



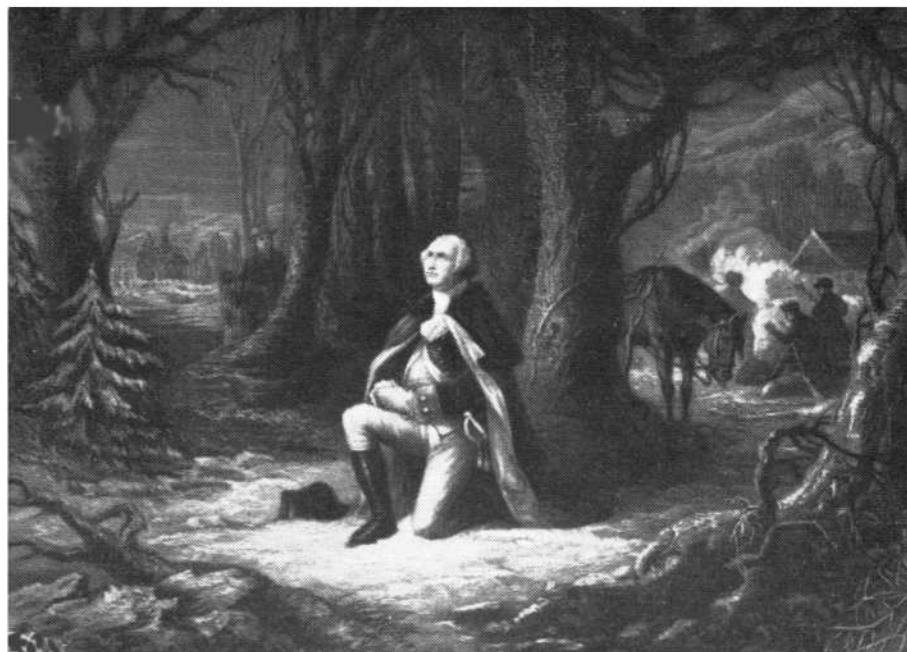
the Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 17

FEBRUARY 1961

NO. 6

The Prayer At Valley Forge



The MASONIC PHILATELIST

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The Ralph A. Barry - Al Van Dahl
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of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York
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By the sign of the Gavel

After more than 25 years since the organization of our Club, it is very gratifying to note the way Masonic Philately has been growing. When one contemplates the great number of new countries which have gained their independence within recent years, we are rightfully appalled by the terrific number of new issues with which most of them have been flooding the market. In many cases, the number of new stamps printed within just a few years, exceeds the total number of stamps issued over the decades by the predecessor entity. While it is true that these new stamps may have a certain pro-

★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Each Month
Collector Club Building
22 East 35th Street, N.Y.C.
6th Meeting — Feb. 3, 1961
Curator's Night
Display from collections
belonging to the Club.

IN MEMORIAM

BRO. DR. HENRY J. GOECKEL
May his soul find eternal rest.

motional or propaganda reason for their existence, it is nevertheless not difficult to assume that the primary reason is often a monetary one, that of obtaining easy money from the collector.

This brings to mind that there appears to be an increase in the issuance of so-called excuses for stamps or covers or cancellations of Masonic interest or significance. Therefore, the serious collector of philatelic material of Masonic interest should be wary of accumulating items which are not truly of Masonic significance.

In the past, our Club has sponsored or issued truly Masonic items, which are much sought after. As occasion arises in the future we shall probably issue similar items. I am writing this in the interest of answering many inquiries as to when we plan further issues.

It has always been one of our aims to have members attend informative meetings. Our last gathering upheld this tradition. The material exhibited was most interesting and diversified. Some of the exhibits contained rare and extremely valuable material; others consisted of inexpensive but attractive items, equally interesting. In exhibits of this type, there is no need for a member to be deterred from showing because he may have a sort of inferiority complex as to the relative value of his collection. We show what we have and collect, regardless of monetary value.

Another aim is to uphold the high standard of The Masonic Philatelist. The Editor and I are both much gratified by the glowing compliments which have been received, as well as by the splendid material which is being contributed. If your article has not yet been printed, it is due to space limitations and will appear later. I am glad to report that Bro. Marshall Loke has completed the revision and up-dating of U.S. check-lists of Stamps Pertain-

ing to Masonry, and these will be published in succeeding issues.

We are looking forward to our next meeting, when Shelton Osterlund, the Curator of our Archives, will exhibit collections belonging to the Club, which are now in his custody.

