



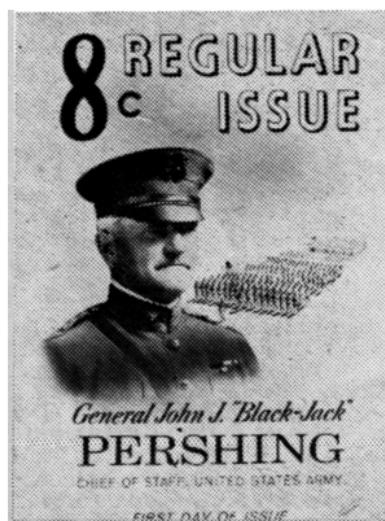
The Masonic Philatelist

VOL. 18

DECEMBER 1961

NO. 4

Masons on Stamps, General of the Armies John J. Pershing (1860 - 1948)



Brother Pershing received his EA degree December 11, 1888; the FC degree December 22, 1888, and was raised to MM degree on the same day by special dispensation, in Lincoln Lodge No. 19, A. F. & A. M., Lincoln, Nebraska. Member of Sesostriis Shrine Temple; New York Court No. 30, Royal Order of Jesters; 33rd degree—The Supreme Council. (See article within by Brother Charles C. Sanna.)

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

DECEMBER 1961
VOL. 18 NO. 4

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National Federation of Stamp Clubs

BY THE SIGN OF THE GAVEL

Just what do YOU want at our Club meetings?

Our attendance at the monthly gatherings has not improved over the last few years. We have tried several ideas but to date have found no definite program that has attracted an increase of members present. We could sit back and just let things drag but that is not characteristic of your present group of officers. We want action! But we can only get it with your cooperation.

How can you cooperate? First by writing to one of your officers suggesting things that would be of interest to you. Then by coming out and seeing that we do have a good group of men

★ MEETINGS ★

First Friday of Each Month
Collectors Club Building
22 East 35th Street, N.Y.C.
4th Meeting — December 1, 1961
Curator's Night

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT E. FELLERS
ARLIE H. GOODE
JOHN A. HUBERT
RALPH MILLER

"May their souls rest in eternal peace."

who always attend and are available to help you in your philatelic problems. Our First Vice-President travels more than 60 miles for each meeting and there are others who come from a distance. **Why don't you?**

With that off my chest, I can wish you "All the Happiness" of this Holiday Season.

—S. Duffield Swan.

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING

Pres. Swan welcomed visitor Peter Lee.

Letter was read from Bro. Camnitzer thanking our Club for the gift which had been given to him at the preceding meeting; also letter from Bro. Henry Holcombe.

Bro. Pihl reported on the Cleveland trip, particularly of the untimely passing of Bro. Nathan S. Tucker, Secretary of the Lake Erie Chapter. Bro. Pihl read letters of commendation and appreciation for the rendering of the degree from Bros. Donald W. Goertz, President, Bollbach and Christenson.

Pres. Swan congratulated Carl Pihl on his expert handling of the Master of Philately degree in Cleveland. Bro. Goertz informed us that the group which received the Degree will henceforth be known as the Nathan S. Tucker Class of Master of Philately. On motion of Bro. Pihl it was unanimously resolved to award our late Bro. Tucker the Degree of Master of Philately posthumously.

Bro. Pihl also reported that all is well with both the Lake Erie and our recently reactivated George Washington Chapter. Bro. Reggel exhibited the Charter of the George Washington Chapter, which is to be presented in person at the big annual meeting in Washington on February 22, 1962.

Letters were read from Bros. Wong and Daykin, as well as Bro. Koomanoff.

The meeting was then turned over to Bro. Osterlund, who presented our Past Presidents, for whom the evening had been designated. First Bro. Jake Jaeger who displayed two historic books about Masons and Masonry, which he promised to turn over to the Club when our library is officially started. He offered to lend the books to any member who desires to read them.

The next Past President to exhibit was Bro. Brooks who brought some of his Masonic Collection and showed in particular free franks of Masons and autographs to combine with stamps when free franks were not available. He also suggested how collateral material could be worked into a Masonic collection.

Bro. Arthur Heim then spoke and showed a survey on classification of Congo cancellations.

Bro. Pihl showed and talked about special cancellations on Swedish stamps.

Bro. Yarry next spoke about Tristan Da Cunha and the forerunners of the present Official stamps.

