St. John the Baptist, another to the two-headed eagle, another to the Menorah and the twelve tribes, and one to King Solomon's throne.

"Other pages show Masonic Temples, the interior of a Lodge Room, Masonic events and symbols. Among the latter are the Holy Bible, square and compasses, the trowel, the plumb-line, the beehive, the hour-glass, the hoodwink, the keystone, the all-seeing eye, the broken column, the five ancient orders of architecture, Pythagoras and the 47th problem of Euclid, to mention a few.

"One nice thing about Masonic Philately is that it allows one to use originality in choice, write-up and arrangement so no two collections are alike. Each individual can have something the duplicate of which there is no other in the world.

"There is no apparent limit to how far one can go with his favorite hobby, so that one need never lack for something at which to keep busy.

"Best wishes to all of the members of the Masonic Stamp Club."

## THE STORY OF THE LIBERTY BELL



When you look upon the 2¢ stamp issued in 1926 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence (No. 627), may it remind you of the Masons who founded and built this nation.

In 1729, a proposal was made to build a State House in Philadelphia. Ground for it was purchased by William Allen, Grand Master of Pennsylvania. Four years later, another Mason staked out the ground. The superstructure was raised in 1734 during the incumbency of Benjamin Franklin as Grand Master. The brick mason was Thomas Boude, first secretary of John's Lodge. Today, more than two centuries later, the structure is still sound—"an enduring monument to the skill of our early brethren of St. John's Lodge, both as operative and speculative Masons."

The building was inaugurated with a grand banquet given by Bro. Allen in 1736. In the 40 years that followed, State House became a landmark. On July 4, 1776 it became a national shrine. There on that date the Declaration of Independence was signed. First to affix his signature—and in bold script—was John Hancock, a member of the Lodge of St. Andrews, Boston. How many of the 55 who signed after him were Masons will never be established because of lost Lodge records. However, at least 15 were beyond doubt.

Three days later when the Liberty Bell was rung to proclaim the act, the bell rope was pulled by Andrew McNair, a member of Lodge No. 3, Philadelphia. The crack in the bell occurred in 1818 when it tolled the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, a Past Grand Master of Virginia.

—John A. Mirt.

The firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell distributed Bibles to all of their express riders and prohibited drinking and swearing.