—Emanuel M. Reggel.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HONORED MEMBERS

The Fieandt Memorial Medal Awarded To Carl E. Pelander

On December 15th, 1960, the annual award of the much coveted Fieandt Memorial Medal was awarded to Carl E. Pelander of New York City by the Finnish Philatelic Society for original research and promotion of Finnish Philately.

Dr. Einar Fieandt (1879-1936) was for many years an active member of the Finnish Philatelic Society, having done much to further Philately in general, especially the stamps of Finland and its Associate Group during the Finnish occupation of Olonetz in 1919. Due to the thoroughness of his work and the great part he played in the promotion of his hobby, the Finnish Philatelic Society, to commemorate his memory, struck a medal in his honor, which is now awarded annually to the most deserving student of Finnish Philately.

This is the first time that this award has gone outside of Finland.

OUR JANUARY MEETING

Pres. Reggel opened the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Bro. Brooks gave the invocation, followed by one minute of silence for deceased brothers, Henry J. Goeckel and Russell Roane. One minute of silence was also observed for Mr. Edward Elkins, who while not a Mason or a member of our Club, had been Past President of The Collectors Club and had been very closely associated over the last 25 years with a number of our members, in a variety of philatelic activities.

Bro. Reggel welcomed Bros. Martin and Sinder, both members; Bro. Fred Dehmen of Westport, a member of the Craft and son-in-law of Shelton Osterlund; also a guest, Mr. Peter Jackson of Schenectady, New York.

Read letter from Van Dahl Publications, thanking the Club for its donation. Also read letter from Collectors Club, re. participating in a Study Group Nite. Discussion followed by Dr. Swan, Reggel, Yarry, Brooks, etc.

Read Season Greeting cards from Bros. Bradley, Wing, Mann, Crandall, Gomme, and last but not least, from Uncle Jake in Florida.

Bro. Reggel thanked Br. Sehlmeier for his secretaryship pinch hitting and editorship.

Bro. Reggel welcomed visitors, Mr. and Mrs. Mel Shapiro who are associated with a new monthly philatelic publication, Stamp World Magazine, copies of which were distributed after the meeting to those in attendance.

The meeting was then turned over to Bro. Swan, program chairman for the evening, who introduced members showing their exhibitions on New Year's resolutions.

Pres. Reggel showed his Gold Coast-Ghana collection and stated his resolution was to discontinue collecting the new issues of Ghana because of the numerous new emissions.

Next came Dr. Yarry, who had just returned from a brief visit to England, from which he had sent some of the members covers bearing House of Lords and House of Commons cancellations. He spoke on his visit to the House of Parliament and his quest for cancellations; his pleasant associations with others there equally interested in philately, and his resolution to make further trips abroad when and as his active practice permitted.

Bro. Eliot Nordheim, our official photographer, showed his interesting collection of recent and colorful Japan sheets, stamps and FDCs; also South Pole cancellations. He resolved to continue with Japan because of the extreme beauty of the material and its relatively low cost.

Bro. Norris displayed his Match & Medicine collection—very interesting, valuable and seldom exhibited items. Dr. Swan pointed out a number of varieties which bore distinctive Masonic symbolism, and in fact, discovered two new varieties not previously known to him. Dr. Norris, another busy practitioner with long hours of work, resolved to continue his philatelic activity as it provided him with welcome relaxation from stress and pressure.

Then came Bro. Charles Sanna with more from his voluminous collections, especially a comprehensive grouping of stamps pertaining to Explorers from earliest to modern times, with stories pertaining to some of their great achievements.

One of our distant members, Bro. Ervin Chudnow, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, had sent in a number of items from his collection, U.N. and Europa in large blocks, etc., and our good brother Chas. Sanna pinch hit for Ervin in describing and commenting upon this interesting display. Ervin's

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Masonic Symbolism On Stamps

By DR. S. DUFFIELD SWAN

A group of stamps with Masonic insignia that has been neglected by most philatelic Masons, is the private die proprietary group, more especially the match-stamps.

These stamps were issued in the 1860's and 1870's and paid the tax on the boxes of matches which were in common usage at that time. In Scott's Specialized U.S. Catalogue, these comprise the "RO" group.