Our Junior Past President Bro. Reggel then concluded the meeting by displaying in the frames 33 pages of his complete collection of Tristan Da Cunha; also a collection of Malta. He spoke about both in detail, particularly the recent events at Tristan Da Cunha, which resulted in the evacuation of that island of all of its inhabitants, and the sharp upward trend in prices for some of the stamps as a result thereof.

—Stanley A. Salomon.

LAKE ERIE CHAPTER #2

The regular October meeting was held as scheduled on the 18th with a good attendance of members and visitors. Considerable discussion took place regarding the forthcoming visitation by the New York delegation. Most of the details were worked out so as to utilize to best advantage the few hours we were to have with our visitors.

Gordon J. Cole presented the club with a nice collection of Masonic cacheted covers which were donated to the chapter by John A. Mirt of Chicago. Bro. Cole did a fine job of mounting this material and it will become a distinctive addition to the club library. Bro. Cole then entertained with a unique presentation of cacheted covers from his own collection. Included were many patriotics and all indicated Masonic significance.

October 20th marked the date of our special meeting in honor of the visiting delegation from the parent New York club. The occasion, so eagerly anticipated during the many weeks of preparation, was saddened by the untimely fatal coronary attack suffered by our Secretary, Bro. Nathan S. Tucker, just prior to the meeting. Bro. Tucker was very active in local Masonic circles and will be sorely missed.

To best use the short time available, the meeting was held in a conference room at the Cleveland airport. A prayer was given by Bro. Jaeger in memory of Bro. Tucker. President Goertz welcomed the visitors. Attending from New York were Dr. S. D. Swan, Carl Pihl, Manny Reggel, Dr. Irwin Yarry, Norman Sehlmeier and Carl Pelander, and from George Washington Chapter #1, James N. Wong and W. E. Salomon.

Conferral of the degree of Master of Philately followed. Participants of the Lake Erie Chapter receiving the degree were Harry Bollbach, L. W. Christenson, Alan E. Coatoam, Gordon J. Cole, William Dyer, Donald W. Goertz, Harry Pahl, Laddie Pesek, Rowen Prunkard, Mark G. Snow, William D. Miles, Lou Brown, James R. Lambert, Dr. J. N. Schneider, Spensley Daykin and Edgar W. Kroehle. In accordance with the wishes of this class, it has been entered into our records as the Nathan S. Tucker Class.

President Goertz presented a gavel to Bro. Wong representing the George Washington Chapter, and imparted our best wishes on their reinstatement as Chapter #1. Bro. Goertz then thanked all the visiting brethren for honoring us with their presence, and for their splendid efforts with the degree work.

Those of us who were unable to attend this meeting are looking forward to the next get-together and hope that it will be soon.

—Raymond H. Runt.

RICHARD S. BOHN AWARD

As a memorial to the late Richard S. Bohn, Aero Philatelists, Inc., has established an award to be made annually to the person who, in the opinion of its board of directors, has rendered distinguished service to aerophilately.

Announcement has just been made that the first recipient of this award is Henry M. Goodkind, who is a good friend of many members of The Masonic Stamp Club. Mr. Goodkind is a distinguished collector and student of airmail stamps, and for many years has edited the Aero Philatelists News.

MASONRY IN SOUTH DAKOTA

By Fred Jelsema

Your writer has been keeping busy with various Masonic activities here in Rapid City, South Dakota; also in doing considerable research work. As an officer in Mt. Rushmore Lodge No. 220 A.F.&A.M., please find a picture taken as Junior Warden of Schaefer Commandery No. 9.



Politically speaking, we are proud of the fact that affairs in the State of South Dakota are in most capable hands, as witness the following list of brothers and their Masonic affiliations:

Archie Gubbrud, governor, raised in Alcester Lodge No. 115. Joseph H. Botum, Jr., Lt. governor, raised in Faulkton Lodge No. 95, member of Mt. Rushmore Lodge No. 220, York Rite, Consistory Shrine, Past Grand Orator for Grand Lodge of South Dakota, 33rd degree. Karl E. Mundt, senator, raised in Evergreen Lodge No. 17, Madison, South Dakota. Francis H. Case, senator, raised in Custer City Lodge No. 66, Custer South Dakota, he is a York Rite Mason. E. Y. Berry, congressman, raised in McLaughlin Lodge No. 185. Benjamin L. Reifel, congressman (possibly the first Sioux Indian to have been elected to Congress), raised in Antelope Lodge No. 209, Mission, South Dakota.

Much of this information was obtained from Brother Elvin Strain, who has been Grand Secretary since 1941 of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota.