A collection of these stamps is not too difficult to obtain and, insofar as cost is concerned, the stamps are relatively inexpensive. A collection such as we illustrate herewith catalogues a little above \$20.00, representing the cheapest of each individual item. The stamps in this category which we have found are:

RO No.	Denomination and Color	Issuer	Description	Scott Cat. Value
24C	1¢ Brown	B. Bendel & Co.	Maltese Cross	\$.60
24D	"	"	"	60.00
31B	1¢ Black	Block, Schneider & Co.	All-Seeing Eye in Triangle	.35
33B	4¢ Green	William Bond & Co.	Anchor	17.50
33C	"	"	"	15.00
33D	"	"	"	1.00
61B	1¢ Green	Henry A. Clark	Square and Compasses	4.00
67B	1¢ Black	Crown Match	Crown	3.00
108D	1¢ Red	W. E. Henry & Co.	Keystone and Keys	2.50
109D	1¢ Black	"	"	1.75
119B	1¢ Green	Ives & Judd	Star	1.00
119C	"	"	"	2.00
119D	"	"	"	17.50
120D	"	"	"	7.50
125D	1¢ Blue	H. Leigh	Altar with Great Light	2.00
126B	1¢ Black	Leigh & Palmer	"	2.00
126C	"	"	"	8.00
126D	1¢ Black	Leigh & Palmer	"	3.00
152D	1¢ Black	M. Reading	Globe with Map	1.50
160A	1¢ Blue	H. & W. Roeber	Clasped Hands on Shield	1.50
160B	"	"	"	.30
161B	1¢ Blue	William Roeber	"	.10
161C	"	"	"	.80
161D	"	"	"	.20
172A	1¢ Black	Star Match	Emblazoned Star	2.50
172B	"	"	"	.05
172C	"	"	"	.15
172D	"	"	"	.05
180A	1¢ Black	Universal Safety Match	Altar with Great Light	.40
180B	"	"	"	3.00

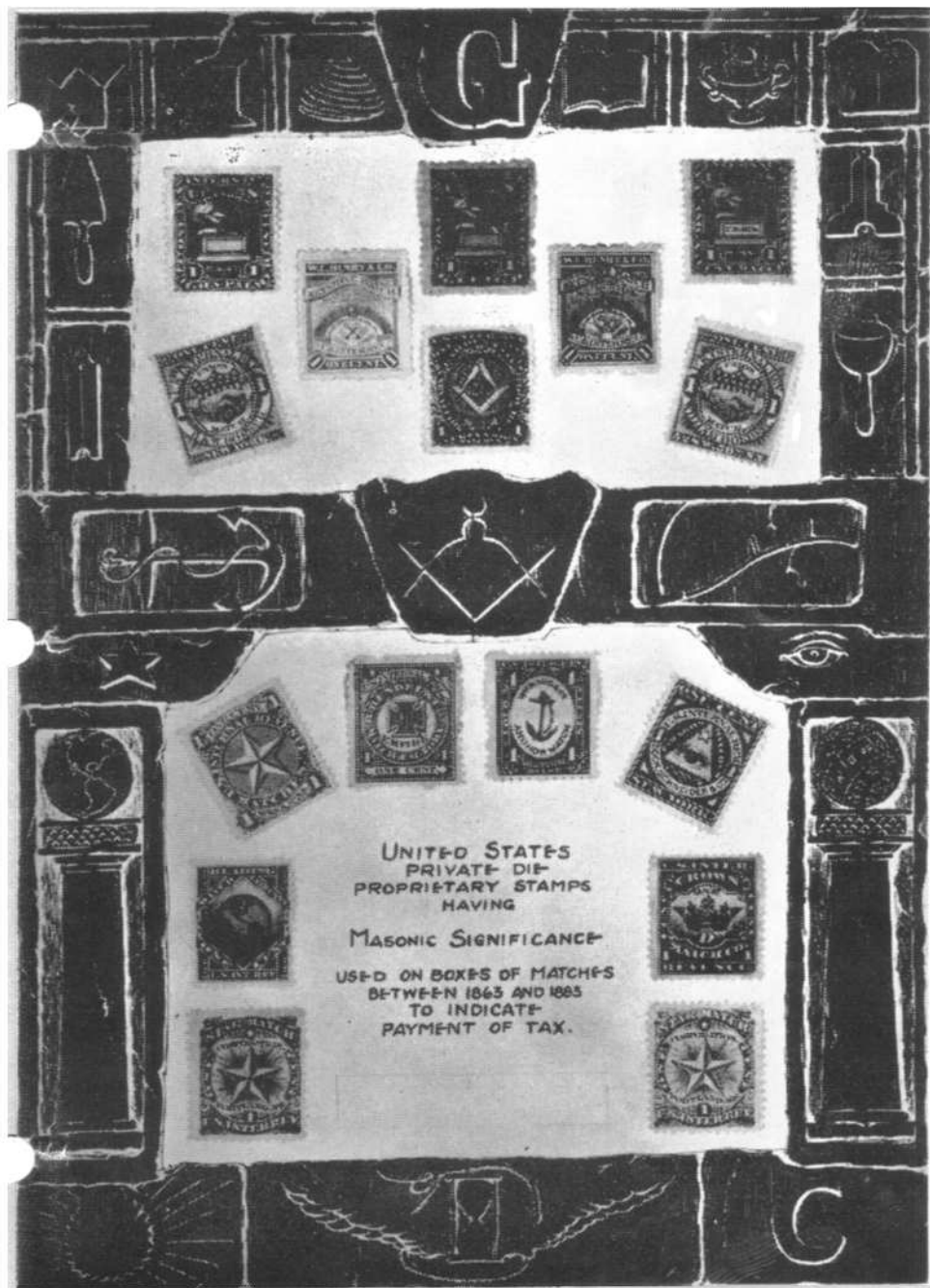
The stamps with numbers in boldface appear in the illustration submitted with this cataloguing.

George Washington



Each year as February rolls around, all Americans automatically think of the 22nd, the natal day of George Washington, The Father of Our Country, and generally regarded as our most distinguished Mason. Countless volumes have been written about his various activities and his likeness has appeared on many of our stamps. Much has been written about him in The Masonic Philatelist.

The three most popular pictures of Washington, infinitely multiplied, displayed and propagated, represent him, first, crossing the Delaware (not illus-





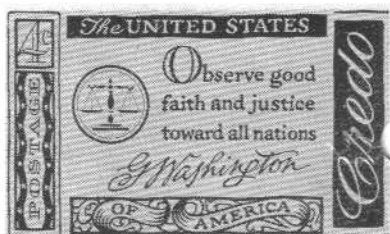
trated on any stamp); next, collaborating with Beasy Ross in the designing and making of the new flag (shown on Scott #1004); and finally praying in the snow at Valley Forge (Scott #645). The fact that all three scenes are mythical undoubtedly aids in giving them preference over any merely authentic scenes.

Valley Forge prayer has been and still is celebrated to such a degree that it has become perhaps the most famous and familiar anecdote of Washington's life. It has been fixed in bronze on the Sub-Treasury Building in New York City, and in legends everywhere more lasting than bronze. Our beautiful cover picture is reproduced from a steel engraving made in 1866 by John C. McRae, from a painting by H. Brueckner.

This picture naturally shows more detail than the 1928 stamp which was designed from it. It takes a very sharp pair of eyes to discern, on the stamp, the man standing behind the clump of trees to the left of the kneeling Washington. The big question is, Who is that man behind the trees?

In an article which appeared in these columns several years ago, the man was identified as Chayim Solomon (Haym Salomon), a Hebrew immigrant, who had been a major factor in the financing of Washington's armies. However, from information placed at our disposal by Bro. Wendell K. Walker, Director of the New York Grand Lodge Library and Museum, there are apparently contradictory versions of the story. It seems that Isaac Pott's name is associated with most of the stories that Washington often prayed on his knees in a thicket near Pott's dwelling. This gives rise to an opinion that the man on the stamp is Isaac Pott, but it appears proper to state that no contemporary evidence of any sort has ever been adduced in support of the entire tradition.

In any event, Haym Salomon is recognized as having been a substantial financial backer of Washington's cause. He was a member of York Lodge No. 2



(Pennsylvania), which Lodge is now extinct. At this writing, we have no information regarding the Masonic affiliations, if any, of Isaac Pott.

JANUARY MEETING

Continued from Page 3

resolution: "Even though distance prevents my attending meetings, I want to continue participating in activities such as this."

Bro. Fred Wendell showed the Harding issue, varieties and perforations of one stamp.

Bro. Salomon exhibited a very comprehensive collection of Tobacco stamps, cigar and cigarette, ^{snuff} Charity Christmas seals and Narco stamps, as well as his Wine/Liquor stamp groups.

Bro. Rueff displayed his Canal Zone Airmail Blocks collection.

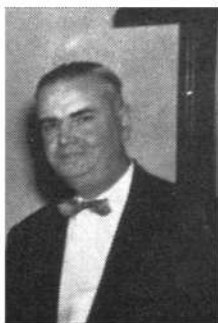
Bro. Swan, in concluding the exhibits, resolved to find time to get his cancellation collections in condition to be shown and to write a couple of articles in 1961 for the MP. (Ed. Note—Doc. is surely living up to this; one article should appear in the current issue, and a further one submitted for next issue. Congratulations on being so resolute!)