At the recent annual session in Washington, D.C., Bro. Strain was elevated to the highest post in an international Masonic organization by being elected president of the conference of the Grand Secretaries of North America.

Like many other brothers in the Masonic Stamp Club, I have been too busy to spend as much time as I would like on matters philatelic. Naturally, I am very happy that my own Lodge, Mt. Rushmore No. 220, has its name so closely identified with U.S. No. 1011.



This stamp was issued in 1952 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Its over-all design features a scene of Mount Rushmore with the sculptured heads of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

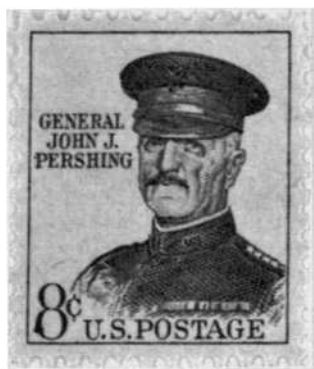
We all recognize Washington and Roosevelt as being among the most illustrious of our Craft, but how many members are aware that the architect of this gigantic national memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota, Gutzon Borglum was also a Mason? He was raised in Howard Lodge No. 35, New York City, on June 10, 1904, and served as its master 1910-11.

Bro. Borglum was a renowned painter and sculptor, but his greatest work is the Black Hills carving which

he designed and officially started on August 10, 1927, when President Coolidge dedicated it. Borglum lived to see the fourth head unveiled in 1939, but not to complete the work, which is, however, accomplished by his son, Lincoln. It is also interesting to mention that Lincoln Borglum was raised in Battle River Lodge No. 92 at Hermosa, South Dakota. This monumental work is one of the greatest tourist attractions in our land.

FAMOUS MASON JOHN J. PERSHING

By Charles C. Sanna



Along with several other members of The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, as well as other philatelic, veterans and historical organizations, your writer urged the issuance of a commemorative United States stamp for the 100th anniversary, celebrated on September 13, 1960, of the birth of one of America's greatest sons, John Joseph Pershing. Finally the Post Office Department has issued an 8¢ stamp honoring General Pershing.

This stamp had its first day sale on November 17, 1961 at the opening of the 13th National Postage Stamp Show sponsored by the American Stamp Dealers Association in New York City. It is printed in khaki color and shows the General's portrait in full uniform.

Only four stars appear on the uniform to indicate his rank, since he only wore four stars even though he was permitted to wear five stars.

The stamp will not be classified as a commemorative, but is an addition of a "Famous American" to the U.S. regular postage series, replacing the 8¢ Statue of Liberty bicolor.

I have accumulated voluminous material, photos, etc., pertaining to this great hero, and find it rather difficult

to condense the same within the limitations of this publication.

John Joseph Pershing was born September 13, 1860 near the village of Laclede, Missouri, in a Burlington section house, and all that remains to mark the site of his birthplace is a caved-in well. He was the first of nine children born to John Fletcher Pershing and Ann Elizabeth Thompson Pershing. His father was a descendant of Frederic Pfoerschin, an Alsatian, who had worked his way to America in 1749 aboard the "Jacob." The family name later was angelicized, and his grandson, John Fletcher Pershing, migrated to Ohio, where he became a river man and piloted rafts to New Orleans. The General's mother was of old Virginia stock.

At the time of his birth, his father was a partner in a construction firm which had contracted to build a portion of the Hannibal-St. Joseph Railroad. He later was employed as a section foreman.

Several years later the Pershing family moved into Laclede to the house one block north of the town square where young Pershing spent his early years. The house has been acquired by the state and is now under the maintenance of the state park board.

Young John's first memories were of war. He would hear bits of news of Vicksburg and Gettysburg from the soldiers returning through the area in which he lived, although he was not old enough to understand. The winds of violent "peace" blew through the cornfields of Linn county in 1865, when he was five. People were singing Julia Ward Howe's new "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and Pershing was among those who watched the ragged troops return from Appomattox. At that age, though, he had no idea that he wanted to become a soldier.

His father was insisted that his children should be able to meet life's difficulties that must be overcome before success may be won. By example as well as by instruction, he inculcated the value of regular habits and appreciation of things worth while. Hard work was essential, therefore hard work must be undertaken and done. His creed included the precept that it is well to learn to bear the yoke of responsibility in one's youth. Thus, the father commenced early to train his three boys and three girls who, of the nine children, grew to maturity.

Every Sunday the Pershing family were seen on their way to the little Methodist church of which the father

and mother were members. The father was at one time superintendent of the Sunday school, and is also said to have been a local preacher. John J. came to know his God early in life, and became a full member of the church at the age of 12.

At school he was studious and better able than most of his classmates to understand mathematics. His early education was obtained in a little white schoolhouse of one room, which is still standing. Next he attended Lewis Hall, a building which had served as a hospital during the War of the Rebellion, and which was located across the street from the family residence.

At the time Pershing was 17, there were more Negroes than whites at Laclede. One day the local Negro teacher of Prairie Mound School suddenly resigned, and the school was then turned over to Pershing. He understood the colored children, wanted to help them and was able to control them. He was paid \$30 for his first and second years of teaching.

Later he took teaching positions in white schools and succeeded with them. Always in the back of his mind he had the thought of furthering his education. By teaching he was able to earn and save money toward carrying out his plans, which at one time included an ambition to study law.

He next enrolled in the State Normal School at Kirksville, Missouri, where he continued his steady, methodical study, doing well but not regarded as an exceptionally brilliant student. On June 17, 1880, he received his degree of bachelor of scientific didactics, which entitled him to teach anywhere in the state of Missouri.

Pershing's hair was light and curly; he had large black eyes; was square-jawed and iron-willed. His shoulders were square, and he was straight as an arrow. He had a firm, set mouth and a high forehead, and even as a boy was very dignified, and yet thoroughly democratic. He was a normal youth and enjoyed the same games and pleasures as his boyhood companions. He knew the best places to shoot squirrels and quail and where to find hazel and hickory nuts. He also knew where the coolest and deepest swimming pools were in the Locust, Muddy or Turkey creeks. He had many friends because he was always naturally human. His old playmates were all proud of his later success as a soldier, but they loved him mainly for his unswerving integrity and high principles. When he had given his

word, they all knew that they could depend upon it absolutely.

During summer vacation, while ploughing at his father's farm, John heard about a vacancy for a cadetship at West Point. He took a "prep course" and scored highest at an examination at Trenton, Missouri. Tomlinson, in his "The Story of General Pershing," quotes an article in the Dec. 28, 1881 issue of the "Laclede News," as follows:

"John J. Pershing will take leave of home and friends this week for West Point, where he will enter the United States Military Academy. John will make a first rate, good-looking cadet with Uncle Sam's blue, and we trust he will ever wear it with honor to himself and the old flag which floats above him. John, here's our hand! May success crown your efforts and a long life be yours."

(To be continued)

MASONRY ON ARGENTINE STAMPS By Alcibiades Lappas

(Continued)

In 1933 the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the City of La Plata was celebrated, a City founded by Mason, Dardo Rocha. This City owes its name to another Mason, the poet Jose Hernandez.

In 1935 a new series of the "Fathers of the Republic" was issued, showing Belgrano, Sarmiento, Urquiza, San Martin, Alberdi, Rivadavia and Mitre.

In 1936 the Panamerican Peace Conference was celebrated in the City of Buenos Aires, attended by two Freemasons, General Augustin P. Justo, President of Argentina, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States. Augustin P. Justo's father was Grand Master of Argentina in 1878-1879. Furthermore, there were other distinguished Masons, such as Baez and Estigarribia of Paraguay, the former Grand Master of Paraguay, the latter a member of the Supreme Council 33rd degree of Paraguay. Each became President of his country.

The stamp of the Frigate Sarmiento of 1939 was in memory of him who was Grand Master of Argentina. This same issue reappeared in 1947.

A special series appeared in that same year, 1939, on the occasion of the XI Congress of the Universal Postal Union attended by 14 Masonic delegations, in whose honor the Grand Lodge of Argentina held a special grand meeting.

A commemorative stamp was issued in 1940 on the 50th anniversary of the

Panamerican Union, the work of many Freemasons. In the following year, the National Bank of Argentina celebrated its 50th anniversary, having been founded by President Carlos Pellegrini, distinguished Mason. His image appeared on the stamp.

In 1945 a series was issued commemorating the death of Rivadavia. In the following year there was an issue in homage to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1947 a stamp was issued on the occasion of the bringing of the remains of General San Martin's parents to Argentina.

In 1949, 1951, 1957 and 1958 several stamps were issued dedicated to the Argentine railways. The first rails were laid by a company which employed many Masons. The President Mitre was a Mason. The engine driver who drove the first locomotive to arrive in the country, John Allan, was likewise a member of the Craft.