Pres. Reggel thanked Dr. Swan for his chairmanship, as well as for having contributed an award to each of those who exhibited.

Mention was made that Bro. Sam Brooks had sent in stamps for hospital distribution.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. After the meeting, Bro. Adolph R. Bergber who had been a member for ^{you} some time, admitted to the Secretary that he had put one over on every one, by not having announced that this was the first meeting which he had been able to attend. He expressed great interest in the evening's proceedings and resolved to try to attend all future meetings.

—Fred J. Gomme.



Russell B. Roane

Once more the bell has tolled . . . and once more it is our sad duty to report that we have lost one of our most stalwart members. When Brother Russell B. Roane made his journey to the Grand Architect on December 5, 1960, all of us lost a loyal friend and Masonic Philately lost a tireless and enthusiastic worker.

A long-time member, he provided inspired leadership as president of our club for two years. He also served as treasurer for several years as well as the Board of Governors. Always ready to lend a helping hand, Russell hardly ever missed an opportunity to exhibit and talk about his stamps. He was a first-class philatelist and never lost his enthusiasm for the hobby. Just a few days before his untimely death he was busy buying stamps to add to his collection.

Ever cheerful, Russ was the type of man of whom it truly could be said that he had not an enemy in the world. Perhaps the truest measure of his character is to be found in the huge delegation that was present for the Masonic funeral service. The group from our club was just about equal to the brothers from his Lodge, Evangelist #600, New York City, of which Russ was a Past Master.

—Carl H. Pihl.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AWARDS

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield, on December 15, 1960, presented the new Benjamin Franklin Award for outstanding services to the Post Office Department, to the members of his Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, ex-officio members and alternates, and his liaison to the Committee, L. Rohe Walter, Special Assistant to the Postmaster General.

The citation reads: "The Postmaster General of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the

Benjamin Franklin Award to . . . in appreciation for distinguished and outstanding public service rendered as a member of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee."

Of the 13 individuals who were so highly honored, we were delighted to learn that a relatively high percentage are members of The Masonic Stamp Club, namely Brothers Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., Sol Glass, Harry Lindquist, and Robert E. Fellers.

Our heartiest congratulations and good wishes go to all of these tireless workers for philately.

FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE HARRY HENNEMAN



Frederick the Great

Frederick II (the Great) King of Prussia. Born January 24, 1712 in Berlin. He was an ardent music student and the flute was his favorite instrument. He surrounded himself with the ablest musicians and under their guidance became very efficient, as a musician and also a composer of music for the flute. His tone, especially in slower motifs was superb, but in allegro movements he lacked in technic.

Frederick the Great was initiated in Brunswick, Germany, on the 14th of August, 1738, not quite two years before he ascended the throne. His initiation was carried out secretly. At his father's death he openly acknowledged himself a Mason, and on June 20, 1740, presided over a Lodge at the Royal Palace of Charlottenburg. He erected the Lodge of Three Globes in Berlin, its first meeting was on September 13, 1740. On June 24, 1744, the Lodge assumed the title of Grand Mother Lodge of the Three Globes. Frederick the Great was nominally the Grand Master.

Another record shows: London Masons founded a Lodge at Hamburg in 1737. In 1742 a Lodge was established at Frankfort. The Hamburg Lodge first came into prominence when Frederick the Great, then Crown Prince, was accepted as a member in 1738.

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The Masters #675 (Cleveland)

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Korumburra, Victoria, Australia
Korumburra #175 (Victoria)

HARRY W. KONWISER

At press time word comes from New York of the death of Harry W. Konwiser, 81, at the Masonic Home in Utica on Jan. 29. The funeral was held Jan. 31 at Utica. He was an esteemed member of our club and had contributed much to the hobby. He authored the U.S. Stampless Cover Catalog. An obituary will follow in our next issue.

HAWAII (U.S. #647/8, 799, 1153, C55)

Hawaii has nine Masonic Lodges. The total membership is over 3,100.—M.S.L.

SPOILS OF WAR

London Guide: (Boastfully) and here are two cannons we captured at Bunker Hill.

Proud Yankee: How nice. You have the cannons and we have the hill.

President Grover Cleveland was a Mason but was favorable to the fraternity. At the banquet following the dedication by the Grand Lodge of Virginia of the monument erected to Mary, the mother of Washington, he said he "regarded it as misfortune that he had never been made a Mason." At one time there was talk of making him a Mason "at Sight" in the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, but it was never accomplished. — (10,000 Famous Freemasons.)