On the centenary of San Martin's death a new series was issued in his honor. Two new stamps of him were issued in 1954, another in 1956.

In 1954 a series was issued showing the statue of General Urquiza. In that same year there was an issue dedicated to Benjamin Franklin. In 1957 another issue appeared picturing President Roque Saenz Pena, who had been initiated in "Docente" Lodge in 1882.

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Esteban Echeverria, a stamp was issued in his honor. He had been initiated in France, and in 1830 founded "Unitaria" Lodge of Buenos Aires.

On another stamp there appeared the image of Florentino Ameghino, whose writings are in current circulation today.

In 1957 a stamp was issued in homage to the great poet Jose Hernandez, who was Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Argentina. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the discovery of petroleum in Argentina there was issued a stamp. It is noteworthy that the discovery of petroleum was made by a laborer named Berguin, who was a Mason. The Director of Exploration and Exploitation, Enrique M. Hermitte also was a Mason; so too was the Secretary of Public Works, Luis Huergo.

In 1957 the Interamerican Economic Conference was held in Buenos Aires, and included a number of Masonic delegates, amongst others, United States Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary Anderson.

(Continued on Page 8)

ROBERT E. FELLERS

On November 5, 1961, Robert E. Fellers received the divine summons to the Grand Lodge on High. Brother Fellers, who was 69 years old, had been ill since early last summer when he was stricken with a circulatory ailment.

He was a career man in the Post Office Department, and rose from the ranks. It was in 1914 that he began his employment in that department, and he learned the full operation as he worked up from the bottom. He became Superintendent of the Division of Stamps in 1933, and from that time on he was an important factor to all in the philatelic field. He was always helpful and cooperative in every way, and his face became a familiar one as he represented the postal service at hundreds of events.

In 1949 his appointment as Deputy Third Assistant Postmaster General was announced by Postmaster General Donaldson. When Postmaster General Summerfield took office in 1953, he inaugurated the Division of Philately and appointed Bob Fellers as its director, in which post he continued until his retirement a few years ago. He was an ex-officio member of the first Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee.

Bro. Fellers was an honorary member of the Washington Philatelic Society and had been elected to honorary life membership by the Bureau Issues Association, American Stamp Dealers Association and Society of Philatelic Americans. The American Air Mail Society presented him with a gold medal for his services to aerophilately. He received in 1954 the National Philatelic Museum's "Man of the Year" award. In 1957 he received the Leo and Samuel August First Day Cover award. He was a founder of the George Washington Chapter No. 1 of The Masonic Stamp Club of New York, and served as its first president. He was a member of Washington Centennial Lodge No. 14, F.&A.M.

He was born in Brunswick, Maryland. Bro. Fellers is survived by his widow, Ione M.; a son, Robert E., Jr.; and a daughter, Mrs. Rita Brooks. Funeral services were held November 8th and interment was at Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Washington, D. C.

Commemorative stamps were prepared for the Convention for the reform of the National Constitution; many of its members were Freemasons.

In 1959 there were two interesting issues, one alluding to the Red Cross, founded by the Swiss Mason, Dunant. In 1880 the Argentine Red Cross was founded by a group of Masons, presided over by one of them, Dr. Guillermo Rawson. At different periods other Masons have presided over that institution.

Another interesting issue is that which alludes to the Centenary of the Pact of San Jose de Flores, which put an end to the Civil War between the State of Buenos Aires and the rest of the Argentine Confederation, headed by Generals Mitre and Urquiza, both of them members of the Craft. As a tribute to these two worthy Masons who put aside their personal opinions for the good of the country, the Supreme Council 33rd degree for Argentina granted them the 33rd degree at

a special meeting held on July 21, 1860, which has since passed into Argentine history as the "Meeting of National Unity."

Last year, 1960, Argentina commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Revolution of May 25, 1810. On the stamps issued for this occasion, the following Masons are included: Saavedra, Moreno, Paso, Azcuenaga, Belgrano, Castelli, Larrea and Matheu, members of the first Patriot Government.

Other issues included one dedicated to Alberdi and another to Luis Maria Drago, two eminent jurists and internationalists.

This year we have the issue dedicated to Moreno on the 150th anniversary of his death; another dedicated to Belgrano; one commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sarmiento; and another stamp alluding to the erection of a statue to San Martin in Madrid, Spain.

FOREIGN MASONS ON POSTAGE STAMPS

A checklist compiled for The Masonic Philatelist through the cooperation of Brothers Walter R. Harbeson, W. M. Lans and Marshall S. Loke.

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